



Department of
Corrective Services

Connecting Offenders to Employment: An Education Directed Model of Re-entry





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- The State is experiencing a “once-in-a-lifetime” economic boom
- There is a skill and labour shortage in the resource and construction sectors
- The status of the EVTU and of prison based education is at its highest



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- WA static prison population: 3900
- 12 Public prisons and 7 Work Camps
- Indigenous peoples comprise 43% of adult and 78% of juvenile detainees
- 58% of total population are serving >12 months
- 88% of total are serving > than 2 years



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- Links offenders to employment in identified skill and labour shortage areas
- This project selected the building and construction industry as one of these key areas



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- It is experiencing severe skill shortages across Perth and broader WA
- It can provide sustainable employment for ex-offenders
- It offers employment across wide trade areas: bricklaying, tiling, concreting....
- Pays favourable wages
- Offenders choose to participate in construction training



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- To secure sustainable employment for offenders in the construction industry
- To prepare offenders for employment by using local industry advice
- To create an Industry Training Network (ITN) & an Advisory Group



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- Peak Industry Association
- Employers
- Education and Training Providers
- Support services sector
- Unions
- Government Departments



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- Identify and advise on local industry training needs and delivery
- Identify barriers to employment & develop strategies to address them
- Identify a pool of suitable employers
- Support Services: Co-ordinate pre and post release assistance



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- Boral, BGC, Midland Brick, Cockburn Cement
- Master Builders WA, Building & Construction ITC
- B & C ITF, ABBTF
- Centrelink, Outcare, Mercy Employment
- CFMEU
- WA Corrective Services, WA Education & Training, WA Industry & Resources and DEWR



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- Adult prisoners granted day release & permitted to take up paid work outside prison have access to the full range of Job Network Services
- In recognition of research which indicates that prisoners who are able to obtain employment during pre-release are less likely to re-offend



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- Approves absences for paid employment
- Dependent on suitable work & appropriate wages
- Prisoner labour being transparent
- The policy and procedures are currently being developed
- Prisoner's paying room & board, outstanding fines, family support



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- Prison capacity and willingness to participate in the delivery of the training program
- Involvement of the offenders families
- Breaking down community assumptions of offenders
- Educating employers and industry
- Government bureaucracy



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- Second Chance Business Register
- Process Model template for other industries
- Creation of local industry advised training program model
- Impetus for development of legislation's policy and procedures



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- Delivers training that provides the skill required by local employers
- Links offenders directly with employers prior to exiting prison
- Provides pre and post release support
- Offers 'real' community-based training in the trades prior to release



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- The aim is to have a model that leaves “No surprises” for any stakeholder- the offender, family, employer, support service providers, DCS – no grey areas.
- For the EVTU, it’s the development of community networks of support to further its education and training of offenders.