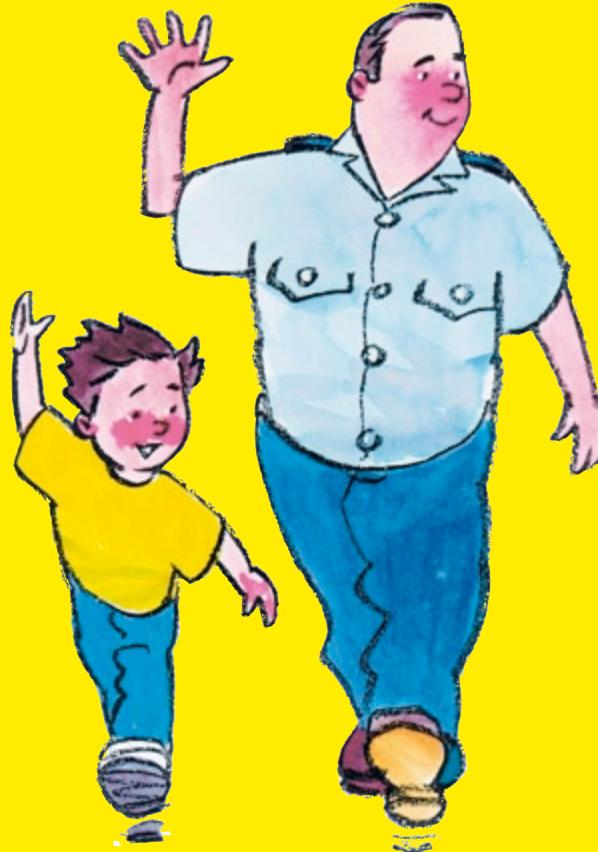




When you go to the movies, there are lots of people waiting to get in. When you arrive for your visit, there might be a lot of people waiting to go in for a visit just like you. The people who look after the visits will work as fast as they can to get you in on time.



The men and ladies in blue uniforms are there to make sure that nothing can get into the prison that can do people harm, like drugs. Their job is to protect the person you are visiting and that is why they sometimes have to search visitors before they

go in to the visit. They are mums and dads, uncles and aunties to, so don't be worried about them. They are just doing their job.



Sometimes there will be dogs at the gate to the visiting area. They're friendly, not angry like 'guard dogs'. These friendly dogs have been trained to smell drugs, which are bad for you. As you know, dogs are really good at smelling for things. So don't be worried. You've seen friendly dogs before and all they want to do is sniff things. That's why they are used for finding people who get lost in the bush.



The person you are visiting will be wearing their uniform. All people in correctional centres wear uniforms, just like at school, the army or navy or in a factory. There are many different types of uniforms. They might be orange, white or green.



Everyone is there to make sure your visit is a happy one. People are friendly. You will see lots of people happy to be seeing their loved ones. There will be lots of kids just like you. Some places have play equipment. You can even bring some money to buy drinks or food. Remember that you can't visit



without having an adult over 18 years old with you.



You might want to bring on your visit, photos, drawings or a school project to show. Have the person who is taking you on the visit ring up first to make sure it's O.K. to bring things in.



Remember to go to the toilet before you leave home, or before you start your visit as there will be no toilets for visitors to use, once you have started your visit.



Give mum or dad a big cuddle when you visit them, and when you leave the visit and go home, don't forget to send them letters and drawings you have made. They'll be coming home one day and the letters and drawings you send them will make them feel happy when you're not there.

This booklet is for the children who visit parents, relatives or friends in correctional centres. Show it and read it to them before they visit for the first time. It explains the visiting process in words they will understand and is designed to ease any fears or tension they may harbour about visiting loved ones in the environment behind high walls and razor wire.

SHINE for Kids is an organisation that assists children whose parents or relatives are incarcerated.

Their services include;

- taking children on visits if no adults are available.
- organising kids / parents days where only children are allowed to visit.
- supervised childcare during visiting hours at Silverwater and Bathurst correctional centres.
- support to children and families of inmates.
- running support groups for children of inmates where issues are discussed and to have fun.

See contact details on the back of this brochure for enquiries regarding our services.



SHINE for Kids

Tel: 02 9714 3000 Fax: 02 9714 3030
www.shineforkids.org.au

This brochure was sponsored by
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A child's first visit to a correctional centre can be a daunting experience. This brochure explains the process in language they will understand.