
REDUCTION IN REOFFENDING

PRIORITIES:

- 1. Establish whole-of-sentence planning and case management based on standardised risk and needs assessments**
- 2. Provide programs which are proven to be effective in reducing recidivism across community and custodial settings**
- 3. Improve offender motivation to participate in offence related, transitional and resettlement programs.**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #1

Apply standardised risk and needs assessments to targeted groups of offenders and use the data to establish and maintain whole-of-sentence plans

Risk assessment and case planning

In NSW the standard assessment tool for the risk of re-offending is the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R). The Department uses this tool in conjunction with a range of other assessments for factors that increase the risk of re-offending, including lack of education, psychological issues, a history of violence and alcohol and drug addiction.

The information gained informs a case plan on which all decision-making about program interventions and service delivery is based. Each case plan includes a:

- complete profile of the offender’s criminal and social history;
- rating of the risk of re-offending;
- list of the factors contributing to the risk of re-offending;
- list of strengths, assets and protective factors; and
- set of whole-of-sentence, prioritised case plan strategies.

In 2003/04 the Department used the LSI-R to assess 15,942 offenders, an 83% increase on the previous year. This included 10,362 offenders registering with the Probation and Parole Service with parole and supervision orders and 2,358 offenders with a custodial sentence.

During the year, the LSI-R was also used in comprehensive pre-sentence reports, with short versions for Court Duty and short court reports being reviewed for future implementation.

In the next financial year, the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre (MNCCC) at Kempsey will be the first centre to apply the LSI-R for all sentenced offenders serving a term of two months or longer.

Education Profile Interview

Before inmates enter any educational program, they undergo an Educational Profile Interview (EPI) conducted by the Department's Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI). The EPI records an education and employment history, assesses adult basic education and vocational training needs and prioritises departmental educational services in whole-of-sentence plans for each inmate. Following the EPI, those inmates with limited formal education undergo a comprehensive literacy assessment.

Psychological assessment

The Department's mainstream psychologists provide mental health, risk assessment and criminogenic needs assessment reports on inmates on request for the Parole Board, the Serious Offenders Review Council, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, case management teams, and the courts. These assessments identify appropriate therapeutic interventions.

During the year, psychological services directed towards criminogenic issues increased from 9% to 29%. To support this marked shift, 18 psychologists were trained in the use of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, which is used as a supplement to the LSI-R.

In 2003/04 the Department commenced recruitment for the Mental Health Screening Unit at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre. This Unit will improve recognition of mental illness among new receptions, facilitate diversion to community facilities and ensure case management is based on early assessment. A pilot was also implemented to determine the likely need for neuropsychological assessments at the Long Bay Hospital.

Sex offender assessment

Psychologists with Sex Offender Programs also deliver a Throughcare service, operating within custodial centres and in the community. They assess sexual offenders throughout their sentence: from pre-sentence assessments for the court; reception assessments; assessments of offenders who may put staff at risk; assessments for pre-release programs; and for parole consideration, including how best to manage the offender while they are on parole.

During the year, the Department's mainstream psychologists underwent training to improve their skills in assessing risk and treatment needs of sexual offenders.

Violent offender assessment

The LSI-R is used to help select offenders for intake into the Violent Offenders Therapeutic Program (VOTP) (see Strategic Objective #2). This Program starts with a more comprehensive assessment includes assessment of risk, criminogenic needs and a functional analysis of violence. Assessment methods involve psychometric testing, interview and observation by Case Management staff.

Welfare assessment

The Department's Welfare Officers have an important role in assessing ongoing service needs both in custody and in the community. In 2003/04, they completed 24,800 written assessments for crisis intervention, case management and Program Review Committee purposes, and/or for inmate referral to external agencies and made 34,330 referrals to government and non-government agencies in the community.

Female inmates

During the year, Berrima Correctional Centre implemented whole of sentence case management, using the LSI-R to identify and target female offenders with high to moderate levels of risk of re-offending. The LSI-R is due to be introduced at the new Dillwynia Correctional Centre and will eventually form the basis of whole of sentence case planning for all women inmates.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In 2003/04:

- The LSI-R was administered to 15,942 offenders (8,687 in 2002/03).
- This represents 65% of offenders registering with the Probation and Parole Service with Parole and Supervision Orders (38% in 2002/03).
- In custody there were 2,358 offenders with completed LSI-Rs.
- 6,140 offenders entering custody were screened by alcohol and other drugs (AOD) staff.
- 93 sex offenders received pre-sentence assessments and 245 received post-sentence risk management assessments.
- 40 violent offenders were assessed as part of the VOTP.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #2

Develop, accredit and establish evidence-based programs designed to address dynamic risk factors for re-offending across community and custodial corrections

The Department is committed to basing its programs on the growing body of international research about 'what works' in correctional programming. As such, programs: target the criminogenic factors leading to the offending behaviour; are delivered at an intensity that matches the risk and need level of the offender; and use modes of treatment that have been shown to be effective. Program design is critical to the effective delivery of best practice programs.

Recruitment for the newly established Program Development Unit of the Offender Management Division began in May 2004. The Unit is expected to be operational by November 2005.

Core principles of programming are:

- Continuity – throughout custody and in the community

- Integration – with whole of sentence case plans
- Maintenance – in custody and in the community to reinforce treatment gains.
- Evaluation – to ensure effectiveness and enable continuous improvement

The Department is developing an accreditation process for all group work programs delivered in custody and in the community to ensure they target identified factors relating to an individual's risk of re-offending.

Accredited Programs, which target dynamic risk factors, will be delivered with other Approved Programs that will address offenders' emotional and welfare needs.

Programs for female inmates

In 2003/04, the Women's Facilities and Services Command worked closely with the Offender Services and Programs Branch to develop and implement specific pathways that address the dynamic risk factors and specialised needs of women. A key focus of these pathways is to maintain relationships between inmates and their families and communities.

In July 2004, the Dillwynia Correctional Centre, a 200 bed centre specifically designed for women was officially opened. This centre, which incorporates a family friendly visiting section and purpose built program units, attempts to reduce the negative effect of incarceration on women. Using an integrated model of service delivery, all programs and services will target dynamic risk factors and level of risk, and focus on reintegration into the community. This centre is part of a specific pathway that incorporates all correctional and transitional centres to effectively manage the specific needs of female offenders and reduce re-offending.

Alcohol and other drugs (AOD)

In 2003/04, AOD ran two core programs for 1,932 inmates: one addressing psycho-educational and motivational issues; and the other a relapse prevention program.

The Department is also trialling two Drug Free Wings in Parklea and Emu Plains Correctional Centres with 34 and 19 participants respectively. The Parklea unit, which is partially funded by the 1999 Drug Summit, is currently undergoing an evaluation process.

During the year, legislation was enacted that will allow Australia's first compulsory drug treatment correctional centre to open in late 2005.

Drug-profile data collection

In 2003/04, the inter-agency NSW Illicit Drug Monitoring Group completed data collection on the drug-related profile of NSW inmates both prior to and during their current term. This data assists the Department in monitoring and reviewing drug trends and in responding with appropriate and timely drug treatment, prevention and control strategies. The findings of the 2003 data collection will be available in October 2004.

NSW Sober Driver Program

In the community, the NSW Sober Driver Program, for adult offenders convicted of a repeat drink driving offence within the past five years, is jointly funded by the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Motor Accidents Authority and delivered by the Probation and Parole Service throughout NSW. It was developed and implemented by an inter-agency working group, which includes representatives from the Roads and Traffic Authority, Motor Accidents Authority, Department of Corrective Services and Attorney General's Department.

In 2003/04, 98 programs were rolled out through 40 Probation and Parole Service District Office locations, with 230 presenters and more than 1,200 offenders, 79% of whom successfully completed the program.

Windsor Supervision Program

The Windsor (District Office) Supervision Program provides probationers and parolees with a high level of supervision to maintain community safety while providing the opportunity to address offending behaviour for repeat offenders. Typical participants are offenders with repeat Drive While Disqualified offences and those with a history of drug or alcohol issues.

At Level 1, the program requires participants to attend community-based meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous; discuss the impact of their offending behaviour with their family and friends; and participate in a community seminar looking at the impact of crime on the community. At Level 2, participants are required to remain drug and alcohol free and account for their daily activities

Violent Offenders Therapeutic Program

In October 2003, the Department opened the Violent Offenders Therapeutic Program (VOTP) at the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre (MSPC) after significant capital works and a review of the previous Violent Offenders Program. During the year, 40 offenders were selected to participate in this program, which targets dynamic risk factors for violent re-offending including anger, impulsivity and cognitive distortions as well as individual factors such as alcohol and drug use.

The VOTP is an intensive intervention delivered primarily in a group format in a therapeutic setting and addresses criminogenic needs. Each stage is operated as a separate program, interlinked with the next, building skills incrementally by addressing the offender's violent behaviour in a comprehensive way.

The treatment phase consists of modules covering topics such as motivation enhancement, disclosure, aggression management, non-criminal thinking, victim empathy/perspective taking, criminal lifestyle/offence cycle, reasoning/lifestyle changes

and relapse prevention. In addition to the treatment modules, offenders participate in other groups and activities that support and monitor change in their daily behaviours.

The Department's Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics Unit is currently evaluating the VOTP. A preliminary report will be released in October 2004 with a follow up report planned for the end of 2005.

Sex offender programs

The Department's Sex Offender Programs are designed to reduce sexual recidivism through appropriate assessment, management and treatment of convicted sexual offenders in custody and under community supervision. This occurs through:

- effectively assessing offenders to maximise participation in quality programs and promote effective management of risk whether the offender is in custody or in the community;
- providing programs that are founded on sound theory and research about what reduces the likelihood of recidivism; and
- training Departmental staff to manage sex offenders.

Custodial treatment programs

During the year, the Department delivered two programs for convicted sex offenders in custody: CUBIT (Custody Based Intensive Treatment), a residential treatment program for moderate and high risk sexual offenders; and CORE Outreach), a non-residential program for lower risk/needs sexual offenders. Inmates can be referred to CUBIT/CORE at anytime during their sentence, with entry into treatment prioritised according to earliest release dates.

• CUBIT

Offenders admitted to CUBIT are accommodated in a special, self-contained 40 bed unit located in the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at the Long Bay Correctional Complex. During the program, participants are expected to take responsibility for their offending behaviour; examine victim issues; identify their offence cycle; and develop a detailed relapse prevention plan. The Department also runs a CUBIT adapted program for sexual offenders with literacy problems; offenders who have a borderline intellectual disability; or other offenders with special needs.

In 2003/04 the Aboriginal Special Project Officer developed a special program for Aboriginal offenders in the CUBIT program to increase engagement by addressing cultural issues.

• CORE

CORE helps offenders work on changing the thinking, attitudes and feelings that led to their offending behaviour by operating weekly group sessions that address common issues with sexual offenders. As a non-residential program, men attending the CORE

program continue with their regular correctional centre activities such as work duties, education, etc. CORE can therefore be offered in various correctional centres where there is a sufficient number of lower risk and needs offenders. CORE is usually available at the MSPC and at Kirkconnell Correctional Centre.

CUBIT / CORE graduates complete their minimum terms in correctional centres that run the Custodial Maintenance Program, which focuses on relapse prevention issues.

During the year, the Department revised its Education for Sex Offenders (ESO) program. The ESO program prepares and motivates sex offenders before they start CUBIT/CORE. A pilot of this new program is scheduled to run in August 2004.

Community based treatment programs

During 2003/04, three community treatment groups and three community maintenance groups were run by psychologists from Forensic Psychology Service. These included a year-long treatment program for low risk sexual offenders, with a weekly group session based on the CORE custodial program and a post-release relapse prevention program for offenders who have completed a custodial treatment program. Psychologists assist Probation & Parole staff in monitoring the offender's participation and progress in treatment and their ongoing ability to manage their risk factors.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #3

Provide programs for identified offenders, which address specific deficits in motivation, living skills and personal and social development.

Welfare

Welfare Officers deliver a range of programs to inmates including financial counselling, parenting, domestic violence and post-release planning and management. During the year, these officers conducted more than 147,000 inmate interviews, of which 56,850 were crisis oriented, and 52,700 were counselling-based. There were also 38,070 interviews with families of inmates.

Living skills

During the year, 28% of custodial psychological services were directed towards assisting offenders with specific deficits in living skills, personal and social adjustment/development.

The Department also piloted its first cognitive skills intervention, ThinkFirst, which was delivered to 39 offenders in two correctional centres and one Community Offender Services office. The program, which improves cognitive skills such as problem identification, decision making and communication, was accredited in 2003.

Education

Many inmates present with limited problem-solving skills, low-level literacy, numeracy and employability skills, and poor self-management skills. Most have a fractured school experience and usually present with very limited employment histories and negligible work experiences.

Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute

The Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) is a Registered Training Organisation that provides accredited courses and nationally recognised qualifications. It aims to improve the literacy, language and numeracy skills of all inmates to a level equivalent to the school Year 10 standard, and to provide further education and vocational training for inmates who need to improve their skills and qualifications for post release employment.

In 2003/04, 39% of inmates participated in AEVTI courses as part of their case management. The monthly average of inmates enrolled in courses remained stable at 4,519, a slight increase on 4,472 in the previous year. The Department's education rate per 100 inmates was 35.0, slightly below the national average of 35.8. However, there was a significant increase in education modules completed by inmates with 5,916 completed this year compared with 5,321 the previous year.

In 2003/04, the Certificate in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) was added to AEVTI's scope of provision to support inmates from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB). The program is proving both popular and effective with positive initial feedback from teachers.

During the year, AEVTI also helped to improve inmate motivation to participate in offence related programs such as VOTP and CUBIT that require inmates to have functional literacy. AEVTI programs not only provide inmates with the required skills to participate in such programs but also to develop the confidence to participate in group work.

Intensive Learning Centre

During the year, the Department developed the Intensive Learning Centre at John Morony Correctional Centre, which opened in July 2004. The Centre is a purpose built facility that provides a learning framework for young adult inmates with deficits in education, vocational training and employability skills. Its accredited programs include: adult literacy and numeracy, English as a second language, communication skills, vocational education and training relating to Corrective Services Industries at the John Morony Correctional Complex, Aboriginal education, employability skills and general life skills.

Pathways to Employment, Education and Training (PEET) courses

PEET, which has been developed in partnership with NSW TAFE, enables medium to high risk offenders with educational and/or vocational deficits to access the NSW TAFE

system. PEET is a flexible, nine-week course co-facilitated by a TAFE teacher and a Probation and Parole Officer with the goal of motivating offenders to continue with TAFE options, thereby decreasing their risk of returning to crime.

Homelessness

Lack of stable accommodation can be a significant factor affecting the recidivism of offenders and ex-inmates, particularly with high-risk groups such as those with mental health, substance abuse and intellectual disability issues. Offenders with multiple needs require considerable supervision and/or support to secure a place in medium to long-term housing.

The Department is a member of Partnerships Against Homelessness, a cross-government initiative responding to this problem. The Department is addressing homelessness issues for offenders and ex-inmates with a working group that is currently determining: areas of need, priority groups, and partnerships with other agencies.

Two initiatives are currently being negotiated through community partnerships, which will provide crisis and/or supported accommodation involving Community Offender Services case management and supervision.

Accommodation for medium/high risk parolees

The NSW Drug Summit has allocated funding to COS for four years (2003 to 2007) to provide emergency accommodation for medium to high-risk parolees with a high risk of drug relapse shortly after their release from custody. This initiative is designed to assist in those cases where arrangements have collapsed and where homelessness is likely to result in re-offending.

Supported Offender Accommodation Program (SOAP)

SOAP provides offenders participating in the Drug Court Program and Home Detention with a supported accommodation program. In collaboration with the Wentworth Area Health Service, Wentworth Community Housing Inc. the program aims to:

- meet the needs of offenders through financial and life skills support;
- develop a process of case managed through care; and
- provide pathways to independent accommodation.

The advantage of using service providers from outside the COS system is that such agencies are better placed to maintain support in proportion to the offenders' needs that goes beyond the level of intervention mandated by their court order.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Education

AEVTI STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

	2002/3	2003/4
Statement of attainments (module completions)	5,321	5,916
Completed Certificates	127	149
AVERAGE MONTHLY AEVTI STUDENT PARTICIPATION		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI)	536	504
NESB	727	737
Women	327	358
Disability	83	129
Young Adult Offenders	850	760
Aged and Frail	136	71

EDUCATION RATE PER 100 INMATES

	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03 National Average
Pre-cert Level 1	9.1	3.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.4
AQF Secondary	28.5	35.7	38.4	30.9	20.5	13
AQF Vocational	23.9	22.3	26.8	24.0	26.4	27.1
AQF Higher	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.8
TOTAL	46.4	43.7	43.4	37.9	35.0	35.8

Community Programs

In 2003/04:

- Approximately 380 programs were provided to community-based offenders, compared with 303 in 2002/03.
- Over 4,131 community-based offenders attended these programs compared with 3,955 in 2002/03.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4

Establish 'Throughcare' strategic relationships with other government and non-government agencies to provide combined case management of offenders, post sentence services and programs, relapse prevention and essential re-settlement support

During the year, the Department formed or strengthened its partnerships with a range of both government and non-government agencies including: the Department of Housing, the Tenancy Agency Board, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Centrelink, the Australian National Training Authority, NSW TAFE, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department of

Health, the Roads and Traffic Authority, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, Mental Health Advocacy, Legal Aid, the Aboriginal Legal Service, Children of Prisoners Support Group and the Department of Community Services as well as numerous city councils, disability agencies, community groups, ethnic groups and victims support groups.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Juvenile Justice

On 27 May 2004, the Department of Corrective Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise a policy and procedures framework for clients of mutual interest to both departments. This framework focuses on developing best practice principles and service delivery standards, to effectively case manage offenders moving from DJJ to the Department.

Protocol Agreement with Centrelink

On 28 November 2003 the Department signed a Protocol Agreement with Centrelink, providing more effective Centrelink services for pre and post release offenders. Among other provisions, it ensures that Centrelink is notified when offenders are received into custody preventing incorrect payments leading to inmate debt and that benefit payments will be processed quickly to offenders being released into custody.

The agreement has resulted in a trial, conducted at both the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre and Mulawa Correctional Centre, to identify at the earliest opportunity an inmate subject to Commonwealth benefits. This trial had a two-fold purpose: to lessen the debt burden carried by inmates; and to identify those inmates who may need personal assistance from Centrelink upon release.

Centrelink estimates it has saved approximately \$1.4 million in overpayments since establishing the formalised reporting relationship. Anecdotal reports indicate that inmates are provided with outstanding Centrelink payments faster than has previously been the experience.

National Strategy with the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA)

The Department is represented on the ANTA Vocational Education and Training in Corrections Steering Committee. In this role, during the year, the Department advised on the development of an implementation plan for the National Strategy for Vocational Education and Training for Adult Prisoners and Offenders in Australia.

Memorandum of Understanding with TAFE NSW

The Department has a three year Memorandum of Understanding with TAFE NSW until 2005, providing the context in which TAFE NSW will deliver Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs to inmates, particularly young adult offenders, women, Indigenous inmates, non-English speaking background inmates and inmates with an

intellectual disability. In providing VET for all these groups, the MOU ensures that TAFE NSW course delivery within correctional centres is of the same standard and quality as that offered within any TAFE institute. For the Department of Corrective Services, it develops Throughcare linkages with Corrective Services Industries.

Pilot with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

During the year the Department established a pilot employment program with DEWR to employ an Aboriginal Employment Officer to assist Aboriginal inmates from Cessnock and St Heliers Correctional Centres to find post release employment. The pilot, which began in July 2004 is near completion and is soon to be evaluated.

Department of Education and Training (DET) Traineeship Pilot

After a year of negotiation, the Department entered into a Pilot Traineeship program with DET under the Commonwealth Government's New Apprenticeships System. The program enables inmates working in CSI to participate in traineeships in preparation for eventual re-integration into the national workforce. It is anticipated this will reduce post-release government benefit dependency and recidivism.

Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Test Centres

The RTA has established community-based Driver Knowledge Test centres in eight correctional centres, with another four planned by the end of 2004. Attaining a drivers knowledge permit (Learner Licence) gives inmates points for personal identification on release.

Pre-release Expos with multiple agencies

During the year, pre-release Expos with community and government agencies were held at Lithgow Correctional Centre to support the release of medium/maximum security inmates. These one day trade fair events are attended by: Tenancy Agency Board, TAFE NSW, Community colleges, Prisoners Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service, RTA, Medicare, Centrelink, Department of Housing and Westpac Bank. Similar Expos are also being piloted in other correctional centres.

Women's Command community liaison

The Women's Command provides effective Throughcare by developing community partnerships with other Government and non-government agencies. In 2003/04, the Women's Command consulted and established partnerships with: Western Sydney Area Health Services, Office of the Department of Women, Job Futures, Life Line Financial Counselling, Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Aboriginal Mentor Training Program, Salvation Army, NSW Aboriginal Housing, Tharawal Community Elders, Aboriginal Corporation for Homeless and Rehabilitation Community Service, NSW Link-up, South East Aboriginal Legal Service ACT, NSW Aboriginal Women's Legal Service, CRC Justice Support, Prison Fellowship/KAIROS, Federal Attorney General's Department, Yulawirri

Murai Indigenous Association, Aboriginal Net Work Steering Committee, Wentworth Area Health Service, Land Care NSW, Aboriginal Mothers and Children's Camp Committee and REGENESIS.

Working with victim advocacy and support groups

In 2003/04, the Department's Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) integrated its programs in Throughcare exit checklists and entry case plan strategies to make victim awareness part of whole of sentence planning. As part of this process, it conducted Victim Offender Conferences and Victim Offender Mediations and made 190 additions to the Victims Register. Much of this work involved liaison with representatives of victims' advocacy and support groups. During the year, VOCAL (Victims of Crime Assistance League) joined the other main victim support and advocacy groups on the Restorative Justice Unit Advisory Board.

DAVID'S STORY

David was in his final year for the armed robbery of his local clubhouse. He'd apologised to the two women behind the counter during the robbery, but in court their Victim Impact Statements were read out and he realised that the apology had made no difference to them - they'd still been terrified.

When the RJU contacted them, they said they did not want to meet with David, but wanted to know if he was coming back to the town, and if he was still dangerous. They said they would like a letter from him.

David wrote, telling them what he'd done during his sentence to make sure he never returned to custody, and he told them a few things that he'd found out about himself while he was in custody. He also told them he had a job lined up in a neighbouring town when he was released in a few weeks time. They told the RJU they were relieved to get this letter. They wanted to tell David that they accepted that he hadn't intended them harm personally, and hoped that he would get back on track with his new job.

David said he felt relieved that he'd been able to apologise; he felt he'd been believed and that he could move on.

Mt. Druitt community solutions

The Department operates a number of projects in the Mt. Druitt community, which are funded with \$1.2 million through the Premier's Community Solutions and Crime Prevention initiative. These projects range from using offenders to beautify local facilities to enabling them to participate in fully evaluated offence focused group work interventions. Community Offender Services takes a lead role in these projects, working with other agencies including: Blacktown City Council, TAFE, Department of Housing, Department of Community Services, Aboriginal communities, Pacific Islander communities, non-Government organisations, Department of Health and NSW Police.

Biyani Cottage diversion program

On 10 March 2004, State Governor Prof Marie Bashir AC, opened Biyani Cottage at Malabar. Biyani is an alternative to custodial sentencing for female offenders with mental health disorders or mild intellectual disabilities and co-existing alcohol and drug problems. The main focus of the Biyani program is to stabilise mental health and drug and alcohol issues and to help the women gain access to long-term community rehabilitation programs and resources.

Potential program participants are female offenders who are either at a correctional centre on remand at pre-sentence stage or who have breached their parole and are serving the balance of parole.

Collaboration with community disability agencies

Community disability agencies greatly assisted in planning for the Carmel Wood Wing of the Additional Support Units for inmates with disabilities, which began receiving inmates on 20 February 2004. This minimum-security pre-release unit currently caters for 10 inmates who are approaching the end of their sentences, with programs focussing on areas such as alcohol and drug awareness, harm minimisation relating to health, basic education and pre-release planning.

The Additional Support Units situated in the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at Long Bay were officially opened on 24 May 2004 by the Minister for Justice, the Hon. John Hatzistergos. It is anticipated that other additional support units will begin operating in the 2004/2005 financial year.

Pre-release and relapse prevention programs

Windsor

The Windsor Pre-Release Parole Program provides inmates with a supportive environment in which to prepare for release. It helps:

- assist the inmate in understanding the need to participate in post release supervision based programs;
- understand and learn the required behaviours to succeed on parole supervision; and
- establish a relationship between the supervising officer and the inmate.

Mount Druitt

During the year, the Department piloted a program to deal with the needs of Pacific Islander offenders released into the Mount Druitt community. In partnership with the Mount Druitt Community Solutions and Crime Prevention Strategy, Community Offender Services conducted extensive community consultation to develop this intervention program, which involves close case management and groups targeting factors that heighten the risk of re-offending.

Ngara Nura Program

Ngara Nura is a voluntary, pre-release program for 40 male inmates operating at the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre, Long Bay. The program targets male inmates with persistent drug, alcohol and/or gambling problems with a view to minimising the risk of recidivism.

In 2003/04, there were 132 referrals to Ngara Nura Therapeutic Community. Of these 29 were ineligible and 58 graduated. When graduates were released they entered the community with a relapse prevention plan and other resettlement initiatives such as detailed assessment and referral to community agencies and accommodation and vocational planning and referral.

Bolwara Transitional Centre for women

Bolwara Transitional Centre is a residential pre-release centre for female inmates with chronic drug or alcohol problems. In 2003/04, Bolwara house had 46 residents, 19% of whom were Aboriginal. During the year the Department completed a preliminary evaluation of the effectiveness of the Centre. Recommendations arising from this evaluation will be available in late 2004.

Vietnamese Drug Health Advisory Group

In 2003/04, the Department contributed to the Vietnamese Drug Health Advisory Group, which was established under South West Sydney Area Health Service's Long Term Operational Plan 2004-2009. Through this forum, minimum security Vietnamese inmates have been able to make contact with Vietnamese AOD/Welfare Workers prior to their release.

Young adult offenders

A total of 45 staff and more than 10 representatives from external organisations attended the three exit planning workshops held at Newington House. The purpose of the workshops was to prepare for a Resettlement Expo at John Morony Correctional Centre in February 2004, which more than 80 young adult offenders and representatives from 27 external agencies attended. The Exit Plan Checklist is being piloted at John Morony and Oberon Correctional Centres.

Community funding programs

Funded organisations are a key part of the delivery of the Department's Throughcare Strategy. Non-government organisations can be involved in case management processes throughout an offender's sentence period, from entry point into the correctional system to reintegration into the community following release.

The Department's Community Funding Program (CFP) allocates funding to a number of community-based non-profit organisations. These organisations provide a range of support services to inmates, former inmates and their families both in custody and in the

community where they assist offenders post release by offering: short term supported accommodation; linking offenders in with specialist community services; and supporting families to maintain relationships.

In 2002, the Department instituted an Expression of Interest process to select agencies to operate these projects for the 2002/2005 CFP triennium. Under this process, the following agencies received CFP funding in 2003/04:

- Glebe House and Judge Rainbow Memorial Fund to provide supported accommodation services for recently released inmates.
- Guthrie House to provide the above service for women offenders and ex-inmates.
- Prisoners Aid Association to provide property minding and financial services to inmates.
- CRC Justice Support to provide support services to offenders, ex-inmates and their families, including a family transport service to correctional centres.
- Yulawirri Nurai Aboriginal Corporation to provide post-release services for Indigenous women.
- Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates establish and strengthen their families links.
- Children of Prisoners Support Group to deliver services to support children of inmates.

In June 2003, two additional services were approved for funding:

- Bundjalung Tribal Society Ltd to operate the residential based rehabilitation project for male Indigenous offenders with alcohol and other drug dependence (NSW North Coast).
- New Horizons Enterprises Limited to operate supported accommodation project for male offenders with a mental illness.

In addition, a one off \$20,000 grant was provided to FADISS Ltd Family Drug Support to undertake a feasibility study on the support needs of the family of offenders with alcohol and other drug issues.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In 2003/04:

- Community Funding Program services assisted approximately 12,800 offenders, former offenders and their families.
- The Department increased funding allocated under the Community Funding Program by 14%.