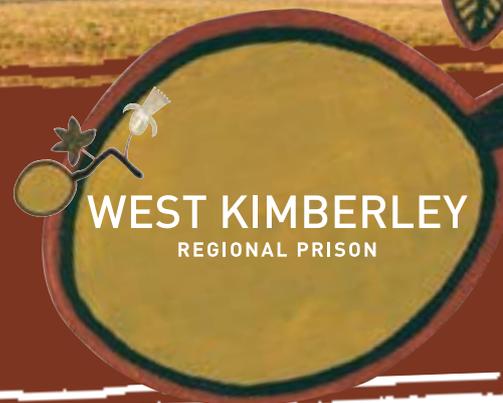




West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



Locals shine in recruitment drive

The first stage of recruitment at West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) has seen a high percentage of Derby locals winning positions.

In Stage 1 of the recruitment process, staff were recruited for 44 core positions at the prison, including vocational support officer and prison support roles.

WGRP Senior Recruitment Coordinator Daniel Capolingua said the focus had been on recruiting locals to enhance knowledge of the region among prison staff.

“We wanted to attract as many candidates from the West Kimberley, in particular Derby, to increase local employment and bring that knowledge of Kimberley communities to the prison from the get go,” he said.

“More than 70 per cent of the successful applicants were Kimberley locals and more than 55 per cent were from Derby itself. Almost 20 per cent of successful applicants identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.”

“This will bring a strong local knowledge base to the new prison which was the goal.”

WGRP Superintendent Mike MacFarlane said he was pleased with how the first stage of recruitment had gone, particularly the growing number of local recruits.

“An important aspect of the WGRP project has always been community involvement and it was no different with the recruitment process,” he said.

“I look forward to working with all the successful candidates in the coming months.”



(Left to right): Prison officer recruits Jason Bradley, Scott Whykes and Sarah Lawson and Administrative Assistant Kerrie-Anne Stanley (front) share their local knowledge with those newer to town like Teresa Baker (back right).

Administrative Assistant and Derby local Kerrie-Anne Stanley has been working for the prison since February.

“It’s great to find such a challenging, diverse job role so close to home,” she said.

“There’s a lot to learn and a great feeling of camaraderie among staff as we work towards the opening of the prison.”



Fire safety a priority for prison

WKRP has just received delivery of one of its larger pieces of equipment – the prison fire truck.

The former Department of Environment and Conservation truck has been housed at Derby airport since April.

Department of Corrective Services Manager Prison Industries John Hedges, who organised the truck's delivery from Perth, said it was important for the prison to have the capability to fight fire because of its isolation and the surrounding bush and scrub.

"There are already some officers on site who know how to use this model of truck and deal with fires in the event of an emergency through their involvement in the local volunteer fire brigade," he said.

Superintendent Mike Macfarlane said all prison officers and some prisoners would undergo training with the truck.

"As well as the importance of prisoners having the ability to respond to fire, it is another opportunity to provide them with a certificate qualification that is highly relevant in a regional setting like the Kimberley," he said.

Training and emergency response will be coordinated in conjunction with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local volunteers.

Senior prison officer Kelvin Kershaw, who transferred to WKRP from Broome and is licensed to drive the truck, has just joined the local Derby fire service to keep his fire-fighting skills well honed.

"I haven't joined a local brigade before and I thought it would be a great way to get to know people in the community as well as practise and improve on my fire fighting skills," he said.



Senior prison officer Kelvin Kershaw with WKRP's newly-delivered fire truck.

"After 20 years in the Navy and 22 years with Corrective Services I've had my fair share of training, but you can never be too prepared."

Two new jobs

WKRP is finishing off Stage 1 of its recruitment drive with the advertising of two new positions.

The Chef Supervisor role is responsible for the smooth running of the WKRP kitchen and staff supervision. Another important aspect of the job is overseeing and engaging in the instruction and training of prisoners.

This would suit a seasoned chef with training experience who would love to ditch the nightshift.

The second position will also be working closely with prisoners to make a positive difference in their lives through tailoring service delivery to meet prisoners' needs.

The Case Management Coordinator manages the professional standard of service delivery within the prison in relation to prisoners' case management.

This would suit an individual with demonstrated knowledge of case management principals and processes, relevant legislation, program development and the ability to supervise, support and motivate staff.

Applications for these positions close on 10 September 2012. For more information go to www.jobs.wa.gov.au



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