

Corrections Victoria Koorie Employment, Education and Training Strategy

November 2003

Aim of the Strategy

- To reduce re-offending among Koorie prisoners and offenders through targeted employment, education and training assistance
- This can be achieved by effective integration of State, Commonwealth and Community employment, education and training initiatives
- The Strategy calls on all national state and local agencies identified to actively support the recommendations and achieve the outcomes specified

Why do we need a Strategy?

We need a Strategy because:

- Koorie people are over-represented in the Victorian correctional system
- Koorie prisoners and offenders are significantly disadvantaged with respect to employment, education and training
- Koorie prisoners and offenders have told us they need more support and qualifications to get a job and live crime free lives
- Employment, education and training are significant factors in reduced re-offending

Why do we need a Strategy? (cont.)

We need a Strategy because:

- It is important to integrate employment, education and training services to Koorie prisoners and offenders

Development of the Strategy

- The Strategy is an important component of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement and Corrections Long Term Management Strategy and is a Joint Corrections Victoria & Indigenous Issues Unit project - AJA
- The Strategy is being developed in partnership with key Koorie community agencies, and other government departments
- Consultation for the Strategy included focus groups with Koorie prisoners and offenders
- The first draft of the Strategy has been completed and will be distributed to key stakeholders for comment

Principles

The Strategy has ten guiding principles:

- *Recognition of needs:*

Koorie prisoners and offenders should be offered education, training and employment options and opportunities which reflect their identified needs.

Principles (contd)

- *Access & participation:*

Koorie prisoners and offenders will be given access to employment, education & training programs & assisted to participate in those programs.

Koorie prisoners and offenders will be assisted to gain access to work in areas of interest to them and where there are labour

Principles (cont)

- *Integrated & holistic approach:*

Participation in employment, education & training programs & services will be part of a clearly articulated & supported, individual pathway to employment, which extends beyond a prison sentence or community corrections order.

Design and delivery of employment, education and

Principles (cont)

■ *Partnerships:*

Employment, education & training initiatives for Koorie prisoners & offenders will be developed, delivered & evaluated in partnership with the Koorie community & Koorie offenders and prisoners.

Koorie community organisations, State and Commonwealth Government agencies and education providers will work together to provide

Principles (cont.)

- ***Cultural sensitivity:***

Education, training and employment programs for Koorie prisoners and offenders will be located in the wider policy frameworks targeted at responding to the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;

Koorie prisoners and offenders will be provided with culturally

Principles (cont.)

■ *Evaluation:*

Employment, education and training initiatives for Koorie prisoners and offenders will be regularly monitored and evaluated to measure outcomes and impact on re-offending. Such evaluations, along with sound academic research, will guide planning for future service provision.

Objectives, actions and outcomes

- The Strategy outlines key objectives, actions and outcomes to improve employment, education and training outcomes for Koorie prisoners and offenders
- Key partnerships to achieving the objectives are also outlined

Objectives, actions and outcomes (cont)

Objectives for employment, education and training for Koorie prisoners and offenders include:

- To identify and respond to needs
- To increase access
- To increase participation
- Cultural understanding
- Links to employment

Objectives, actions and outcomes (cont)

- Access to employment assistance and preparation for work activities
- Access to employment programs and options
- Integration of employment, education and training with other corrections programs
- Partnerships
- Evaluation

For more information

Lisa Cornelius

Project Officer, Transitional Services

Corrections Victoria

Phone: (03) 9627 7152

Fax: (03) 9627 6611