



Newsletter of the Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators
www.apcca.org Issue No 35 | Sept 2013

Youth Offenders



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editor's note



As youth offenders are in the developmental phase of their lives, it is important that as their custodians, we take a vested interest in their rehabilitation needs to ensure that when these youth offenders are released, they will leave the prison as rehabilitated, law-abiding citizens who will contribute back to society. The articles within this edition of the newsletter provide us with an understanding of the different approaches currently adopted by APCCA members towards the rehabilitation of youth offenders.

In this edition, Australia Northern Territories has shared with us their successes from their Vocational Education Training programme in Food Processing. Hong Kong has given us insight on their "Shall We Talk" programme, which aims to boost community support through audio broadcasts produced by their young offenders. Following that, Solomon Islands has provided us with information on their programmes intended to provide inmates with life-skills. For the closing article of the newsletter, Fiji shares with us their focus on rehabilitation for inmates with the establishment of new facilities, FCORE and CARE with the intent on engaging the community and raising awareness.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards the APCCA members that have contributed the articles in this newsletter, which will allow us to learn from their experiences and improve upon our respective correctional systems. I look forward to your continued support in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

Soh Wai Wah
Singapore Prison Service



Australia Northern Territories Cooks a Storm in the Desert

Contributed by the Northern Territories Department of Correctional Services



About the Detention Centre

The Alice Springs Juvenile Detention Centre (ASJDC) in the Northern Territory of Australia in partnership with the Darwin's Charles Darwin University (CDU) is providing a Vocational Educational Training (VET) program in Food Processing (Baking) that provides real employment outcomes for sentenced youth post-release.

The centre was previously used for minimum security adults, but commenced operation for youth detainees on 27 March 2011. Prior to this time, detainees were transported more than 1500km north to the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre (DDJDC) in Darwin.

The ASJDC is a small centre, catering for up to 20 youths. In 2011 a purpose-built commercial kitchen became available. This commercial kitchen is situated within a transportable container that was relocated from the Taminmin High School in Darwin on a loan arrangement through the VET in Schools Programme to enable detainees to have the opportunity to gain skills in pastry, baking and food processing, whilst in detention. The kitchen container is used in conjunction with the Owen Springs Education Unit, run by the Territory's Education Department and classes are being delivered by CDU who flies an instructor down to Alice Springs every eight weeks for the purposes of practical kitchen work and Certificate I assessment.

About the Programme

The Certificate I in Food Processing is an introductory qualification with a specific focus on providing production assistance for baked products. The programme is delivered on site at the centre by a qualified educator from the Charles Darwin University. Students learn safe food handling, work practices and life skills. The programme provides the opportunity for detainees to gain work skills and kitchen operations experience.

Units of the course include safe food handling, environmentally sustainable products, operating equipment and work safety and preparation of basic mixes.

Detainees who complete the programme participate in a graduation programme where they receive a Certificate I in Food Handling. On release they can continue their studies towards becoming specialist pastry chefs or other food industry occupational choices. There is also flexibility in the programme whereby detainees who leave detention prior to completing the programme can continue their studies through the University.

Since commencing the programme in 2011, the programme has seen four full graduates, and to date approximately 30 partial completions. For one of those graduates a decision was taken not to transfer him to the adult prison following his 18th birthday so he



could complete the programme. A decision it seems that was visionary for this young person who went on to gain employment on release as a pastry hand in a bakery in Victoria.

To complement the kitchen, garden beds have been established where local produce will be grown by detainees. Education and training in horticulture is occurring on an ongoing basis and all detainees admitted to the centre are enrolled. This programme started in April 2013 and is a nationally recognised course called the Stephanie Alexander Horticulture Programme after a noted South Australian food expert. This in itself is an excellent programme, teaching the detainees the importance of growing and consuming healthy foods. The course is delivered by two qualified in-house instructors within the Owen Springs Education Unit.

Centre Manager Barrie Clee said that since the implementation of the programmes, most detainees that were admitted to the centre enjoyed the cooking and baking programmes. "They engage well with the instructors and are learning valuable new life skills" he said. "They are also given some tools that could enable them to engage in normal mainstream employment upon release. The eventual creativeness in their newly gained cooking skills is encouraging, and the engagement and interaction with delivery staff is at a high level. Overall I would rate both programmes as a definite success."





“Shall We Talk”: Radio Broadcasting Programme Produced by Young Persons in Custody of Hong Kong

Contributed by the Hong Kong Correctional Service Department



Hong Kong world champion racing cyclist Mr Wong Kam-po

Community support and offenders' responsivity and determination are undoubtedly among the crucial factors for the successful rehabilitation of offenders and the building of a safer and more inclusive society. In order to establish these factors for young offenders, the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (HKCSD) launched a youth broadcasting programme, “Shall We Talk”, to raise their desire

towards rehabilitation as well as to boost community support for their rehabilitation. The programme also invites guests, including leading members of the community and public role models, to share their experiences in successfully overcoming adversity and hardship. The HKCSD believes that through the concerted efforts of all parties concerned, a positive attitude towards life and an internal drive towards rehabilitation can be

built up and sustained among young persons in custody.

The programme was first launched by the HKCSD in 2011 and a series of audio shows has since been produced by young offenders at Pik Uk Correctional Institution under the guidance of the department's rehabilitation staff. The audio shows were edited into one-hour episodes featuring songs, interviews with guests, radio dramas and interest workshops. The programme was broadcasted in eight correctional institutions for young offenders, including Pik Uk Correctional Institution, fortnightly.

Assistance from non-government organisations (NGOs) and volunteers was essential to the success of the programme. NGOs provided funding for purchasing audio

equipment and associated software. Also, the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Ltd. gave consent to waive royalties for the songs used in the programme. Two recipients of the “Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award of Hong Kong”, namely, Ms Nancy Loo, who is one of the Hong Kong's most versatile artists, and Ms Candy Chea Shuk-mui, a renowned and respected Hong Kong broadcaster, were serving as advisers to provide guidance for the young persons in custody in the programme's production.

Key parts of the programme included radio dramas and interest workshops produced by young offenders under the guidance of HKCSD rehabilitation staff, as well as interview sessions with public role models and community leaders to share their experiences with young offenders. Professor



Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu chats with young persons in custody

Joseph Sung Jao-yiu, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was one of the invited guests of the “Shall We Talk” programme in 2012. Throughout the interview, Professor Sung motivated young offenders with his experience in the fight against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in Hong Kong in 2003. He quoted a famous line by Charles Dickens in “A Tale of Two Cities” - “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” - when encouraging young offenders to value their life after incarceration. At the end of the interview, Professor Sung stated that it was his dream that rehabilitated offenders could become students of the Chinese University of Hong Kong someday.

Besides the “Hero of Hong Kong” (a title bestowed upon Professor Sung during the attack of SARS), the programme’s guests also included Mr Wong Kam-po, the first Hong Kong world champion cyclist. Mr Wong shared about his enthusiasm and dedication for international cycling races. This sharing of his willpower to achieve helped strengthen the young offenders’ determination and perseverance in their rehabilitation journey.

In addition, staff from different sections and units of the HKCSD, such as the Psychological Services Section and the Education Unit, have also taken part in sharing sessions, through which young offenders can understand the specific roles of different helping professions within the department. The department’s staff made use of the radio programme to encourage young persons in custody to establish correct values and consolidate their faith in rehabilitation.

The success of the “Shall We Talk” programme has attracted the attention of the media, including newspapers and TV. During an interview with a Hong Kong newspaper in 2011, one of the participants expressed that he was inspired by the programme to think positively and reform himself. Another participant said that his self-esteem had been enhanced through the programme. Both young offenders said they were thinking about their future and had remorse for their wrongdoing.

The mission of the HKCSD is to protect the public and reduce crime by providing a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy environment for people in custody, offering opportunities for rehabilitation of offenders, and working in collaboration with the community and other agencies. To fulfil the mission, comprehensive rehabilitation services have been provided by the HKCSD to young persons in custody in Hong Kong in order to boost their determination in rehabilitation.

The “Shall We Talk” programme is a valuable platform, through sharing sessions with community leaders and public role models to encourage young persons in custody to conduct self-reflection. The HKCSD is deeply grateful to the NGOs, enthusiastic volunteers and the staff who were engaged in the production work of the “Shall We Talk” programme, and the department hopes that young persons in custody will cherish the opportunities and find their correct paths in life.



Reforming Youths: The Journey Thus Far by the Singapore Prison Service

Contributed by the Singapore Prison Service

Every year, about 200 youths aged 16 to 21 are admitted into the Reformatory Training Centre (RTC) for reformatory training. These youths are convicted for a variety of reasons, including property crimes, crimes against persons and drug offences. Correctional rehabilitation practices in Singapore’s prisons focus on three main domains, informed by recommendations in correctional psychology. This includes risk assessment, appropriate and adequate intervention programmes and case management to facilitate access to resources and meet reintegration needs.

Actuarial Assessment

Assessing risk for general and violent recidivism upon admission is customary for counsellors, psychologists and case workers who work with youth in the juvenile and criminal justice system. The risk profiles from such assessments can inform accommodation, types of treatment and supervision conditions for the youths. A thorough assessment can also help to identify risk factors to be addressed by treatment programmes, suitable dosage and responsivity issues that may affect the effectiveness of the treatment.

In recent years, risk assessment has developed from unstructured clinical judgment towards

more evidence-based, structured approaches. A number of these adult measures have also been adapted for assessing general and violence risk in youths, with considerations based on youth developmental factors. Two of such tools, the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) and the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youths (SAVRY), have been found to significantly predict general, non-violent, and violent recidivism with comparable degrees of accuracy.

Evidence-Informed Rehabilitative Efforts in the Reformatory Training Centre in Singapore

Rehabilitative efforts in RTC are guided by the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles. When the youth is first admitted into RTC, correctional rehabilitation specialists administer the YLS/CMI and the SAVRY during the intake assessment interviews to determine the youth’s level of risk for re-offending and the corresponding needs.

Youth assessed to fall within the moderate to high-risk categories are then emplaced on group intervention programmes designed to address their risk of general re-offending or violence risk. Lower risk youths are



given other non-criminogenic programmes such as enrichment activities and life-skill programmes. All youth also have access to educational and vocational courses to upgrade themselves.

Responsivity Factors

To address responsivity issues in youths, specialists working with this population incorporate desistance concepts and motivational interviewing techniques. The specialists take into consideration the developmental stage of the youth. This is because youths may not respond to rehabilitative efforts the same way as adult inmates. As such, additional emphasis is placed on rapport building in the early stages of our intervention programmes to increase the motivation of the youths. Language is used to facilitate, rather than impose change. Similarly, a variety of hands-on activities and games are also used to facilitate the construction of a new pro-social identity for the youth.

Criminogenic Programmes

Criminogenic programmes in Singapore prisons are developed base on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and seek to address antisocial attitudes and facilitate change talk. Two of such programmes are – Managing and Overcoming Violence (MOVE), which addresses attitudes about violence; and Thinking About Change/ Thinking Influencing Change (TACTIC), which addresses general attitudes about re-offending. These treatment programmes are standardized, ensuring that sessions are controlled and tailored to the youth's needs.

The intervention programmes have three main segments – increasing motivation to change, addressing specific attitudes about offending and developing an individualized relapse prevention plan together with the youth. As the programmes are conducted in groups, much emphasis is placed on creating a safe environment for youth to trust one another and the facilitator. Only when the

youth feel safe and understood would they then be receptive to working on their attitudes towards offending.

Specialists refer to the youths by their first name, rather than by inmate number, so as to recognize them as individuals and promote their pro-social identity. This is important as within the correctional settings, freedom and autonomy is greatly curtailed and individuals are depersonalised if referred to only by their inmate number. Also, as intervention groups are kept small – about 10 to 12 youths per group – it allows the facilitator to fully understand each individual youth's risks, needs and unique characteristics and build better therapeutic alliance with the youths.

Multidisciplinary Approach

In working with youths, we are mindful that a systemic approach is vital to providing the necessary intervention required. As such, there are regular interdisciplinary case consultations between the prison officers and the correctional rehabilitation specialists to formulate and carry out management plans for youths who present with behavioural issues or coping difficulties during their incarceration in RTC.

Specialists and officers working in RTC also attend youth-work related training on a regular basis so as to keep abreast of current research and best practices. There are also regular sharing sessions between specialists and officers to provide in-house training on effective approaches in working with the youths.

Prior to the youth's release from RTC, in-care specialists would share information with the aftercare Reintegration Officers (RO) and community caseworkers to formulate joint-care plans for the youths.

Zach¹ is one such example of a youth who benefitted from such an approach. Zach was assessed upon admission to be high-risk for both generic and violent offending. He had a history of rioting and several prior sentences in youth institutions.

During his in-care counselling sessions to address his attitudes towards offending, Zach shared with his in-care specialist about his passion to pursue a culinary course at Shatec (a well-established school for training in culinary skills and hospitality industry in Singapore). However, his communication style was brash and he had limited interviewing skills. Zach's



¹ Real name has been changed to provide privacy

dream was communicated to his aftercare RO and caseworker. Prior to his release, his mother helped him enrol in Shatec with the help of his RO. His caseworker assisted in securing an interview for a bursary application as Zach had financial difficulties and could not afford the cost of the equipment for the culinary course. His specialist worked with him on improving his communication skills, managing his anger and role-played potential interview questions prior to his release.

With the tripartite of workers assisting in different angles, Zach aced the admissions interview, obtained the bursary and is currently undergoing a Diploma in Culinary Skills. With this new identity forged for himself, Zach has no desire of returning to his old lifestyle and is eager to make a mark for

himself in a new and exciting world of food instead.

Moving On

Working with youth offenders pose many challenges as they can be highly reactive, impulsive and often fail to consider the consequences of their actions. But youth work is also highly rewarding as our youths have a long way ahead of them and many are still malleable. Even the most resistant of youths have dreams and aspirations that are pro-social and with help, can forge a new pro-social identity that they had never envisioned for themselves.



Programmes Currently Undertaken by Juveniles in Correctional Service of Solomon Islands Facilities

Contributed by Correctional Service of Solomon Islands

Social Welfare Department provides court case plans for the young offenders prior to court sentencing. The department liaises with young offenders and family members to ensure they are well managed to avoid re-offending behaviour. The department also monitors pre-release activities prior to an inmate's actual discharge date.

This article details the types of programmes undertaken by juveniles in CSSI facilities, which includes Literacy Programme, Vocational Programme, Life Skills Programme, Offending Programme, Faith Based Programme, Screen Printing, Mentor Activity, Sports, Computing Class and Music Class.

Updates for CSSI on programmes provided by

Save the Children² since 2011

- The Children and Youth In Conflict with the Law (CYICL) project started the implementation of programmes for juveniles in 2011. Since then, we have been providing them with chess games by engaging the chess federation and screen printing by an independent programme provider.
- In 2012 during the second phase of the CYICL project, we had a framework for running programmes in the unit. In this framework, all programmes run on a 3 month basis. At the end of the 3 months, we conduct a review on the programmes with the juveniles, asking them questions regarding the skills they have learnt so far and have yet to learn on this programme, their level of interest in the activity, and programme preferences.
- Based on the results of these reviews, we then proceed to identify appropriate programme providers/technical people who can provide training for the juveniles on the activities requested by them. Following which, we work on their formal engagement and get the programme providers into the unit for classes with the young juveniles as soon as possible.

² An international independent organization offering humanitarian aid for children around the world

Programmes that have been provided so far

- Chess (this programme ran from September – December 2011)
- Screen printing
- Fabric dyeing activity (this programme ran from April – September 2012 once a week for 2 hours per session)
- Colour mixing
- Folding clothes for patterns
- Calico dipping



Literacy Programme

CSSI has identified a number of juvenile offenders that either have no access to school, or did not complete their education, especially at the primary level. As CSSI wants to provide education to these offenders, we have engaged Church of Melanesia Anglican Mothers Union as well as other Church groups with qualified teachers. The syllabus they use have to be accredited by Literacy Association Solomon Islands.



Vocational Programme

Rural Training Centre and Solomon Islands National University are our key stakeholders in providing skills training to youth offenders. The Don Bosco Technical Centre also provides prisoners with the basic knowledge and skills in farming and transplanting.



Life Skills Programme

Non Government Organizations, Solomon Island Government (SIG) agencies and selected church groups provide specific skills training for all young offenders. Generally, voluntary programmes are provided by churches and SIG agencies to counsel young offenders, boost self esteem and build character.



Offending Programme

- Programmes addressing offending behavior such as alcohol, drug, violence or sex offending have to be an approved programme, some of which are usually conducted by voluntary churches or paid professionals.
- One of the recommended outcomes of the Gender Audit was for all programmes delivered to consider the gender dimension.
- Programmes that positively promote gender awareness to be delivered to prisoners.
- Programmes that target ending violence against women to be included in programme offerings.
- Women to be encouraged to deliver programmes to prisoners in CSSI facilities.

Faith Based Programme

All religious groups:

- Bible Studies – structured programmes in Bible study conducted by Bible Way Association, Crossroad Bible Institute and Kenneth Copeland Ministries.
- Counselling – working with prisoners to address problems and support rehabilitation.
- Welfare – link to inmates' families and the community to prepare for their release.
- Christmas – feeding, services, pikininis (Xhosa for “Young People”); the very event that brings families together to enjoy with their loved ones.



Screen Printing

Art work classes in 2013 involve screen printing and board dyeing. These activities are conducted on a weekly basis. A total of 18 classes have been conducted since April and the activities involved were:

- Drawing
- Stencil cutting
- Colour mixing
- Setting of stencil designs on screens & printing on T shirts and calico surfaces
- Board dyeing (this activity ran in April and May 2013)
- Training on using the appropriate amount of paints on designed board/wood
- Placing of plain calico on coloured board
- Using paint rolls to make designs on calicos

Mentor Activity

This programme involves volunteer mentors who are trained to work with juveniles by being friends and role models. The mentors encourage the juveniles to be good citizens during detention and after leaving the care of the correctional centre. The mentors also provide support by trying to link/fill the gap between the juveniles and their parents during the period of detention.

The mentors conduct mentoring support visits to juveniles once a fortnight for a 2 hour session in the juvenile unit. Since the implementation of the programme in March 2012, we have recruited a total of 14 mentors, some of which have left. 9 mentors are still active and continue to provide support to the juveniles.

Sports

Sports is an ongoing activity for the juveniles as well as for the adults accommodated in the correction facilities. The programme sport coordinator always ensures that the inmates are well managed by keeping up with the weekly sports timetable, and ensuring that all sports equipment are stocked and available. A tournament is held at the end of each year for all categories of prisoners as a closing highlight of the scheduled programme for the year.

Computing Classes

Juveniles are also provided with the following computer classes for two hours:

- Basic computer skills
- Basic computer hardware
- Software applications
- Computer maintenance
- Basic computing skills (using mouse, keyboards etc.)

Music Classes

Juveniles are also keen to learn music. They are taught the following:

- Identify and know the basic chords in music.
- Know and understand the basics in the operating system of a keyboard.
- Identify and train on how to play the basic chords of a guitar.
- Identify and train on how to play the basic chords of a keyboard.
- Training on how to play a guitar/keyboard as well as singing.



Fiji Correctional Services Focuses on Offenders' Rehab

Contributed by Fiji Corrections Service



New Fiji Correction Service recruits during a recent pass-out parade.

Overview

The effective rehabilitation of those under the care of the Fiji Corrections Service is now one of the department's major roles.

Along with ensuring their security as they serve their sentences and the safety of the general public, the Fiji Corrections Service also strives to comply with international standards set out by the United Nations.

Indeed it has come a long way from its

traditional practices of containment and punishment to one of corrections and rehabilitation.

This paradigm shift has been formalised by the Fiji Corrections Act of 2006.

Against this backdrop, the department has been mandated by the Government to reduce the rate of recidivism, escapes and complaints against its officers, among others. There are a total of 13 Correction centres in Fiji, scattered in all four divisions – Central

Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western. The 13th specifically caters for those in remand and are awaiting sentencing by the courts.

Only one Corrections centre accommodates female offenders – the Women's Corrections Centre located in the Central Eastern division.



Fiji's female inmates during a footdrill at the Women's Corrections Centre in Suva

Challenges

Staffing

The Fiji Corrections Service currently has a staff establishment of 659 compared to a total inmate muster of 1552.

At operational level, the ratio of officers to inmates is 1:10 as opposed to the UN standards of 1:4.

While a majority of the staff work at institutional level, those who do not work directly with inmates are posted to newly-formed units like Projects, IT, Media, OHS, Rehabilitation and Administration under the Corporate Services division to enhance the role of the Service in order to better meet its mandate.

Nevertheless to fill the vacuum, the second phase of the Basic Recruit Course for 100 new recruits will soon be held later this year. The first phase was completed in April 2013. This follows Cabinet's approval in 2012 to recruit

315 new recruits into the FCS phased over three years.

Overcrowding

This is an age-old problem due to the increasing crime rate in the country. To address this problem, officers have been encouraged to identify inmates eligible for extra-mural punishment or for early release.

As a proactive approach, we are conducting awareness campaigns reaching out to the community and discouraging them from coming to prison because the stigma associated with imprisonment could deprive ex-offenders of a better life.

Rehabilitation

The Rehabilitation unit is tasked with overseeing the development and conduct of appropriate rehabilitation programmes for all inmates under our custody.

A four-phased rehabilitation framework, adopted from Malaysia, is currently being followed. Phase 1 deals with instilling discipline which includes spiritual empowerment, foot drills and induction on Corrections rules and regulations. This phase also includes the basic assessment of each inmate through profiling. The willingness of inmates to go through programmes is dependent on the effectiveness of this phase.

Phase two basically deals with behavioural enhancement and there are specific modules like drugs, violence and domestic modules designed to specifically address the offending behavior for which an inmate is being admitted for. This is an important phase as its success rate will impact the likelihood of the inmates' return to our custody.

The third phase deals with hands-on vocational skills and training to allow inmates to gain the experience needed that will assist them in securing employment or as individual entrepreneurs at the end of their terms.

Phase four involves inmates going out for job placements with willing employment providers. This phase is aimed at preparing offenders for their transit back into society.

A major part of rehabilitation is the reintegration of inmates to their communities. They are accompanied home and handed over by officers at the end of their terms. To ensure that there is genuine acceptance from their families, pre-release visits and consultations are carried out to sort out any difference that may hinder the inmates' successful reintegration into society.

In the past, inmates were merely handed their fares and farewelled at the gates of our institutions. We have noted that this practice had contributed to their returning to us because inmates were not sure whether they would be accepted if they returned home.

Commercial Enterprise

The Fiji Corrections Service's commercial enterprise comprises six existing industries – piggery, poultry, garment, joinery, bakery and root crops and vegetables.

The industries are run by inmates not only as part of their rehabilitation but with the view that training in these areas will provide them with the necessary work experience and job skills they will need on completion of their sentences.

Recent Developments / Achievements

Our new \$11.6m state-of-the-art remand centre is one of Government's major capital projects and was recently opened by our Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.

Never before has there been a separate accommodation facility for remand inmates. This milestone achievement has to some extent, been a relief to our operations in terms of the supervision of both remand and convicts in a single institution.

There are currently 150 remand inmates housed in the centre, which has a maximum capacity of 200 men.

We also opened a new Corrections centre in Taveuni, Fiji's third largest island located to the north of Fiji.

Because of the abundance of land on the island, the centre supplies dalo and other foodstuff to other Correction centres on the mainland of Vitilevu.

The Fiji Corrections Service is also the first in the South Pacific region to have adopted a HIV/AIDS policy and this is now in implementation stage.

As well, we are also the first Corrections institution in the region to embrace digital radio communication. This will make communication between our centres easier and more convenient in terms of operations.



Fiji's Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama is being taken on a tour of the new \$11.6m Suva Remand Centre by the officer-in-charge Savenaca Baleiwai.

Yellow Ribbon

This is the flagship programme of the department, a concept borrowed from Singapore which has now become a household name in Fiji.

We are currently launching the programme in the provinces around the country to urge the community to accept ex-offenders when they return home and ensure their successful reintegration into the society.

Without the support of the community, our efforts to holistically rehabilitate and correct them would prove futile.

At the end of the day, the department's vision is that ex-offenders are steered towards becoming useful and productive citizens of Fiji.

We recently launched the programme in Tailevu, a province which has the most number of offenders admitted and the community response was a very positive one.



Officers of the Fiji Corrections Service lead a march during a recent Yellow Ribbon launch in the province of Tailevu.

Youth Offenders

To date, there are 1552 offenders in our custody with sixty three per cent (63 per cent) comprising of youths from 16 to 35 years of age.

These youth offenders are housed in all Correction Centres around the country including the Women's Corrections Centre.

To address this, the Fiji Corrections Service is currently engaged in outreach programmes addressing schools, churches, youth groups, provincial councils and what we term as red zone areas or areas where the highest number of offenders reside.

In these outreaches, the gist of our message is that there is nothing glamorous about prison life and that once convicted, a person can be deprived of better job opportunities and even a better life. Inmates are also part of these awareness programmes so that communities can hear first-hand what prison life is about.

This, in the hope that youths are deterred from entering prison. We also have a joint community outreach with police for preventative measures.

Way Forward

FCORE

Of late one of our main objectives is the establishment of a Fiji Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (FCORE) geared towards developing our existing industries to a commercial level.

The focus is to develop commercial cultures for industries, provide rehabilitation programmes for inmates through work programmes and vocational training, instilling in them strong work ethics and providing the necessary work experience and job skills.

FCORE will also be a mechanism to stifle stigma associated with their record of imprisonment and will equip inmates for real life.

CARE

The Fiji Corrections Service will also soon embark on a Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (CARE) initiative.

Its' objective, among others, is to mobilise and facilitate the community to take action toward rendering appropriate support services to help ex-offenders.



Guests at a recent arts exhibition at the Fiji Corrections Service's Tagimoucia Gallery in Suva.



MULTIMEDIA HUB
Tanah Merah Prison, Singapore



APCCA Newsletter, Sept 2013 Issue no.35
Published by Singapore Prison Service.

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



**SINGAPORE
PRISON SERVICE**

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