

In this edition

Welcome.....	Page 1
About the ACEA.....	Page 1
Adult Basic Education....	Page 2
Vocational Training.....	Page 3
Indigenous Education....	Page 4
Labour market Training.....	Page 5
Current research.....	Page 6
Events.....	Page 7
Key contacts.....	Page 8
Newsletter Development.....	Page 9
ACEA Membership.....	Page 10

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter from the Australasian Corrections Education Association Inc (ACEA).

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide correctional education administrators, researchers, practitioners and people interested in correctional education with useful information regarding the correctional education profession both in Australia and internationally.

Our goal is to ensure that every correctional educator is aware of the services, changes, new developments, and projects that are currently being undertaken.

Our mission is to respond to the changing needs of the correctional education community through effective planning, research and communication, thereby allowing us to provide the highest level of support in a timely fashion. ACEA is committed to providing the best sources of information and services to meet the needs and requirements of the correctional educator community. We hope you find the information contained here to be useful and appreciate your comments and feedback.

This first edition of the newsletter has been written by representatives in Western Australia only, however, future newsletters will incorporate articles from all participating states and territories in Australia.

Newsletters will be produced quarterly and will be available on the ACEA website www.acea.org.au

About the ACEA

The ACEA was incorporated as an association on 17th September 2004. It builds on the work of previous associations, IFECSA and the International Forum for Education in Penal Settings (IFEPS).

The ACEA is a network of academics, practitioners and policy makers committed to leadership and influence in the development and implementation of best practice education and training programs for people under supervision within adult and juvenile justice systems.

The vision of the ACEA is to be recognised as Australasia's leader in the development and promotion of education and training for prisoners, detainees, and people on corrections orders in the general community.

ACEA is a not for profit organisation. Apart from donations and some specific-purpose research funding, it is completely dependent on its members for its funds and activities. Membership is open to all interested individuals (*see Membership Form on page 10*).

~ Adult Basic Education ~

Hands On Learning Program (HOLP)

The Hands on Learning Program (HOLP) uses an integrated ABE-VTE training approach to learning. HOLP, which is usually delivered in the prison industry area, does not strictly aim to achieve accredited vocational competence, rather it also endeavours to facilitate a successful reengagement with the educational process by offenders who have been identified as having low levels of educational attainment. HOLP's goal is to create a positive interaction between education staff and offenders by reintroducing education in a non threatening environment. HOLP engenders this process by providing participants with contextual numeracy and literacy support while they engage in practical vocational training exercises in areas of their interest. It is this regular interaction with education staff in areas outside of prison education centres that facilitates an increase in educational involvement by offenders who have traditionally not participated in education and training.



An example of HOLP implementation...

Casuarina Prison uses a team teaching mode of delivery using a literacy tutor and a vocational skills officer who is a qualified carpenter. They combine to provide training in basic woodwork skills. The current class is comprised of 10 rural Indigenous men that participate 1.5 days a week for approximately 10 weeks. The men learn workshop safety, use of hand tools, mark out and measuring, tool care and maintenance, teamwork and communication, timber defects, finishing of woodwork materials and woodworking terminology. The men can be enrolled in the 'Learning through Practice' unit in an Introductory Gaining Access to Training and Education (GATE) course accredited in Western Australia. The course is flexible - it can be scheduled for longer periods of time if required to accommodate changes that may arise due to prison related issues, or for the addition of extra training activities. The literacy and numeracy tutor is Indigenous and also promotes and recruits participants for the course. The course has proven to be very successful with the target group.



~ Vocational Training ~

Bricklaying Training

The home building sector in Perth and the South West regions of WA has been identified as suffering from skills shortages. The fact that the sector is considered a 'targeted employment market' by the Department of Corrective Services (DCS), which is characterised as an industry sector that has a record of accepting ex-offenders, offering favourable wages, and providing both sustainable employment and career opportunities, positively influenced the decision to support a 'prison-based-training-to-community-employment' project.



The Project.....

The 'Securing Employment in the Bricklaying Trade' project which is funded by DEWR and delivered by the Silver Trowel Bricklaying School is a six week training course that aims to provide the skill sets required for employment in bricklaying in the home construction industry. It has also included some training in roof tiling and plastering, depending on the projects available for the training at individual prisons and the trade experience of the instructors involved. The target group are offenders approaching release, and has so far attracted significant participation from Indigenous offenders.



The training program is being offered in prisons in areas across WA where construction work has been identified as being sustainable over the longer term. Due to the amount of construction work available across WA and the portable nature of the skills being acquired, the Project provides ex-offenders with an opportunity to be able to secure employment over a large area of the State. All participants of the training are offered employment in the community upon release.



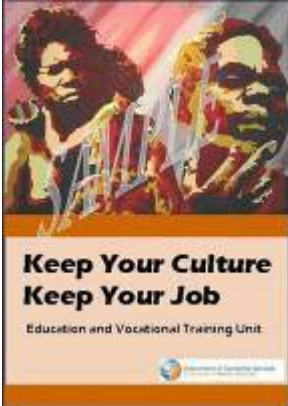
In addition to the vocational training, the project involves information session provided by the Industry and local re-entry providers. In one regional location a Community Aboriginal Corporation offers both pre and post release support to individual offenders. Participants are interviewed periodically through the course to discuss their progress and to gather feedback on the training course itself. These interviews provide personal information that can be used to assist each individual offender in their transition to the community.



The project partners 'track' the offenders post release in order to monitor and evaluate the success of the program. In addition, the DCS has approved the creation of a Community Employment and Training position within the Education and Vocational Training Unit (EVTU) to assist offenders who have participated in New Apprenticeships and employment placement training. While this position will assist the DCS in implementing a more effective throughcare approach for offender rehabilitation, it also strategically allows for the continued expansion of community partnership development.

~ Indigenous Education ~

'Keep Your Culture, Keep Your Job' program



The Department of Corrective Services in WA has developed a new training program where Indigenous prisoners can explore how to balance their cultural and family obligations with employer expectations. This program is called 'Keep Your Culture, Keep Your Job' and is aligned to a unit (Introduction to Work Opportunities) in a 'Gaining Access to Training and Education' course accredited in Western Australia.

'Keep Your Culture, Keep Your Job' is targeted at Aboriginal prisoners approaching release, and is designed to stimulate their curiosity in gaining employment in an area of interest, and to provide an in-depth level of inquiry into balancing and managing the expectations of both cultural and employment commitments.

To engage Aboriginal people in employment is to invite them into a situation that is not a match to their cultural understandings, unless the individual has been coached or developed knowledge to interpret what is happening culturally in the work site. These employment situations will cause the clash of culturally different sets of values, attitudes and beliefs. This clash will include the structure of the work site and the individuals who occupy this work site. Aboriginal people need to develop critically reflective thinking skills to interpret what cultural structures are in the work site and how they should behave/think whilst in the work site.

The 'Keep Your Culture, Keep Your Job' program focuses on encouraging Aboriginal people to begin the development of critically reflective thinking skills to consider what change is needed to secure employment and then continue over a long period of time.

The learning materials for this program were developed by Indigenous Education Consultant, Scott Fatnowna, who is the Managing Consultant for 'The 3rd Space', a community-based education and training organisation in W.A.

The program is currently being piloted in Roebourne Regional Prison, and once evaluated, will be offered in all WA prisons.

~ Labour Market Training ~



Skills Shortage Workshop

The Department of Corrective Services in WA has developed a new 'Western Australian Labour Market Skills Shortage' workshop for prisoners. The concept is to inform prisoners about the increased opportunities available to them in post release from prisons in the current climate of labour market skills shortages.

The training consists of a 3 hour workshop, and has been devised to deliver to all prisoners in WA prisons. The workshop outlines the current skills shortages situation in WA, why WA is in this position and the projected shortages for the next 5 years. Each regional area has been broken down to show existing unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled trade areas of need. The delivery can be customised for females and remote locations.

The focus of the workshop is to raise employment awareness and encourage engagement in training whilst in prison, in order to provide competitive entry into employment post release.

Also discussed in the workshop is viable employment options for people with a criminal history, as certain semi-skilled and skilled areas are more supportive in their recruitment and selection of ex-prisoners.

Learning materials include a PowerPoint presentation with teacher's notes, pamphlets of current career information, relevant web addresses and referral documentation, and worksheets.

This workshop, as well as a work report from the prisoner's industrial officer, is aligned to a unit (Work Experience) in a 'Gaining Access to Training and Education' course accredited in Western Australia.

Examples of slides in the PowerPoint presentation:



Skill Shortages

A quick read of the newspaper or watching TV is enough to tell you that Australian industry needs more skilled workers in the workplace.

58 different types of jobs
51 of them have skills shortages.

170,000 trades people will leave the workforce
40,000 are being trained to replace them

That's 130,000 new trades people needed

Now more than ever before there are more training opportunities and jobs
FOR YOU



The South West Region

Training Priorities

- Metals Engineering/Fabrication
- Mining Resources
- Mechanic/Heavy Plant & Machinery Operation
- Retail, Hospitality & Tourism
- Meat, Dairy & Wine Processing
- Glaziers
- Cabinetmaking
- Construction
- Transport & Distribution
- Dairy and Tree Farming
- Vegetable Pickers
- Gardening & Landscaping.

~ Current Research ~

Preview Report of the Re-entry Policy Council

<http://www.reentrypolicy.org/rp/Main.aspx>

A comprehensive USA study that provides a holistic manner in which to address the growing rates of recidivism that exist internationally.

Re-entry success or failure has implications for public safety, the welfare of children, family unification, growing fiscal issues, and community health. Our country's high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes committed each year, at least half of which can be averted through improved prisoner re-entry efforts.

Forum on Corrections Research

Offender Employment

http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/pblct/forum/index_e.shtml

A series of reports including: Unemployment risk trends, Skills Canadian employers are looking for; community-based employment and offender reintegration; women offender' employment needs; national employability skills program for offenders.

Vocational education and training provision and recidivism in Queensland correctional institutions

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/students/publications/1592.html>

This report examines links between prisoners' participation in the vocational education and training (VET) programs available within the Queensland prison system and their chances of returning to prison. The findings reveal that being involved in VET before initial release decreases the chances of returning to prison from 32% to 23%. Nevertheless, particular attention needs to be given to designing a comprehensive range of programs targeted at meeting the needs of individual prisoner groups, particularly for Indigenous prisoners. The research supports efforts to promote the value of VET and its role in prisoner rehabilitation, and to reduce barriers to accessing VET in correctional centres.

To train or not to train: The role of education and training in prison to work transitions

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/students/publications/1532.html>

The focus of the Western Australia correction system on more rehabilitation and the provision of skills is designed to assist offenders gain self-sufficiency. This report examines the study and work experiences of state prisoners before and during their incarceration and their expectations of post-release outcomes. It finds that differences in work and study patterns result from choices made by prisoners within the constraints of prisoner management plans, prison jobs and course availability, and their previous work and study backgrounds. Prisoners undertaking VET courses expect better labour market futures than those who are undertaking non-vocational education courses or prison work only.

~ Events ~

'Reintegration Puzzle' Conference

The Reintegration Puzzle conference, held in Brisbane June 15th & 16th and organised by Deakin University, was co-sponsored by Queensland DCS and supported by the ACEA. The conference provided correctional professional staff with a unique forum in which to discuss their work. The combination of offender programs and academic presenters at the conference provided the participants with a holistic view of what is occurring in the corrections field from a range of professional areas. While education, employment and training provided some interesting sessions, the sessions provided by other professional practitioners, especially those discussing the effects of 'time served' on the families and children of prisoners provided much to consider.

The Reintegration conference organisers are considering holding the next conference in Sydney. This conference deserves the support of correctional education practitioners throughout Australia, as it fills a niche that has existed for the holistic discussion of issues related to crime and high recidivism rates.

CEAV Conference

The 17th Annual CEAV (Corrections Education Association of Victoria) Conference will be held at the Rich River (Golf) Resort situated in Moama N.S.W. across the Murray River from Echuca in Victoria. The conference will run from Sunday, October 15th 2006 to Tuesday, October 17th 2006.

The total conference cost is \$295 (plus accommodation) and there's an early-bird discount available until August 31st 2006.

The list of speakers and workshops is extensive and includes lawyer Rob Stary, poet and humorist Geoff Goodfellow, writer producer Professor Richard Jones, Bill Sutcliffe founder of Prison Speakers' Clubs, and lawyer and ex-AFL umpire Derek Humphery-Smith.

For more information and registration details contact Marty Langenberg, CEAV Chairman at email mlangenberg@gordontafe.edu.au.

ACEA Conference

The ACEA Conference will be held from Sunday 28th October til Tuesday 30th October 2007 at The Rydges Hotel, Exhibition Street, Melbourne. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

~ Key Contacts ~

<p>Queensland</p> <p>Ron Cox ACEA President Ph: (07) 3227 6401 ron.cox@dcs.qld.gov.au</p>	<p>Victoria</p> <p>Adrian McMillan Victoria Representative Ph: (03) 5352 1799 aprison@netconnect.com.au</p>	<p>NSW</p> <p>Chris Sylva ACEA Secretary/Treasurer Ph: (02) 9266 8294 Christine.sylva@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
<p>Western Australia</p> <p>Christine Laird ACEA Vice President Ph: (08) 9229 6550 christine.laird@correctiveservice.s.wa.gov.au</p>	<p>Ken Penaluna Ph: 0439494197 cannice@bigpond.com</p>	<p>Jo McAlpin NSW Representative Ph: (02) 8346 1458 jo.mcalpin@dcs.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Ray Chavez ACEA Newsletter Coordinator Ph: (08) 9229 6550 ray.chavez@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au</p>	<p>Northern Territory</p> <p>Neville Field Northern Territory Representative Ph: (08) 8999 5134 neville.field@nt.gov.au</p>	<p>Marty Burgess ACEA Research Office Ph: (02) 4228 4442 marty.burgess@tafensw.edu.au</p>
<p>ACT</p> <p>To be advised</p>	<p>Tasmania</p> <p>Keven Ricardo Tasmania Representative Ph: (03) 6216 8050 keven.ricardo@justice.tas.gov.au</p>	<p>South Australia</p> <p>Bernard Meatheringham South Australia Representative Ph: (08) 8226 9161 bernard.meatheringham@sau.gov.sa</p>

~ Newsletter Development ~

The ACEA newsletter will be produced quarterly and made available on the ACEA website www.acea.org.au

Each State/Territory are asked to contribute at least one article per newsletter. Any members wanting to contribute information to the newsletter are asked to contact their State representative.

All State/Territory representatives will be regularly advised of the intended date/s for the next newsletter release. They should ensure that all articles and information are sent to the WA-based Newsletter contact person, Ray Chavez, by the given date.

Some article's topics which will be covered in every edition of the newsletter will include:

- Adult Basic Education
- Vocational Training
- Labour Market Training
- Indigenous Education
- Women's Education
- Current Research
- Events

When preparing an article for publication in the newsletter, State/Territory Representatives may want to consider following the example format below, and addressing some of the example questions. Your article length should be a maximum of 1 page.

Example article format:

1.	Article heading
2.	Overview/Relevance to Education in Prisons (inc. what is the event/topic?, when is it happening?, why do it [what problem does it solve]?, how does it fit into the big picture?, what inspired it [how did it come about]?, why now?)
3.	Project Initiatives/Description (inc. what's involved in doing this?, who's involved?, any key numbers [cost/budget, number of staff/offender participants, timeframe/milestone date]?)
4.	Outcomes so far/Recommendations (inc. have there been any results/feedback yet?, what will come of it (next step, next plan)?)
5.	Attach a relevant photo to accompany article
6.	If applicable, attach relevant documents/resources/web links (for download) (e.g. learning and assessment resources used throughout the project etc)

~ ACEA Membership ~

MEMBERSHIP FORM

One year membership per calendar year \$50 or \$15 concession. Please complete and post this application along with your cheque made out to ACEA Inc to: ACEA Inc, PO BOX 149, DARLINGHURST, NSW 1300.

Name:.....

Occupation:.....Organisation:.....

Address:.....

Suburb:.....State:.....Postcode:.....

Phone:.....Fax:.....

Email:.....

Special interest area/s.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Please let us know if you change your address and contact details, especially your email address, by sending the updated information by post to: ACEA Inc PO BOX 149, DARLINGHURST, NSW 1300 or by email to Christine.sylva@det.nsw.edu.au