



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Grimley Calls for Home Quarantine Tech for CCO Offenders

Embargoed until 6am 3 October 2021

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP is calling for the State Government to explore geolocation technology for offenders on Community Corrections Orders (CCOs), following their endorsement of the technology for home quarantine for returned travellers.

This technology has been used in Western Australia since 2020 for those undertaking home quarantine and South Australia has just announced a trial of state-run technology also.

It has been reported to Mr Grimley that under COVID-19 restrictions – and prior to COVID-19 in many circumstances – Community Correctional Services (CCS) are not checking in on offenders who have a curfew or exclusion order condition as part of their CCO or are on bail with such conditions. This is extremely worrying.

The technology works by sending an offender an alert to their mobile device and asks them to send a photo of their face in real time, as well as their location using a GPS. This ensures offenders don't leave their phone at home whilst they break the conditions of their CCO (such as going to a house where they have been excluded from attending) or ask a family member to respond to the notification. If the offender doesn't reply within 15 minutes, authorities are notified to check on the person.

Mr Grimley has been informed by many experts, including criminal defence lawyers, that the alerts need to be sent randomly, to ensure offenders don't find patterns and therefore, loopholes to avoid compliance.

Mr Grimley said that he and others, including academics, believe that when conditions of a CCO are not enforced, compliance can be dramatically reduced.

According to a Sentencing Advisory Council [report](#), 51% of offenders (in the year 2015-16) breached their CCO by way of either reoffending or being charged with contravening a CCO.

In 2020, there were 9,943 CCOs registered by CCS – and 16,606 recorded in 2019, many of whom have conditions such as a curfew, residence restriction or exclusion orders (including 'alcohol exclusion orders' and 'place or area exclusion conditions') all of which limit where an offender can and cannot go. Further, all offenders who take part in Drug Court are required to commit to a curfew during the first portion of their sentence. For comparison, there were 7,194 people in Victoria's prisons on 31 July 2021 meaning offenders in the community account for double those in our prisons.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"If the State Government believes home quarantine compliance can be done through new technologies, why can't we have the same for offenders on CCOs?"

There is a problem in this state with compliance checking of those who have a curfew or exclusion zone condition as part of their Community Corrections Order. I am hearing that Community Corrections Officers rarely – if ever - check on those who are meant to be at home which can lead to the mentality of 'well these conditions are optional'. This has only been exacerbated by COVID-19.

More needs to be done to keep offenders on CCOs accountable. The South Australian Government have developed their own App with geo-location and facial recognition software as part of a compliance measure for a home quarantine trial and we are now doing the same. We can walk and chew gum at the same time."

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