

ACEA— Reintegration Puzzle



Corrections education and the dynamics of community reintegration

30 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER, 2009 | PERTH | CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Welcome

The Australasian Corrections Education Association and Deakin University welcome you to this, our first combined conference – “Corrections education and the dynamics of community reintegration”.

ACEA and Deakin University have long shared a common interest in the factors that assist people to successfully reintegrate into the community after prison. It is clear to us that programs and services provided within prison and those provided after release must be cleverly integrated to give people the best chance possible to rebuild their lives. It is therefore a natural fit for these two organisations to work together to present this combined conference.

We are delighted to welcome a number of keynote presenters who are world renowned in the areas of correctional education and reintegration.

- Ms Jane Bateman, Head of the Social Mobility Unit, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Dr Sue Gordon, retired Indigenous Australian Magistrate
- Mr Dirk Koudstaal, Tasmanian Polytechnic
- Professor Doris McKenzie, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr Lee Hong Neo, National University of Singapore
- Ms Nicole Roullier, Cégep Marie-Victorin
- Hon Christian Porter, Attorney General, Minister for Corrective Services

We also welcome and thank all the workshop presenters, who demonstrate much passion for the work they do, and hope that all delegates will leave the conference with ideas they can apply to their own work, and with a network of new colleagues with whom to share future challenges and solutions.

Thank you also goes to our prisoner artists in Western Australian prisons, who painted this year’s speaker gifts.

We are pleased to also offer a social program to complement the conference. The welcome function will be held on Sunday night at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel. We are pleased to welcome Professor Neil Morgan, the Inspector of Custodial Services who will join us on the night.

This year we are hosting a wonderful dinner at the Fremantle Prison. Entertainment will be provided by David Hyams and an ex-offender will provide a keynote address. There will also be a photographic exhibition from the last days of Fremantle Prison as a working prison.

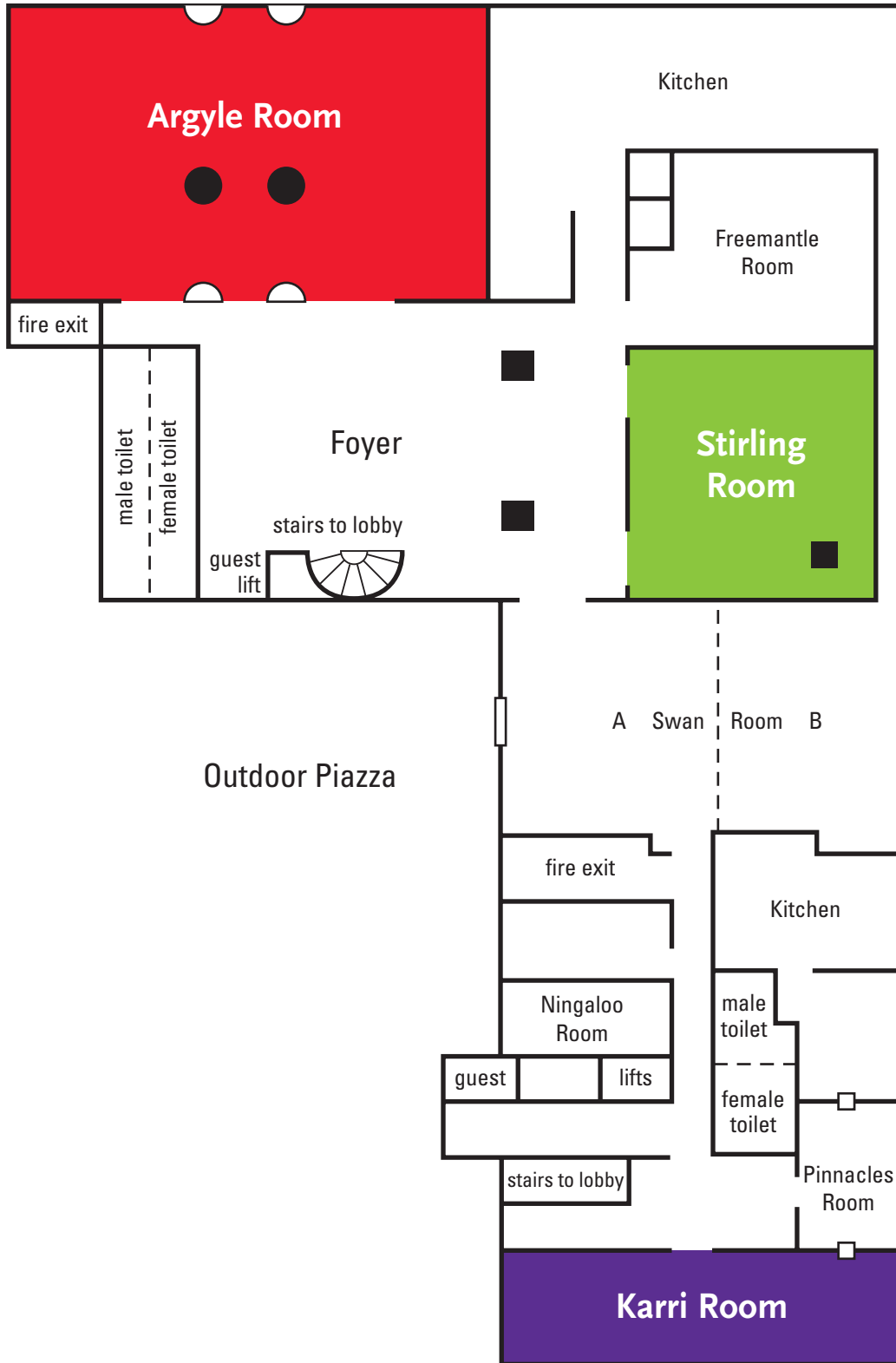
Thank you also to the organisations that have provided support to this year’s conference including the Department of Corrective Services WA, Outcare, Centrelink, UnitingCare West, Lotterywest, WISE Employment and the Department of Education and Training WA.

We hope you enjoy the conference.

Professor Joe Graffam	Ms Christine Laird
Deakin University	ACEA

Program

Venue floor plan



8.00 Registrations Open

8.45 Conference Open and Welcome to Country

Mr Ron Cox and Mrs Christine Laird,
Australasian Correctional Education Association

Professor Joe Graffam, Deakin University

Welcome to Country

9.05 Opening Speech

Hon Christian Porter, Attorney General,
Minister for Corrective Services

9.25 Keynote Presentation

**Offender skills and employment in England:
Transforming delivery – a continuing story**

Jane Bateman, Head of the Social Mobility Unit,
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The presentation, which will include opportunities for questions and answers, will focus on activity in England over the last four years to transform the delivery of skills and employment for offenders, the policy aims in making those changes and on how accountabilities have altered as a result. This section will mention particularly some of the new alliances that have been forged in order to put these new arrangements in place.

The middle section of the talk will focus on the impact of these changes in terms of employer engagement and other mechanisms to move offenders closer to work; the development of a campus model building on the refreshed learning and skills delivery arrangements; and the impact of a new emphasis on skills and jobs in prisons and probation. But as well as these specific 'policy' objectives, this section will also outline some of the quality and engagement benefits we have seen.

In the final section, Jane will look forward to further planned changes, reinforcing the modernising trend and enhancing still further the way in which the various arms of government work together to improve learning and employment delivery.

10.15 Morning Tea

Argyle Ballroom

11.00 Workshops

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

Setting The Scene: Correctional Education And Reintegration Across Australia

Christine Laird, Corrective Services WA

By setting the scene, this presentation will provide an overview of some major developments in the prison system in Australia. While each State and territory has its own prison system and we could assume that their operation is fairly similar, this is not necessarily the case.

This presentation will provide an overview of the current correctional systems across Australia's states and territories describing client demographics, prison locations and main role and functions of each site.

An outline will be given of similarities and differences to the management of correctional educational, relationships with State Training providers and reintegration services for each jurisdiction. It is hoped that delegates will be given a solid grounding for comparison to enable a more enriched understanding of the presentations over the whole conference.

Assessing prisoners' basic skills – the Corrections Victoria Language Literacy and Numeracy Toolkit

Yvette Bockisch, Corrections Victoria and Yvonne Russell, Kangan Batman TAFE

Corrections Victoria is committed to improving employment outcomes for prisoners. A key strategy is the implementation of a skills development process that enables the skills gaps of prisoners to be identified and then addressed as they move through the prison system.

A core component of this skills development process is the effective identification of basic skills. Corrections Victoria commissioned the development of a Language Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) toolkit, the first in Australia to be developed in line with the Commonwealth Australian Core Skills Reporting Framework. Development of the toolkit was funded by DEEWR.

The toolkit is a set of detailed moderated assessment tasks to be used by LLN practitioners in the development of a Skills Plan.

The toolkit will:

- for the first time enable Victorian adult prison populations to be compared against the population in the general community
- provide a consistent set of tools for the assessment of prisoner basic skills across the prison system
- improve data on the profile of the prison population

Effective cooperation leads to successful working partnerships: A systemic and multilevel approach to advancing innovation for prisoners in correctional education.

Ray Chavez, Western Australian Department of Corrective Services and Peter "Chook" Henson, Western Australian Department of Education and Training

The Education and Vocational Training Unit of the Department of Corrective Services in Western Australia has forged a wide range of community based partnerships that form the foundation for many of Australia's more innovative correctional education practices. It offers an integrated program that links adult basic, Indigenous, vocational and life skills education to better prepare prisoner for life post release. The program offers prisoners a mix of prison-based training and community-based work experience including opportunities to engage in pre and new apprenticeships. In its continual efforts to provide a true throughcare service for its students, it now offers its own Prisoner Employment Program, which allows eligible students to participate in community paid work.

The EVTU with the assistance of their partners at the Department of Education and Training, TAFE Colleges across WA and with other private training providers continually strive to increase training flexibility to provide some of the State's most disadvantaged citizens with a holistic educational experience that can assist them both pre and post release.

Participants of this session will be issued with program outlines and AQTF approved teaching-learning resources for use in their own centres.

12.15 Lunch

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream – Reducing Recidivism**Transition – a puzzle of many parts**

Sheree Drever, Tess Jenkin and Klara Lazar, Corrections Victoria

In any rehabilitation framework, transition is notionally located towards the chronological end of the correctional timeline. This is not to say it is the least important area of correctional practice. To the contrary, transition can genuinely be said to be at the 'business end' of things. However, for transition from prison to constitute successful re-integration, planning should begin at reception. In Victoria's Correctional system, transitional services are provided by a range of practitioners: prison officers, program and clinical staff, specialist case managers and other external support workers. The suite of services contains both generic and customised components; is both universal and targeted in its delivery. The orchestration of this effort to gain maximum effect requires communication, consultation and collaboration in order to achieve a systematic approach.

This presentation will describe the 'typical' transitional journey of Victorian prisoners, highlighting the contributions of custodial, clinical, programmatic, specialist case-management and external stakeholders. There will be a specific focus on the Transitional Services Units core programs: (1) Link Out, (2) Women's Integrated Support Program (WISP), (3) Pip Wisdom Grants and, (4) the Transitional Assistance Program.

The Young Adult Offender Program

Jean Dally, Ruth Price and Ruth Hodgson, Oberon Correctional Centre

Set in the hills of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, NSW, and totally surrounded by a pine forest plantation is the Oberon Correctional Centre. From this small, isolated centre, the State's most effective program towards reducing recidivism in the young adult offender (aged 18–25), is delivered. The Young Adult Offender Program encompasses the elements of Vocational education, work ethic, personal development and self responsibility utilising experiential learning techniques and adventure based education strategies within a correctional environment.

Recent studies into the recidivism rates of graduates of the program indicate that 70–90% of successful graduates from the Young Adult Program do not come back to gaol.

This presentation will focus on the process and strategies of the 16 week male program, and the 5 day female program (still in pilot mode), and why the combination of vocational education, criminogenic programs, personal growth sessions, challenge by choice activities and Case management is integral to its successful statistics.

The Power of Conversations.... The Creation of Collaborative, Inter-Agency, Multi-disciplinary Post Release Support

Tracie Bowes, Red Cross, Gene Wheeler, PrOP, and Bruno van Aaken, Consultant

Talk is cheap... words are like sand to the wind... actions speak louder than words... yet how do we know what actions to take without interpersonal communication or conversations?

"... it's through language that we create the world, because it is nothing until we describe it. And when we describe it, we create distinctions that govern our actions. To put it another way, we do not describe the world we see, but we see the world we describe." Joseph Jaworski, Synchronicity: the Inner Path of Leadership.

Over recent years there has been a growing body of literature, both nationally and internationally, citing various endeavours to implement the use of interagency, multidisciplinary case teams in the management of complex and exceptional needs cases in human service delivery.

This presentation will show how a conversation between several like minded people brought about the use of interagency, multidisciplinary case management of complex and exceptional needs cases in post release support and a change in culture through the establishment of three complementary post release support programs in Tasmania with MOU support from the prison system, the justice system, other government agencies and the NGO sector.

Karri Room

Workshops

Juveniles**Making a difference with young people in the juvenile justice system: New research and its program and policy implications**

Anne Hampshire, Mission Australia

On any given day in Australia 6,000 young people are under juvenile justice supervision. The daily average number of young people who are incarcerated is increasing, despite clear and consistent evidence of the poor outcomes achieved through incarceration. Conversely, there is growing evidence of the positive impact of integrated holistic community based programs which work with young people involved in the juvenile justice system, and their families, peers, communities and the institutions in which they come into contact.

This presentation will report on new in-depth research conducted with 100 young people involved in the juvenile justice system, half of whom are of Pacific background. It will highlight the differences and similarities between the Pacific and non-Pacific young people, explore the role that culture, family and community plays for these young people, identify the strengths of this group of young people as well as systemic factors which can work against their rehabilitation. It will showcase an externally evaluated program which is achieving significant and positive results across a whole range of domains for young people, including a significant reduction in re-offending. It will conclude with a range of policy and program recommendations.

Response Ability Pathways – supporting a paradigm shift

Dr Diana Boswell, Thomas Wright Institute and Tim Moore, Australian Catholic University

Response Abilities Pathways: a model for effectively mentoring juvenile offenders while in detention and during reintegration into the community. This is a framework for examining and responding to the basic developmental needs of young people in trouble that was developed by Dr Larry Brendtro, an internationally acclaimed expert in working constructively with young people in trouble, and has been implemented in Bimberri, the new juvenile detention centre in Canberra. The approach identifies both the core skills needed by the young people to assume responsibility for their positive life adjustment and also those needed by the adults who mentor them over this critical period. RAP provides a framework for systemic attitudinal and value change. It provides skills development for young people and the adults who mentor them. It provides direction for effective case management that is focused on meeting the needs of the individual young person.

This paper will explore the implementation of the RAP framework - what worked and did not work and the way ahead.

Giving From the Inside.

Suzanne Rose, Dept of Corrective Services, WA

A narrow view of reparation can be widened to allow young offenders to give meaningfully to society. Young offenders rarely have the opportunity to engage in reparation.

Western Australian Detention Centres cater for young people who have had few material possessions and often the very concept of giving is one that is foreign to them. The young people's attitude is often one of, "take what you can get and why should I do anything for your detention centre or your society."

As educators we have taken a more holistic view that has involved not only giving to the community but giving to their environment. We have widened the terms of reparation to one of giving freely whether it is making or organising projects, belonging to something inside detention or performing for a purpose.

1.00 Keynote Presentation

How we can best achieve positive outcomes for Indigenous people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system?

Dr Sue Gordon

Law and order and safer communities are both vital to the future for both urban and remote Aboriginal people. Welfare dependency is still a major issue, so this presentation will discuss how Aboriginal people must be given more assistance to obtain employment to break the cycle.

The impact of substance abuse, on Aboriginal families, their extended families and its appalling consequences in terms of poor parenting, neglect of children, crime, violence and sexual oppression of the powerless (ie. women and children) will also be discussed. The presentation will conclude with the most important issue – how Aboriginal people themselves can break this cycle.

Argyle Ballroom

1.30

Workshops

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

Building Future Independence

Chris Schluter, Career Employment Australia and Ron Cox, Qld Corrective Services

Offenders' low level of Financial Literacy skills and expertise has been identified as being factors contributing to the high level of incarceration and recidivism rates. This identified need led to the creation of the Financial Literacy Project which was a collaborative effort between Soroptomists International Brisbane Inc. and Career Employment Australia. With the approval and support of Queensland Corrective Services, the trial project was delivered initially at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and Helana Jones Correctional Centre.

Designed with the identified Financial Literacy needs of offenders as the key focus, the Financial Literacy Project used the nationally accredited course, '39180 Course in Vocational Literacy – Contextualised', as the vehicle to deliver the course content.

The Course in Pre-Training Indicator is the first course to be designed for mass screening of offenders to increase the success of VET in Corrections. At pre-AQF level it combines vocational interest and Literacy & Numeracy Screening. This profile of the offender can be explored further by education officers, case managers and correctional staff to provide offenders with an individually tailored learning and employment pathway

The Western Australian Prisoner Employment Program: Policies, practices and problems

Larry Smith, Department of Corrective Services WA

The Prisoner Employment Program (PEP) provides minimum-security prisoners in Western Australia with the opportunity to engage in meaningful and sustainable paid employment, work experience, vocational training and education in the community prior to their imminent release from prison.

By participating in the program, prisoners can develop the skills and support networks required for their successful reintegration into the community. The PEP, together with the education and training currently provided to prisoners by the Western Australian Department of Corrective Services (DCS), aims to enhance employment opportunities for prisoners both pre- and post- release, assist in prisoners' rehabilitation and reintegration into the community and reduce the risk of recidivism.

It is proposed to do a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the background history of PEP, the legislation needed to instigate such a program, staffing of prisons, the model used and the direction the program is heading.

The presentation will also outline linkages that have been made both internally and externally and how essential these linkages are for the success of the program.

New ways to do old things: Building basic education in corrections

Helena Zielinska, Department of Corrective Services and Cheryl Wiltshire, Department of Education and Training

Western Australia is a huge jurisdiction with prison educators working from Albany on the South coast to Wyndam in the far North in the Kimberleys (about 2700 kilometres apart). This session explores how the challenge of responding to teachers' needs in these contexts has fostered innovation. It covers a variety of strategies including:

- 1 the creation of networks where all teachers are encouraged to create and share electronic resources regardless of location or employer; and
- 2 the involvement of staff in decision making forums from a wide variety of levels within a department.

Helena and Cheryl will share some of the achievements and tips they have used in the writing of curriculum, the creation of resources and the implementation of professional development. Hear about an approach that fosters collaboration both across and between departments. The group will have the opportunity to examine samples of teaching and learning materials developed through these processes.

3.00 Afternoon Tea

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream – Reducing Recidivism**The end but really just the beginning. The Judy Lazarus Transition Centre**

Janey Muir Smith, The Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

The Judy Lazarus Transition Centre which opened in April 2006 is part of the Victorian Government's strategy for reducing re-offending by addressing transitional issues critical to a prisoner's successful reintegration into the community including employment, accommodation, life skills and family reintegration.

The operational philosophy of the Centre is to maximise the level of positive interaction between residents and staff and further establish prosocial contacts and links that will extend beyond their stay. Each prisoner residing at the Centre participates in a structured program that involves active participation in improving employability, developing living skills, and re-establishing community and family ties and community networks.

Prisoners selected to participate in the program present with a unique range of individual issues which require substantial support. The Centre has been designed around 5 person living units that replicate community living and as such the emphasis is on self responsibility and self determination on the part of residents in their day-to-day lives.

Corrections Victoria has appointed an external consultant to complete a formal evaluation of the Centre and some of the findings will be available for presentation at the Conference.

The Re-entry Services Branch – A unique insight into how Western Australia is meeting the challenges through re-entry programs and Transitional Managers.

Penny Kennedy, Department of Corrective Services WA

The Re-Entry Services Branch, sitting within the Contracted Services Directorate implements, manages and monitors fifty-six service agreements with Non-Government organisations for transition support and other services for prisoners' pre and post release. The Re-entry Services Branch currently provides funding for Service Level Agreements to a total value of \$9.3 million per annum.

The Reducing Offending Strategy provided additional funding to expand Re-entry services across the state. A key component of this was the implementation of Transitional Managers located at each prison to coordinate the expansion of Re-entry services provided to prisoners, both while in prison, and upon their release to the community.

This presentation will demonstrate the impact of the Transitional Manager's role in forming partnerships with government and non government agencies to facilitate opportunities for people in custody and the community that work towards addressing social exclusion factors to maximise successful reintegration into the community.

The various transitional programs across the state are unique and range from accommodation, re-entry programs and transporting Indigenous offenders to their communities in regional areas. The presentation will highlight the challenges and successes for Re-entry Services in Western Australia along with showcasing the benefits of this model, representing a valuable shared learning opportunity for conference attendees.

Risk assessment and risk management with sex offenders: Community protection vs. offender rights

Dr Jim Vess, Deakin University

Over the past 20 years, there has been a proliferation of legislative initiatives resulting in laws intended to protect the public from sex offenders. There has also been a vigorous international research effort to develop and empirically validate risk assessment measures that can inform judicial decision-making in the implementation of these laws. This presentation will briefly outline the nature of these laws and the risk assessment instruments typically used, then provide recent data that highlight both the strengths and limitations of current risk assessment methods. The focus will be on utilizing group recidivism data for individual risk assessments, especially for those who are outside the actuarial scheme. The implications for offender reintegration as a balance between public safety and offenders' human rights will be discussed.

Karri Room

Workshops

Women and Families**Connect: The importance of community education in reducing challenges for workers supporting families and post release prisoners.**

Melanie Dower, CRC

It is well known that being able to access support in the community is vital for prisoners and their families as they navigate the prison system and the transition back to community. But how effective are services at actually providing this support? Families report a reluctance to disclose their situation to services due to shame and a perception that services won't understand and refer on at the mention of prison. Service providers report a mixture of fear and frustration at working with this client group and a lack of understanding of how the prison system works and the barriers prisoners face upon release.

Hear real life stories as family members and prisoners talk about the barriers they face when accessing support. Community Restorative Centre (CRC) works to bridge this gap by providing training for workers from government and non-government agencies to reduce the myths around incarceration and increase understanding of the impact incarceration has on prisoners and their families. This presentation will outline the training packages CRC currently offers: *When a Family Member Goes to Prison* and *From Prison to Community* and the importance of educating community and providing practical advice to increase meaningful ways of working with this incredibly disadvantaged client group.

Vacro Women's Mentoring Program – A Model To Assist Successful Reintegration Into The Community.

Violet Lotter, VACRO Women's Support Services

The Victorian Association for the Care and Re-settlement of Offenders (VACRO) is a community agency, which is a significant participant in providing a range of support services to offenders, ex-offenders and especially their children and families. VACRO Women's Mentoring Program (VWMP) is an innovative mentoring and support program for women, transitioning into the community. VWMP currently has thirty two active mentor pairs interacting in various stages of a mentoring relationship. A positive mentoring relationship can help to increase a woman's confidence, self-esteem and self-sufficiency as well as providing her with alternative choices.

Mentoring activities and how the outcomes of social connectedness can deliver positive results for the women being mentored is discussed in this paper. These relationships and their relational qualities, which underpin the effectiveness of the VWMP in making a difference to the female offender's ability to successfully reintegrate into the community, will be examined in the paper.

Reducing Reoffending through Social and Economic participation – Women 4 Work Program

Sonia Chudiak, Melbourne Citymission

The Melbourne Citymission Women 4 Work (W4W) program offers support to women exiting prison and undertaking Community based orders to obtain and maintain meaningful employment.

Women who come into contact with the criminal justice system often come from backgrounds of profound socio-economic disadvantage and experience social exclusion. Women with a criminal record often face additional barriers to full participation in the community.

W4W has been successful in assisting women to find employment in industries and sectors that are experiencing skill shortages, across Metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Melbourne Citymission provides a Pre Release Employment Program at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. The program primarily aims to prepare women for employment prior to their release. Support is offered to develop employment goals, prepare resumes, job applications, seek employment, education and training options and the opportunity to participate in employment expos.

The benefits of social and economic participation for this group of women are countless. They increase financial independence, build self-esteem and confidence and significantly reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Argyle Ballroom

3.30

Workshops

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

The ACEA Community

Ron Cox, ACEA President and Tas Bedford, USQ

A website that is being developed for use by ACEA members will be shown in this session. The general purpose of this website is to facilitate communication between ACEA members nationally and internationally. The website will provide the ACEA community with a forum for ongoing communication and developmental activities between individual members and various sub-groups such as the ACEA Committee, corrections educators within a particular jurisdiction, and groups of corrections educators with particular professional interests such as those who work with VET students or higher education students.

In particular, the website could be used in conducting the business of ACEA and in the provision of professional development activities for ACEA members. Some general features of the website will be demonstrated. These include the capacity to add ongoing news and announcements, to set up group discussion forums, and to add resources such as documents and links to other sites. The website has been set up within the University of Southern Queensland website, under the control of the ACEA. It has been provided free of charge by the University as part of its community service to non-profit professional and community organisations.

Resettlement Services at Acacia Prison: Best Practice

Elaine Toovey, Acacia Prison

Acacia has a holistic approach to rehabilitation to assimilate offenders back into the community as law abiding members of society. Each person's individual needs are addressed, including services provided to them by internal and external stakeholders whether that be case management, education, personal identification, life skills, and building self esteem and a good work ethos. This program is best practice due to its holistic nature and the recognition of personal individuality. This has also been recognised by the WA Department of Corrective Services as best practice and has been implemented in all government prisons.

4.30 Proceedings Close

7.00 Conference Dinner

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream**Optimise the training outcomes of Indigenous prisoners through the valid, reliable, culture-fair assessment of their training potential with the Q test**

Dr Delphine McFarlane, Corrective Services WA and Mr Peter Davidson, Value Edge

Critical to the training outcomes of Indigenous candidates is the initial assessment to establish appropriate pathways.

Where significant language and cultural barriers exist, an alternative assessment process can optimise the potential for such pathways being successful.

Last year, Roebourne Regional Prison introduced, through ValueEdge, the Q Test, a language-free, culture-fair assessment tool specifically designed for Indigenous candidates. The Q Test enables the identification of suitable pathways based on their training and employment potential.

In 2008, 19 prisoners were tested at Roebourne resulting in 12 trainees for the Rio Tinto Work-ready Programme. The selection took into account their Q Test results as well as prison recommendations and the attitude of each candidate. Eight of the 12 prisoners successfully completed the training, a number of whom have already been released and entered the workforce with Rio Tinto.

Due to the success of the Q Test identifying trainees for Rio Tinto's 2008 Programme, Roebourne has applied it to the selection process for two Rio Tinto Work-ready Programmes in 2009.

In addition to the Rio Tinto Programme, Roebourne will consider applying the Q Test to identify suitable prisoners for other vocational training courses run through its workcamps and its Prisoner Employment Placement Programme.

The Elders' Visiting Program: A Northern Territory Government initiative involving Aboriginal inmates and community Elders

Professor Peter Stephenson, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Mr. Wade Jensen NTG Department of Justice.

First nation's people are over-represented in prison systems through-out the western world and Australia is no exception to this situation. In the Northern Territory, Indigenous people comprise 32% of the total population, yet they account for more than 80% of all prisoners. Indigenous recidivism rates are three times the rate than for non-Indigenous prisoners, with 45% of offenders returning to prison. Incarceration and recidivism rates are growing.

Curbing recidivism is identified as a critical area for action in reducing Indigenous representation in NT prisons. The Elders Visiting Program (EVP) is one such strategy. Commencing in 2004, the EVP had two interconnected objectives: firstly, to support the mental health and wellbeing of Indigenous inmates by maintaining links to community and culture while in prison; and secondly, to improve the reintegration prospects of Indigenous offenders by talking about behaviours that led to their incarceration and their post-release plans, obligations and expectations upon returning to community.

This paper will discuss the EVP and the circumstances around its conception, development and delivery. Within a broad evaluative research framework, we will describe the approach taken to learning about the EVP in order to strive for continuous quality improvement and sound policy.

Karri Room

Workshops

Diversion Programs**Court Diversion programs – A collaborative approach**

Belinda Maloney, Department of Human Services and Jo Beckett, ISP/ CREDIT/Bail Support Program.

The CREDIT program was established in Victorian Magistrates Courts in 1998 and expanded to encompass the Bail Support Program in 2004. In 2006, the implementation of CISP provided a further opportunity for alleged offenders to access a range of services prior to their court hearing, including access to specialist, community-based drug treatment services.

To assist with providing a timely and appropriate response to alleged offenders with illicit substance issues, the Victorian Departments of Justice and Human Services collaborated to develop a guideline document for court and treatment agency workers. The document outlines key stakeholder responsibilities and processes for referral and successful engagement of alleged offenders in drug treatment.

The presentation looks at the way in which the Departments of Justice and Human Services developed the guidelines whilst addressing differing priorities and expectations. It also covers: the issues faced upon implementation of the document; the collaborative approach to problem solving; and future directions to ensure better treatment engagement and outcomes.

The ongoing challenges related to the assessment, referral and treatment of South East Queensland Drug Court participants

Den Davies-Cotter, Queensland Health

The South East Queensland (SEQ) Drug Court was originally set up in 2000 and is a specially designated Magistrates court that offers drug dependent offenders rehabilitation instead of prison. Once offenders have pleaded guilty to their drug-related offences and been sentenced to a period of imprisonment (to a maximum of 4 years) their sentence is suspended so that they can enter into a treatment order to address their drug addiction, that is, an Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO).

Queensland Health is the agency responsible for the initial assessment, referral and ongoing treatment of drug court clients.

In this session one of the three Queensland Health SEQ Health Assessors will provide a snapshot of the Southport Drug Court participants.

So who are the drug court clients and what are some of the underlying factors that have contributed to their current situation?

What determines their suitability? How is drug dependence defined, and what happens if our clients continue to use illicit drugs, or even re-offend, whilst they are on an IDRO? What are the treatment options and what are the challenges inherent in court-mandated treatment? All of these questions and more will be answered in this presentation!

8.45 Morning Coffee

9.00 Keynote Presentation

What Works in Correctional Education

Prof Doris Mackenzie,
The Pennsylvania State University

Correctional programs and management strategies can successfully reduce the recidivism of offenders and delinquents according to recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This presentation will review the research and how the general principles of effective programs relate to correctional education. Prisons in the United States provide a wide variety of educational programs and many prisoners participate. One survey found 87 percent of state and federal adult correctional facilities had educational programs. More than 75 percent of the facilities offered basic adult education and secondary education programs and a third provided access to college course work. Almost a quarter of the inmates participated in some type of education. Many facilities also offer life skills programs and vocational education. Successful programs and strategies identified in the systematic reviews and meta-analyses of correctional education will be examined to identify the characteristics and delivery models associated with effectiveness and how these programs interface with re-entry programs. The presentation will end with suggestions for future research based on findings from meta-analyses of "What Works".

9.45 Keynote Presentation

Creation of a UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prisons.

Nicole Rouillier President,
Cégep Marie-Victorin

The major goals of a UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prisons are to intensify the study and action within prison education. It will become a top-notch tool in designing easier exchanges on all continents between the prison environment and the academic world, community workers, and researchers.

Cégep Marie-Victorin has been responsible for college study programs in the prison setting since 1973.

The PRET 2000 program (College Study Assistance Program for Detainees in Transition) is an innovative program designed for persons under the jurisdiction of Correctional Services Canada. Thanks to this support program, the students can count on the help of a resource person who looks over their academic progression and integration within student life within Quebec correctional establishments.

This is not Cégep Marie-Victorin's first presence on the international stage. For the past 25 years, the college has been collaborating to the success of international programs. It has an International Development Bureau whose aim is to promote access to education in various countries of Africa, the Americas and Asia.

10.30 Morning Tea

Argyle Ballroom

11.00 Workshops

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

Gifted youth and Juvenile Justice

Dr Peter Merrotsy, University of New England

Little if anything is known about the extent to which youth caught up in the juvenile justice system may have high learning potential and have learning needs different from typical youth in this context. Two previous studies (Yewchuk, personal communication; Cohn, personal communication) have been inconclusive, although McCluskey's (1995) work on mentors has shown what a talent development and creative problem solving program can do for high-ability and high-risk youth (cf. McCluskey & Mays, 2003). This paper will outline a joint study being conducted in Australia and Canada that is exploring this issue. It will describe the nature of the dynamic assessment being used to assess cognitive ability, and the interventions used to address gaps in literacy, numeracy and creative problem solving. The preliminary findings of this study will also be presented.

Job Services Australia, Ex-offenders and pre-release prisoners

Rina Bruinsma, DEEWR

From 1 July 2009, new employment services will be available in Australia, Job Services Australia. This presentation will explain how the new employment services will assist ex-offenders and pre-release prisoners in the context of the global financial crisis, rising unemployment and the Australian Government's social inclusion agenda.

Following the presentation, participants will be invited to continue dialogue with the Department and each other through a 'virtual reference group' to discuss barriers to employment and vocational education and training faced by ex-offenders and pre-release prisoners. Participants will be invited to share examples of how these barriers are being addressed in specific programs/services in each state and territory.

Career aspirations of offenders in custody, barriers to their success and possible ICT solutions to education leading to their reintegration to community

Rhyl Deardan, University of Southern Queensland

This paper explores some issues about reducing recidivism. Education and career aspirations of 276 inmates who were enrolled in the Tertiary Preparatory Program offered by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) during the period 2006-8 were studied. Recidivism can be reduced if offenders achieve satisfying post-release employment. Helping offenders to see that there is an alternative to criminal behaviour, and to offer hope that they can join the rest of society in meaningful and personally satisfying work is a central aspect. In the study the Self Directed Search and the Holland Dictionary of Careers were used to see how aspirations and career codes matched. Australian correctional facilities offer good opportunities for inmates to undertake vocational education. However, vocational education is not career education. Career education helps a person to explore his or her own strengths, abilities, interests and preferences. Clear goals and pathways to them are motivating. Offenders need to reassess their lives and find new directions if they are to avoid reoffending. However, offenders in custody need to know that they can aspire to and complete tertiary education successfully. Barriers to further education include the lack of ICT access. A suggested solution to this problem is discussed.

12.30 Lunch

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream – General

The Hero Project presents: 10x14 Bricks - Stories from Youth in Lock-up, a groundbreaking crime prevention kit ideal for educators and youth workers.

Peter Harvey – Tallstoreez Productionz

The 10x14 Bricks: Stories from Youth in Lock-up DVD is new territory for supporting Indigenous youth at risk. The Hero Project produced 10x14 Bricks in a juvenile secure care facility over a 5-week intensive workshop. Young offenders learnt essential 21st Century digital media skills to create relevant crime prevention messages for their peers. In candid meet-the-director documentaries and in their own films they share their life choices about crime and the consequences. This valuable resource is easy to use and ideal to generate group and class discussions about crime, justice, peer pressure and personal growth.

10x14 Bricks won the 2009 South Australian Screen Award for Best Innovation in Digital Media, and was also nominated for Best Cinematography and Best Editing. This is a fabulous result for all involved and a great recognition that youth empowerment projects can deliver outstanding and innovative results.

Talking about the choices that led to crime and its consequences open possibilities for learning, growth and change.

Reintegration Planning for ID Offenders – from referral to community re-entry

Katrina W. Nguyen, UnitingCare West and Douglas P. Boer, The University of Waikato, New Zealand

The Transitional Accommodation Support Service (TASS) is a new initiative for UnitingCare West, funded by the WA Department of Corrective Services which offers transitional housing of six months duration to high risk high needs offenders who have an intellectual disability. The TASS initiative is intended to bring together the strengths of disability support and therapeutic risk assessment and management. The intersection of these two sectors may be a useful model for community placement and intervention for clients with special needs. The TASS programme is designed to provide case management and risk-based support in a number of areas including: employment, advocacy, life and social skills, family reunification, and help in acquiring long-term stable accommodation. The aim of the TASS programme is to reduce recidivism for offenders who without targeted supports such as independent living skills, may have difficulties coping with reintegration into the community. The workshop will describe the referral process, the needs assessment process (using the ARMIDILO manageability assessment instrument), and the reintegration process using the example of one de-identified client.

Assistive Technology – Making A Difference to Education, Employment and Social Inclusion Opportunities

Greg O'Connor, Spectronics

Large numbers of prisoners and offenders in the criminal justice system have learning difficulties and other education-related disabilities in the area of literacy. At the same time there are a range of assistive technologies to support their educational needs and provide compensation for literacy difficulties.

The emerging research concerning the use of these technologies indicates their use can make a difference to the learning, employment opportunities and social inclusion of people who struggle with literacy. Assistive technology is increasingly being used to remove barriers to learning, provide access to knowledge and understanding, support integration into the workplace, and promote social connectiveness.

This workshop will provide an up-to-date overview of the current research in this area, and the range of technologies available to support reading, writing, and organisation difficulties in criminal justice settings and beyond.

Technology in this area changes rapidly and these changes make it difficult to distinguish which tool or combination of tools will best benefit a particular person. This workshop will discuss the benefits of key features of these technologies, including text to speech, word prediction, speech to text, portable note taking and alternative digital formats.

Karri Room

Workshops

Indigenous

Back to Country Healing Project

Kevin Smith and Mike Osborn, Men's Outreach Service Broome

The Re-entry program in the Kimberley region of Western Australia is arguably the most remote part of the Australian mainland. It covers an area of 425,000 sq kilometres and this presents unique challenges for the re-entry team.

The objective of the project is to address an identified weak link in our ability to successfully transition clients from prison back to remote communities across the Kimberley. Using an innovative approach we have been developing the project over the past 12 months though extensive travel and consultation across the Kimberley.

"Double whammy" – The effects of colonisation and incarceration "down under"

Mandy Marsters, CRC

Indigenous offenders from colonised countries face a "double whammy" of disadvantage.

Research demonstrates that the general prison populations come from the most cumulatively disadvantaged and marginalised sectors of our society.

For Indigenous people histories of colonisation, assimilation and the policies and practices used to enforce these processes have left a legacy of appalling negative statistics in health, housing, education, employment incarceration rates, etc. On both an individual and collective level Indigenous people "down under" endure the effects of inter-generational grief, trauma, social exclusion, cultural alienation and fear and distrust of mainstream Government and services.

This presentation aims to explore and discuss these ideas. Some ideas for working effectively with Indigenous clients who have experienced incarceration will be suggested.

Making the impossible possible: A New Prison in Derby

Kati Kraszlan and Tillie Prowse, Department of Corrective Services

Since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody there has been considerable research on what constitutes good prison design from an Aboriginal perspective. Memmot (1999) stated that the key issue to be considered when designing custodial facilities for Aboriginal people is that architectural scale and forms, and choice of materials and finishes should be informed by a knowledge of the preferred Indigenous lifestyle. The new prison in Derby is being designed and built to these principles, and the services offered within the prison will be developed within the same cultural framework. Derby will be the first prison in Australia designed and developed specifically for an Aboriginal population and the aim of the project team is to develop a facility which will positively impact on the 60%–70% recidivism rate currently recorded in the Kimberley area. This paper will explore some of the difficulties involved in designing and building a new innovative facility in a remote location which challenges the prevailing models of custodial operations.

1.15 **Keynote Presentation – Argyle Ballroom**

**Offender Rehabilitation and Reintegration:
A Critique of the Singapore Model**

Lee Hong Neo, National University of Singapore

*“With rehabilitation, doing time is not a waste of time”
“Our mission in life is to get criminals out of prison”*

These catchy taglines are seen on prison-commissioned posters all over Singapore. And then there is the Yellow Ribbon Project, a national campaign to raise awareness about the challenges of offender re-entry. Singapore has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world, yet its recidivism rate remained one of the lowest in the world. Just how do we do it? Is it all just creative advertising and clever impression management or do we really have what it takes to tackle reoffending and facilitate offender reentry into the community?

This paper takes a critical look at the principles that underlie the rehabilitation efforts; the numerous rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives that have been implemented to address reoffending; the evidence (or lack of) on the impact of these initiatives; and highlights challenges that stakeholders need to address to engender confidence in our rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Argyle Ballroom

2.00 **Workshops**

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

Accredited skills through prison work – the Victorian Industry Skills Centre Pilots

Yvette Bockisch, Corrections Victoria and Shirley Fraser, University of Ballarat

The Industry Skills Centres aim to improve employment outcomes for prisoners by:

- improving skill outcomes (including employability skills)
- developing relationships with employers
- integrating training and prison industry through providing prisoners with qualifications and practical experience.

The project was commissioned in recognition of the changing labour market and the potential of Prison Industries to enhance prisoners’ prospects of employment on release by developing skills relevant to the contemporary labour market.

The model combines structured workplace learning and work-readiness programs with strategically targeted employment support.

Strategic employment support is provided by an Employment Liaison Officer (ELO) who works with the ISCs to facilitate employment opportunities for prisoners who participate in the ISCs by engaging with employers and industry groups.

The presentation will provide an overview of the policy and research background to the project as well as a case study of a report on progress to date in one location.

Work Camps – Turning Traditional Incarceration On Its Head

Kathy Csaba, Department of Corrective Services WA.

Prison work camps, which have been operating in Western Australia since 1998, allow low risk minimum-security prisoners, to live and work outside the prison environment in the community at a base camp.

Working and living in the community provides prisoners with the opportunity to be involved in meaningful work and to learn new skills for those nearing the end of their sentence. Prisoners are accepted as part of the local community and this acceptance brings valuable prisoner outcomes including developing personal and life skills, improved self-esteem and a strong work ethic. Communities benefit by having community assets and facilities developed and maintained.

Work camps are on the cutting edge of modern corrections because they provide a revolutionary win-win alternative to traditional incarceration, particularly in preparing prisoners for release and providing opportunities for offenders to undertake reparation to the community through their work.

A recent independent evaluation of the program is indicating that this type of approach to rehabilitation is working, in particular for Aboriginal prisoners who struggle to cope in a standard custodial environment. Indications are that the program is producing positive outcomes, particularly in terms of increasing a prisoner’s chance to make successful transition from custody back into the community and improving the community’s confidence in the criminal justice system.

3.00 **Afternoon Tea**

Keynote Presentation – Stirling Room

Creating cooperatively with all stakeholders an advanced and highly secure ICT network for all inmates within existing cultural prison practices.

Dirk Koudstaal, Tasmanian Polytechnic

Approximately half of Tasmania’s prisoners cannot write competently and the majority have never started or completed senior secondary education. Prison presents an opportunity for these men and women to improve their education. However, students experience difficulties achieving educational outcomes while attempting courses of study in prison. Although the lack of educational engagement and outcomes might be associated with the student’s personal circumstances and their belief in the value of education, the restricted prison environment and the lack of access to teachers and digital resources are also limiting factors.

The Tasmania Prison Service in partnership with the Tasmanian Polytechnic has developed a highly secure terminal ICT network. Using e learning software, this network allows secure communication between teachers in the Polytechnic and students in the prison. Although students are unable to access the Internet, the network enables the teachers to provide students with digital copies of approved sites. This platform can also be used by other service providers.

This presentation will describe the design and implementation of the network. Understanding and managing the institutional cultural practices of the prison proved essential for the successful implementation of this network. It required an approach that is different to traditional project management practices. This presentation will prove a provocative case study about achieving innovation and collaborative partnerships within prison environments.

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream – Community Support Services

“The Total Package” Outcare – Through Care Service

Adrian Robinson, Mel Resuggan, Stuart Taylor, Sam Mesiti, Glenda Marshall, and Ravi Lingam, Outcare WA

This presentation will provide information regarding the history of Outcare and how this volunteer participation program has developed since inception. This presentation will include current programs and services along with future directions for the various arms of this organisation that provide services to all the Western Australian metropolitan prisons.

The Accommodation Challenge

Adrian Robinson, Mel Resuggan, Stuart Taylor, Sam Mesiti, Glenda Marshall, and Ravi Lingam, Outcare WA

This workshop will discuss and brainstorm solutions to the challenges of accommodation and how this one factor can influence a positive or negative outcome for an offender upon a parole application, securing employment, making family reconnections, breaking patterns of offending behaviour, addressing addiction issues and forming a positive lifestyle through stability.

Karri Room

Workshops

General

Who is in favour of what with whom? Community views about the reintegration of offenders: some preliminary Victorian data

Dr Terry Bartholomew; Dr Lesley Hardcastle; Professor Joe Graffam, Deakin University

Reintegration is the only sentencing objective that requires community support in order to be realised. Despite widespread moves towards initiatives that facilitate the reintegration of offenders, we know very little about the extent (and limits) of community support for this policy trend. To date, most related public opinion research has focused on attitudes to crime and sentencing, rather than on the specifics of offender reintegration. With this notable gap in mind, the study authors have begun the process of investigating the types of reintegrative initiatives the community would support and the offender sub-groups the community believes such programs should be aimed at (and not aimed at). The study will also profile the sub-sections of the community that are most amenable to such initiatives, and identify the factors that predict positive and negative attitudes to the reintegration of offenders.

This paper outlines the contextual and methodological considerations in such a large undertaking, and then presents preliminary data collected from a substantial sample of the Victorian community. The collection of this sample represents the first stage in an audit of community views about the reintegration of offenders across all Australian states and territories.

Community reintegration for men serving long sentences: a rationale for service delivery underpinned by the Good Lives Model of offender rehabilitation.

A/Prof Andrew Day, Deakin University, Jean McKenzie and Lyn Shirley, UnitingCare West

UnitingCare West is a not-for-profit community services organisation committed to achieving justice, hope and opportunity for all, and works to support and empower in particular those most in need in the WA community. Through its program Outreach Services, it delivers a specialist re-entry service for sex offenders and men serving life and indeterminate sentences. The program has recently been reviewed by Dr Andrew Day from the Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University with input from Dr Tony Ward, University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand. In this paper we describe the aims of the review, the process and findings and our ongoing work in developing a rationale for the service that is underpinned by the Good Lives Model (GLM) of offender rehabilitation. More generally, the presentation will seek to understand the needs of offenders who re-enter the community following long-term imprisonment in relation to those areas of need identified in the GLM.

Argyle Ballroom

3.30

Workshops

ACEA Stream – Employment, Education and Training

Investment in Human Capital During Incarceration and Employment Prospects of Prisoners

Dr Margaret Giles, Edith Cowan University

The costs of incarceration and recidivism to the community are substantial. These costs not only include the direct costs of imprisonment but also the opportunity costs arising from depletion of human capital and loss of output. Policy makers have emphasised the importance of rehabilitating prisoners as a way of reducing recidivism. Consequently, the management of prisoners has changed with more prisoners being encouraged to undertake some form of education, training and/or work during their incarceration in conjunction with any behavioural management programmes. This paper examines, using the 2003 survey of prisoners in Western Australia, the decision of prisoners to invest in education/training during their prison term and the potential labour market outcomes of this investment. The results suggest that prisoners use education/training to improve their skills in preparation for release from prison. From this perspective it can be argued that these prisoners see education/training as an investment in human capital rather than consumption. In addition, the decision to participate in education or training is non-random and varies across the time remaining on the prison sentence, thus suggesting prisoners view education and training as different activities. However, the results show the expected benefit prisoners place on education and training is similar.

Remote Indigenous Delivery

Rosemary Walley, Dept of Corrective Services WA

Roebourne Regional Prison has been the focal point of projects that aim to reduce the unacceptably high rate of Aboriginal recidivism and reimprisonment. A series of projects and partnership arrangements have been developed to give prisoners opportunities for labour market skills training in prison and in the community. Training and access to sustainable employment that breaks down, reduces and builds relationships has been actively promoted. Roebourne Regional prison is unique in terms of an industrial & cultural perspective. A program is being progressively developed that bridges the gap of re-entry back into the community with sustainable employment opportunities through co-operative partnership agreements between prisons, industry, education and training.

4.30 Conference Wrap

Stirling Room

Workshops

Reintegration Stream – General

Centrelink Community Team – Youth Services Unit and Prison Liaison

Simon Murrish and Liz Atone, Centrelink

This workshop will provide an overview of the Centrelink Community Team – Youth Services Unit and Prison Liaison Unit (incorporating Adults at Risk).

Prison Servicing Procedures for both adults and juveniles will be outlined as well as the prisons visited, relationships developed, laptop usage, numbers of claims completed, procedures upon claiming and team history/background.

Understanding Prisoner Learning

Miriam Scurrah, Australian Prison Foundation

The focus of this presentation on prisoner learning is a model, that shows the interrelation of five interacting systems (environmental, organisational, individual, learning and social) on the central theme of prisoner learning, showing a potentially non linear non equilibrium-oriented perspective. This perspective enables us to see prisoner learning as being changed by and changing through the interplay between the various systems where none is more important or contributes more than any other. Each system comprises a complexity of interacting forces and constructs producing changes within the system itself. Prisoner learning interacts with and influences those five systems. Changes in the interactions within the systems therefore impact on prisoner learning.

Prisoner learning is therefore in a constant state of fluctuation due to this complex interplay of change (Cooksey & Gates, 1995). A successful correctional education process is a complex process involving the interplay of social, cultural and interpersonal dynamics (Behan, 2007). Using a model such as this may assist correctional educators to highlight the complexity of the barriers to successful learning which prisoners face.

Karri Room

Workshop

Domestic violence: Perpetrator programs in Western Australia

A/Prof Andrew Day, Deakin University, Catherine Opitz, University of South Australia.

This symposium explores policy, organisational, practice, and research issues in the delivery of legally mandated programs for men who have acted violently in their intimate relationships. It will draw on the findings of a collaborative project between corrections and a number of non-government agencies contracted to provide services. The paper will provide an overview of some of the systemic and policy issues that impact upon on program delivery and evaluation issues, and the experiences of female partners of men attending programs.

7.30 ACEA Breakfast and AGM Parmelia Hilton Hotel

Argyle Ballroom

9.30 Indigenous Symposium

The need to boost opportunity and reduce exclusion

This 1 hour session will have a panel comprised of respected members of the Western Australian Indigenous community discussing ways of using preventative methods of intervention with Indigenous people in order to inhibit the likelihood of contact with the criminal justice system.

With almost a quarter of Australian male prisoners, a third of female prisoners and half of juvenile detainees being Indigenous, this discussion is an important part of any symposium considering issues relating to reducing rates of recidivism, social inclusion and integrated employment.

10.45 Morning Tea

Research and Policy Symposium

This session will be chaired by members of Deakin's new research group **CORD – The Centre for Offender Research @ Deakin**.

The session will be an informal opportunity for researchers, policy makers and practitioners to share information and ideas about current and future research directions in the reintegration area.

12.30 Session Concludes

off-site

Facility Visits

Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women

Presentation and facility visit

Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre

Presentation and facility visit

These sessions are booked out.

Karri Room

Workshop

Risk Assessment of Intellectually Disabled Offenders for Front-line Staff and Mental Health Professionals

This workshop is for all front-line workers and mental health professionals who are involved in the risk assessment and risk management of intellectually disabled (ID) offenders, whether in the community or in prison settings. A great many risk assessment instruments are available on the market these days for a wide variety of offenders. To date, virtually none of these instruments are explicitly geared to ID offenders.

The reality of the criminal justice system is that risk assessment and risk management of ID offenders is everybody's business. It is not okay for test authors to assume that all risk assessments will be done, or be done best, by professional assessors. While it may be desirable to refer to mental health professionals to verify the presence of a mental disorder and provide treatment of such disorders, the initial observation of symptoms is almost invariably made by front-line staff.

This workshop is geared to finding solutions and making recommendations in terms of how to do risk assessments of sexually and non-sexually violent ID offenders by all staff tasked with this responsibility

Facility Visits continue

Risk Assessment of Intellectually Disabled Offenders for Front-line Staff and Mental Health Professionals continued

12.30 Session Concludes

3.00 Session Concludes

Keynote Presenters

Ms Jane Bateman, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, UK Government

Jane Bateman is Head of the Social Mobility Unit in the newly formed Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills. The purpose of the Unit is to take forward key commitments in the Governments White Paper 'New Opportunities'. It has key cross Government responsibilities for BIS, Contribution to the Delivery of PSA 16 led by the Cabinet Office, reducing re-offending through the Offender Skills and Employment Programme, and the Pledge to end Child Poverty.

Dr Sue Gordon

Sue Gordon was taken from her mother under government policies of the day in 1947 aged 4 years and did not see her mother or family again for over 30 years. She was raised in Sister Kate's Home in Queens Park, Western Australia (WA). Sue has served time in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, was the first Aboriginal person in WA to head a government department, was the first Aboriginal Magistrate in WA, serving from 1988 to 2008, was a member of the first Board of ATSIC in 1990, received an Order of Australia – Australia Medal in 1993 for services to the community and Aboriginal people, Chaired the 'Gordon Inquiry' in 2002, received a Centenary Medal and also a Defence Service Medal. She has a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of WA and received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the same University. She chaired the Northern Territory Emergency Response Taskforce from June 2007 to June 2008 and was the chair of the National Indigenous Council from December 2004 to December 2007. She is a widow with two sons, one a Civil Engineer and the other a Lawyer. Sue has travelled extensively overseas and is a frequent guest speaker on Child Abuse, Aboriginal Social and Economic issues and sits on several Boards/Committee's.

Mr. Dirk Koudstaal (presenter)

Mr. John Cianchi co-authored the paper

Dirk immigrated in 1968 to Australia from the Netherlands after he completed his degree from the School of Tropical Agriculture in Deventer. He continued his part-time studies in parasitology at the University of Queensland while working full-time at CSIRO. Drawn to teaching, he completed his Diploma of Education and worked at high schools before he started teaching in the post-secondary colleges of the Tasmanian Department of Education. Dirk implemented and managed an Open Learning Department for the delivery of education to off-campus students and adults who missed out on a post compulsory secondary education. This experience gave him an appreciation of the complexities with learning environments, learning resources, learning styles associated with social and cultural backgrounds of the students. Dirk also created flexible eLearning environments for prisoners in Tasmania. He has published several papers and many reports on these topics.

Professor Doris Layton MacKenzie, Director, Justice Center for Research, and Professor, Crime, Law and Justice Program, Department of Sociology, Penn State

Doris Layton Mackenzie, Director, Justice Center for Research, College of the Liberal Arts and Outreach, and Professor, Crime, Law and Justice Program, Department of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University. Her most recent book titled "What Works in Corrections: Reducing the Criminal Activities of Offenders and Delinquents" (2006, Cambridge University Press) summarizes systematic reviews and meta-analyses of evaluations of correctional management strategies and rehabilitation programs. She has co-edited two recent books: "Correctional Boot Camps: Military Basic Training or a Model for Corrections?" (2004, Sage Publications) and "Different Crimes, Different Criminals" (2006, Lexis/Nexis/Anderson). She has testified before U.S. Senate and House committees and was invited to present her work at the United Nations, Vienna. She is a fellow and currently president of the Academy of Experimental Criminology, fellow and past vice-president of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and past chair of the Division on Corrections and Sentencing, ASC. She has received the ASC Bloch Award and the Most Distinguished Scientist award from the Division on Corrections and Sentencing, ASC. In 2007, as a Fulbright Research Scholar, she examined China's new community corrections programs.

Dr. Lee Hong NEO

Lee Hong NEO obtained her PhD from the University of Singapore in 2000. She joined the Singapore Prison Service shortly after and was instrumental in developing correctional research in the Prison Service. She was also the Chairperson of the Yellow Ribbon Conference (YRC) in 2007. The YRC serves as a platform to disseminate local empirical findings on offender research and to share best practices with community partners.

She left the Prison Service in early 2008 to start her own research and consultancy business. She is also currently an Assistant Professor (Adjunct) with the Department of Psychology, National University of Singapore.

Ms Nicole Rouillier, President, Cégep Marie-Victorin Université de Sherbrooke, M.A. in Management; Université de Montréal, B.A. in Industrial Relations

Nicole has more than 30 years experience in education and management, including twenty-five years at Cégep Marie-Victorin. She is the President of the Fédération des cégeps Committee for the Development of Continuing Education (2006 to date) and a Member of the board of directors of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges since 2005 and Vice-President of the board of directors since 2007. She is also a Member of the Regional Job-Market Partnership Committee since 2004 and President of the Immigration Committee since 2007.

Nicole has been a member of the Adult Education Commission of the Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation (1999-2003), Executive Member of the Continuing Education Commission of the Fédération des cégeps (1994-1997; 2001-2003), President of the Commission (2002-2003) and Member of the board of directors of the Local Network Development Agency for Health and Social Services (2003-2007).

Workshop Presenters

Liz Astone, Centrelink

Liz has worked in the Youth Service Unit for 9 years. Liz has a passion and commitment for working with young people at risk and trying to improve their circumstances and wellbeing.

Dr Terry Bartholomew, Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University

Terry is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology. He has research interests and expertise in a variety of psycho-legal and criminological topic areas. These include:

- the competence and culpability of young offenders
- violent behaviour by males
- testing psychological assumptions embedded in legal authority
- identifying psychological and social predictors of desistance from offending behaviour.

Jo Beckett, Program Manager, CISP/CREDIT/BAIL Support Program, Melbourne Magistrates Court, Department of Justice.

Jo is a nurse and youth worker. She has 31 years experience working in welfare, 28 of those in drug and alcohol services. Jo managed Wesley Mission's Injecting Facility for IV drug users. She has spent the last 10 years working for the Department of Justice, developing and managing programs for court users on bail, fast tracking clients on remand and assisting clients in accessing treatment and support in the community.

Dr Tas Bedford, University of Southern Queensland

Tas Bedford is a senior lecturer in the Open Access College of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). He is responsible for the coordination of USQ domestic enabling programs, including the Tertiary Preparation Program (TPP) which is offered by distance education throughout Australia and attracts prisoner enrolments of the order of 250 per year. Tas teaches study-management skills in the TPP. His research PhD thesis was on the topic of the education experiences of early, repeat offenders in custody.

Yvette Bockisch, Senior Policy Officer, Education, Employment and Training Unit, Corrections Victoria.

Yvette has spent many sleep deprived nights during the last 20 years in an effort to improve educational outcomes for students in TAFE, ACE, and Secondary School (she is not as old as she looks). In late 2006, she got the opportunity to do the same for prisoners and has since been working for Corrections Victoria to improve processes to support prisoner access to education and training, skills acquisition and learning pathways across the prison system. She has also had a go at improving the ability of the system to plan and monitor and evaluate its educational services. She has all the requisite qualifications and some extras.

Douglas P. Boer, Ph.D., R.Clin.Psych., Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Psychology, The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

Dr. Boer began working at the University of Waikato in January of 2006. Prior to that, he worked for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) for 15 years in a variety of contexts including sex offender therapist and treatment programme director. While working for CSC, he published a number of articles and risk assessment manuals, most notably the Sexual Violence Risk – 20.

Doug is on five editorial boards, including "Sex Offender Treatment", "The Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research" and the "British Journal of Forensic Practice". He has held adjunct appointments in Canada (Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia) and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Disability Studies at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University. Doug is an active clinician and assessor, working primarily with multi-diagnosed and brain-damaged intellectually-disabled offenders.

Dr Diana Boswell

Diana has worked with troubled young people across the mental health, education, disability, corrections and child and family sectors for some 20 years. She is a university lecturer in the area of ASD and a trainer in the areas of practical skills for managing crisis, strength based approaches, and life space interventions.

Tracie Bowes, (Co-ordinator) Peer Mentoring Program, Australian Red Cross (Hobart)

Tracie Bowes has extensive experience in case management in AOD, Housing, Indigenous Programs and Offender Programs. Tracie developed the Peer Mentoring Program in conjunction with the Red Cross and the Tasmania Prison Service.

Rina Bruinsma, DEEWR

Rina Bruinsma is the Director of the 'Mature age and ex-offenders policy' section, which is part of the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations' Social Inclusion and Participation Group. The section is responsible for policy development in relation to increasing the social inclusion of ex-offenders through participation in education and employment.

Ray Chavez, Coordinator Research and Evaluation, Education and Vocational Training Unit of the Western Australian Department of Corrective Services

Ray Chavez has been a correctional educator since 1984; he has qualifications in adult basic, vocational and Indigenous education. Ray has been instrumental in WA efforts to develop a true 'throughcare' model for prisoners engaged in correctional education. He has also progressed the integrated model of education that characterises the EVTU program for prisoners. Ray helped develop the TAFE College- DCS resource agreements model that exists for each public prison in WA.

Sonia Chudiak, Melbourne Citymission

Sonia currently manages the Justice Programs at Melbourne Citymission. She has worked in the field for 5½ years in a range of programs including intensive case management, family support in the prison and management of a long term housing project. Sonia has a Bachelor of Health Science, Diploma of Professional Counselling and Diploma of Community Management.

Ron Cox, Queensland Corrective Services

Ron is the Director, Adult Education Vocational Education and Training with the Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Australia. In this position he is responsible for managing the delivery of education and training to offenders in all Queensland correctional centres. Ron also manages the Post Release Employment Assistance Program that supports ex-prisoners to gain and maintain long-term employment post release.

Prior to his involvement in corrections Ron worked in Vocational Education and Training (VET) for approximately 27 years within the Queensland Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system. Ron has a Bachelor of Education and a Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. Ron is currently the President of the Australasian Corrections Education Association (ACEA).

Kathy Csaba, Manager Prison Industries, Department of Corrective Services

Kathy has a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and is currently the Manager of Prison Industries for the Department of Corrective Services. Kathy has worked both in policy and project roles and on a number of key initiatives for the Department. She has managed the work camps in WA for over 10 years and has overseen the expansion of the program in that time. The program has won many awards, most recently the Western Australian Premier's Award, and is recognised as a program of best practice in managing low risk minimum security prisoners.

Jean Dally, Manager of Offender Services and Programs

Jean has worked for 5 years in DCS. Her previous background of 23 years was with the Australian Defence Force. She Manages the facilitation, training and implementation for programs in various men and women's centres and more recently with the Young Adult Offender programs. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Adult Education, Dip Front Line Management, Dip Community Welfare, Dip Correctional Administration, Cert IV AOD, Cert IV WT&A,

Peter Davidson, Director, Principal Psychologist, ValueEdge

ValueEdge provides Psychological Assessment, People Development and Business Improvement Services to the public, private and community sectors.

Peter specialises in the identification of appropriate assessment methodologies to assist organisations with their selection and development processes for roles at Executive and Senior Management level to operational staff and new appointees. This work led to his sourcing and implementing the Q Test for the assessment of Indigenous candidates in Papua. Peter has successfully applied the Q Test with a number of mining operations in Australia, Laos and Indonesia.

Den Davies-Cotter

Currently the Health Assessor (Clinical Nurse Consultant) for the Southport Drug Court, Den has over 10 years experience in drug and alcohol or mental health treatment areas. He has worked in Drug Court, Illicit Drug Diversion programme, Royal Brisbane Hospital Detox (HADS), Opiate Replacement Treatment as well as The Park Centre for Mental Health and Belmont Private Hospital

Dr Andrew Day, Associate Professor at the Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University

Andrew is Associate Professor in Clinical Forensic Psychology with the Centre for Offender Reintegration @ Deakin, School of Psychology, Deakin University.

Rhyl Deardan, University of Southern Queensland.

Rhyl's experience includes 15 yrs as a Farmer/Grazier, 20 years as a Careers Counsellor and Disability Counsellor at USQ. She is the co-author of a paper that was delivered to the 2006 ACEA conference in Darwin. Rhyl's main focus is prisoner's education, access to careers education, and organizing donations of supplementary reading books on all topics to prison libraries.

Melanie Dower, Connect Coordinator, Community Restorative Centre

Melanie Dower has worked with families of prisoners for Community Restorative Centre, and now delivers training to workers from government and non-government agencies on how to best support this disadvantaged client group.

Sheree Drever, General Manager, Transitional and Indigenous Services, Corrections Victoria.

Sheree commenced work within Corrections some 26 years ago initially as a Social Worker in adult prison facilities and then as a 'Probation and Parole Officer' in the busy metropolitan area of St Kilda. Over the years, Sheree has managed a number of Community Correctional Service locations and regions and acted as the Director of Community Corrections and as General Manager Women's Prison Region. Over the last four years, Sheree has assumed senior management responsibility for Corrections Victoria's Transitional Services Unit, the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, the Indigenous Policy and Services Unit (including a Koori residential program, Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place) and the Home Detention Unit.

Shirley Fraser, Head Western Campuses, University of Ballarat

Shirley Fraser has been in the Vocational Education Industry for over 15 years, from a teacher to Head of Department and now in her current position as Head, Western Campuses at the University of Ballarat. Shirley holds a Graduate Diploma in Business Management, Masters in Business Administration. During this time Shirley has implemented many flexible delivery methods for Apprenticeship and Industry training making it more user friendly by delivering fully on-the-job and using e-learning technology to ensure courses remain current and meet all required standards. Shirley is a respected and successful senior manager at the University.

Dr Margaret Giles, Senior Lecturer Edith Cowan University

Margaret is Senior Lecturer in Economics at Edith Cowan University. She has degrees in economics and has previously worked for State and Federal Governments and in the university sector. Her research interests include applied microeconomics, specifically in labour and health economics.

Professor Joe Graffam, Deakin University

Professor Joe Graffam holds a Chair in Psychology and is the Head of School of Psychology as well as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences at Deakin University. His research applies 'ecological framework analysis' to examine reintegration support needs of offenders and prisoners and support needs of people with disability. In late 2008, he established the Centre for Offender Reintegration @ Deakin (CORD). He organises The Reintegration Puzzle conference, an annual national / international conference on prisoner reintegration.

Anne Hampshire, National Manager, Research and Social Policy, Mission Australia

Anne has a background in research, social policy, program development, advocacy and education. She is currently National Manager of Research and Social Policy for Mission Australia, a national non-profit organisation delivering a diverse range of community, employment and training services. Anne has worked with a range of NGOs including in the multicultural sector, as well as for government. She has researched and written in a number of areas including young people, families, social capital and social inclusion.

Dr Lesley Hardcastle, Deakin University

Lesley is a research fellow in the School of Psychology at Deakin University. Her research experience includes a study of attitudes of a number of stakeholder groups to the employability of people with a criminal history and the importance of employment to the social re-integration of ex-offenders. Lesley has contributed to research and program evaluations in mental health, disability employment and disability support.

Peter Harvey, Hero Project educational advisor for 10x14 Bricks

Peter is an experienced teacher who has taught in various settings. After a number of years in the country he moved to Adelaide and taught in a large metropolitan high school, teaching both senior and junior school. It was in this large metropolitan high school that he accepted the challenge of teaching disadvantaged and difficult students.

Peter has worked for 22 years in secure care and has been involved in a wide range of initiatives all aimed at giving the students an opportunity to improve their chances of reintegrating into the community. He has seen the focus of education change from, a minor distraction in the life of a juvenile's sentence, to become a focus of the way forward, for students to move into and be successful in the 'outside' world. His last posting was as Assistant Principal in charge of an education unit, responsible for delivering education to students within a detention centre in Adelaide.

Peter “Chook” Henson, Manager Training Markets, Western Australian Department of Education and Training

Peter “Chook” Henson is a qualified Youth Worker, who in 1987 helped develop Freedom Link – the first employment program in WA assisting offenders and ex-offenders secure employment upon release. He facilitated the first national conference, held in Perth in 1993 that focussed on employment and training needs of this same disadvantaged client group. He is currently the President of Outcare, a key organisation in WA working for crime prevention and community safety, and has been involved with Outcare for over 18 years.

Ruth Hodgson, Adventure Facilitator

Ruth has extensive experience in facilitating and co-ordinating outdoor education programs and in working with challenging and high need youth, both within Australia and internationally. She co-ordinates all the Wilderness expeditions and co-op stages of the male and female and external satellite programs for the specialised young adult offender program. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Social Sciences/ Youth Work, Cert IV Outdoor Recreation, Cert IV WT&A.

Tess Jenkin, Senior Projects Officer, Transitional Services Unit, Corrections Victoria

Tess started working in the Corrections field in 2005, as a project officer for a pilot focusing on engaging Community Based Offenders in Adult Community and Education Providers. After working in Corrections Victoria’s Education and Employment Unit for two years, She joined the Transitional Services Unit in 2008. Tess is currently responsible for the oversight and Statewide co-ordination of the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) – an information and referral program offered to all Victorian sentenced prisoners within the final three months of their sentence.

Mr. Wade Jensen, Senior Policy Officer Reintegration. NT Correctional Service

Wade is the Senior Policy Officer Reintegration for the Northern Territory Correctional Service and has been directly involved in the provision of support services to NT prisoners for the last 7 years. Wade has been involved with the Elders Visiting Program since its inception and is now overseeing and implementing the programs expansion. His work requires him to build and maintain strong relationships with Indigenous Elders across the NT and to ensure the integrity of the program is maintained. In his policy work Wade has a particular interest in seeking out practical reintegration options for indigenous prisoners from remote communities.

Penny Kennedy, Manager of Re-entry Services, Department of Corrective Services WA

Penny Kennedy is the Manager of Re-entry Services, Department of Corrective Services WA. She has a Double Major in Sociology and Criminology and is currently working towards completing her Masters in Policy Studies and Evaluation. She brings to the role experience in other reform priorities for the Department namely the Mahoney Inquiry into the Management of Offenders in Custody and in the Community. She has also worked in the United Kingdom as part of the Youth Offending Teams.

Kati Kraszlan, Department of Corrective Services

Kati is currently employed by the Department of Corrective Services as a project manager for the Remote and Regional Prisons Project. Kati has previously worked in the Research and Statistics directorate and also with the Inspector of Custodial Services in West Australia.

Christine Laird, Managing Director Education and Vocational Training Unit, Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia

Christine heads up the successful management team of the Education and Vocational Training Unit in the Western Australia’s Department of Corrective Services. Christine has worked in the management role for correctional education in Western Australia for over twenty three years. She holds a Bachelor of Education, Graduate Certificate in TESOL, Diploma in Teaching and a Diploma in Training and Assessment.

Kevin Lamoureux, University of Winnipeg

Kevin’s research focuses on understanding creativity from different cultural perspectives and on at-risk gifted children and youth.

Klara Lazar, Senior Program Manager, Transitional Services Unit, Corrections Victoria

Klara commenced working with offenders in the community sector, co-ordinating the Prison Information and Helpline at the Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Klara joined Corrections Victoria in 2005, as the Manager of the Good Lives Reintegration Service at Marnong Correctional Centre, where she was responsible for the co-ordination and management of all reintegration, psycho-educational, cultural and recreational programs. Klara transferred to the Transitional Services Unit in 2008, and currently manages Corrections Victoria's two intensive bridging support programs, Link Out and WISP.

Rebecca Lewis, Transition Worker for Women, Community Restorative Centre

Rebecca is the Transition Worker for Women for Community Restorative Centre and provides transitional support to women exiting custody as they navigate life back in the community, in the Sydney region.

Violet Lotter, VACRO

Violet holds a BA in Psychology, Post Graduate Diploma in Substance Abuse, Advanced Diploma in Business Management and a Certificate in Adult Learning and Teaching.

She has a long history of working with an offending population in community agencies. She is currently employed at VACRO as Co-ordinator of the Women's Support Services. This role involves managing the following VACRO programs: Women's Integrated Support Program (WISP), Out of Prison Understanding Self (OPUS), VACRO Women's Mentoring Program (VWMP), and The Childcare and Transport Subsidies (CCaTS) program. These programs aim to assist female offenders both pre and post release. Violet has also worked in the drug and alcohol treatment field for sixteen years, both from a clinical and management perspective. She has also presented at conferences both nationally and internationally.

Belinda Maloney, Project Coordinator Forensic Drug Treatment Operations, Department of Human Services

Belinda holds qualifications in Intellectual Disability (10 years as a registered Mental Retardation Nurse) and psychology. She has worked for eleven years in the AOD field including assessment and treatment of offenders. Belinda has worked for the last five years with DHS as coordinator of Forensic AOD treatment.

Glenda Marshall, Manager Addiction Services, Outcare

Glenda has a Bachelor of Social Science with a major in Community Studies, minors in Addiction and Justice and Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs Work and is currently undertaking a Diploma in Management. Having spent over seven years as Manager Administration at Outcare, Glenda transferred to the Health Service as Manager last November after spending ten years volunteering in the Drug and Alcohol field, four years with the Parent Drug Information Service and two years with North Metropolitan Community Drug Service as a counsellor/educator. With increasing demand for the service and to ensure best practice, Glenda committed the service to be peer reviewed under the WANADA Quality Framework in March this year and a continual staff learning environment is encouraged to reflect an integration of evidence, expertise and client needs.

Mandy Marsters, Community Restorative Centre

Mandy is a Cook Island Maori from Aotearoa, New Zealand. She is a Community Worker with qualifications in social work, alcohol and other drugs counselling and training and assessment. She is passionate about the unique rights and issues of Indigenous people and supports self determination for First Nations Peoples.

Dr Delphine McFarlane, Campus Manager, Roebourne Regional Prison

With a strong background in Education, Dr McFarlane has taught in a range of areas and, prior to joining Corrective Services, undertook research and teaching in The University of Western Australia's Discipline of English and Cultural Studies. Her current work at Roebourne Regional Prison involves the management and coordination of vocational training at the prison and its work-camps.

Jean McKenzie, UnitingCare West

Jean is co-ordinator, Outreach Services at UnitingCare West.

Dr Peter Merrotsy, University of New England

Peter's research focuses on the education of gifted and talented children from backgrounds of disadvantage (low socio-economic status, cultural minority status, rural and isolated contexts, refugees).

Sam Mesiti, Manager Youth Services, Outcare

Sam has worked in the Industry for over 20 years as a Senior Manager in Juvenile Justice, at Centrecare and currently Managing the Outcare Youth Team. He was on the planning committee of BHDC and part of the commissioning team during the building of Banksia Hill Detention Centre. He has TAFE qualifications in Community Services, is a qualified TAA and has a Diploma in Business Management.

Tim Moore

Tim is a graduate student at the Australian Catholic University in Canberra. He has worked extensively with troubled youth across the youth, disability and welfare sectors and has recently completed research into the voice of young people in juvenile detention.

Janey Muir-Smith, Manager, Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

Janey commenced in the position as Manager of the Centre in September 2007. Prior to that she was the Manager for an Intellectual Disability Service, community based care model with the Department of Human Services. She has been in Management positions for the past 15 years.

Simon Murrish, Centrelink

Simon has worked in the Centrelink Community Team for nearly eight years coming from a Police background. Initially set up at Milligan St Centrelink he has followed the Community Team from its inception to its present day location at Innaloo Centrelink office.

Katrina Nguyen, UnitingCare West

Katrina is the Team Leader of UnitingCare West's TASS program which provides supports to people with intellectual disabilities re-entering the community from prison. Katrina holds a Bachelor of Social Science degree and has over 12 years experience within the disability sector supporting people with challenging behaviour and complex needs.

Greg O'Connor, Spectronics

Greg has been actively involved in the field of special education for 29 years. During this time he has worked as a special education classroom teacher, school executive, district consultant and regional manager with the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. Greg's areas of interest and expertise include supporting people with complex needs, challenging behaviours and autism; and the use of assistive and instructional technologies to support learning. Greg is currently on leave from his studies at the University of New England where he is undertaking a research degree examining the implementation of assistive technologies in schools.

Catherine Opitz

Catherine is a PhD candidate at the University of South Australia.

Mike Osborn, Mens Outreach Service, Broome

Now in his mid fifties Mike has lived and worked most of his adult life in the more remote areas of the Kimberley region of North West Australia. He came to the region as a District Fisheries and Wildlife officer based in the remote town of Wyndham but covering the entire Kimberley region.

In 1988 Mike left his government position to commence a private business operating remote Barramundi fishing safari camps and conducting contract guiding operations catering to professional organisations/ film documentary crews/ scientific expeditions and individuals with specific locations tasks in mind.

In the years of travelling remote areas (much of it in the Great Sandy Desert) Mike developed strong links with many senior Aboriginal Law people. He has been invited and attended many Aboriginal LAW ceremonies, has been initiated as Walmajarri and has photographed/filmed a number of secret Law ceremonies at the request of senior LAW people to have those memories locked away for future generations.

Mike has a good understanding of Aboriginal cultural issues and is well known to many family groups throughout the entire Kimberley region.

Ruth Price, Senior Correctional Education Officer, DCS NSW

Ruth has extensive teaching experiences across a number of educational settings, including primary and secondary schools, TAFE and early intervention. Over the past 15 years she has managed educational programs for students with disabilities, both in special schools settings and in regular schools. Ruth's current position manages educational programs including literacy, numeracy and vocational programs for young offenders completing the Gurnang Life Challenge at Oberon Correctional Centre. Her qualifications include Dip Teach, Grad Dip Ed Studies, M Spec Ed (Sensory Disability).

Tillie Prowse, Department of Corrective Services

Prior to moving to Australia, Tillie managed the Diploma in Probation Training Program for the East of England Training Consortium.

Mel Resuggan, Acting Manager Re-Entry and Community Services, Outcare

Mel holds a Masters Degree in Education (Leadership), Bachelor of Education (Special Needs) and Bachelor of Arts. In her current role as Acting Manager Re-Entry and Community Services she has improved productivity by more than 15% in 2-months and has initiated the development of Integration Programs for clients to engage in up-skilling themselves in core aspects of their lives to eventually be delivered pre and post release in all male metropolitan prisons.

Adrian Robinson, General Manager, Outcare

Adrian holds a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management, a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management and a Diploma in Business. In his current role as General Manager Services, Adrian has provided Outcare with rigor, leadership and direction for its core business unit by leading the workforce to increase productivity by 30% within his first 6-months, which has seen positive outcomes for Outcare through enhancement of service delivery options for clients.

Suzanne Rose, Department of Corrective Services

Suzanne Rose has been Principal of Juvenile Education Services with the Department of Corrective Services for 9 years. Suzanne was a teacher and deputy principal with the Department of Education and Training for 24 years prior to her current appointment. Her career in education included 20 years in country schools in Western Australia.

Yvonne Russell, Assistant Manager, Parkville Campus, Centre For Corrections Education, Kangan Batman TAFE

Yvonne is currently Assistant Manager at Kangan Batman TAFE's Parkville Campus leading a team of 26 teachers delivering Vocational Education and Training in a Youth Justice setting. In 2007 Yvonne was part of the project development team working on the Corrections Victoria Language and Literacy Toolkit. Yvonne has spent ten years teaching adult literacy to both women and men in correctional settings in Melbourne. Within the Kangan Batman TAFE Centre for Corrections Education, Yvonne has a cross departmental role in facilitating the implementation of the CV Literacy and Numeracy Toolkit to all metropolitan prisons. Yvonne completed a Masters Degree in Education at Monash University in 2006.

Chris Schluter, Career Employment Australia

Chris works for Career Employment Australia. She has been implementing and researching literacy/numeracy programs in the VET sector for the past 13 years. For the past 7 years her focus has been on co-coordinating programs in prisons, research and designing best practice methodologies for corrective services. She is passionate about the delivery of education to all, particularly those unable to access programs through traditional delivery modes – people isolated in our community. Her favorite saying is “Bloom where you are planted” through the vehicle of education. She holds a Master of Education (International Education).

Miriam Scurrah, President, Australian Prison Foundation

Miriam is the President of the Australian Prison Foundation, founding the organisation in 2008 with support from other board members and her family. Her interest in prisons began after the incarceration of a family member and this led her to discovering her passion for prison research. She holds an Honours Degree in Adult and Vocational Education, her thesis focus was on prisoner learning, a Masters in Business and Technology and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resources. Believing in lifelong learning, she is currently studying a Graduate Certificate in Criminology and pursuing a PhD, which will focus on prisoner learning.

Lyn Shirley, UnitingCare West

Lyn Shirley is an Executive Manager at UnitingCare West, Perth, WA.

Kevin Smith, Mens Outreach Service, Broome

Kevin is currently the Re entry Link Program Manager with the Mens Outreach Service in Broome Western Australia. Prior to taking this position he was engaged as a remote area nurse working in North Queensland, Broome and Halls Creek in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia. As a remote community nurse he was tasked with dealing not only with health issues but also with the many social problems that can exist in remote communities such as Halls Creek.

Kevin developed a desire to address some of those issues and when the opportunity to do so was presented to him with the role of Program Manager with the Mens Outreach Service he jumped at the chance. Kevin has considerable experience in travelling the Kimberley region and has many contacts within indigenous communities Kimberley wide. He has a solid background in traditional cultural issues and is well versed in the needs of the local indigenous community. Kevin is in his late forties, married with two children. Broome is now his permanent family home.

Larry Smith, Department of Corrective Services WA

Larry has 30 years experience in Employment and Training, has managed Commonwealth, State and private employment and training organisations, developed apprenticeships and traineeships in WA, coordinated the Community Education and Training Program and set up the Prisoner Employment Program in WA.

Professor Peter Stephenson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Peter Stephenson is an education and training researcher and consultant involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of workforce and capacity building programs for Indigenous Australians. For the past sixteen years he has managed national and international development programs targeting Indigenous housing management, construction and environmental health. His work requires extensive interaction with community employers and practitioners, non-government organisations, government service providers, policy makers and politicians. He is currently research leader at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the NT.

Stuart Taylor, Manager Employment and Training, Outcare

Stuart is the Manager of Employment and Training at Outcare. He has been instrumental in the development of a pre-release life skills and career development programs. He has experience in developing Indigenous transition programs, which focus on training and employment. Stuart is a qualified Career Development Practitioner and is a member of the Career Development Association of Australia.

Elaine Toovey, Acacia Prison

Elaine is the Resettlement Manager at Acacia prison. Elaine has worked in prisons for over 8, years commencing as a Custodial Officer. She became a Unit Manager and in 2007 was given the opportunity to commence resettlement services at Acacia prison. Elaine has a BA majoring in Criminal Justice, a Diploma in Frontline Management, Certificates 3 and 4 in Corrections and Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessing. Elaine has also facilitated compulsory programs in relation to prisoners Individual Management Plans. She also was a volunteer with the Royal Lifesaving Society of Western Australia, and was the Director of instruction and examination for four years.

Bruno van Aaken, (Community Consultant) Iliad Consulting Services (Newcastle NSW)

Bruno has extensive experience in project design, management and evaluation. Bruno is one of the architects of PROP and PTAP.

Dr Jim Vess, Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University

Jim has over 25 years of clinical and research experience with forensic populations. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Ohio State University in the United States, and then served in a variety of treatment, assessment, and supervisory roles at Atascadero State Hospital, the maximum security forensic psychiatric facility in California. As an academic, first at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and now as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University, his research focus was primarily on risk assessment with violent and sexual offenders, as well as public policy dealing with high risk offenders.

Rosemary Walley, Indigenous Education Co-ordinator, Department of Corrective Services WA.

Rose was born in the West Kimberley town of Hall's Creek, the youngest of 12 children to Fred and Lily Johnson. Her mother was a strong, proud Bunuba woman born on Go Go Station near Fitzroy Crossing. Rose's father was a strong, proud Jaru man born at a place called Brockman just outside of the old township of Halls Creek. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Studies completed in 1997. She also holds tertiary qualifications in Nursing completed in 1985 and completed an Aboriginal Tertiary Bridging Course in 1981.

Rose works with the WA Department of Corrective Services and is the Indigenous Education Coordinator with the Education and Vocational Training Unit. She is responsible for the provision of advice and guidance regarding the education and training needs of Indigenous adult prisoners undertaking studies during their sentences. Rose's role includes the provision of advice and guidance to education management and staff working in WA adult prisons regarding the development and delivery of culturally relevant teaching and learning material. She is a skilled trainer whose role also involves facilitating culturally relevant education programs to adult prisoners.

Cheryl Wiltshire, Curriculum Officer Literacy, Department of Education and Training

Cheryl's interaction with education in the corrections sector in Western Australia dates back to 1996 when she developed a broad range of training options in education centres in a number of prisons while a TAFE Manager. More recently, her work at a system level has provided new opportunities to support education in corrections. She has included corrections in all facets of her work in teacher development, curriculum improvement and professional networks across the adult education sector.

Gene Wheeler, Case Worker, Post Release Options Program (PROP), Bethlehem House Hobart

Gene is an educator and author with extensive experience in post release offender case management.

Helena Zielinska, Adult Basic Education Coordinator, Department of Corrective Services

Helena has been working for the Department of Corrective Services for nearly a decade. She began work as a casual literacy tutor, became a Prison Education Coordinator and eventually became the Adult Basic Education Coordinator for the department.

Poster Presentation

Family Matters, Supporting Adolescent Mothers in Custody

This 2 year project was funded by the Australian Attorney Generals Department. It was a 2 year project which aimed to improve the life style choices of all young women in detention, but in particular the young women who were pregnant or were already parents. Juniperina, NSW was the site for this project. During this 2 year project. There were 5 key areas developed. Those were; 1. Education for youth officers - to increase their awareness of the needs of young children and working with young parents. 2. Education for interested youth officers to develop their capacity to include 'family matters' in their work with young parents in custody. 3. Groups, Healthy Relationships, Lets Get Real about Pregnancy, Raising Happy Kids. 4. Individual parenting and pregnancy support for young mothers in detention. Aiming to build a healthy attachment between the young mother with her child. 5. Policies and procedures for the centre were developed to improve advocacy for the mother and their children, promoting the benefits of building parental confidence, infant attachment and improving access visits for the mother and her child. In support of this project, the Juvenile Justice department funded a further 12 months for this project to continue.

Deborah Nemeth, Director of Clinical Services, Karitane

Deborah provides clinical leadership across the broad range of Karitane services. Deborah was the 'Family Matters' project manager.

Jane Phillips, Research Officer, Karitane

Jane is nearing completion of PhD with research focusing on subtypes of postnatal depression

Karen Willcocks, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Karitane NSW: has worked in the field of child and family health nursing for 15 years. Karen was the project officer for the first 2 years.

Welcome Function

The welcome function will be held on Sunday 30th August at 5:00pm at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel. Drinks and finger food will be provided.

Dinner

The conference dinner will be held on Monday 31 August at Fremantle Prison commencing at 7.00pm. A pictorial exhibition featuring photographs from Fremantle Prison will be open from 6.30.

Bus transport to Fremantle is available. If you have not booked onto the bus and would like transport, please see Jenny at the registration desk. The bus will depart from the front of the Parmelia Hilton at 5:45 pm.

As the prison is unheated, we advise you to dress warmly.

Facilities Visit

The bus will depart the Parmelia Hilton Hotel at 9:00am sharp.

Group 1 (the morning only group) will be returned to the hotel by 12:30pm.

Group 2 (both facilities) will be returned to the hotel by 3:00pm.

Proceedings

Proceedings from the conference will be available on our website www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/psychology/research/ease

Please contact Jenny Crosbie jcrosbie@deakin.edu.au or (03) 9251 7887 if you have any post conference enquiries.

