Prison brings opportunities for local business

Businesses in Derby will have the opportunity to learn more about short and long term opportunities resulting from the development of the West Kimberley Regional Prison (WKRP).

Representatives from the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) will give a presentation on Government procurement on Tuesday 31 January 2012 at 6:00pm at the Derby Recreation Centre Community Room.

DCS A/Assistant Commissioner Corporate Support, Craig Knox, said given the prison is estimated to spend some $3.5 million for goods and services per annum it was very important that Derby businesses understand how and when to bid for contracts.

“We want to ensure that Derby businesses have a comprehensive overview of Government procurement,” Mr Knox said.

“Derby is an important commercial hub in the West Kimberley and we are very keen to ensure businesses understand the processes of tendering for goods and services required, compliance requirements and lessons learned from other businesses,” Mr Knox said.

“Participants will learn about Government policies including Buy Local and how Government undertakes assessments and makes decisions.”

“Importantly, opportunities to supply to the prison in the short and long terms will be a key focus of the presentation.”

Some of the prison’s future requirements include canteen supplies estimated to cost $300,000 per annum and kitchen, cleaning and toiletries which may cost up to $150,000 each year.

For more information about the presentation or upcoming contracts for the WKRP please contact DCS Manager Supply Chain Mark Corbett on 08 9264 9563.
Twelve Kimberley locals have been selected to attend the Prison Officer Entry Level Training Program (ELTP).

The training, due to start on 13 February 2012 in Derby, will see participants learn everything required to become a prison officer. Subjects include working with diversity, drug and alcohol awareness and defensive equipment training.

West Kimberley Regional Prison (WKRP) Superintendent Mike Macfarlane said that importantly, all trainees will undertake Working with Diversity and Cultural Complexity Training which includes a section about Aboriginal cultures in the Kimberley.

“The WKRP is a landmark prison with its design and operating philosophy based upon Aboriginal culture and values as far as is practicable,” Superintendent Macfarlane said.

“As well as learning all the foundations of becoming a good prison officer, our new trainees will also undertake a targeted program to raise their awareness and understanding of Aboriginal cultures in the Kimberley.

“It is important that everyone working in the WKRP is aware of and understands the cultural aspects of the region.”

Superintendent Macfarlane went on to congratulate the Kimberley locals who were selected to attend the ELTP and said he encouraged local people to apply for a variety of trade and service roles to be advertised in the coming months.

Employment Opportunities

Recruitment is well underway for staffing the West Kimberley Regional Prison.

Many jobs have been advertised and some positions have been filled.

If you are interested in jobs at the prison and would like to know more, register your interest by emailing wkrp.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au or calling (08) 9264 6224.