



Queensland
Government

Future Directions for Women Offenders

CSAC Conference

Tuesday 4 December 2007



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Queensland Female Offender Profile

- Female prisoners compromise 7% of the total Queensland prison population;
- A increase of 2.8% over the past 7 years;
- 70% are aged between 20-40; and
- 21% are Indigenous.



Female Offender Profile

- Low levels of education;
- High levels of unemployment;
- High levels of:
 - mental illness;
 - psychological disorders; and
 - victimisation.
- Substance use;
- Extensive criminal history; and
- Complex needs including, health, emotional well being and family connections.



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Investment in Services for Women in QLD

- Infrastructure funding for secure custodial facilities for women;
- Expansion of Work Camps for low risk women offenders;
- State-wide establishment of new Probation and Parole Service;
- Implementation of through-care philosophy; and
- Development of 'what works' principle for programs.



Infrastructure

- 154 bed new state of the art Townsville Women's Correctional Centre will be commissioned in April 2008.
- Expansion of Work Camp at Bowen in North Queensland
 - New site to house 12 low security female prisoners
 - Began work there in September 2007
- Planning for South East Queensland prison precinct at Gatton.



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Probation and Parole Service

- New Probation and Parole Service throughout Queensland;
- Establishment of permanent presence in remote Indigenous communities:

Doomadgee
Mornington Island
Thursday Island
Normanton

- This aligns with Qld Government's priority of *"protecting our children and enhancing community safety."*



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Thursday Island

Normanton

Mornington Island

Doomadgee

Queensland Corrective Services Probation and Parole Offices and Reporting Centres





Through-care

- Recognition that providing assistance to offenders is the best strategy for successful reintegration into the community.
- This includes providing:
 - Education;
 - Training;
 - Employment (prison industries); and
 - Intervention programs whilst offenders are in custody.
- The use of the '*Transitions: Release preparation program*' to assist in successful reintegration.



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Queensland's Achievements for Female Offenders



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10 years of Playgroup

- Playgroup began in 1997 and occurs every Friday at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre;
- Run by the Save the Children Foundation; and
- Since the program began approximately 800 children have attended Playgroup.

- Brings female offenders and their children together to play, sing, learn about healthy eating, storybook reading and participate in other activities;
- Child Safety Officer's attend with the children of offenders who are in care in the community; and
- A QLD Health child professional attends to monitor the health and development of all the children.





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Bowen Women's Work Camp

- Established earlier in 2007;
- The camp is located a few minutes out of Bowen, at the airport;
- The team of 12 are at camp for three weeks a month;
- The first major project was to create a walking track on a steep hill, with limited access;
- The community are very happy to play a role in the rehabilitation of prisoners; and
- Bowen Shire May Cr Mike Bruncker said ***“The community and council workforce have been very supportive.”***



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Projects on the horizon include:

- Re-fencing Queen's Beach to help prevent sand dune erosion;
- painting light fittings and seating; and
- general maintenance at parks, gardens and nursing home facilities in the area.





Other Achievements

- 12 female low risk offenders helped for 11 days straight trapped in quarantine at Warwick Showgrounds due to Equine Influenza Outbreak.
- Trial of Drug Free Incentive Scheme was trialled at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre and a evaluation is currently underway.



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Questions?