

Access to Justice
Productivity Commission
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To the Australian Productivity Commission

Legal Services are almost impossible to obtain in Jail, often that is the purpose of police opposing bail or applying for revocation of bail with allegations they cannot prove.

My recent problem taking action against Wanneroo City Council for damage done to my vehicles they damaged when wrongly impounded them is probably my most relevant problem. Casuarina prison cannot even coordinate the posting of a money order with a court application, they once again posted the application without the money order, not even telling me they had done so.

The court wants to make a fuss of a 20 cent filing fee, the money order to pay this twenty cent fee cost me \$ 8.95.

I still have to try and serve this on the City of Wanneroo when it finally arrives at Casuarina prison. I cannot obtain legal documents such as Australian standards such as AS/NZS 4308:2008 to positively identify who is responsible in law for the retesting of urine samples.

Legal aid has not been able to supply me a copy of AS/NZs 4308:2008 despite repeated requests to do so, a lawyer said it was simple to look up on internet and obtain it but I have no access to internet, which I believe is a breach of my rights as a remand prisoner I have only lost my freedom but not of my rights.

Legal aid needs to be better funded and staffed with lawyers genuinely interested in prisoners legal issues. Their current visits are booked out sometimes for months in advance. They "lost" the notes of a paralegal who spoke to me for 2 days in 2009.

Andrew Smart