

APCCA

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**'Pups in
Prison'
Program**

**The First
Children's Day
in Macao Prison**

**Social
Work
Partnerships
in Corrections**

**Youth Justice
Transformed in
Western
Australia**

**Bridging the Gap:
SPS' Volunteers
and Community
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**THE
STORY OF
YUAN
LING HU**

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Foreword

A prison system cannot exist in isolation. Increasingly, APCCA countries have begun to see the value in engaging the community as partners in inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration. As seen in the articles in this edition, the community can be a resource multiplier, increasing inmates' reintegration potential.

The benefits from partnership with the community are not confined solely to the correctional service. As seen in some of the articles, the community also benefits. For instance, in China, an ex-inmate had given back to the community by participating in charities and imparting his skills to others. In Australia, inmate trainers in the "Pups in Prison" programme benefited the community by training dogs to be companions to people with physical disabilities.

I would like to thank the APCCA members who have contributed to this issue of the APCCA newsletter. It is heartening to know that our members, although coming from different backgrounds and cultures, recognise the value of reaching out to the community to bring about lasting change to ex-inmates.



Soh Wai Wah, Director of Prisons,
Singapore Prison Service

Social Work Partnerships in Corrections

Contributed by: Thailand Department of Corrections



Apart from keeping prisoners in custody in accordance with the penal sentences imposed by the court, another key responsibility of the Department of Corrections is to provide appropriate rehabilitation so as to return suitable rehabilitated citizens to the community as well as to prevent ex-prisoners from re-offending. However, the Department itself is unable to attain success without the cooperation and support of the external community.

Underscoring the importance of community engagement, Thailand Department of Corrections initiated the "Social Work Partnership in Corrections" project in 2006. This project aims to encourage the community to deliver support services to prisoners, especially the ones who are nearing their release date, to help them start their new lives and earn a living upon release.

In January 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Department

of Corrections and seven public agencies, namely, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Department of Local Administration, Department of Employment, Department of Skill Development, Provincial Administration Organisation of Thailand, the Municipal League of Thailand and Sub-District Administration Organisation of Thailand. Cooperation on issues regarding the prisoner's welfare services for the duration of the pre and post release periods



were indicated in the MOU. Subsequently, several prisons and correctional institutions have also signed MOUs with sub-district administration organizations, such as the Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons and the Christian Prison Ministry Foundation to promote social work services for prisoners.

Under the aforementioned MOUs, various tasks and activities have been allocated for the community and prison partners. They are as follows:

Tasks and activities to be undertaken by non-prison agencies in the partnership:

- Taking part in a prison committee, i.e. Prisoner Classification Committee

- Subsidising prison facilities in terms of budget and essential items, i.e. sport equipment
- Delivering welfare for disabled persons, i.e. national insurance card for disabled prisoners
- Offering lecturers and expertise for training courses

Tasks and activities to be undertaken by prison agencies in the partnership:

- Supplying labour for public works
- Hosting sport-friendly competitions
- Conducting talks about prisons in schools
- Showcasing musical performances by prisons in the community

When the penal sentence of an inmate is completed, prison authorities will forward the prisoner's records to local administration agencies who will use that information to render appropriate help and support to the prisoner in the areas of employment and education.

"Social Work Partnerships in Corrections" is regarded in Thailand as an outstanding and successful project which encourages the community to engage in correctional works. Since 2006, initiatives arising from the "Social Work Partnerships in Corrections" project have been conducted in 125 prison facilities and 1,005 partnership agencies nationwide.

“Pups in Prison” Program

Contributed by: Tasmania Prison Service

Tasmania Prison Service officially launched ‘Pups in Prison’ Program on 11 February 2010. It is the first program of its kind in Tasmania although it has been successfully implemented in a number of prison facilities throughout Australia. The program is run by Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison and Assistance Dogs Australia.

Assistance Dogs Australia was established as a non-profit organisation for charitable purposes in August 1996. It trains and maintains dogs in community settings to help people with physical disabilities achieve a greater level of independence. The organisation provides this service to the physically disabled community free-of-charge.

The main focus is on enhancing the quality of life for people with physical disabilities. Being able to perform tasks with the help of an Assistance Dog leads to greater self-esteem, which is vital to all human beings.

There is a significant need in the Australian community for this type of service. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1998 (Disability, Aging, Carers; Summary of Findings, Document No. 4430.0), 15% (2.8 million) of the Australian population were restricted in one or more core activities. Core activities include :

- Self Care – bathing or showering, dressing, eating, using the toilet and managing incontinence;
- Mobility – moving around at home and away from home, getting into or out of bed or chair, and using public transport; and
- Communication – understanding or being

understood by others, including family, friends and strangers.

‘Pups in Prison’ Program first commenced eight years ago in the Kirkconnell Correctional Centre, following which it was launched in Junee Correctional Centre (NSW) a year later and the Darling Downs Correctional Centre (Queensland) in February 2007. Fulham Correctional Centre



(Victoria) launched a similar program in May 2009. Similar programs have been running in the US and UK for over ten years benefiting the Assistance Dogs organisation, participating inmates and correctional centres. Experience in correctional centres where the program operates shows the inmate participants lavishing a great deal of love and care on their dogs and doing an exceptional job with their training. The benefits to the dogs are that they receive the inmate trainers' undivided attention. The participants benefit by learning what it means to be trusted and told that they can succeed at a difficult and important task. They come to know what it means to give back to the community, rather than simply taking from it, while gaining tangible skills and an outlet to both give and receive love. This type of program also gives inmate trainers the opportunity to learn valuable pet industry-related vocational skills, which they can use to find employment when they resume their lives outside of the correctional centre.

Assistance Dogs Australia's experiences show that the success rate for puppies being raised through correctional centres is on par with the 50 percent success rate achieved with the conventional volunteer puppy raisers within the community. This provides a great sense of job satisfaction for the volunteer inmates and provides the organisation with exceptional Assistance Dogs to be placed with disabled people.

Three Labrador puppies in training have been "sentenced to serve" 16 months in Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison in Tasmania. We are proud to

introduce the newest members of the Pups in Prison program: Tassie, the black beauty named by the students at the Risdon Vale Primary School; Tarkine, the handsome yellow male of the group named by the staff at the correctional centre and Freyci, a pretty little yellow puppy, named through a competition held on the ABC Radio. All three have been named after geographical places in Tasmania.

Seven inmates, correctional staff and volunteer dog trainers are now responsible for the seven-day-a-week training of the ten week old puppies, teaching them basic obedience commands, which they will one day use to give freedom and independence to people with physical disabilities. These tasks include opening and closing doors, picking up and dropping items and even paying the cashier at the shops.

The aim of the program is to reduce re-offending behaviour, giving the participants valuable work skills, such as communications skills and working as part of a team, while also increasing their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Tasmanian Prison Pups are now just over six months old and they are at the end of the 'kindergarten' stage one of their training. The Puppy Handlers are very devoted to the program. The Correctional Coordinator, Mark Stocks, states that the program has already resulted in many positive changes in the inmates as they have learnt to be more responsible, picked up parenting skills and learnt to show love and care. Our two volunteer trainers are regularly coming every week for their sessions and Tarkine, Tassie and Freyci are now doing an excellent job complying with

basic obedience commands like 'sit', 'stay', don't touch (for a treat), 'roll', 'drop', etc.

Community interest is gradually growing as the first donation cheque from representatives of 'Southern Masters Organisation', a non-governmental organisation, was handed in May 2010. Its representatives were highly impressed with the project and they are planning to provide ongoing financial support. The next cheque will probably be used to buy a little swimming pool so that the pups can be trained on how to retrieve objects that have fallen into water.

At night, the puppies are housed in crates in double cells refurbished for this purpose, along with their handlers. They are everyone's favourite and create a happy and friendly atmosphere within the whole facility. Toilet training has turned into a routine and is now completed. Puppy Raisers (along with the Correctional Officers involved) take the puppies approximately once per fortnight to their homes at this stage. During the first month, this was done every night. Both the puppy raisers and non-uniformed staff members get a positive reaction from the community when they take the puppies to public areas for socialising as a lot of curious questions are asked on each occasion.

The team is currently in the process of preparing and organising a number of visits with the Puppy Handlers to the local primary school and Community Neighbourhood Centre, which have been involved since the initial stage of the program's implementation and preparation. Other



organisations have also indicated interest in joining the program.

Included below are a number of articles provided by our partner Assistance Dogs Australia that clearly show the impact and benefit for the final beneficiaries, i.e., people from the community in need of these dogs:

The Tim and Roxy Story

The name on Tim McCallum's lips is definitely Roxy - the name of his Assistance Dog

and best friend.

Roxy helps Tim with everyday tasks that he can find difficult if not impossible to achieve, such as picking up all sorts of dropped items like his mobile phone or his keys, opening and closing of doors and pressing the button at the traffic lights. Roxy is also trained to alert bark if Tim needs help or falls out of his wheelchair.

"I never realised how important my independence was until I lost it after my accident. Assistance

Dogs Australia has given it back through a beautiful Labrador named Roxy," Tim said.

In 1999, Tim was chosen as one of eighteen talented performers to attend Australia's leading performing arts university, the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), where actors like Hugh Jackman and Heath Ledger studied. However, just days before he was set to begin his course at WAAPA, a swimming accident at a local Perth beach left him a quadriplegic.

Since his accident, Tim's resilient character and spirit have touched the hearts of many. He rehabilitated and returned to the stage to continue pursuing his dream of a performing career and is now set to audition for a role in Cirque du Soleil. His biggest fan is Roxy, who often appears with him on stage. "Roxy is the 50/50 dog - 50% of what she does are the physical tasks she's been trained to help me with; the other 50% is the companionship. She's a complete wonder dog," Tim said. "Roxy is my best friend and I know that I cannot achieve the things I want to in life without her help and companionship."

Roxy was raised as part of Assistance Dogs Australia's Pups in Prison Program, in Kirkconnell Correctional Centre near Bathurst and is Tim's second Assistance Dog. Buster, Tim's first Service Dog, is now retired and living out his golden years with Tim's parents.

"Assistance Dogs Australia has provided me with the most invaluable life tool I could possibly need. They don't ask for anything in return. They will never know how grateful I am for the gift they have given me," Tim said.

The Tanya and Harry Story

Twelve years ago, at the age of 19, Tanya Clarke was involved in a road accident, which left her a quadriplegic, who uses a wheelchair, with limited arm movement and no hand function.

Tanya has her own wheelchair-accessible unit in the backyard of her parents' house, with an intercom for communication. Then, a new helper arrived in January 2001 in the form of Harry, Tanya's Assistance Dog.



As Tanya says, "Harry came into my life and made a huge difference to my level of independence. For the first time since my accident, my quality of life has improved a great deal."

Harry helps Tanya around the house. Owing to her disability, she is always dropping things, such as her hairbrush, mobile phone and remote controls. Harry often only has to hear something drop and he comes to the rescue, retrieving the item and returning it to Tanya. So Tanya's mother is saved a lot of time and effort running from house to house. And if Tanya gets into trouble and cannot access her intercom, she gets Harry to speak. Her family knows that if they hear Harry bark, she needs their help. "And for the first time, I can get out of my own front door because Harry can open it for me! I can now

come and go independently without parental assistance, which makes such a difference."

The other interesting thing that Tanya has noticed is that before she got Harry, she tended to be invisible to the people around her - they bumped into her or even walked over her.

Now when she is out with Harry, people notice both of them and they offer to help. She meets a lot more people as they stop to talk. She is no longer invisible.

Tanya is employed in the field of website design and development, having completed two diplomas after her accident. In the evenings, Harry and Tanya go to the movies, concerts, nightclubs and the theatre. With Harry accompanying her, she is approached by more people who are more comfortable in making

eye contact with her, which means a lot to Tanya.

As Tanya says, "Harry has improved my independence, my quality of life and the way I feel about myself. He is also my companion and the very best friend anyone could ever wish for."

The Morgan and Yoda Story

She may not be a Jedi master like her namesake, but five year old Morgan Bucco's companion dog, Yoda, is a different kind of hero and gives Morgan a paw to hold.

Yoda is there for Morgan everyday, helping him pick things up and brightening up his day with just a wag of her tail. Yoda opens the door to a new independent life for Morgan. She takes care of him so his parents feel it is safe to let him play without their constant supervision.

"She [Yoda] has absolutely changed Morgan's life. He's got someone just for him and he loves having Yoda approach him for cuddles," Morgan's mum, Jennie, said. "When he's wheeling around outside or playing, Yoda is always following him. They are very much a team."

Yoda is Morgan's best friend but she also helps him improve his motor skills and his speech as he is constantly talking to her. Yoda and Morgan do everything together, even going on holidays.

Story of an Inmate Puppy Raiser at Borallon Correctional Centre

"For the first time in years, it has allowed us to show softness, tenderness and affection. Caring for these dogs has helped us rekindle certain feelings and emotions, lighten up and bring a



little more humanity into our lives.

'Instead of taking from society, it [the Pups in Prison Program] provides us with an opportunity to actually give back. From criminal to contributor.'

'It [the Pups in Prison Program] has a win-win-win-win aspect to it. It will help us inmates, it will help Assistance Dogs Australia, it will help people with special needs and it will also help the prison environment, by improving self esteem and the empathy level among inmates, increase positive behaviours and moods, create

better relationships between staff and inmates and open up more opportunities for education, training and employment...'

'I know that at times this job is not easy but I also know that this will be one of the most rewarding things we will ever do. This shows in the interactions with [Assistance Dogs Australia's] trainers, our dedication to the dogs and the care we put into their training.'

'It will be rough when the time comes for the dogs to leave. But in spite of this heartache, I feel as though it will be well worth it.'

Bridging the Gap: SPS' Volunteers and Community Partners

Contributed by: Singapore Prison Service

In the midst of the sea of blue uniforms, familiar faces dressed in everyday civilian wear light up the inmates' day. These unassuming men and women from all walks of life enter our prison gates voluntarily, giving their time and often their hearts to offer our inmates a sense of hope while they are behind bars, and a helping hand to walk the straight and narrow path upon their release.

Singapore Prison Service's (SPS) vision to see inmates rehabilitated and reintegrated into society cannot be accomplished without our partners in the community. Religious organisations, voluntary welfare organisations and other community agencies, as well as individuals, provide invaluable support through the programmes and services that they offer to inmates and their families.

Our volunteer pool has grown from 124 to 1,420 over the last 10 years, while the agencies that we have partnered with have increased from a handful in 2003 to more than 30 currently.

Reforming inmates

Through the various volunteer programmes, such as religious services, counselling,



tutoring and other social or developmental activities, our dedicated volunteers motivate inmates to change for the better.

Ms May Hui, a volunteer befriender with Singapore Aftercare Association since 2002, has this to say about helping inmates to change, "Some return to prison because of a lack of positive family support, and for others, an inability to break away from bad habits and influences. This is why we reiterate the importance of finding a job upon release to give them an impetus to move forward

in their lives." May not only counsels but provides positive reinforcement and support to the ex-inmate as he re-settles himself in the community.

Extending a helping hand to inmates or ex-offenders is not without its challenges. With a changing inmate profile through the years, our volunteers also need to adapt and better equip themselves to meet the inmates' needs.

The Secretary of Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, Mr Haniff bin Abdul Razak, explained that drug addiction was not the

only challenge for their staff and volunteers these days. He said, "Their problems are more complex and we need to train volunteers to have multiple skill sets, so that they can work with both inmates as well as their families holistically."

Strengthening inmates' families

Recognising the need to engage families in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration, SPS has engaged Fei Yue Community Services and Morning Star Community Services to run Family Resource Centres (FRCs) since 2006. The FRCs serve as "first-stop" centres to provide support to families of inmates, with the aim of enhancing family resilience and, more importantly, to break

(Woodlands) Family Service Centre also conduct structured family programmes, such as marital and parenting

meeting these inmates, of the empty long halls and the loud banging sound of each closing door."



But the fruit of their work is rich reward for the hearts of these workers. "The satisfaction is, of course, the ability to help someone, and even when we can't provide tangible help, it's good that we can provide words of encouragement, to give them hope that they are not alone. That is what I find most fulfilling," says Morning Star's Ms Joanne Wang.

There may be a variety of reasons why these volunteers and community partners took their first steps into their chosen commitment, but one thing is certain – their reward is seen in the life of every rehabilitated ex-offender, and every broken family brought back together successfully. SPS is certainly grateful for these selfless men and women, who go beyond the ordinary and help to make the journey from prison back to their homes a more successful one for the ex-offenders.

the cycle of intergenerational offending. FRCs provide counselling services and where necessary, help link families to community or government agencies for further assistance.

Fei Yue and Care Corner

workshops, to improve relationships between inmates and their families. It is also not always smooth and easy for volunteers, as Ms Judy Chow, a Befriender at Fei Yue, explained, "When I first started, I felt a constant fear – of

Community Partnerships with Corrections : Enhancing Safety in Victoria, Australia

Contributed by: *Department of Corrective Services, Victoria*

Community Correctional Services (CCS) is a branch of Corrections Victoria, which is a business unit of the Victorian Department of Justice in Australia. Our mission is to deliver a safe and secure corrections system in which we actively engage offenders and the community to promote positive behavioural change in offenders.

The role of Community Correctional Services is to manage and facilitate the successful completion of community-based supervision orders imposed by a court or the Adult Parole Board. This role includes developing partnerships with community organisations so as to enable offenders to undertake unpaid work that benefits the community.



Offenders working on the Graffiti Removal Program

Such work serves a valuable way for offenders to repay the community for the harm or damage caused by their offending behaviour while also reconnecting with and reintegrating into the community. Below are descriptions of two projects involving community

partnerships being run through CCS in Victoria.

Graffiti Removal Program

Graffiti results in negative perceptions about safety in the community and it makes

common areas, such as parks, playgrounds and rail corridors, look unsightly. Thus, many local community organisations have identified the issue of graffiti management as a priority.

The Community Correctional



Offenders working on the Graffiti Removal Program

Services' State-wide Graffiti Removal Program (GRP) was established in November 2005 as a means to assist with the cleanup and beautification of metropolitan Melbourne prior to the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Due to the success of the program, it was expanded and extended until 2011, and preparations are currently underway to ensure its sustainability into the future.

The first priority was to link up with the local councils and convince them of the value of being involved with the GRP. Later, major infrastructure bodies, such as those responsible for rail and roads, were also approached and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the parties to enable the work to go ahead. In the last twelve months, meetings between the

various GRP-related partners in a geographical area have been convened to share results and issues that need to be addressed.

The Graffiti Removal Program has now established ongoing partnerships with 29 organisations across the state. These partnerships have been highly successful as a means to engage communities, educate the public, enable a swift response to unsightly graffiti in public areas and enhance perceptions of public safety.

These established partnerships with state and local agencies provide cleanup work to the offenders as well as the offender work team supervisors who provide supervision and safety practices and instruction to offenders to ensure that the

safety of the community, staff and offenders is maintained at the highest standard.

All agencies involved in the program have praised the initiative, commenting that the work teams have been very effective in removing graffiti from public assets. Offenders working on the program clean and maintain several types of areas, which include:

- Rail Corridors
- Travel Corridors
- Council Property, parks and gardens
- Property under the Department of Infrastructure & Crown Land
- Residential and small commercial-owned property

As of 30 April 2010, the Graffiti Removal Program reached a



Demonstration of Country Fire Authority car-cut rescue included in the Stop Start Program for young offenders.

milestone achievement of having removed 720,011.1 square metres of graffiti from approximately 1,500 sites across Victoria. This work was carried out by approximately 13,500 offenders contributing over 254,000 hours of community work.

Stop Start Program: Stop Risking Start Thinking

The 'Stop Start Program: Stop Risking Start Thinking' is a six-week road safety education and awareness program that was commenced through Community Correctional Services in the Southern Metropolitan Region, Victoria, Australia. At present,

the program is provided to offenders who have committed a driving offence. Designed to be educational rather than therapeutic, the Stop Start Program utilises existing community agencies to deliver interactive modules.

The program design, thus, allows Correctional Services' clients to engage in a positive context with various community agencies including Victoria Police, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Transport Accident Commission, Vic Roads, Country Fire Authority, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority and Road Trauma Support Services Victoria, all of

whom have partnered with CCS to deliver this program. Each weekly session entails a different focus topic, ranging from the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving, road trauma, to the work of emergency services personnel.

The impetus for the Stop Start Program was the alarming statistics on the incidence of serious injuries and fatalities arising from road collisions in the Southern Metropolitan Region, including the municipalities of Greater Dandenong, Casey, Cardinia Shire, Kingston, and Mornington Peninsula Shire. Further research by the Transport Accident Commission



Demonstration of Country Fire Authority car-cut rescue included in the Stop Start Program for young offenders.

Vic indicates that road crashes are the biggest killer of young people aged 16-25. In their first year of driving, young people are three times more likely to be injured or killed than older, more experienced drivers. Young drivers are more at risk because they lack driving experience and engage in risky behaviour on the roads. The tendency to take risks is part of being a young person, but for too many young people on the road, this results in death or serious injury.

In addition to the educational component of the program, the participants perform relevant community work, allowing them

to contribute to the community. This also provides an opportunity for them to further discuss their learning from the educational session. Throughout the Stop Start Program, community work tasks have included, but are not limited to, collecting information bags for the Road Trauma Awareness Seminar conducted by Road Trauma Support Services (Victoria and Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority).

The Stop Start Program was initiated and developed and is facilitated by a concerned Community Corrections Officer with the assistance of a fellow Community Corrections Officer.

They gained the support of their management to proceed with the idea, which they did in collaboration with the Team Leader of Community Safety for the City of Casey. The success of the Stop Start Program relied on the support of Southern Metropolitan Region management and the voluntary participation of the aforementioned community agencies. However, its success mainly arose from the drive and enthusiasm of one staff member who saw an opportunity to create a positive change and took action to 'make it happen', which is one of the values of the Victorian Department of Justice.

Parole in the Indonesian Correctional System

Contributed by: Directorate General of Corrections, Indonesia

Role of the Correctional System

Law No. 12/1995 on Correctional Institutions states that the role of the correctional system is to ensure that inmates realise their wrongdoing, improve themselves and do not repeat the crime so that they can be accepted back by society, play an active role in the development of the nation, and lead their lives as responsible individuals in their roles as family members and members of the public. Thus, the state should be able to build the personal capacity in lawbreakers in order to assist them to become a better person.

Reintegration into the community is paramount based on the law on Correctional Institutions. Unlawful behavior is seen as a symptom of a rift in the relationship between prisoners and society. Therefore, the risks and needs of prisoners must be addressed to repair the rift. Inmates must obtain the widest possible opportunity to socialise with the wider community and, at the same time, society must actively participate in and

provide support for the guidance of inmates as a form of social responsibility.

According to Clemens Bartollas (1985), exposing inmates to the community is very important as spending all of one's time in prison can result in their dehumanization. Thus, any attempt to address inmates' risks and needs should ideally allow for sufficient opportunity for the community and offenders to interact with each other. The hope is that inmates can, thus, internalize the positive values and norms that are prevalent in society.

Clemens Bartollas stated three basic assumptions underlying the reintegration model. First, the problems concerning the perpetrators of crimes must be dealt with together with the communities where they originated from. Second, the community has a responsibility towards the problems related to crime and community responsibility can be shown to encourage offenders to

comply with laws. So, society must provide the opportunity for offenders to develop law-abiding behavior and the perpetrators must learn to exploit these opportunities. The third assumption is that inmates' contact with the community will help to achieve the goal of reintegration so perpetrators must be brought closer to their normal roles as citizens, family members and workers.

Parole as a Means to Enable Inmates' Reintegration into Society

One of the rights of inmates, as stated in article 14 paragraph (1) of Law Correctional, is the right to be granted parole. This right can be used as a means to accelerate the process of reintegration of inmates into society. Inmates have the right to be granted parole after having served two-thirds of their sentence (a minimum of nine months).

The granting of parole is clearly stipulated in Government Regulation No.

32/1999 concerning the Terms and Procedures on the Implementation of Correctional Residents' Rights:

Article 43

(1) Every prisoner and juvenile, excluding civil juveniles, is entitled to be granted parole.

(2) Parole, which is referred to in paragraph (1), can be granted to prisoners and juveniles after they

have served at least two-thirds of their sentence with the provision that two-thirds of their sentence is no less than nine months.

(3) State juveniles can be granted parole after they have served at least one year of their sentence.

Article 44

(1) Granting parole, as referred to in Article 43, is stipulated by the Decree of the Minister upon

the recommendation of the Head of Correctional Institution.

(2) Parole may be revoked by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Head of Correctional Institution if provisions regarding parole are violated by the parolee.

In a period of five years, the number of prisoners, including juveniles, who were granted parole was as follows:

Table 1: Number of Prisoners and Juvenile to be Granted Parole

CATEGORY	YEAR				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	Jan-March 2010
Number of Prisoners and Juveniles Granted Parole	5,346	9,308	16,728	23,134	7,075
Total number of Prisoners and Juveniles in Indonesia	64,041	73,686	78,391	82,563	76,007

Source: Materials for Hearing Meeting Ministry Law of Human Rights with House of Representative of Republic of Indonesia Commission III

The above data shows that the number of inmates who are granted parole has increased significantly, especially since 2008. The increasing number of

inmates who are granted parole can be viewed in tandem with the Orderly Correctional Culture programme, which was initiated by the Director General of

Corrections on February 14, 2008. This programme aims to educate inmates on the guidance they can receive as well as the rules that they should adhere to.



Prisoners and children who are undergoing the criminal parole program (hereafter referred to as correctional clients) also receive guidance from Community Advisor Officers in the Parole Board. The objective of this guidance is to help correctional clients establish positive relationships with their families and communities. This is based on the premise that if the correctional client no longer has a strong affinity with the community and relationships with the family are strained, and he/she does not receive any guidance, there is a greater likelihood that he/she would re-offend.

Guidance for correctional clients is provided for in article 45 of Government Regulation No. 32/1999 concerning the Terms and Procedures on the

Implementation of Correctional Residents' Rights:

(1) Guidance for prisoners, juveniles, and state juveniles who were given Parole will be provided by the Parole Board.

(2) Guidance, referred to in paragraph (1), shall be provided either individually or in groups, on a regular and continuous basis.

In carrying out the supervision, the Community Advisor Officers must coordinate with the Attorney General, the District Court, Indonesian National Police, local government, and local community leaders.

While every parolee is entitled to receive guidance, not every district in Indonesia has a Parole Board. As of 2010, 70 Parole Boards

are spread across Indonesia. The number of Parole Board officers is also limited - approximately around 877 people. This number is not commensurate with the number of correctional clients who need to be given guidance.

The Community Advisor Officer may file for the revocation of parole rights if the correctional client:

- Re-offends;
- Leads an irregular life and causes unrest in society; or
- Shows no determination to work or study.

When parole is revoked:

- The correctional client will not be counted as a criminal during the periods he/she was outside prison; and

Table 2: Revocation of Parole

REASON FOR REVOCATION OF PAROLE	No. of Inmates whose Parole was Revoked		
	2008	2009	2010
Commision of Crime	29	82	43
Violation of special requirements	-	7	3
Getting another lawsuit	-	2	1
Did not notify the Parole Board	-	1	-
Total	29	92	47

• In the first year after his/her parole was revoked, the correctional client will not be eligible for remission, pre-release treatment, or leave to visit family.

However, it cannot be denied that it takes a long time to proceed from filing for revocation to the actual revocation of parole. This is because the approval of the Minister must be sought to revoke parole. The Community Advisor Officer has no authority to carry out forceful measures, such as re-admitting correctional clients into the penitentiary if they violate any of the parole program requirements. Thus, few correctional clients who violate parole terms are brought back to the correctional institutions, unless the police arrest them

for committing another crime. Ideally, though, it is hoped that the Parole Board officer can take appropriate action in a timely manner if the parole requirements have been violated by the correctional clients.

Conclusion

Every prisoner and juvenile has the right to be granted parole, which enables them to enjoy the opportunity to integrate with the community. During the period of parole, inmates can also receive guidance from the Community Advisor Officer.

Strengthening the role of the Community Advisor Officer is a matter of urgency. The Community Advisor Officer should be sufficiently competent. In addition, the

authority of the Community Advisor Officer should be institutionalised. The authority of the Community Advisor Officer plays a strategic role in supporting the effectiveness of the guidance given.

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Youth Justice Transformed in Western Australia

Contributed by: Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia

In recent years, young people in regional Western Australia (WA) have faced a dire social justice environment.

Crimes committed by young people in many regional areas were escalating, forcing the Police and other agencies to take a harder line to fight the tide of youth offending.

However, Police and the courts had few tools at their disposal. They could choose to issue a caution, which many saw as little more than a slap on the wrist. Alternatively, Police could arrest the young person and take them into custody, which often involved transporting the young person hundreds of kilometres to Rangeview Remand Centre, the State's only juvenile remand facility in metropolitan Perth.

Prior to 2008, 95% of all young people at Rangeview Remand Centre were housed there without a conviction, with more than half of those placed on remand due to difficulties in locating a responsible adult to provide bail.

The State's young Aboriginals were at greater risk as they were being diverted far less than non-Aboriginal youth. The result was that young Aboriginals in various



WA regions' were being 'fast tracked' to serious consequences in the youth justice system.

In late 2008, the Western Australia Department of Corrective Services introduced a suite

of youth justice services to the Goldfields and Mid-West Gascoyne regions. These services were aimed at reducing the high number of young people in these regions being remanded into custody in Perth.

The **Regional Youth Justice Services (RYJS)** was created to offer diversionary options across the offending spectrum and provide a greater choice of social justice for the two regions. It comprises three key services:

The **Youth and Family Support Service (YFSS)** works with families when young people first show signs of anti-social behaviour, which if unchecked, could lead to more serious offending. The YFSS meets with families in their own homes to discuss the issues which may be contributing to the young person's behaviour. Staff may continue to meet and talk with the family or refer them to other agencies which can provide assistance. The service helps to stop the young person's behaviour from escalating by empowering families to manage their own issues.

The **Youth Bail Service** provides a dedicated workforce to help young people access bail so as to prevent them from being placed in custody unnecessarily. Staff use local knowledge and networks to locate responsible adults to bail out young people who are deemed eligible for bail by the Courts. The service also offers emergency bail accommodation which provides a safe place for young people to stay should staff exhaust all other options to locate a responsible adult willing to bail out the young person.

The **Juvenile Justice Teams (JJTs)** now provide the Police and Courts with a rigorous and credible alternative to sentencing young people. JJTs provide a less formal, but equally confronting, way of holding young people accountable for their actions. JJTs work with the young person, and often the victim of their crime, to



develop action plans to remedy the harm they have caused. In most cases, the young person completes their action plan with a greater awareness of the damage caused by their actions.

In addition to the initial suite of services, the RYJS has introduced a number of innovative local solutions to make a positive difference in the lives of the young people they work with.

One such program is the '**Back**

to Land – Back to Culture' program where Aboriginal staff take groups on short camps to share new experiences, provide families with respite and encourage pro-social behaviour. These camps are often the first time that these young people have been on any kind of excursion or holiday away from their homes. They also provide staff a chance to provide intensive mentoring to these young people.

'Getting Plastered' is another program developed in direct response to several young people facing eviction from state-funded housing due to the damage they had caused to the property. With homelessness having strong links to offending, staff felt that they needed to intervene to prevent eviction and worked with the young people to repair their own homes. The program has proven very successful in preventing eviction and has also given the young people valuable pre-employment skills.

Staff from the Goldfields Youth Justice Service have also been running a regular show on Tjuma Pulka Aboriginal radio station which provides parenting advice and strategies to listeners.

Since inception, the services and programs have proven to be very successful. The strengthening of the Juvenile Justice Teams has seen increased numbers of Police referrals, freeing up the time of the Court. More JJT plans have also been implemented.

The communities are also benefiting through reductions in youth offending, and through the enhancement of young people's potential to be useful and contributing members of society.

The success of this initiative led to a realignment of Youth Justice Services in the Perth metropolitan area during 2009, and the Department was recently granted \$43 million to expand the services into the Pilbara and Kimberley regions in the State's north



over the next two years.

In the long term, it is hoped that these prevention and diversion

justice services will help to reduce the disadvantage experienced by WA's most marginalised communities.



Repurposed facility leads to rehabilitation

Over the past year, the Western Australian Department of Corrective Services has been refurbishing an old custodial facility in Caversham located adjacent to the Swan Valley's viticulture industry. 'Riverbank' initially opened in May 1960 and operated as a juvenile detention centre for approximately 35 years. From 1998 to 2002, the site operated as a maximum-security prison for intellectually impaired adult male offenders.

In May this year, the Department reopened the facility as a centralised location for people on

community-based orders. Work parties have been carrying out grounds and asset maintenance on a weekly basis.

Riverbank will offer offenders serving custodial and community sentences training for vocational skills (catering; painting techniques; metalwork; landscaping) and life skills through community work activities, all of which improve rehabilitation and employment potential.

Registered training organisations have been assisting in the refurbishment, allowing offenders to comply with community work orders while achieving

professional training and certification of participation. The craft and woodwork workshops are now operational and the production of charity items has commenced onsite.

In the longer term, the Department aims to establish a model of best practices in community reparation and community development, while growing community partnerships that offer opportunities for offenders to re-engage in the community. It is essential for the community to partake in the reparation and rehabilitation of sentenced and community-based offenders.

THE STORY OF YUAN LING HU

Yuan Ling Hu, 60 years old, was sentenced to 8 years in Shanghai's Zhou Pu Prison for commercial crimes. During his incarceration, he took part in painting and calligraphy training and through art, he found his spiritual anchor. Though he faced numerous obstacles upon his return to the society, he dealt with his problems in a legal, fair and reasonable manner. This helped him to regain his confidence and fighting spirit, paving the way for self-renewal. He set up his painting and calligraphy shop, 'Qing Ya Ge', and through his art, he became an independent and law-abiding citizen.



Change of aggressive and temperamental attitude by engaging in painting and calligraphy training in prison.

In September 2002, Yuan Ling Hu reached the lowest point of his life when he was incarcerated. As he could not adapt to the abrupt switch from being a free man to the strict regime within prison, he felt anguish, loss and anxiety. To compound his depression, his wife divorced him, his previously blissful family life shattered in an instant. Furthermore, his aging parents had to sell their family home to pay off his debts, and spent their days in a nursing home. The resulting anxiety had also induced senile dementia in his mother. At that time, Yuan Ling Hu was pessimistic and had lost all hope. His heart felt like a shriveled leaf in winter. His anguish and frustrations made him extremely sensitive to provocation and he would throw tantrums for no apparent reason. Very often, he would quarrel or fight with other inmates, and gained notoriety and the nickname 'Gunpowder'. Once, when he was washing up, he fought with an inmate over a trivial matter and bashed the victim's head with a wash basin. Consequently, he was handcuffed and put into solitary



confinement. Attempts to help him change and reform in the first few years of incarceration was difficult. Even though prison officers had allowed him to undergo different forms of education and psychological counselling, his inability to change his attitude and face reality had made his reform especially difficult.

In early 2005, the prison employed a professional painting and calligraphy teacher to start an art class. The officer-in-charge thought of Yuan Ling Hu, and in an attempt to help the latter change his mindset, temper and emotions, recommended him for the art class. Yuan Ling Hu decided to give it a try and took part in the class. At that time, he did not have any foundation in calligraphy or painting, and initially did not take the class seriously.

At the end of the year, while preparing for the inmates' art exhibition, the teacher gave assignments to all the inmates in his class except him. Yuan Ling Hu felt upset and wanted to quit. When a fellow student found out about it, he offered the task of finishing a silk painting to Yuan Ling Hu. While Yuan Ling Hu was considering the offer, he overheard another student

sarcastically mention that letting him draw would be a waste of art materials. Hearing this deeply provoked him. Unsatisfied at being looked down on, he strived to prove his detractors wrong. That night, Yuan Ling Hu tossed and turned in bed resolving that nothing would be impossible if he put his heart in it. As long as he was serious, he believed that nothing was unachievable. He vowed that he would take as long as it was required to finish the painting. Yuan Ling Hu immersed himself into the art of calligraphy and painting. After much effort, he finally completed his art piece. Looking at his first art achievement, he felt pleased. Upon inspection, the teacher commended Yuan Ling Hu on the spot, saying that the latter had a special talent. That was the happiest moment for Yuan Ling Hu since his incarceration, and the feeling was indescribable. His art piece won the 2nd prize at the art exhibition and went on to represent Zhou Pu Prisons in the State Prisons Art Exhibition.

From then on, Yuan Ling Hu seemed to have found a new lease of life; he wore an ever present smile and got along with other inmates. His 'Gunpowder' persona vanished and he did not get into quarrels or fights.

He mentioned that by learning calligraphy and painting, he was profoundly influenced by the art. His thinking became more open-minded and he was less impulsive. In day to day matters, the changes in his thinking and perception transformed his view of current circumstances, and his hot temperament vanished into thin air. With the encouragement of the prison officers, Yuan Ling Hu's confidence grew, and he sought a personal breakthrough in calligraphy and painting. He learnt the intricacies of the different forms of painting, such as flowers, birds, mountains, portraits and calligraphy. In 2006, he became an outstanding student in the art and calligraphy class.

The difficulties of reintegration and the use of art and calligraphy to seek a renewed life

In June 2007, Yuan Ling Hu was released on supervision. He was overwhelmed by the massive changes that Shanghai city had undergone while he had been in prison. His house in Huang Pu district had become a new road. His wife had returned to Canada after their divorce and had taken all their shared assets including the money from the sale of their property, leaving nothing for him. Without his wife and home, he could only temporarily stay at his sister's house in the Xu Hui district, which was put up for sale. Without a registered residence, he could not apply for an identity card, social security card or receive unemployment welfare. He was despondent.

In the past, he would have cared less about such things. However, after years of practicing calligraphy and painting in prisons, he could



now exercise more self-control. After leaving prison, he made a written promise to use legal and proper methods to deal with any problems he faced. Hence, he persistently went to district offices, regional jurisdictions, police branches and other relevant authorities to seek help. Finally, he met with the Huang Pu District Police Chief of Bureau, and through an appeal, managed to register using his previous residence. Not long after, a Huang Pu district volunteer, Xiao Zhang, contacted Yuan Ling Hu, and with the help of the "Society Rectification Organisation", he managed to apply for his medical insurance, unemployment welfare and resolve his other problems. Although he did not have a registered address

during his period of supervision, Yuan Ling Hu remained steadfast, reporting regularly to the Society Rectification Organisation and taking part in the volunteers' cognitive education and supervision.

With his basic needs fulfilled, work soon emerged as a problem. As Yuan Ling Hu was advanced in age, the recruitment center could not find a suitable job for him. He also did not have the capital to set up a business. Fortunately, the officers at Zhou Pu Prisons cared for him and sought the help of his calligraphy teacher to encourage him to make use of the skills learnt during his incarceration to become an independent entrepreneur and contribute to society. Yuan Ling Hu realized that if he wanted to make a living

through art and calligraphy, he would need to have a permanent workshop but steep rentals made this impossible. As luck would have it, his sister saw that his art was in demand and decided to postpone the sale of her house and turn it into a workshop for him. With the concern of and assistance from his prison officers, teacher, family and friends, he managed to open his calligraphy and painting workshop 'Qing Ya Ge'. From then onwards, he resolved to succeed and generate enough revenue to bring his parents back from the nursing home. Yuan Ling Hu put his heart and soul into his calligraphy and paintings.

At the end of 2007, his teacher informed him of a pending publication - the 'Handbook of



China's Calligraphy and Painting Artists' - by the Calligraphy and Painting Research Facility of China. He decided to send in two of his works, both of which were eventually selected. His art works were exhibited in Beijing and even appeared in the publication. He was also appointed as a life council member at the research facility. With an established reputation, there was a gradual increase in the number of clients. With a steady income from his art, Yuan Ling Hu finally settled down.

Just before Chinese New Year in 2008, he brought his parents

back from the nursing home and had a joyous reunion in time for the New Year. Since then, he took care of his aging parents in the day and practiced his painting at night. After a period of time, he felt he was unable to handle both responsibilities on his own, and would need the help of another. Yuan Ling Hu, through the recommendation of friends, took part in the Jing An district's Social Development Unit for the Elderly. He indicated that he wanted to find a life-long partner. His sincere attitude caught the attention of the members, and through their help, he met his current

wife, Madam Xu. After a period of dating, in which they got to know each other better, they became husband and wife. Madam Xu was especially kind, demure, and could endure hardships. She was especially supportive of his work. She became a housewife, taking on the responsibility of taking care of his aging parents and household matters. When Yuan Ling Hu's father was of ill health, she took care of him day and night till he passed away. Now, she puts her heart and soul in caring for his mother who is suffering from senile dementia and incontinence. By feeding, showering and washing his mother, his wife relieved Yuan Ling Hu of his worry and allowed him to concentrate fully on his calligraphy and paintings. Yuan Ling Hu's success was a result of his wife's support and assistance.

In 2008, Yuan Ling Hu's calligraphy and painting achieved a major breakthrough. In an exhibition that commemorated Mao Ze Dong's 115th birthday, Yuan Ling Hu's calligraphy work of Mao Ze Dong 'Six Plate Mountain' was sold for a high price. The buyer, a Taiwanese businessman, also brought many of his friends to purchase his calligraphy. Yuan Ling Hu's business started to boom and income from the sale of his works enabled his family to lead a comfortable life.

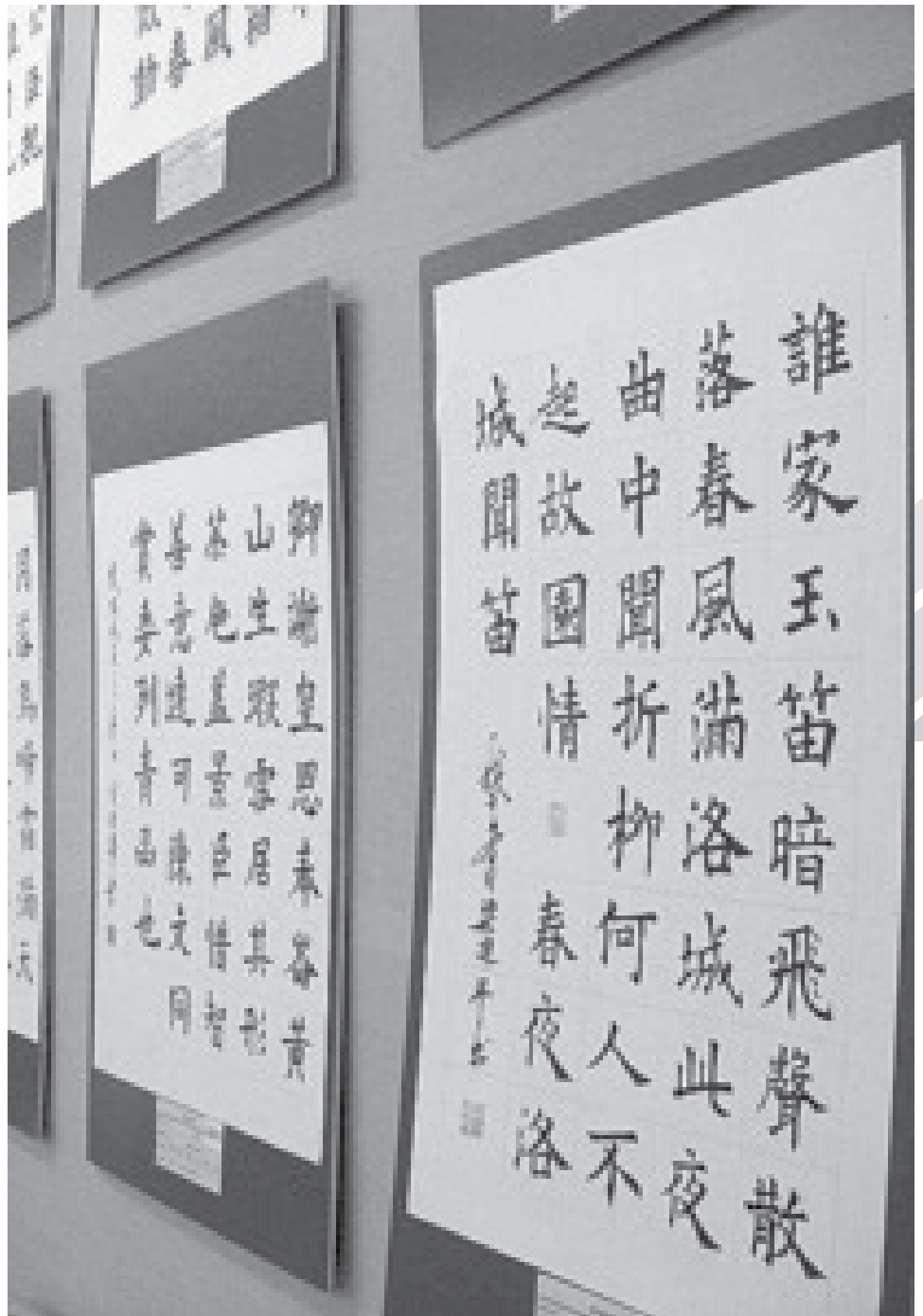
Expressing gratitude and returning the favor, taking part in charity events to give back to society and prison for their help and encouragement.

Yuan Ling Hu deeply felt that his independence and new lease of life was due to the help and care he received from society and the Prison Department. He

wanted to give back to repay the chances he had been given. Hence, he actively took part in charities and tried his utmost to do good deeds to honour the care and help rendered to him.

He joined Chang Qiao district's Yuan Nan Calligraphy and Painting Society, providing calligraphy and painting lessons for enthusiasts. At the same time, he collaborated with Wen Hui Press Holdings, Xu Hui district's Farmers Association, and Xu Hui's calligraphy and painting artists to establish the "Zhu Lao Ai Xin" workshop. In October 2008, he took part in the Shanghai International Art Festival Cultural Product show and gave a live demonstration of his painting skills to the community. In December, he cooperated with other artists from Shanghai to complete a drawing, 'Bai Hua Qi Fang Tu' at the Shanghai First Welfare Home. This painting was exhibited across different nursing homes in Shanghai. It garnered positive responses and was warmly welcomed by the elderly. In 2009, he took part in "Using Hands to Develop a New Life", a joint programme between the Prison Department and the Community Help and Educate Foundation.

Twice a year, Yuan Ling Hu visits different prisons to speak to more than 20,000 inmates about his experiences and challenges in reintegration into the community and how he overcame barriers to develop his career and became an independent and law-abiding citizen. Yuan Ling Hu mentioned that unlike in the past when he partook in illegal activities to achieve his goals and was constantly worried about getting caught, his current life is very



fulfilling and satisfying because it was the product of persistence and perseverance. He reflected that to be at peace with oneself, a person has to remain down-to-earth, be sincere and honest when doing business, not be greedy and not compare oneself against others. For a man to gain the respect of others, he has to take responsibility for himself and his family and be a useful person to his community.

Since Yuan Ling Hu's return to the community, he is grateful to the Prison Department for

reforming him and giving him a wonderful opportunity to learn and gain knowledge and skills, thus, establishing himself in the community. Following his release from prison, he has received plenty of education and assistance from various district offices and agencies. Not only did he start a new family, his life is also blissful and happy. He wishes to continue learning, improve the standard of his calligraphy and painting and carry on playing a role in the building of a harmonious society.

TV Variety Show - “Support Offender Rehabilitation for a Safer and More Inclusive Society” -

A Successful Experience of Community Engagement Activities in Hong Kong

Contributed by: Hong Kong Correctional Services



The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan-Lung (sixth from left); Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Kwok Leung-Ming (sixth from right) and other guests officiating the lighting ceremony of the Support Offender Rehabilitation show.

With support from 10 local non-government organisations (NGOs), charities and religious bodies, as well as the assistance from 18 District Fight Crime Committees across the territory, the Hong Kong Correctional Services (HKCS) staged a television variety show titled “Support Offender Rehabilitation for a Safer and

More Inclusive Society” in early 2010.

The show, officiated by Hong Kong’s Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC, was broadcast on local television channels on February 6, 2010 preceded by a series of five, one-minute broadcasts from February 1 to 5 to inform the public of the

changes in correctional work and the latest developments.

The show is part of a series of rehabilitation-related publicity events organised by HKCS. It, together with the series of one-minute broadcasts, was well received by the public. Over 870,000 locals watched the show on television while



Popular singer Miss Joey Yung performed with students at the show to spread the rehabilitation message through her songs.

nearly 700 community leaders, celebrities and heads of various organisations attended the variety show. To spread the message of rehabilitation further across the community, the variety show was uploaded on the Internet for public viewing. (Refer to http://www.csd.gov.hk/english/pub/pub_tv/pub_tv.html). Ten thousand

DVD copies of the variety show are also being produced for distribution to schools, NGOs, youth groups and other related bodies. The aim is to promote the acceptance of rehabilitated persons, which will ultimately help build a safer and more inclusive society.

Community acceptance and

support is of paramount importance to the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into society. The use of popular mass media as well as the collaboration between government departments and NGOs has proved to be an effective means for instilling and conveying the rehabilitation message across the community.

COMMUNITY - BASED SENTENCES AND ORDERS

Contributed by: New Zealand Department of Corrections

Community Probation Services (CPS) manages community-based sentences and orders and provides information to judges and the New Zealand Parole Board to aid in their sentencing and release decisions.

CPS is facing a big challenge as a result of the rapid increase in offenders serving community sentences over the last few years. This is largely the result of the new community sentencing regime introduced in October 2007, which resulted in a more robust set of community sentencing options for judges to use.

The community sentencing options available now are Home Detention, Intensive Supervision, Community Detention (electronically monitored curfews), Supervision and Community Work. When prison release orders are included, CPS manages nine different sentences and orders in the community.

In the 2009/10 financial year, CPS managed more than 115,000 offenders in the community, a significant increase from 72,000 in 2006/07 and 85,000 in 2007/08. Thus, at any one time, there will be around 40,000 people serving a sentence or order or out on parole in the



community – that's one in every 105 people in New Zealand.

The introduction of a wider range of community-based sentences has also resulted in greater administrative complexity, more

challenging offenders, and the need for more probation officers, support staff, equipment and resources.

More probation officers have been recruited to help



effectively manage offenders. This has been combined with a strong focus on staff training to ensure that probation officers have the necessary skills to meet their new responsibilities and carry out their duties effectively.

In the period since July 2003, the number of probation officers has increased from 500 to 1,265 and when community work supervisors (400), support staff, managers and head office staff are included, there is now around 2,300 staff working in CPS across 120 locations in New Zealand.

Apart from these measures aimed at addressing the challenges faced by CPS in the short term,

CPS has also embarked on a fundamental redesign of the way it operates. This is a three year Change Programme to design a new Integrated Practice Framework that will better fit and ensure greater achievement against the strands of its purpose, i.e., ensuring that offenders comply with their sentences/orders, reduce their likelihood of reoffending and minimise the risk of harm they present to others.

In March this year, the new Integrated Practice framework was implemented for parole. This new framework introduced 11 mandatory standards that staff must follow for every offender. In addition, staff will use a new assessment tool to identify the

dynamic risk an offender presents, and will then work within a supported decision framework to make sentence management decisions about each offender.

The focus here is very much on the offender. Time and effort are being directed towards those offenders who present the highest risk of re-offending and risk of causing harm to others.

In July, an updated Integrated Practice Framework for staff working with offenders on home detention and post-detention conditions was implemented.

The features of the new Integrated Practice Framework are that it very much focuses on



about what can work more effectively.

Another critical feature of the new approach is better targeting of time, effort and resources according to the risk each offender presents and not just according to the sentence the offenders are serving. A new assessment tool developed in Canada, jointly piloted in Canada and New Zealand, and now deployed in New Zealand, provides a measurement of the offender's dynamic (or changing) risk throughout their sentence. This, together with information about static risk will help probation staff make decisions as they manage the offender.

Finally, a position for Chief Probation Officer role has been established as part of the CPS senior management group, reporting to the General Manager. This role is responsible for practice leadership and together with the other senior management group members will provide direct support in the ongoing design of probation practice. The Chief Probation Officer will also review practices in specific cases, and when undertaking reviews of major incidents will report directly to the Department's Chief Executive on findings and recommendations.

The CPS Change Programme is well on its way to transforming the way probation delivers services in New Zealand. Its aim is to ensure better outcomes, particularly improvement to community safety by ensuring compliance of the sentence/order, a reduction in the likelihood of reoffending, and minimisation of the risk that hard offenders present to others.

staff doing the right thing at the right time for the right offender. It is very clear about what is mandatory, and it provides the necessary support for staff to make sound decisions. Staff are, thus, focusing more on the individual offender than on managing sentences.

Despite such a significant change, staff performance in managing parole has remained strong with 93% staff compliance with the new mandatory standards for parole in the first two months

(April and May 2010) following the implementation of the new Integrated Practice Framework.

The Integrated Practice Framework will continued to be built on over the next 18 months and the design changed as staff gain experience in working with it and input their feedback and ideas about the design they think will best support strong and effective practice. The key feature of the design process is that it is heavily based on input and ideas from frontline staff and managers blended with empirical evidence

The First Children's Day in Macao Prison

Contributed by: Macao Prison

To most people, a family gathering may sound like a typical affair. But it is a rare opportunity for inmates given how difficult it is for them to engage in the simplest gesture like hugging or kissing their children. In recognition of the importance of parent-child interaction in children's lives, Macao Prison held a Children's celebration on 30 May 2010 to provide a chance for the children of inmates to celebrate Children's Day with their parents. The date was in line with International Children's Day, which is celebrated in many countries on June 1.

A total of 16 children, aged from four to 12, participated on the day. Since big glass windows would prevent inmates and their children from having any form of physical contact during the regular visits, they cherished the Children's Day celebration as an opportunity to communicate in a non-prison setting. The day allowed them to chat without any physical barriers between them, cuddle and kiss similar to other parents and children living outside prison and quite unlike their typical communication via telecom devices.

The prison also arranged a series of programmes in the afternoon to fill the day with fun and enjoyment. First, clowns



The clowns and the magician entertain the audience with their antics and tricks

entertained the children with their jokes and comical actions. This was followed by a magic show, which received a rousing applause from the audience. In fact, our inmates played the role of the clowns and the magician. Furthermore, the prison arranged competitions on DIY photo frame making and sand painting and organised a riddle guessing game and music game.

Both the inmates and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout the day. More importantly, they had the rare opportunity to be in each

other's company after a long period of physical separation. One of the children even told the prison officials that the day had been the happiest Children's Day that he had ever experienced. Naturally, parents and children were reluctant to part when the day came to an end.

The innocent smile of the children is believed to be the biggest source of happiness for parents. A simple hug from one's child is believed to provide a big source of support to inmates. Most of the local newspapers, which published the news the following day, showcased the positive



A female inmate engages in sand painting with her child

parent-child interaction between the inmates and their children and emphasized the important role that family support plays in helping inmates reintegrate into the community.

We believe that such an opportunity as the Children's Day celebration, where parents and children get to interact in a relatively normal manner, can serve as a strong motivation for inmates to develop a positive attitude towards life and encourage them to change for the better. This kind of activity can help to fortify the parent-child relationship and thus, strengthen the family support available for inmates. Both are important elements for motivating the inmates to develop a greater determination to change as

well as encouraging them to make good use of their time in the prison, such as by studying, so as to enhance themselves

with valuable skills that can better prepare them for their reintegration into society after their release.



A female inmate kisses her son



MULTIMEDIA HUB
PRISON SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



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



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