



# **ACEA Re-Integration Puzzle Combined Conference**

## **2009**

### **Remote Indigenous Delivery**

**GRAZIA PAGANO**  
Manager Prisoner Education Curriculum  
EVTU

**MERRILEE LANDS**  
Campus Manager Broome Prison  
Education Centre



Department of Corrective Services  
Government of Western Australia



# Remote Indigenous Delivery

The aim is to engage local Indigenous students in meaningful education and training that in the long term provides a pathway to satisfying employment. The foundation of sustainable and positive community engagement is recognised as a contributing factor in reducing recidivism.

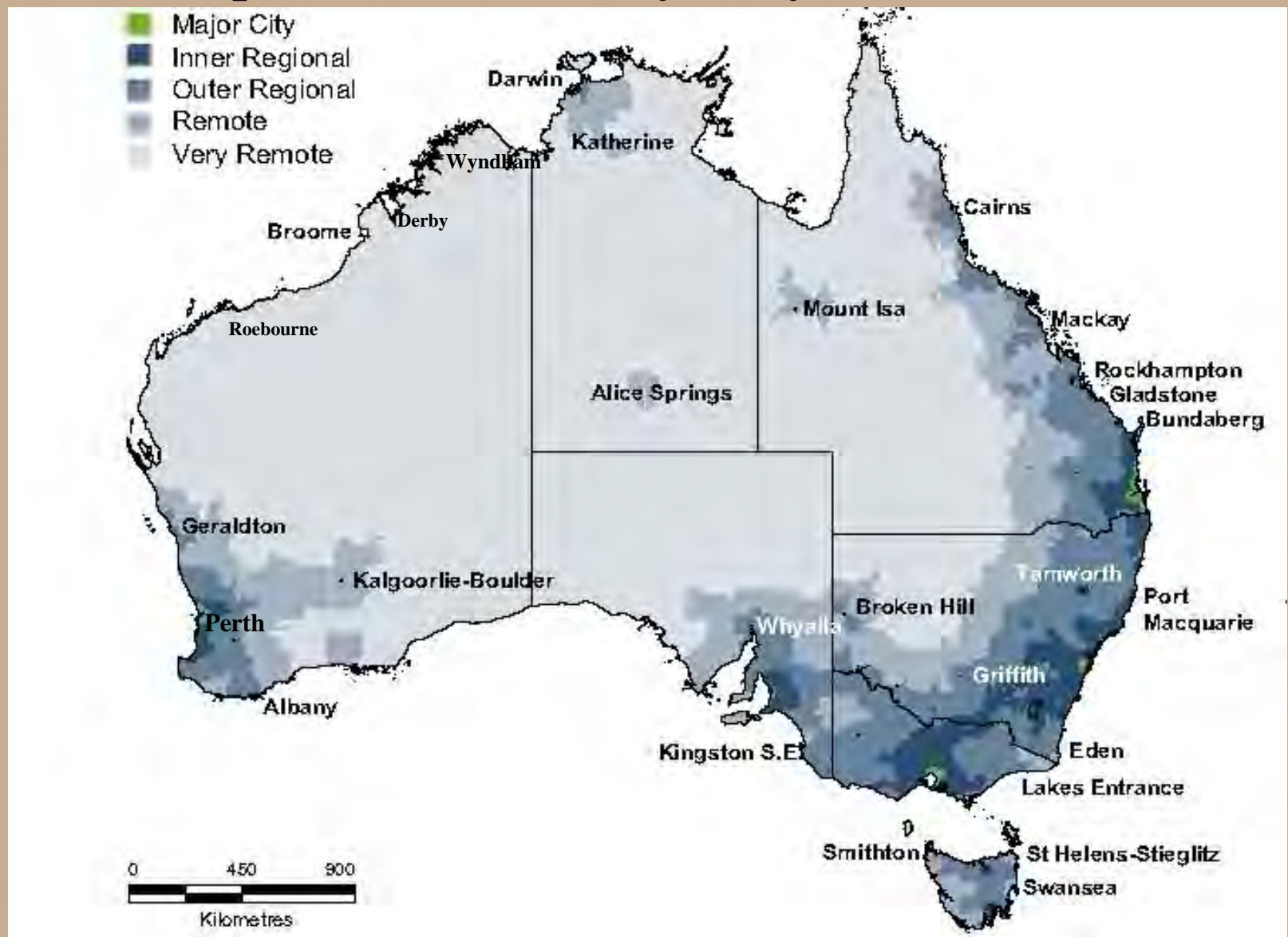
Three Remote sites:

- Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Eastern Goldfields

Barriers to delivery:

- Distance
- Community and Cultural Perspectives
- Staffing

# Remote Map Australia: “The Tyranny of Distance” Geoffrey Blainey



# Language Map – 390 languages





## Attracting and maintaining Staff

The Demographics of the North West have a direct impact on staff placement and retention.

In the Kimberley the ratio of population is approx 1 person to every 12 kms  
In the Pilbara the ratio of population is 1 person to 1 km

The population in northwest townships is mainly transient with a high percentage of people who are not locals.

The region is often economically reliant on the mining “Boom or Buster factor” which directly affects staffing, and leave relief for staff to counteract burn out.



# Community and Cultural Perspectives

Each site is unique from a cultural and industrial perspective in terms of what it can offer a trainee

Each site bridges the gap of re-entry into the community with sustainable employment.

Each centre's success in eliminating barriers to Education and Training.

Roebourne Prison Education Centre:

DECCA Station

Millstream Work Camp

# DECCA STATION





## DECCA STATION



# MILLSTREAM TRAINEESHIPS





## Kimberley - Broome

- Yawuru people are the traditional owners of Broome but there are many language groups there: Bardi, Gooniyandi, Walmajarri, Nyul Nyul, Kija, Kukatja, Karrajarri, to name a few. Due to the assimilation policy Indigenous people were taken from their family and sent to Missions or Ration Depots and some never returned home and now live in Broome.
- The majority of the offenders at BRP are Indigenous (94%) and our delivery has to take into account the different language groups of the Kimberley Region.

Four Indigenous staff are employed at the Education Centre:

Hanson Boxer, a Walmajarri elder, delivers traditional carving to the offenders once a week

Brian Devonshire who delivers Keep Your Culture Keep Your Job and Storytelling Through Art

Rhonda Gibson, Aboriginal Education Worker, delivers our Deadly Tucker and Personal & Environmental Health Courses and provides support to non-Indigenous tutors particularly with cultural and language matters.

## Broome

Eligible offenders access vocational training at the Kimberley College of TAFE:  
Certificate I&II in Horticulture,  
Certificate I&II in Music, Fencing, Construction and  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts.

Horticulture is delivered with the aim of equipping offenders with skills to develop community gardens a step towards improving Indigenous health particularly given the rate of diabetes in Indigenous people.

Art is delivered to enable offenders to develop skills and enhance their economic base.

Adult Basic Education is the focus of delivery at the Prison with some VET courses such as Information Technology and Business.

The literacy and numeracy levels of our offenders are low and so delivery must take this into account.







## Derby - Bungarun Work Camp

Bungarun is 220kms from Broome.

The work camp houses 20 offenders who are currently engaged in reparation work in the town of Derby and its surrounding areas.

As the workcamp is located at the old Leprosarium we are planning an initiative to train offenders in tourism so that they can act as tour guides to visitors that come to visit the historical site.

The vocational training provided at Bungarun is aimed at providing offenders with skills and confidence to re-engage in their communities upon release.

Such as

- Certificate I in Engineering
- Certificate I & II in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts
- Certificate I in Conversation & Land Management
- Certificate I & II in Horticulture
- Install, Maintain & Repair Fencing







## Wyndham Work camp

- Wyndham workcamp is located 1050kms from Broome, and houses 20 offenders
- 18 are enrolled in Certificate I Rural Operations and
- 19 are enrolled in Certificate II in Automotive Servicing.
- The knowledge and skills attained from these courses can be utilised back in their communities.



## Eastern Goldfields

Kalgoorlie is an inland town 600km from Perth. The Goldfields-Esperance region is the largest of Western Australia's regions, with an area of 771,276 km<sup>2</sup>. The economy of the Goldfields is based on the extraction and processing of various mineral resources, primarily Gold and Nickel.

Nearly 10% of the region's population are of Indigenous descent, which is substantially higher than the state as a whole, with a high number of Indigenous offenders from remote desert communities.

While the Eastern Goldfield Prison Education centre offers a comprehensive Vocational and Education timetable, it has also taken on board one of the community's main concerns regarding Indigenous Offenders accessing Drivers Licences.

The Education centre has established a process to assist Indigenous offenders access Extra Ordinary Drivers Licences through a collaborative arrangement between, various Government agencies, Local Sheriffs, and Prison staff.

# Eastern Goldfields

Conditions for Indigenous offenders to be successful in gaining a licence under the system are required to enter the program in sufficient time before release to:

Pass a theory test

Pass a practical driving test

Make their own “E Licence” plate and

Make a log book which must be maintained when a licence is granted

Conditions for granting the Extraordinary Licence include specific local community requirements :

Hunting

Family events

Cultural business

Sorry business

Funerals



## Summary

Challenges - Distance, Community and Cultural Considerations and Staffing

Successes -

- The students are getting Drivers Licences in Remote Regions
- The students are reengaging and making positive contributions to their communities and
- Reviewing and initiating community relevant programs to qualify students for sustainable mainstream employment is happening .