

**The end...**

**But really just  
the beginning**

*Judy Lazarus Transition Centre*  
Corrections Victoria



# Quote:



“I was over confident over how well I would just slip back in. There was an adjustment that I had not expected I had to make.

Being out regularly surrounded by everyday people makes a big difference and allows you to make this needed adjustment”

Ex JLTC Resident

# Setting the Scene



- Opened in April 2007
- 25 Bed capacity
- Male prisoners with a minimum sentence of 3 years
- Serving the last 3 to 12 months of sentence
- Minimum security rating
- No sex offenders

# Quote:



“Helped me adjust attitude and helped me set up everything I needed before leaving. Would not have had same opportunities to set up that much from another prison. Without being set up your next step is crime if you have nothing and no place to live.”

Ex JLTC Resident

# How do they get there?



Prisoner and Case Worker  
complete application



Prison Review and Assessment Committee



Sentence Management Unit



Development of Transitional Activity Plan



Consideration of Transitional Needs by JLTC

# Quote:



“Would have been much harder to do straight out of prison. This gradual process allows time to break the ice and slip back slowly”

Ex JLTC resident

# What happens next?



## Permit Progression Pathway

- Level 1 Security/Orientation Phase – First 2 weeks
- Level 2 Skills Development Phase
- Level 3 Maintenance/Pre-Release Phase – Last 3 months

## Permit Types

- Community Work & Work Experience
- Family reintegration
- Community reintegration
- Education/Training/Treatment & Personal development

# Quote:



“The only thing for me was the first few months when out in the community. You feel people know you are a prisoner. I know it is all in your head but it takes some time for this feeling to go. Being at the Centre means you get to go out everyday so you get used to being in the community again, then it stops being like that “

“It was hard at first, coping with crowds. The escorts and not being forced allowed time and space to adjust – was good. The opportunities, structure and tasks all help overcome worry and help build confidence”

2 Ex JLTC residents

# How do we manage Security and Risk?



- Compliance monitoring
- Substance testing
- Risk assessments
- Intelligence monitoring
- Clear expectations and swift consequences
- Monthly case reviews
- Intensive case management

# Quote:

“Thought it was going to be a big problem as I had been a heroin user. JLTC hooked me up to a good counsellor (still with them now) and I have been on top of it right through – still clean. It has been very beneficial for me to see same counsellor. I think if I had seen one in a normal prison I would have had to start all over with a new one when released and that may not have worked as well.”

“Counselling organised if needed. Regular testing urines and puffers prevent the problem.”

2 Ex JLTC residents



# Staff and Resources



## Staffing:

- Staffed 24/7
- Manager x 1
- Senior Transition Officer x 1
- Transition Officers x 10
- Finance/H.R. Officer x 1

## Budget

- 1.5 million

# Quote:



“Thought it could be difficult. The Centre made the introductions you needed and still allowed for teaching independence, so you needed to ask if you were having problems. They would offer assistance”

“Prior to prison I had been unemployed so thought it would be a big problem. It was through the community work that I got my job.”

2 Ex JLTC residents

# Statistics as at August 2009



## 80 Men through the Centre

### 26 returned to custody:

- 13 for positive urinalysis,
- 6 for permit breaches
- 3 returned voluntarily
- 1 returned for stealing
- 1 returned for having a mobile phone in his possession
- 1 self-harm
- 1 deceased

10 returned in the last month of sentence

3 men have returned to custody following release.

- 1 for breaching parole
- 2 for further offending:

# Evaluation – Preliminary Findings



- consistency of JLTC model with good practice features identified in a research and practice literature review of factors underlying effective Transition
- strong support for the JLTC model and practice across internal and external stakeholders and interviewed past and current residents
- evidence of positive transition outcomes eg nearly three-quarters of interviewed past residents currently in employment compared to less than half of this group at reception into prison
- very positive comments by interviewed residents about a wide range of program elements including staff attitude and support

# Questions?

Corrections Victoria

