



CLEARER POWERS

SAFER CUSTODY

Clarifying and strengthening powers available to Youth Justice staff when managing detainees inside and outside detention centres

Key changes at a glance: Sections 154 & 161

1 USE OF FORCE Section 154 clarifies when reasonable force may be used, including arrest, preventing escape, escort and transfer.	2 OUTSIDE CENTRES Clarifies authority when detainees are attending hospitals, being transported, escorted in the community or returning to custody.	3 SEARCH POWERS Section 161 clarifies screening and pat down searches inside and outside detention centres where safety risks exist.	4 PROHIBITED ITEMS Broadens list of prohibited items to include items that threaten safety, wellbeing, security or lawful custody.
Reasonable force Maintains safety, security and lawful custody in relevant settings by: • assisting in the arrest, escort or transfer of a detainee • preventing escape or attempted escape by a detainee.	Searches offsite Removes ambiguity and supports risk management when a detainee is being supervised or transported by: • searching after apprehension, hospital return or transport • searching under reasonable grounds to ensure safety of detainees, staff or others.	Pat down searches Reflects operational practice and clarifies authorised search methods by including: • feeling clothing from the outside • lifting the waistband and feeling both sides • locating concealed objects in or beneath clothing.	Expanded items Seizes items that present a threat to safety, wellbeing, security or lawful custody, including: • concealed sharp objects like scissors and other makeshift weapons • items that could cause harm • items that could facilitate escape.

These reforms clarify reasonable force and search powers both within and outside detention centres, supporting the safety of detainees, staff and the broader community.

CLEAR AUTHORITY. SAFE CUSTODY. SECURE TRANSPORT.
Know the powers. Manage the risk. Maintain lawful custody.