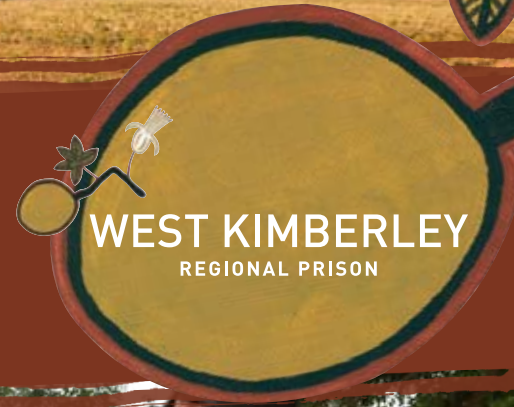




West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



VSOs work with prisoners to increase their chances of finding a job on their release.

New jobs for people with passion

Do you have a passion for making a positive difference? Then you might want to consider a job as a Vocational Support Officer (VSO).

West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) will be advertising a number of VSO positions in the coming weeks and Derby and Kimberley locals are encouraged to apply.

VSOs are responsible for managing prison industry work environments, providing training to prisoners and managing programs

The positions often require a trade qualification, but broad life experience and a passion for mentoring are the key essential requirements for many of the roles. Among the roles to be advertised at WGRP will be laundry and stores officers and an activities/project officer.

Prison Industries Manager John Hedges, who oversees prison industries across WA, said VSOs came from all walks of life.

“We want someone who has knowledge to impart, a

passion for making a positive difference, good people skills and who acts as a good role model,” he said.

“For some roles trade qualifications are essential, for others they are just beneficial. The Department will also assist officers to gain vocational competencies to meet industry standards as trainers and/or assessors.”

The activities overseen by VSOs contribute to a structured day for offenders, providing them with opportunities to become work-ready and develop vocational skills to increase their chances of gaining and retaining work on release.

VSOs with the appropriate skill set have a number of opportunities for attaining supervisory roles as well as moving into management roles within the Department.

To register your interest for any job opportunities at WGRP email wkrp.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au or call (08) 9264 6224.

Local business urged to sign up to bid for contracts

Derby businesses need to register on the Tenders WA website now so they don't miss out on opportunities to supply goods and services to the West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP).

This was the message delivered by Department of Corrective Services Manager Supply Chain Mark Corbett to representatives from 25 local businesses at a forum in Derby last month.

Mr Corbett said the forum allowed him to explain government procurement processes and give practical advice about accreditation, occupational safety and health and quality assurance requirements.

"It is important that local businesses are made aware that they need to register on the Tenders WA website so they can bid for contracts when they come up," he said.

"Our local supply zone includes Derby and Broome so if Derby businesses register they also get the opportunity to bid for Broome contracts and vice versa."

Mr Corbett said as well as businesses bidding for contracts themselves, there would be opportunities for smaller businesses to sub-contract to larger providers.

"Also, purchases lower than \$20,000 are done via

verbal quotation and I encourage suppliers who may be providing services in this category to send a letter and accompanying brochures to the Prison Superintendent for his files," he said.

"Some of the long-term business opportunities once WGRP opens include delivery services, not-for-profit services, food supply, repairs and maintenance and cleaning supplies.

"Businesses will also get a boost from ancillary services to staff including additional tourism prospects, education services and supply of domestic items."

For more information about current tenders and contracts at WGRP contact the Broome Office of the Department of Finance on (08) 9158 3650. Local queries on goods and services should be directed to Prison Superintendent Michael MacFarlane on (08) 9193 1953.

Below: Department of Corrective Services Manager Supply Chain Mark Corbett is encouraging Derby businesses to register with Tenders WA.





Course Manager Patricia Malone and Senior Officer Training Pete McDonnell with the prison officer trainees.

Recruits get first taste of training

Flexibility has proved an asset for the first group of local prisoner officer trainees in Derby.

Course Manager Patricia Malone hailed the first week of training for the 12 Kimberley locals selected for the Prison Officer Entry Level Training Program (ELTP) a success.

“We had a bit of hitch with presenters from Perth having flights cancelled, but these are a great group of trainees with a positive outlook who are flexible and are prepared to work with us when things change,” she said.

“Some of the program’s training sessions will be delivered via Office Communicator, relayed from the DCS Academy in Bentley, which is a first for an Entry Level Training Program.

“We are also encouraging community involvement by engaging subject matter experts from Derby and Broome to share their local knowledge.

“Most training sessions will be delivered by Academy trainers who have been relocated to Derby for the duration of the course.”

After a 13-week program in the classroom with a week’s observation in a Perth prison, the students will undertake six-months of on-the-job training.

If both modules are completed successfully, they will attain Certificate III in Correctional Practice (Custodial) and become fully-qualified prison officers. Ms Malone said the depth of local knowledge within the group was enormously valuable.

“The trainees from Derby and surrounding areas are able to share a wealth of cultural and community knowledge which is an excellent resource for us all,” she said.

Trainee Jason Bradley said he was enjoying the course and his fellow trainees were “a great bunch”.

“I am looking forward to completing the rest of the training so I can get into the prison and start making a difference,” he said.

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 wkpr.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au or calling (08) 9264 6224.



WEST KIMBERLEY

REGIONAL PRISON

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