

Marngoneet Correctional Centre: prison neighbourhoods

Introduction

The Marngoneet Correctional Centre is a 300-bed medium security correctional programs centre located near Lara, approximately 70 kilometres west of Melbourne.

The Centre provides an intensive level of treatment and offender management activity, including sex offender treatment programs, drug and alcohol treatment programs, violent offender treatment programs, and vocational services programs for prisoners in Victoria.

Corrections Victoria operates the facility and is responsible for the delivery of services, such as custodial staffing, prisoner programs and training.

Design and security

The prison is a secure facility relying on a range of technologically advanced perimeter security measures including biometric identification safeguards, a whole of site mobile duress system and CCTV strengthened site security and highly trained custodial staff.

The physical design of Marngoneet maximises normal living conditions and minimises institutionalisation, shapes social interaction, provides small living units and promotes significant levels of personal and social responsibility.

The design includes industry, education, recreation and program facilities that provide service providers and prisoners with a setting that supports security, safety, learning and behaviour change.

Prisoner eligibility

Prisoners classified to Marngoneet are at moderate to high risk of re-offending. They have a minimum of six months of their sentence left to serve at the time of transfer to Marngoneet.

Most Marngoneet prisoners are there to address their violence or sex offences or significant drug and alcohol issues that are related to their offending.

What does Marngoneet provide?

Marngoneet Correctional Centre provides services in three key areas: clinical services, vocational services and custodial services.

This brochure provides information about neighbourhoods at Marngoneet Correctional Centre.

Neighbourhoods

Marngoneet Correctional Centre has three neighbourhoods that function as therapeutic communities, where all prisoners participate as members of the neighbourhood community.

Prisoners are expected to be socially responsible, work within the rules of behaviour of the community and are given the opportunity to participate in decision making and to represent and support others.

Each therapeutic community has a targeted clinical purpose:

- Protection and sex offender (Rothwell)
- Violent offender (Flinders Peak)
- Drug/alcohol offender (Station Peak)

The neighbourhoods are named after the mountain peaks in the nearby You Yang Ranges.

Each neighbourhood accommodates up to 100 prisoners and includes a 40 bed unit, eight x six bed units and three x four bed units. Each neighbourhood includes a neighbourhood centre and recreation facilities.

The offending and offender management programs are conducted within the neighbourhood community centre program rooms.

Prisoners cook, clean and manage a budget and their own hygiene in the four and six bed units (Independent Living).

Prisoners take responsibility for themselves and each other, working together with custodial, clinical and vocational services staff to achieve a safe, secure and therapeutic neighbourhood.

Neighbourhoods: 'A new way of prisoner living.'

Accommodation

Upon reception at each neighbourhood, most prisoners are housed in the main accommodation building. After an orientation period of four weeks, the prisoner may be relocated within the neighbourhood to other accommodation on the basis of his living skills, support needs and prison risk profile.

Each neighbourhood includes:

Main unit – 40 bed cellular style accommodation

- all meals supplied
- secured in single cells on lock-up (note there are two shared/double up cells in each neighbourhood)

Two x six cell flat style accommodation

- self-catering for all meals
- shared kitchen/living areas
- during lock-up secured in single cells

Six x six room flat style accommodation

- six rooms per flat, ability to self-secure room
- self-catering for all meals
- shared kitchen/living/bathroom areas
- during lock up secured in their flat

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More information

Several other brochures are available each focussing on a different aspect of the prison.

Marngoneet Correctional Centre – the name

The name “Marngoneet” is taken from the local Wathaurong community language and means: “to make new”. The new name reflects the prison’s focus on rehabilitation and offers a respectful gesture to the local Wathaurong people. It is supported by the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative.

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Accommodation continued

Three x four room cottage style accommodation

- four rooms per cottage, ability to self-secure room
- self catering for all meals
- shared kitchen/living/bathroom areas
- during lock-up secured in cottage

Food services

Sixty per cent of prisoners housed at Marngoneet self-cater, that is, they are supplied raw food and prepare their own meals.

Because many prisoners may not yet have developed adequate independent living skills, support and training are offered in cooking skills, budgeting skills, hygiene skills and shared decision-making.

Prisoners housed in the neighbourhood ‘main’ units, that is, the 40 cell accommodation units, prepare their own breakfast in their unit and have other meals supplied from the prison kitchen. Lunch typically comprises sandwiches or rolls from the kitchen. Dinner is usually, a hot meal served and eaten in the dining area, situated next to the prison kitchen.

Recreation

Each neighbourhood has its own small recreational building. The neighbourhood recreation building is open outside working hours.

Prisoners from each neighbourhood can also access the main recreational area, which has an indoor multi-purpose recreation court. Prisoners can also access the hobbies/art area outside of working hours.

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