

Key Performance Indicators

Successful completion of community-based orders

Key Performance Indicators	National Average	
	2007/08	2006/07
Restricted Movement	87.81	76.4
Reparation*	80.49	66.3
Supervision	79.23	71.4
Total rate of completion	79.67	69.9

* Discharge codes have been revised to exclude "no fault revocations" from being counted as a "breach of CSO"

Organisational Capability Governance and Staff Support

During the year, the Department continued to integrate community and custodial services in response to the State Plan initiative of reducing re-offending.

Key Performance Indicators	National Average	
	2007/08	2006/07
Cost of custody services per inmate per day	\$210.48	\$187.10
Cost of community-based services per offender per day	\$12.40	\$12.50
Rate of correctional centre capacity utilisation	104.9	104.3

The Way Forward Work Place Reforms

In 2007/08, the Department continued developing The Way Forward's final phase, following its success at the Mid North Coast, Dillwynia and Wellington Correctional Centres. On 18 August 2008, the Department began the State-wide roll-out of The Way Forward – a significant milestone in the history of corrective services in NSW. As part of the roll-out, a number of correctional centres will be closed for refurbishment and will be re-opened with new staffing levels and management plans.

Cover photography: **Sue Paull**

Capital Works

During the year, the Department continued to progress its capital works program. This includes the new 600 bed correctional centre at Wellington, a 500 bed facility at Nowra on the South Coast, a 70 bed facility at Tabulam for offenders subject to community-based sentences and 250 beds at Cessnock Correctional Centre and at another still to be identified location.

Budget and Financial Results

In 2007/08, total expenditure (recurrent and capital) was \$982.1 million. This included employee related expenditure of 66 percent, maintenance and depreciation of assets 9 percent, other operating expenditure 17 percent and capital 6 percent.

About the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services

The Department of Corrective Services provides custodial and community-based services as an important element of the criminal justice system. They include correctional centre custody of remand and sentenced inmates, periodic detention, home detention, parole, pre-sentence reports to courts, advice to courts and releasing authorities, community service orders and other forms of community-based offender supervision. Custodial escort and court security services are provided in many areas of the State, a task previously undertaken by Police. Offenders in custody and supervised in the community are assessed and case managed to reduce the risk of re-offending to meet individual care needs.

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HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08



NSW DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Mission

Manage offenders in a safe, secure and humane manner and reduce risks of re-offending.

Vision

Contribute to a safer community through quality correctional services.

Offender Management and Operations

Reducing the risk of re-offending

The Department of Corrective Services is the lead agency for the State Plan's objective to reduce re-offending. By putting in place strategies that impact the underlying causes of crime, the government intends to reduce the proportion of offenders who are re-convicted within 24 months of being convicted by 10 percent by 2016.

To support this objective, the Department focused its efforts in 2007/08 on those offenders who are at high risk of re-offending, providing more intensive supervision and proven, accredited programs that are effective against re-offending.

In 2007/08, the Department strengthened its partnerships with other government and non-government agencies, ensuring offenders continue to be supported after they complete their legal orders. It also used What Works programs, where there is evidence that they can reduce re-offending; and a whole-of-sentence approach to rehabilitating and re-settling offenders, called Throughcare.

Key Performance Indicators	2006/07	2007/08
Prisoners returning to corrective services	46.3	45.2
Offenders returning to corrective services	29.0	28.3

Specialised programs

To target the root causes of offending behaviour, the Department offers offenders in both custody and the community specialised programs to combat risk factors for re-offending. These risk factors include drug and alcohol addiction, literacy issues, impulse control and lack of skills. In 2007/08, the Department continued to offer group-based interventions to offenders in custody and in the community, providing accredited programs that aim to reduce the risks of re-offending.

Awards

In the Premier's Awards, category of 'Rights, Respect and Responsibility', the Department won Gold for its evidence-based intensive sex offender program, which reduced re-offending by up to 75 percent. For the second year running, the Department was recognised by a Public Sector Corruption Prevention Award for the use of tools and techniques for corruption prevention.

The Department was also honoured with a Bronze award for its Young Adult Offenders Program.

Offender Management in Custody

Key Performance Indicators	National Average	
	2007/08	2006/07
Escape Rate (per 100 inmates) from open custody	0.16	0.60
Escape Rate (per 100 inmates) from secure custody	0.02	0.03
Prisoner on officer assaults (serious)	0.00	0.02
Prisoner on prisoner assaults (serious)	0.31	0.59
Death by apparent unnatural causes		
Rate per 100 inmates	0.04	0.04
Indigenous	0.00	0.05
Statements of Attainment – Unit Completions	(3419 students)	
AEVTI	7500	
Traineeships	531	
Library Training	104	
Distance Education	50	
Total	8185	
Percentage of eligible offenders employed	80.57	78.48
Visits (rate per 100 prisoners)	20.98	
Court appearances by video conferencing	27,700*	

* The data, which represents the numbers for video conferences for this financial year, is captured on a post-conference basis, as against a pre-conference basis in previous years. Facilitation numbers may be higher.

Security

During the year, the Corrections Intelligence Group (CIG) was restructured to provide tactical support to correctional centre managers and to strategically assist Community Offender Services in managing Security Threat Group (STG) inmates upon release. To this end, it established the Community Offender Service Intelligence Unit and amalgamated the Tactical Intelligence Group into the CIG.

Improving offender education

In 2007/08, the Department continued to focus on improving offender education levels to support their successful community integration post-release. During the year, the Department introduced basic skills testing early in a sentence, to ensure offenders with high education needs are put into education programs. At the same time, the Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) introduced a different package of certificates. These new certificates still emphasise literacy and numeracy, but have stronger linkage to vocational skills.

In addition, the Department opened a new Intensive Learning Centre at Wellington Correctional Centre.

Offender Management in the Community

Community Offender Support Program centres

During the year, the Department began a major breakthrough in reducing re-offending with the State-wide establishment of Community Offender Support Program (COSP) centres. Three centres opened in the reporting year. Eventually, COSP centres will be expanded to provide up to 500 beds State-wide for offenders experiencing difficulty finding somewhere to settle down post-release.

Intensive community supervision

In 2007/08, the Department increased monitoring and surveillance of high-risk offenders, violent offenders and sex offenders in the community. This included establishing the Community Compliance Group (CCG). The CCG monitors offenders in the community using methods such as compliance checks, electronic monitoring and writing assessment reports.