OAPCCA

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COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS



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editor's note



Community corrections involve the management and supervision of offenders in the community. This is a crucial step for an offender's reintegration as it ensures his gradual transition into the community.

To leverage on the vast potential of community corrections, correctional agencies look to expand and better structure our efforts in the community. New South Wales has developed the Community Impact Assessment tool, which ranks offenders on the likelihood and impact of re-offending or breach, to better calibrate their supervision efforts. Queensland has implemented a new Probation and Parole model that targets higher levels of service to high risk offenders, which features biometric reporting to maximise cost-efficiency. Singapore

has set up the Community Corrections Command to spearhead supervision and rehabilitation work for offenders in the community.

Throughcare efforts, both during and post incarceration, directly contribute to an offender's rehabilitation and reintegration potential. Much incare efforts have been put in by various members to prepare offenders for their eventual release. In Malaysia, the annual Poetry and Literature Competition is an opportunity for offenders to learn oratory skills and master the national language, increasing the marketability of the offenders after their release. Hong Kong enhances the employability of offenders before their release through the collaborations with merchants, trade associations and social enterprises. Thailand has signed Memorandums of Understanding with many agencies to bring their partnerships to a new level.

It is indeed our hope that our efforts both within and beyond the prison walls will rehabilitate offenders and reintegrate them back to society as contributing citizens. When Malaysia was badly hit by a flood in Dec 2014, the parolees in Kelantan extended a helping hand to the community by clearing mud and repairing houses. This must have been a meaningful experience for the parolees, staff and the Kelantan community.

On the front of fortifying the security of the prison compound, Macao has installed 'Skynet' to prevent the infiltration of contrabands from the air by drones.

To the APCCA members who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter, thank you for allowing other jurisdictions to learn and benefit from the good work that you do. I look forward to your continued support in the upcoming edition of the newsletter.



Community Corrections in New South Wales

Contributed by Corrective Services New South Wales

On average, the Community Corrections division of Corrective Services New South Wales manages around 16,500 offenders in the community at any one time.

Although the Community Corrections division manages a range of legal orders, the main areas of offender management can be divided into supervision and community service work. In addition to managing offenders on legal orders, the division also provides advice to courts and releasing authorities on offenders in custody seeking parole and offenders awaiting sentence.



Offenders on Community Service Order watering council trees

Supervision

Orders with a supervision component managed by the Community Corrections

division include parole, good behaviour bonds, intensive correction orders, home detention, drug court and extended supervision orders. The primary purpose of supervision is to address offending behaviour and reduce risk to the community.

Supervision intensity in NSW is established in accordance with the Risk, Needs and Responsivity (RNR) principles. Offenders with the highest risks and needs receive the most supervision, whilst low risk offenders receive the least. The type of order and its conditions have little influence on the level of intervention received by the offender and are more likely to influence how strictly the order is enforced; for example parole is part of a custodial sentence and has more stringent conditions than good behaviour bonds, so parolees have less leeway before a breach occurs.

The Level of Service Inventory - Revised (LSI-R) is the main risk assessment tool used by Community Corrections. It assists to assess the likelihood of re-offending, and to identify key factors contributing to offending behaviour. As the LSI-R is strongly correlated with risk of re-offending, it is used to prioritise offenders for intervention. In addition to things such as determining how often an offender is to report, the LSI-R determines program eligibility with the majority of programs available only

for offenders who are assessed as medium risk or higher. For specialist groups such as sex offenders, tools like the Static 99 may be used in place of the LSI-R. Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was developed in NSW, and was first implemented in March 2013. It is a tool to rank offenders based on the likely impact of reoffending or breach, taking into consideration factors such as use of violence, sexual offending, and sentence characteristics. The CIA is used Community Corrections prioritise resources towards serious more offenders within each risk category. offender That is. an who is high high risk will consequence and be supervised closely more than one who is low consequence and high risk. Often the public and corrections staff

confuse likelihood with consequence, particularly for groups such as violent and sexual offenders. This model better targets the risk-needs principles by using the combination of the LSI-R (or Static 99) and the CIA separately, rather than manipulating serious offenders into a higher risk category. Each rating is combined in a risk matrix as below, to determine appropriate levels of intervention and monitoring.

Intervention refers to any activity during which an offender is addressing criminogenic needs in order to reduce the risk of reoffending. This might include programs, referrals to counselling services, or interviews with the supervising officer. Intervention is focused toward offenders who are most likely to reoffend (medium to high LSI-R), with minimal intervention

Consequence (CIA)	High	High consequence Low likelihood	High consequence Moderate likelihood	High consequence High likelihood	
	Medium	Moderate consequence Low likelihood	Moderate consequence Moderate likelihood	Moderate consequence High likelihood	
	Low	Low consequence Low likelihood	Low consequence Moderate likelihood	Low consequence High likelihood	
		Low	Medium	High	
	Probability (L SI/R Static 99)				

provided to those assessed as low risk. Monitoring refers to any activity which verifies that an offender is complying with the conditions of their order, including verification of attendance at interventions, as well as looking for any changes which may indicate increasing risk. Monitoring is increased where the consequence of failure is highest (medium to high CIA).

Community Service Work

The main objectives of administering community service work are to ensure compliance with court orders, to fulfil the work hours ordered, and to arrange work placements at agencies which provide optimal benefits to the community and the offender. Orders with a community service work component include Community Service Orders (CSO) and Intensive Correction Orders (ICO).

Agency providers include charitable organisations, schools, local councils, nursing homes, and cemetery trusts, amongst others. These agencies provide supervisors who monitor work undertaken by offenders, which ranges from lawn mowing, gardening, rubbish clean up and general maintenance to kitchen and administrative work.

Work is also undertaken by offenders supervised by an officer from Community Corrections division. Offenders are placed on buses which attend to a range of work sites, often servicing major local and state government land care and community beautification programs.

Compliance with community service requires offenders to comply with work schedules and to maintain appropriate behaviour whilst at the work site. As the majority of community work is administered by community agencies and performed at public sites, maintaining reasonable standards is important for keeping these agencies engaged with the scheme. For this reason most offenders who are on community service tend to be lower risk.



Offenders on Community Service Order painting over graffiti



Rehabilitation through Innovation: Queensland Leading the Way for Biometric Reporting

Contributed by Queensland Corrective Services

Over the last five years, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) has experienced an increase in community based offender numbers. In response QCS has expanded service delivery in rural and remote communities and implemented a new Probation and Parole model targeting higher levels of service to high risk offenders. A key aspect of this model focused on utilising technology to maximise the costefficient Probation and Parole approach. With biometric reporting at the forefront of technological advances and international research supporting its implementation, this was an obvious option.

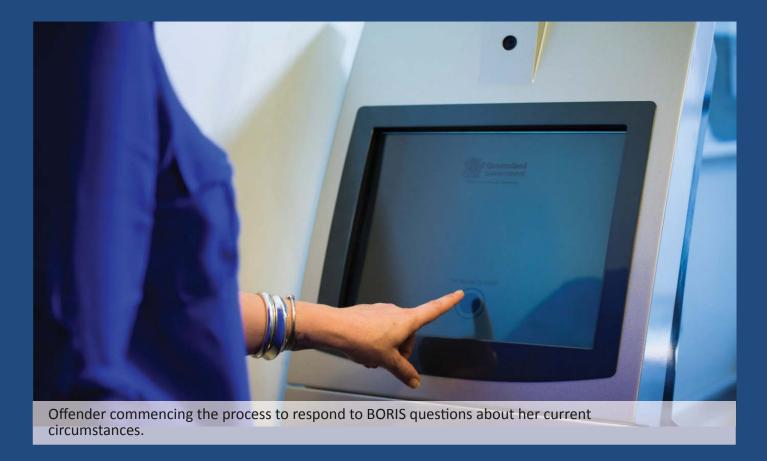
A randomised controlled trial of biometric reporting began in August 2011, as part of a Low Risk Offender Management (LROM) strategy. The LROM strategy is consistent with evidence based research which enhances the importance of risk-based supervision. QCS conducted an internal review on the management of low risk offenders. The same assessment and planning process was used for all irrespective of their level of risk, and this was inconsistent with the risk principle.

Eight District Offices across Queensland took part in a pilot project which aimed to increase offender autonomy, provide flexibility in reporting times and engage the offender in taking responsibility for successfully completing the order. The Biometric Offender



Offender scanning her fingerprint allowing identification by the biometric kiosk.

Reporting Information System (BORIS) requires an offender to attend a tamper resistant automated reporting machine located within a Probation and Parole office. Eligible offenders swipe their fingerprint and respond to a series of questions regarding their current circumstances. Depending on



their answers they may be required to engage in a face to face interview with their officer. BORIS will also randomly select offenders to participate in an interview with a probation and parole officer.

Low risk offenders who are exclusively subject to biometric reporting answer questions focused on compliance with order conditions. Offenders interviewed in the evaluation of the pilot described BORIS as providing flexibility they did not want to lose, with its ease of use being an incentive to report on time. QCS staff involved in the pilot also provided positive feedback for this technology.

Overall, the results of the initial trial were promising and suggested that biometric reporting is an effective supervision tool for low risk offenders, and added another

layer of supervision for medium to high risk offenders. BORIS offenders were found to be less likely to be re-arrested or fail to report when compared to control group offenders (not reporting to BORIS). Differing frequencies of face-to-face contact with a Probation and Parole Officer had no significant impact on re-arrest likelihood. Furthermore, there was no significant difference between re-arrested BORIS and control group offenders regarding the severity of their first most serious re-arrest offence.

The biometric pilot highlights the effectiveness of this innovative offender management solution. At the time no other States or Territories in Australia offered biometric reporting for community based offenders. In June 2014 biometric reporting was rolled out across all Queensland Probation and Parole Offices.



Contributed by Hong Kong Correctional Services Department

As with our mission, the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to protecting the public and reducing crime. For released offenders to remain resolute on their path of rehabilitation, we believe that it is particularly important for them to have a fair job opportunity and sustained employment, both of which CSD can play an active role as the facilitator.

Vocational Training

With an aim to enhance the employability of persons in custody (PICs) upon release, CSD, in collaboration with different merchants, trade associations and training agencies, offer various market-oriented vocational trainings to help PICs acquire upto-date and much sought after vocational skills and knowledge in the labour market. For eligible adult PICs, more than 1,400 training places in over 30 fields of work such as construction, engineering, food and beverage, retail, tourism, logistics, beauty care, etc. are provided. For young PICs, CSD provides them with half-day education and half-day vocational training. completing these courses, the trainees will also sit for examinations held by the accreditation bodies, e.g. the City and Guilds, Construction Industry Council, etc. so that they can acquire the relevant certifications.

Pre-Release Employment Assistance

The 'Pre-Release Employment Services' scheme was established to provide an interactive job-matching platform for potential employers and rehabilitated offenders. Systematic job matching is provided to PICs three months prior to their release to ensure that their employment is secured. Under this arrangement, PICs can obtain information on job vacancy through the Pre-release Re-integration Orientation Course, Light Emitting Diode (LED) display boards and job vacancy notices displayed in institutions.





If requested by potential employers, job interviews with the PIC applicants can be arranged either in person, by video-conference or by tele-conference. Information on job vacancies is now also made available to supervisees under statutory supervision.

Job Fairs

Large scale job fairs supported by business and trade associations are held from time to time, during which participating employers provide job opportunities and conduct interviews with PICs who are soon to be discharged. As the first of its kind, a video conferencing job fair was conducted in September 2014 in collaboration with the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong and Merchants Support for Rehabilitated Offenders Committee Limited.

Symposiums on Employment for Rehabilitated Offenders

Symposiums **Employment** for on co-organised Rehabilitated Offenders, by CSD and tertiary institutions, provide a platform for the employers who have hired rehabilitated offenders to share their positive experience with their counterparts. The event also gives rehabilitated offenders an opportunity to share their stories of reintegration. The latest symposium was jointly held with the University of Hong Kong in June 2014.

Institutional Visits by Employers / Merchant and Trade Associations

With a view to promote the employment opportunities of rehabilitated offenders, institutional visits for employers, merchant

and trade associations are organised to enhance their understanding of CSD's rehabilitation support for PICs during their incarceration as well as their confidence in employing rehabilitated offenders.

Publicity Campaign on Provision of Employment Opportunities

Under the theme of "Give Rehabilitated Offenders a Chance" which emphasises equal employment opportunities for rehabilitated offenders, proactive steps

are taken to appeal for support from the commercial sector in providing more job opportunities to rehabilitated offenders through their own means or by taking part in 'Pre-release Employment Services'. CSD also collaborates with social enterprises to provide training and make referrals for suitable rehabilitated offenders to relevant industries. CSD's participation in various public exhibitions, such as the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo and Hong Kong Flower Show, helps to showcase the skills of PICs and promotes their employability and the rehabilitation work of the department.







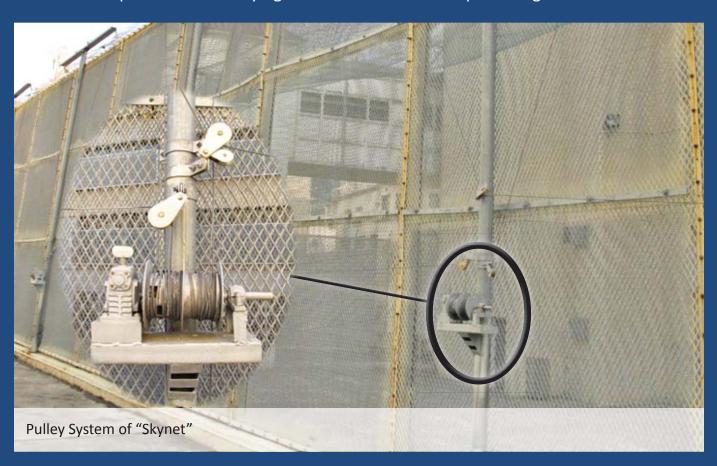
Preventing Entry of Contraband into the Prison

Contributed by Macao Prison

Macao is relatively small and densely populated city. Although the Prison was originally built in the rural area of Macao, it has become closer to dwellings as the city centre grows and expands. In order to strengthen the prison's perimeter security, Macao Prison has introduced "Skynet" to prevent the entry of contraband that can be thrown over the outmost walls of the prison or transported via remote control helicopters and self-flying drones.

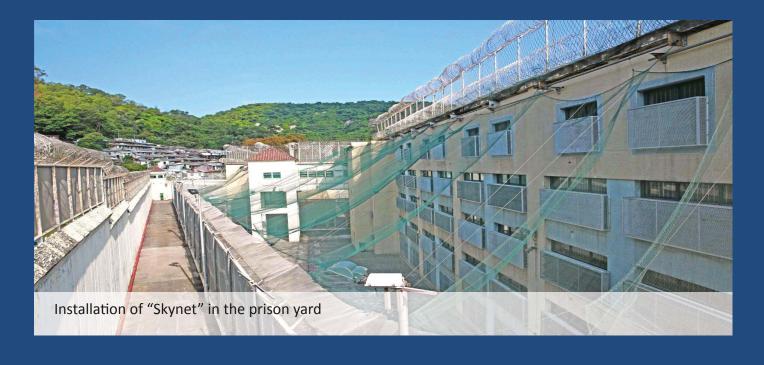
The Design of "Skynet"

"Skynet" is a huge net made up of numerous pieces of plastic mesh. Each edge of the plastic mesh is slightly overlapped without an interlocking connection. The "Skynet" is installed from the top of a building all the way to the security fence, covering the ground area in between. It intercepts contrabands and prevent them from entering the prison area, without compromising the observation from



CCTV and surveillance towers. The "Skynet" also has wind resistance and fire proof features. Pulleys are set up at both ends of the plastic meshes so that each part of the "Skynet" is retractable, allowing for the ease of repair. Moreover, the wire rope of each pulley block has a loading capacity of less than 30kg, thus

preventing any attempts of prisoner escape. "Skynet" also has a low production cost and is easily procured. At the moment, "Skynet" has already been installed on top of the main prison yards. Subsequently, Macao Prison will be installing "Skynet" in the other yards and rooftops of the detention zones.





Exposure to Poetry and Literature in the Malaysian Prisons

Contributed by Malaysia Prisons Department

Poetry and literature are excellent subjects to instil awareness and patriotism among inmates. Poetry is fun and helps to improve oratory skills.

For the past four years, the Inmate Management Division of Malaysian Prisons Department has been organising the Poetry and Literature Competition for all convicted inmates in prisons. This annual competition is held in conjunction with the annual National Language Awareness Campaign which aims to educate the public on the correct and proper use of national language.

The inmates' participation has been very encouraging in these poetry and literature competitions, as they have an opportunity to indulge in activities which are different from their daily routine of academic and skills training.

Due to the significance and relevancy of this competition, there has been no lack of sponsors, allowing the department to achieve the competitions' objectives. The annual sponsors and mentors are the Malaysian Institute of Language and Literature, the Islamic Science University of



Prize presentation ceremony officiated by His Excellency Dato' Sri Dr Haji Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs

Malaysia, Karangkaraf Group (a publishing and media organisation) and Friends of Prison Club members.

Inmates benefit from this competition by attending a workshop on Malay Literature and on traditional and contemporary poetry prior to the competition. The Malaysian Institute of Language and Literature offers guidance on the proper usage of national language and polishes the inmates' oratory skills. The duration of this workshop is two weeks. After attending this workshop,

talented and resourceful inmates are specially selected to participate in the annual Poetry and Literature Competition.

This annual workshop and competition works as a therapy and aids in an inmate's rehabilitation. The oratory skills learnt and mastery of the national language will make inmates more marketable upon release. It is also expected that this exposure to local literature will instil positive values among the inmates and will mould them to be more patriotic.





Malaysian Parolees doing their Part for the Community

Contributed by Malaysia Prisons Department

The legislative intention of introducing the Parole System in Malaysia was to alleviate overcrowding and operating costs, reduce recidivism and ensure the prisoners' successful re-integration into the society by engaging the family, employer and community. It is also part of the Department's vision to ensure the welfare of the society and to guide prisoners to live as individuals who respect the laws and regulations of the country.

Kelantan, was one of the states badly affected by the flood particularly in the districts of Tanah Merah, Kuala Krai and Manik Urai.

In the aftermath of the flood, the parolees in Kelantan came in full force to extend a helping hand. The district parole officers brought the parolees to perform community work organised by the National Security Council.



In December 2014, Malaysia was badly hit by a flood which affected more than 200,000 families and took the lives of 21 people. This flood was described as the worst flood in decades. In the words of Lieutenant Colonel Dr Nik Mohd Noor Nik Amin, Commander of the Second Medical Battalion which brought volunteer doctors to the flood scene, the flood was "a disaster on the same level as a tsunami".

The parolees and also those serving community service sentences such as the Compulsory Attendance Order voluntarily cleaned not only the affected parole offices, but also extended their help to affected families. This included clearing mud, repairing affected houses, clearing debris and providing clean water for the affected families. It was truly a heartwarming and satisfying

moment for both prison officers and the parolees, as they experienced the gratitude of the affected community. Indeed, this volunteering experience has taught parolees the importance of building strong bonds within the community and helping each other in times of need. May this encounter go a long way towards inculcating good values in the parolees.





Vanguard of Rehabilitation beyond Prison Walls

Contributed by Singapore Prison Service

Community corrections in the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) have evolved over developments the vears. main could be traced through changes in the legislative framework which introduced and expanded various rehabilitation initiatives in the community over the last 15 years.

In 2000, the Prisons Act was amended to introduce Home Detention scheme for low risk offenders to successfully reintegrate This complemented society. Work Release Scheme which was already in place. The Selarang Park Community Supervision Centre and Community Based Interventions Branch were established in 2009 to carry out post release supervision and rehabilitation work in the community.

2010, the Criminal Procedure Code amendments included the introduction of Community Based Sentences such as the Day Reporting Order (DRO) for first time low risk offenders as a diversionary measure. DRO was subsequently implemented in 2011. The Enhanced Supervision Scheme (ESS) was implemented in 2012 for repeat drug offenders with high risk of re-offending upon their release to enhance their aftercare support and improve reintegration.

The Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS) is a compulsory structured aftercare regime that aims to facilitate successful reintegration through intensive rehabilitation programmes incare phase and structured community supervision and rehabilitation in

Key Milestones

2000/2004

2009

2011

2012

2014

Amended Prisons Act

- Community Base Programmes Home Detention
- Halfway House
- Complement existing Work Release Scheme

Set Up

- Selarang Park Community Supervision Centre (SPCSC)
- CPC amendments on Community Based Sentences
- Day Reporting Order

Set Up

Correctional Rehabilitation Services Branch (Community)

Amended Prisons Act

- Conditional Remission System
- Mandatory Aftercare Scheme

Implemented

- Community Rehabilitation Centre
- Enhanced Drug Rehab Regime

Set Up

COMC



the aftercare phase. In 2014, the Prisons Act was amended to implement the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme and Conditional Remission System. In the same year, SPS established the Community Corrections Command (COMC) to better help ex-offenders reintegrate into society after their release by strengthening aftercare support and enhancing their rehabilitation under statutory provisions.

Purpose of Community Corrections Command

The mission and purpose of COMC is spelt out below:

- Sharpen SPS's Throughcare effort in the community to reduce re-offending
- Ensure effective supervision and rehabilitation in the community
- Together with community partners, help offenders reintegrate successfully back into society as contributing citizens.

Operationalisation of COMC

COMC oversees the DRO and various Community Based Programmes (CBP) for adults and young offenders. An overview of

the programmes under COMC is shown in the following table:

	Upstream	Halfway care	Post-Release
Adult Offenders	Community Based Sentences Day Reporting Order	Community Based Sentences • Home Detention Scheme • Work Release Scheme • Halfway House Scheme • Residential Scheme • Release on Licence	Community Based Sentences Mandatory Aftercare Scheme Enhanced Supervision Scheme Enhanced Drug Rehabilitation Regime
Young Offenders	• Community Rehabilitation Centre	• Release on Supervision	• Enhanced Drug Rehabilitation Regime

COMC manages around 1,500 supervisees in the community daily. These supervisees are made up of those on Day Reporting Order, in the Community Rehabilitation Centre, undergoing CBP, and on the Enhanced Supervision Scheme. With the operationalisation of MAS, the number of offenders undergoing supervision and rehabilitation in the community is projected to increase to approximately 3,500 in the steady state.

Key Roles of COMC

COMC consists of uniformed officers and Correctional Rehabilitation Specialists who are proficient in case management.

Supervision • Enforce supervision conditions • Maintain strict level of surveillance and discipline • Scheduled reporting sessions • Conduct home/worksite visits • Ensure adherence to electronic tagging • Phone reporting, phone checks Surprise urine tests Rehabilitation • Determine appropriate interventions to support inmates' and supervisees' reintegration needs • Identify issues/challenges (family, financial, addiction etc) • Make referrals to community resources (Family Service Centres, CARE (Community Action for Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders) Network partners etc) • Inculcate a sense of responsibility • Encourage supervisees to contribute back to society as useful citizens through engaging them in community service activities • Front Yellow Ribbon Community Project **Aftercare** • Decentralised Case Management • Interface with CARE Network

Reintegration Officers, who are uniformed officers, take up the role of enforcing mandatory conditions to aid supervisees in leading a pro-social and law-abiding life. The specialists are the lead case workers for

supervisees and they conduct counselling and casework to help offenders reintegrate back into the community.

Journey towards Desistence: Community Partners

As COMC operates in the community, it works closely with the CARE (Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders) Network and community partners, law enforcement agencies and volunteers. The CARE Network, which comprises of both government and community agencies, coordinates efforts between agencies to provide a seamless transition between incare and aftercare.

Moving Ahead

The coordination with the community partners, law enforcement agencies and volunteers are essential in helping the offenders successfully reintegrate back into society. COMC will continue to engage community partners and its involvement in rehabilitation work beyond prison walls will continue to grow. Working together with a wide range of partners, SPS aims to realise its Vision of a society without re-offending.





Collaborations with the Community to Enrich the Work in Offenders' Rehabilitation

Contributed by Thai Department of Corrections

rehabilitation is one Prisoner of the key missions of the Thai Department of Corrections, so that offenders can return to the society as contributing citizens. The Department provides rehabilitation prisoners during their imprisonment term, all the way till their eventual release into the community. The collaboration with community and external agencies will allow the offender to continue on his rehabilitation journey even after his release from prison.

The Thai Department of Corrections cooperates with agencies in the public and private sector to ensure successful reintegration of ex-offenders. The Department has affirmed their collaboration with the following agencies through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- The Department of Skill Development
- The Department of Employment
- The Department of Social Development and Welfare
- The Department of Local Administrations
- The National Municipal League of Thailand
- The Sub-district Administration Organization Association of Thailand
- The Provincial Administration Organization Council of Thailand
- The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
- The Department of Corrections

These nine agencies play an important role through the provision of support by social workers, psychologists, social developers for



Thai Department of Corrections working together with representatives from other local administration agencies, community partners and ICRC

ex-offenders in the community. There are currently about 70,000 ex-offenders who benefit from these programmes and support.

In addition, there is also collaboration with other agencies to support offenders with their educational and developmental pursuits. The Thai Department of Corrections has signed a MOU with the Ministry of Education to provide higher education for

offenders. Prisoners can take classes within prisons and continue with their degree upon their release into the community. The Thai Department of Corrections has also signed an MOU with the Vocational Education Commission. In so, ex-offenders who are interested in vocational training can continue with their vocational degree and training in their own communities upon their release.







Special thanks to the inmates at MMH for their dedication and commitment in the design and layout of this newsletter.

