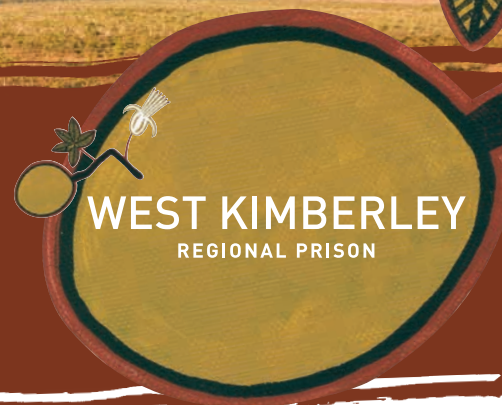




West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



Community heeds call for services

Community organisations are reminded to register their interest in supplying support services for West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) prisoners and community-based offenders by Friday 13 July.

Department of Corrective Services (DCS) Deputy Commissioner Heather Harker said the large turnout to a Derby workshop on service provision indicated the level of interest among local organisations was high.

More than 30 people attended the workshop on 13 June to discuss what services the community could offer to complement WGRP's clinical and re-entry programs.

The workshop was coordinated by Ms Harker and Manager Non-Government Agreements Penny Kennedy.

"There was a great sense of readiness in the room and a breadth of experience and local knowledge that DCS can only benefit from," Ms Harker said. "I encourage all community organisations to formally register their interest in service provision through the Tenders WA website."

A Registration of Interest (ROI) document is available on Tenders WA (www.tenderswa.gov.au) for groups to register their interest by Friday 13 July.

Ms Kennedy said the information gathered from the ROI would be used to determine capability, provide a central list of service providers for Derby and inform procurement decisions.

"For the purposes of this registration of interest we are seeking providers who are interested in supplying services that will provide prisoners and offenders with life, vocational, educational and cognitive skills to help break the cycle of offending," she said.

For more information or assistance to lodge an ROI contact Donna Herdsman, Manager Service Agreements Procurement on (08) 9264 1320 or Donna.Herdsman@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au.



Healthy diet tips

WGRP Chef Instructor Sally Harris (back) picks up some tips on local nutritional needs from Derby Hospital Chef Ralph Gray and kitchen and ward staff (left to right) Leetara Hudson, Danielle Buieineye and Brenda Pittuins.

See page 2.





Chef taps local knowledge

WKRP Chef Instructor Sally Harris visited Derby Hospital kitchen this month to gather information on the nutritional and other dietary needs of Aboriginal people from the Kimberley region.

Derby Hospital Chef Ralph Gray discussed some of the more common health conditions that he has managed through diet.

Ms Harris said she would also be seeking nutritional advice on a range of local traditional foods that may complement the prison diet.

“Many of the prisoners we will see at WKRP will have health issues that will need to be addressed in their diet management plans,” Ms Harris said.

“It’s important that we gather local information about what we can provide to ensure that we are providing the healthiest and most appropriate food options for our offenders.”

As part of her instructional tour, Ms Harris also visited the Numbala Ngunga nursing home and the Munungual Seniors Meals on Wheels service with Prisoner Officer Ted Harris.

Ms Harris said the community spirit that drove the volunteer Meals on Wheels service was an inspiration.

“It’s a vital service that ensures seniors in the community who need a bit of extra support are provided a healthy meal,” she said.

“It’s a wonderful thing to see a community pulling together to look after its own.”

By the end of the day, Meals on Wheels had signed on two extra volunteers.

Lightning strike damage fixed

Lightning damage to electrical systems at WKRP has now been fixed and all is on track for staff to move into the prison in late July.

The site was hit by lightning strikes in early March. DCS Strategic Assets Project Manager Peter Zappelli said the timing of the strikes was unfortunate.

“The site was under construction and installation of protection for the electrical system was still being completed when the lightning hit,” he said. “This impacted upon the protection being able to do the job it was designed to do – to mitigate against risk associated with a lightning strike.”

“The West Kimberley is a region that’s prone to lightning strikes and we cannot prevent the prison getting hit.”

“What we have done is put in place protection to mitigate risk and minimise the effect strikes may have on the prison’s systems.”

“With the protection system now fully installed it is highly unlikely that next storm season a lightning strike would have the same outcome.”

There will be a three-month commissioning phase after staff move in to the site to test all systems and operational procedures before the first prisoners transfer to the prison in October.



WEST KIMBERLEY

REGIONAL PRISON

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