

Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures

11.4 Aboriginal inmate access to traditional foods

Policy summary

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) acknowledges and endorses the importance of Aboriginal inmates having access to traditional *On-Country* foods during significant cultural events and when participating in Aboriginal specific programs.

Aboriginal inmates may have access to traditional foods to honour their culture and customs.

Management of Public Correctional Centres Service Specifications

Service specifications	Decency and respect
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Scope

This section applies to all correctional centres and other facilities administered by or on behalf of CSNSW, and all CSNSW employees.

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1 Aboriginal inmate access to traditional foods

1.1 Policy

In NSW traditional foods may be available only seasonally and in areas where they are native to *Country*. It therefore may be necessary to provide a substitute food to ensure traditional food is available for an approved cultural event or Aboriginal specific program.

The traditional foods of NSW are often referred to as 'Bush Tucker' and may include kangaroo, emu, fish, some native plants, jams, fruits, vegetables and nuts. Traditional foods that are not native to NSW are not to be considered for consumption at cultural events in NSW correctional centres.

To ensure CSNSW complies with legislation protecting flora and fauna, traditional foods that are available in NSW and native to *Country* generally should be purchased from a licensed retail outlet in NSW. Any other methods of acquiring native foods must have the approval of the Governor of the correctional centre.

1.2 Purchasing traditional foods

The *Traditional Foods Purchase Order* form is to be used to order traditional foods.

Traditional foods must be purchased from a licensed retail outlet, or butcher shop that sells 'bush tucker'.

The following foods cannot be purchased or provided at an approved cultural event or Aboriginal specific program:

- game meats that are not traditional foods or native to *Country* or which are restricted by legislation
- traditional plant foods that are not native fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries or jams made from native fruits
- prawns, oysters and crabs.

1.3 Food from outside parties

The Governor or delegated officer may give prior approval, in consultation with the Regional Aboriginal Pathways Officer (RAPO), to a proposal for traditional food to be brought into a correctional centre by outside parties for significant cultural events or Aboriginal specific programs. Such proposals from outside parties will only be considered where traditional foods are unable to be sourced from a licenced retail outlet and/or butcher.

1.4 Procedures for requesting traditional foods

	Procedure	Responsibility
1.	Coordinate and facilitate cultural events in the region and forward an outline of the proposed plan to the Governor of the correctional centre at least one month prior to the event.	RAPO
2.	Seek approval from the Assistant Commissioner, Custodial Corrections (AC, CC) for any new or special events (other than National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Commemoration (NAIDOC), Survival Day or Sorry Day) to be celebrated. If this approval has been given, approval must then be sought from the Governor for subsequent celebrations at the local level.	RAPO
3.	Submit a written request to the Governor or delegate that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of traditional foods • methods for acquiring traditional foods Where it is intended that traditional foods will be provided for cultural events or Aboriginal specific programs.	RAPO
4.	Maintain a record of all events during which traditional food is approved to be brought into the correctional centre.	Governor or delegate

2 Quick links

- [Related COPP](#)
- [Forms and annexures](#)
- [Related documents](#)

3 Definitions

AC, CC	Assistant Commissioner, Custodial Corrections
COPP	Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures
Country	Place of heritage, belonging and spirituality
CSNSW	Corrective Services NSW
Delegated officer	Any officer who occupies or acts in the following positions which the Governor has delegated certain Governor's functions to deal with correctional centre offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manager of Security• Functional Manager.
FM	Functional Manager
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Commemoration
RAPO	Regional Aboriginal Pathways Officer

4 Document information

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1.0		Initial publication (<i>Replaces section 7.21 of the superseded Operations Procedures Manual</i>)
1.1	12/03/20	General formatting update and improvements