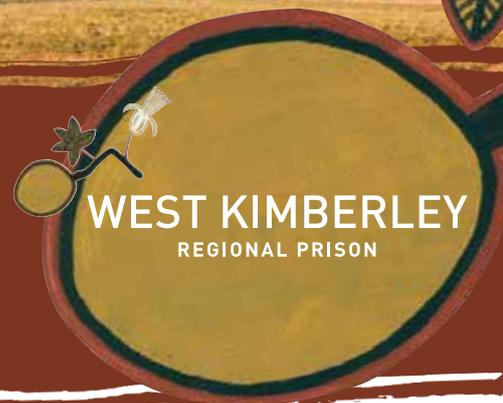




West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



Meeting call for local service providers

The Department of Corrective Services (DCS) is inviting Derby service providers to join in a conversation next month about what services the community might offer to West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) prisoners and offenders on community-based orders.

Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial Heather Harker said a community workshop would be held on 13 June for participants to share local knowledge and expertise and discuss ideas for the community to provide services.

“The Department is keen to determine what services are able to be delivered locally and what support providers may need to increase their capacity to deliver services,” Ms Harker said.

“These community services will focus on providing prisoners and offenders, particularly those whom

are Aboriginal, with life, vocational, educational and cognitive skills to help break the cycle of offending.

“They will complement the Department’s re-entry and clinical programs related to violent behaviour and substance abuse which in turn will provide support to services delivered by the community.

“At the workshop, Department representatives will explain how community organisations can register their interest in service opportunities that may arise.”

For more details about the workshop contact Kerrie-Anne Stanley on (08) 9193 1953.

Class of 2012



DCS Commissioner Ian Johnson and Deputy Commissioner Heather Harker (middle front) joined with WGRP Superintendent Mike Macfarlane, course manager Patricia Malone (middle right) and DCS Academy Director Deborah Harvey (middle left), prison staff, trainers and community members to celebrate the close of the first stage of prison officer training this month. All trainees back row.

See Page 3.



WKRP Project Director Brian Lawrence showed researchers Professor Alison Liebling and Dr John Rynne around the WKRP site.

Prison attracts research interest

Two prominent researchers visited the West Kimberley Regional Prison site in April as part of their investigation into Aboriginal offenders' experience of prison life.

Dr John Rynne of Griffith University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Queensland and Alison Liebling, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at England's Cambridge University, were given a tour of the WKRP site by Superintendent Mike Macfarlane and Project Director Brian Lawrence before meeting with Derby Shire President Elsie Archer.

Both researchers are working on a nationally-funded study to develop an Australia-wide measure of prison quality for Aboriginal people and a model of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander correctional best practice.

Dr Rynne said the research project was investigating how elements of Indigenous culture could be used in prison quality to empower prisoners and how this could be transferred into their communities on their release.

"By helping prisoners to heal and learn during their prison sentence, we have the opportunity to reduce further offences and hopefully prevent rearrest, which in turn will help to create safer communities," he said.

He said the WKRP was an extraordinary achievement.

"For the first time in Australia, the design, construction

and operational potential of the prison provides the infrastructure for corrections professionals, Aboriginal Elders and Respected people, and local community members to work collaboratively in an environment that acknowledges the complexities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture," he said.

"Its world's best practice in design and construction is testament to a genuine will and commitment to improve Indigenous outcomes."

"Our hope is that in 10 years we will be reading that the successful operational model of this prison was a catalyst for the reform of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the criminal justice system, a reduction in recidivism and the empowering of Indigenous people."

The Indigenous Research Project is due for completion in 2014.

WKRP Project Director Brian Lawrence said he was looking forward to seeing how the outcomes of the research could be applied across Western Australian corrective services.

Recruits march to the beat of a new drum

DCS welcomed 12 new probationary prison officers to its ranks at the official closing ceremony for the Entry Level Training Program on 11 May at the Derby Civic Centre.

It was the final stage of a 13-week course that saw the trainees undergo a rigorous regime of physical training and classroom-based assessment experiences. The trainees now have six months of on-the-job training to qualify to become prison officers.

DCS Commissioner Ian Johnson, who presented the trainees with their Appointment Certificates, said having such a strong contingent of local prison officers at WKRP would be a great asset for the prison.

“Through the conversations I had with trainers and recruits at the ceremony, it became clear that these 12 trainees enrolled in the training program for all the right reasons,” the Commissioner said.

“They really want to make a positive difference in their local community through the work that they will do at the prison.”

The Commissioner also acknowledged the importance



The trainees get ready to march in to receive their certificates.

of the support that the trainees’ families had given them during the three-month course.

“The life of a prison officer can be challenging at times and strong family support plays a crucial part in helping them fulfil their role,” he said.

Special acknowledgement on the day went to Derby’s own Officer Jonathon Kneebone who won the Achievement Award for outstanding accomplishment in the training program, and Officer Teresa Baker who was presented with the peer-nominated Minister’s Award for Teamwork, Diligence and Effort.

The event was also attended by Inspector of Custodial Services Professor Neil Morgan, Derby Shire President Elsia Archer, local Elders and the trainees’ families and friends.



WEST KIMBERLEY

REGIONAL PRISON

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Officers Jonathon Kneebone and Teresa Baker were recognised for their efforts on the course.

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