

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: Pre-release programs - prisoners engaged - quantum

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Hon Gerry McCarthy
Correctional Services

Question: **10-8**
How many prisoners, and I am including both prisons here, are on pre-release programs?

Answer:
Answered On:
Answer:

Formal pre-release programs operate at the Darwin and Alice Springs Correctional Centres, generally over a 6 week period. The programs consist of an introductory session followed by a number of specific sessions (e.g. financial information, relationship issues, employment options, housing and accommodation) that are delivered by external providers (e.g. Relationships Australia, Centrelink, NT Housing). Attendance at these pre-release programs is voluntary.

Darwin Correctional Centre

As at June 30 2009 there were 32 prisoners enrolled in the formal pre-release program. In the 2008-09 reporting period 370 prisoners attended the programs that were delivered by external providers as above.

Alice Springs Correctional Centre

Pre-release program data for the 2008-09 reporting period at Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC) is unavailable. A review of the data collection process is now underway to ensure 2009-10 data will be available.

Due to staff vacancies, attributable to recruitment difficulties, in the Prisoner Services area at ASCC, formal pre-release programs have not been conducted since November 2008. It is anticipated that the program will recommence in mid September 2009 once staff have been recruited. In the absence of the formal pre-release programs, ASCC has been referring prisoners to a job network agency – Jobfind for pre release services. Jobfind provide individualised intensive case management, and information about life skills, accommodation, licences, drug and alcohol, personal counselling, vocational training and work preparation issues. Since January 2009, 32 prisoners have participated in the Jobfind service.