Policy Directive 37
Discharge of a Prisoner

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to implement consistent standards with regard to the lawful release of prisoners.
2. **Scope**
This policy applies to all public and privately operated prisons.

3. **Policy**
Prisoners shall be released from lawful custody on the day their sentence expires but not earlier than that day unless authorised in accordance with s 31 of the *Prisons Act 1981*.

Prisoners shall be released from lawful custody within a reasonable time upon bail/surety conditions being satisfied.

Wherever practicable, prisoners will be discharged from the prison closest to the place to which the prisoner will be returning, particularly where prisoners are being assisted to return to regional or remote locations. This is consistent with the Department’s re-entry philosophy.

The Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial shall approve and maintain operational procedures consistent with this policy, to be published as Discharge of a Prisoner – Procedures, and relevant appendices.

4. **Policy Review**
This Policy Directive is to be reviewed on a triennial basis. Appendices to this Policy Directive may be amended by the Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial as necessary to reflect changes to prison procedures.

5. **Approved**
Commissioner:

Signature: 

Date: 17 March 2014

6. **Policy sponsor**
Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial

7. **Contact person**
The following persons may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy:

Principal Operational Policy Officer
8. Amendment history

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