

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 19/06/2009 Output: 3.0 - Correctional Services
Sub Output: 3.1 - Custodial Services
Subject: Prisoners - trends - incarceration rates - nature of crime

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Hon Gerry McCarthy
Correctional Services

Question: **10-7**
What is a reasonable length for me to get an idea of a trend? Statistically, I need something because we know there are large numbers of prisoners now, we have record numbers of prisoners in gaol, why are we getting record numbers? Where are they coming from? Are they coming from violent offenders? Are they coming from domestic violence, because the government is saying we are tracking more domestic violent offenders? So how will I know, unless I have a reasonable time span, what is actually happening in this regard?

Mr McCARTHY: Member for Nelson, I am advised three years would ...

Mr WOOD: All right, I will go for three.

Answer:

Answered On:

Answer:

A copy of the last three Correctional Services Annual Statistics reports produced by the Department of Justice are attached for information (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08).

These reports present detailed statistics on adults and juveniles supervised by Northern Territory Correctional Services, both in custody and on community based supervision.

The 2008-09 Correctional Services Annual Statistics report will be available in the second half of 2009.

Classifications

As at 30 June 2009

Alice Springs Correctional Centre

Darwin Correctional Centre

Security Rating

No of prisoners% of population Security Rating No of prisoners% of population

Maximum

245% Maximum 30.5%

Medium

11825% Medium 11219.5%

Low

24651% Low 29651.5%

Protection	325.5%
Remand	13123%
Total	574

Rates of Return	
2005-06	46.4
2006-07	44.6
2007-08	44.8

Source: Report on Government Services 2009

The above table provides a time series on the proportion of prisoners released who returned to prison under sentence within two years. The most recent data on the rate of return to corrective services that is available relates to prisoners released during 2005-06.

Domestic Violence

The Integrated Justice Information System does not record whether or not a prisoner's offences were committed during a domestic violence incident. However, the two most frequent types of domestic/family violence prisoners are those imprisoned for assault or breach of Domestic Violence Order. The Department of Justice estimates that the contribution of domestic/family violence offenders to the overall sentenced prisoner population are 31%, 28% and 33% in 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, respectively.

The above percentages demonstrate that no clear trend is evident for the contribution of domestic/family violence related offenders to the total sentenced prison population.

Prisoners employed within the prison system

Prisoner Employment (percent)

2005-06	80.4
2006-07	81.1
2007-08	90.2
Total	
Commercial industries	4.5
Service industries	3.6

75.9

76.4

85.7

Work Release

-

1.1

0.9

Source: Report on Government Services

Rates are based on an average of the number of prisoners employed on the first day of each month, calculated against the daily average prisoner population.

The figures for work party participants were provided to the Public Accounts Committee in the answer to question on notice 10.9.