NSW DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

YOUNG ADULT OFFENDER PROGRAM

GURNANG LIFE CHALLENGE (MALE)

ADVENTURE BASED CHALLENGE (FEMALE)

SATELLITE PROGRAMS (MALE AND FEMALE)
YAO Strategic Framework (2007-2009)

Our prime objective is to reduce recidivism through the reduction in re-offending risks &

Our secondary objective is to reduce offences in custody
Specialised Program for Young Offenders

- Participants are 18-25 years of age
- One of Australia's most effective programs for managing YAOs
- Launched in 1991 for male offenders
- 16 week program (male offenders)
- The Specialised Program is a unique combination of adventure based training & intensive case management
- Experiential learning
- Female program launched in 2007
- 5 day program (female offenders) with participation in pre and post programs at gaol of classification (GOC)
ACHIEVE SELF RESPONSIBILITY
- Be Accountable for behaviour
- Treat all people with dignity and respect
- Attend all musters, classes, and work on time
- Keep self, room, and unit clean & presentable
- Conduct self in a responsible non threatening manner
- No consumption of illicit substance.

DYNAMIC RISK
- Positive Life Styles
- Managing Emotion (anger)
- Best Bet (gambling)
- Drink Drive Program
- Nexus (Pre-release)
- Drug Alcohol Addictions
- Rights & Responsibilities
- CALM
- Victim Empathy

CORE ELEMENTS
- Wilderness expedition Kickstart,
  Motivator Carpe Diem (self
  efficacy, planning, responsibility,
  accountability, respect, tenacity.)
- Experiential Learning (open
  thinking, communication, trust,
  personal & social responsibility,
  co-operation.)
- Personal Growth (individuality,
  conflict, empathy, risk taking,
  confidence, cycle of offending,
  owning the offence.)

WORK READINESS
- Completing Job Seeking
  Skills
- Achieve and Prove Work
  Ethic by completing 40
  Days Satisfactory Work
- Completing Work Cover
  OHS Program
- Completing CSI OHS.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
- Complete minimum
  of one vocational
  program from choice
  range.
- Validate and confirm
  basic education to
  functional level
- Develop career
  pathway

WORK READINESS
- Completing Job Seeking
  Skills
- Achieve and Prove Work
  Ethic by completing 40
  Days Satisfactory Work
- Completing Work Cover
  OHS Program
- Completing CSI OHS.

GURNANG LIFE CHALLENGE

CASE MANAGEMENT

Structured Day

OCC FACILITIES
A special feature of the program is the employment of adult nucleus inmates at John Morony CC and Oberon CC

- Lead by example and participate
- Stop prankish and bullying behaviour
- Support program context
- Encourage reluctant / fearful offenders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Adult Offender Profile</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.2% of total male inmate population (23% are Aboriginal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17% of total female inmates (33% are Aboriginal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 45% of offenders on community orders and parole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher recidivism rates then the general inmate population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Young Adult Male Offenders
Sentence Profile
March 2008 (1,702 of 8,822 Inmates = 19.2%)

- 1-2y (217) 12.7%
- 6m-1y (222) 13%
- 3-6m (184) 10.8%
- 1-2y (217) 12.7%
- 2-5y (277) 16.2%
- 12-5y+ (207) 12.1%
- under 3 m (38) 2.2%
- unsentenced (518) 30.4%
Young Adult Female Offenders
Sentence Profile
March 2008 (110 of 636 Inmates = 17.3%)

- 5y+ (15) 13.6%
- 2-5y (11) 10%
- 1-2y (9) 8.1%
- 6-12m (10) 9%
- 3-6m (15) 13.6%
- under 3m (14) 12.7%
- unsentenced (31) 28.1%
- 1-2y (9)
Recidivism rates of Gurnang Life Challenge participants over a 3 year period – (2002-2004)

- 315 Graduates of the Gurnang Life Challenge – 30.2% recidivism
- 159 who failed the Gurnang Life Challenge – 45.9% recidivism
- 4,536 Other Young Offenders – 53% recidivism
Specialised Program for YAOs

Stage 1
Remand Centres

Stage 2
GOC

Stage 5
Transitional centres
Release

Stage 4
Works Release

Stage 3
YAOP
Satellite Programs

For inmates unable to access the Specialised Program for young offenders

- High security classifications
- On methadone/bup/supervised meds
- Offenders serving short sentences
- 2, 5 or 10 days in duration
- Conducted within the centre
- Shortened interventions of those used in the Specialised Program
Education
Education/Employment LSIR for YAO
Education/Employment LSIRs for YAO at Oberon CC

LSIR Scores of Young Adult Offenders at Oberon CC

LSIR Education/Employment

Number of scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSIR Education/Employment</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of scores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unknown
Significance of Reading and Writing levels of YAO

- Low reading and writing levels affect employability and the ability to access further education.

- Australian National Reporting System (NRS) is the system used to rate core skills in reading, writing and numeracy. All inmates now have this screening assessment if they are incarcerated for 6 months or more. This assists us to determine the priorities and levels of intervention an inmate will require with respect to education.

- AEVTI (the DCS RTO in NSW) states “Many inmates have poor literacy, numeracy and communication skills and limited employment-related qualifications and experience. Improving qualifications and skills in these areas contributes to the Department's mission to "manage offenders in a safe secure and humane manner and reduce risk of reoffending"."
Significance of Reading and
Reading levels of YAO at Oberon Correctional Centre

Reading Levels for Young Adult Offenders at Oberon CC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRS Scores</th>
<th>Number of scores at each level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRS 4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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# Reading and Writing Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRS 4</strong> n=23</td>
<td><strong>NRS 4</strong> n=7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30%)</td>
<td>(9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRS 3</strong> n=30</td>
<td><strong>NRS 3</strong> n=19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(39%)</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRS 2</strong> n=8</td>
<td><strong>NRS 2</strong> n=26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>(35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NRS 1</strong> n=5</td>
<td><strong>NRS 1</strong> n=13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7%)</td>
<td>(18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRS NYA n=4</td>
<td>NRS NYA n=4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5%)</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not assessed n =</td>
<td>Not assessed n =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (9%)</td>
<td>7 (9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing levels of YAO at Oberon CC

Writing levels for Young Adult offenders at Oberon CC

Number of scores at each level

NRS levels

- NRS 4
- NRS 3
- NRS 2
- NRS 1
- NYA
- Unknown
Vocational Education and Employability Skills

- Approximately 95% inmates have career aspirations of trades or unskilled labour. Only 5% aim at university level education.
- As can be seen by LSIR scores a significant number have poor employment history.
- Courses aim at assisting inmates to obtain some skills that will lead to employment or further training.
Vocational Education and Employability Skills

Vocational Course Completions January to June 2009

**Conservation Earthworks**
- Backhoe: 15 achieved competency
- Skidsteer (Bobcat): 23 achieved competency
- Forklift: 48 achieved competency

**Transport**
- 41 completed the course

**Asbestos Removal**
- 55 completed the course

**Bricklaying**
- 15 completed the course

**Chainsaw Operations**
- 7 achieved qualification

**Workplace Hygiene**
- 20 completions

**Senior First Aid**
- 54 received SFA Certificate

**OH&S Whitecard**
- 13 received qualification
Core Element

- Personal Growth + Co-ops + Wilderness Camps = Core Element

Overall Aim: To address the common dynamic risks associated with Young Adult Offenders

- Impulsivity
- Risk taking behaviour
- Lack of motivation, self direction and planning
- Poor self image
The Simplest Experiential Learning Cycle

DO IT.

Now What?
What will I do differently next time?

What?
What happened?
What were the results?

So What?
What do these results imply?
How did I influence the outcome?

compiled by Andrea Corney
www.edbatista.com/2007/10/experiential.html
Personal Growth Sessions

- Dynamic Risk
- Change
- Self Esteem
- Peer Pressure
- Goal Setting
- Communication
- Victim Empathy
- Planning for the future
Experiential Learning Program (Co-ops)
The Wilderness Experience
Aims and objectives of Individual camps

- Kick Start
- Motivator
- Carpe Diem

- Adventure Based Challenge

(male camps)

(women)
High Ropes

- Metaphors
- Isomorphic connections
AFFIRMATIONS
A deep personal promise to yourself of something you are going to change about yourself

- Be a better mum to my son and be the best I can
- Stay positive in life, stay strong and have no doubt
- Stay alcohol and drug free for the rest of my life. This is for my children and grand children
- Be a good wife and mother and never come back to gaol
- To always trust myself in all that I do
- To put my heart and soul into gaining my goals
- I have learnt with confidence I can overcome even the scariest challenge. Also to surround myself with positive people not TOXIC ones
- I believe I can so I can
- I want a better future for my daughter and myself. No more screwing up and never give up
- To overcome any obstacles in life that I may come across
- To have learnt from my mistakes and move on
- Life is too short to waste, positive breeds positive and I can do anything I put my mind to
- I can do anything I put my mind to. Take one step at a time
- Everyone accepts me for me. I am one with the universe for once and I have Succeeded
YOUNG ADULT OFFENDER FEMALE PROGRAM