

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE

A safer community

PORTFOLIO

Corrections

OUTPUTS

DELIVERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Correctional Services

OUTPUTS

DELIVERED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Corrections Services

Community Correctional Services

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

OUTPUT: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Profile

This output provides policy advice and co-ordinates executive matters for the Minister in relation to the provision of correctional services in the State of Victoria, in particular:

- the impact of Government law and order policies;
- improved standards for offender management; and
- monitoring the management and performance of the correctional system, including those services operated by private prison providers under service agreements with the State.

The organisational and contractual arrangements for the correctional system in Victoria as at 30 June 2001, included a combination of public and private providers, as follows:

- **The Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner** develops and sets the policy and standards for Victoria's corrections system. It undertakes business planning as well as prison infrastructure planning and development, monitors and reviews the delivery of correctional services by both public and private providers, manages prisoner sentences including prisoner assessment, classification and placement, and provides administrative support to the Adult Parole Board of Victoria. The Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner ensures that Victoria's correctional system provides a relevant, responsive and cost effective service that enforces orders of the courts and of the Adult Parole Board of Victoria, achieving high levels of individual safety and security for prisoners and the community at the same time as meeting community expectations of fairness. The Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner provides advice to the Minister for Corrections on broad correctional policy and the direction of Victoria's correctional system.
- **CORE – the Public Correctional Enterprise** manages 59 per cent of the prisoner population in eleven prisons (Ararat, Barwon, Beechworth, Bendigo, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Dhurringile, Langi Kal Kal, Loddon, Melbourne Assessment, Tarrengower, and Won Wron) and the system-wide Security and Emergency Services Group (SESG). CORE also managed all Victorian Community Correctional Services that are responsible for enforcing court-based intensive correction orders, community-based orders, combined custody and treatment orders, and parole orders.
- **Australasian Correctional Management** manages the 600-bed Fulham Correctional Centre that opened in April 1997. The company also has the contract for prison health care services at all CORE prisons, except the Melbourne Assessment Prison, through its subsidiary Pacific Shores Health Care; and manages the Melbourne Custody Centre under contract to the Victoria Police.

- **Group 4 Falck** manages the 600-bed Port Phillip Prison that opened in September 1997. This prison houses the system-wide medical services, including a prison hospital and long-term psychiatric unit. The company also has the contract with the Victoria Police for prisoner transportation between police cells and the courts.

- **Australian Integrated Management Services (AIMS)** has the service contract for the transport of prisoners between prisons, between prisons and courts, and the management of persons in custody within courts. AIMS (formerly known as Corrections Corporation of Australia) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sodexo Alliance(SA).

- **Corrections Corporation of Australia (CCA)**. Until the Government stepped in on 3 October 2000, Corrections Corporation of Australia managed the 125-bed Metropolitan Women's Corrections Centre (MWCC) that opened in 1996. The MWCC is now called the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

Alignment with Government priorities

The output seeks to provide the necessary legislative and program frameworks to ensure offenders in Victoria are treated in a just and humane manner, and are encouraged to adopt law-abiding lifestyles.

This output also seeks to establish and expand effective alternatives to prison for young adult offenders. The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening its non-custodial options with new diversion methods, and to developing rehabilitation programs in order to reduce re-offending and re-sentencing rates. Programs being developed provide better preparation for prisoners about to be released from custody, and include closer supervision and support following their release into the general community.

Results

Prison Capacity

During the year, Victoria's prison population increased to the largest ever recorded in the State's history. Thirteen prisons with a total design capacity of 2,875 beds (2,712 men and 163 women) were accommodating a record 3,407 prisoners by May 2001, which meant that the system was operating at 118% of its original design capacity.

The increased numbers of prisoners in the Victorian prison system had a major impact on services provided by prison providers and the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner, in particular, the sentence management function. The increase in prisoner numbers resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of assessments, prisoner classifications and coordination of prisoner movements between prisons. In this financial year,

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OUTPUT: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

the Commissioner's Sentence Management Unit staff interviewed 11,989 prisoners compared with 11,442 in the previous year. This represents a net increase of almost five per cent.

The increase in the prison population also had an undesired impact on police cells, with some prisoners being held in police cells longer than is appropriate, and in crowded conditions. As well as impacting on the number of prisoners needing to be assessed and moved into the system, the overcrowding in police cells resulted in a constant demand to reassess an existing prisoner's security rating. The Sentence Management Unit assessed and moved prisoners through the various levels of security, maximising the use of existing prison facilities without compromising sentence management principles.

The Correctional Services Commissioner worked with Victoria Police Command during 2000–01 to minimise the impact on Victoria Police, instituting a joint Police Cells Review Project, which is expected to report on police cell management later in 2001.

To help alleviate the crowding in both police and prison cells, the former Aradale Forensic Psychiatry Unit was commissioned as a temporary prison in late December 2000. From January to June 2001, Aradale provided at different times, accommodation for up to 50 prisoners – all male until April and all female from April onwards. The Department of Justice is to vacate Aradale on 31 August 2001, when the site is due to be handed over to Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE.

In the May 2000 Budget Speech, the Treasurer announced the addition of an extra 357 permanent prison beds (297 in existing prisons and 60 in three 20-bed Community Transition Units), as part of the Prison Capacity Expansion Program. Action to streamline these building projects was taken during 2000–01, and as part of the permanent bed expansion, tenders were prepared for the Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre (MWCC) and for Barwon and Loddon Prisons. The permanent beds will be progressively available from mid-2002.



Melbourne Assessment Prison (MAP).

Corrections Long Term Management Strategy

In November 2000, the Government finalised its Corrections Long Term Management Strategy, providing the framework for its policy objectives for Victoria's Correctional Services into the future. The government's long-term strategic view of corrections addresses the rise in prisoner numbers and provides details of a major development of Victoria's prison infrastructure which will see the implementation of the 10-Year Facilities Master Plan. It also outlines the introduction of the largest number of prison diversion and prisoner rehabilitation programs ever undertaken in Victoria. The Government's key consideration is that imprisonment be used solely as a sanction of last resort, and that expansion of the prison system will be contained to the minimum level necessary. Policy objectives for Correctional Services emphasise community safety through a range of initiatives, which include more effective supervision of offenders on Community Based Orders as well as the re-integration of prisoners to the community, thereby reducing re-offending and offering effective alternatives to prison.

In summary, the Strategy forecasts the most significant overhaul of the corrections system to take place in Victoria, committing the State to continued provision of safe, secure and humane correctional facilities in an improved environment of rehabilitation.

Redevelopment of Community Correctional Services

Community Correctional Services plays a pivotal role in the criminal justice system, helping to ensure a balanced continuum between punishment and rehabilitation. The Corrections Long Term Management Strategy takes into account the broadening role of Community Correctional Services in supervision, early intervention and rehabilitation programs. During the period under review, Community Correctional Services supervised over 17,000 orders and provided an important interface between courts, the Adult Parole Board and prisons. With the increased resourcing announced in the May 2001 Budget, it is estimated that by 2005, Community Correctional Services will have the strengthened capacity to supervise an additional 1000 low-risk offenders. By implementing the key recommendations of the Community Correctional Services Review which was undertaken during the year, the quality of supervision received by high risk offenders will be substantially improved. See full report on Community Correctional Services Output group on page 42.

Ten Year Facilities Master Plan

The ten Year Facilities Master Plan for Victoria's prisons includes the Prison Infrastructure Program (\$166 million capital funding over four years) and addresses the increased demand for prison beds through a major redevelopment of Victoria's prison infrastructure.

Three new facilities will be built, all of which will be Government-run. Two new prisons – a 600-bed, maximum-security remand prison and a 300-bed, medium-security prison – will be located in the Melbourne metropolitan area; and the third – a 120-bed minimum security prison – will be located in the Beechworth area, north-eastern Victoria. The Master Plan also supports the replacement of sub-standard buildings at the minimum security prison Langi Kal Kal, with modern, more secure facilities; and an upgrade of accommodation at medium security Ararat Prison. The Plan seeks to redress shortcomings in the existing men's prison system, and recommends the replacement of outdated and inefficient facilities. The decision to close three prisons – Beechworth, Bendigo and Won Wron – is part of the prisons system overhaul in the longer term.

A number of factors contributed to the recommendations for these closures, the main ones being:

- inadequate cell and building standards;
- questionable standard of cell safety;
- difficulties in recruiting and retaining specialist staff;
- inadequate transport infrastructure compromising family support;
- limited scope for providing the required range of prisoner activities and programs;
- lack of room for appropriate expansion; and
- relative isolation from other prisons leading to difficulties in establishing effective prison corridor linkages.

The prisons marked for closure will continue operating until new prison facilities are commissioned during 2003–04. A key part of the decision taken in 2001 is that the Department of Justice will work closely with local communities affected by the closures. For staff, redeployment opportunities within the expanded prison system will be arranged in discussion with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU). To minimise the impact of prison closures on local communities, the Departments of Justice, State and Regional Development, and Treasury and Finance are developing strategies for appropriate alternative use of the sites.

Victoria's women's prison services are delivered through two prisons, the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Tarrengower Prison. While the demand on women's prisons has grown to a greater

extent than the original prison design capacity, based on projections, the Master Plan makes no recommendation for an increase in future capacity.

Significant Increases in Corrections Funding Announced in May 2001

In order to achieve the objectives of its Corrections Long Term Management Strategy, the Government announced major funding increases to the Department of Justice in the May 2001–02 State Budget, with a total Corrections package of \$334.5 million for the next four years. As well as the \$166 million capital expenditure for the Prison Infrastructure Program, funding is to be allocated in the following areas:

- \$72.5 million for rehabilitation and diversion programs;
- \$20.6 million for programs to reduce re-offending;
- \$42.3 million to redevelop Community Correctional Services;
- \$4 million to reduce drug-related harm to prisoners and prison staff;
- \$4.8 million for a pilot Home Detention Program, to be implemented once legislation is passed;
- \$3.2 million to evaluate the Corrections Long Term Management Strategy, in particular its impact on prisoner numbers and the achievement of diversionary targets.

Home Detention Pilot Program

The Corrections and Sentencing Acts (Home Detention) Bill, was passed by the Legislative Assembly in May, 2001. Debate in the Legislative Council was adjourned by the Opposition until the Spring Session of Parliament. The proposed three-year Home Detention Pilot Program is one element in a complementary range of diversion and rehabilitation strategies which address increasing prisoner numbers. Home Detention aims to keep non-violent and especially first-time offenders from entering the prison system, as well as assist prisoners who are ready to re-integrate into the community at the end of a custodial sentence.



The prison work program run by Supervisor Mick Jackson provides tables and benches to several local schools. Other work includes designing and building sensory boards for children with physical disabilities.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OUTPUT: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Correctional Health Program

A new position of Manager, Correctional Health Program, was created during 2000–01 to co-ordinate future policy and planning in the delivery of health services throughout the Victorian corrections system. Under the direction of the Corrections Health Board, the Commissioner approved the first major study of prisoners' health to be conducted in Victoria. Survey results will assist the long-term planning of appropriate services and facilities; they will help develop service standards; and they will inform the allocation of health resources. The study was prepared during 2000–01 and will be undertaken, with findings presented to the Corrections Health Board by end 2001.

The Corrections Health Board also determined that a comprehensive review of the Victorian prisoner health service delivery model should be conducted. The review project will be jointly sponsored by the Department of Human Services and will investigate alternative funding and incorporate a study of the most effective and efficient model for health service delivery in Victoria's prisons. It is anticipated to begin in October 2001.

Victorian Prison Drug Strategy

A draft Victorian Prison Drug Strategy for 2001–04 was co-ordinated by the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner during 2000–01 and widely distributed for comment in January 2001. It received broad support from stakeholders in the health, welfare, and correctional areas. Detailed work was then undertaken on primary initiatives, particularly the revised Identified Drug User Program (in the first part of 2001, more than 80% of prisoners reported that drug problems related to the reason for their imprisonment). Further consultations, including presentations to custodial staff, resulted in finalising a strategy emphasising harm minimisation. The strategy is expected to be implemented from October 2001.

This strategy includes upgrading barrier control measures to prevent drugs being smuggled into prisons and improved efforts to deter subsequent trafficking and use inside the prison. New programs establishing peer education, support networks and prison-specific harm reduction plans were developed during 2000–01; and a pilot program encouraging voluntary drug-free testing will be introduced for Identified Drug Users.

Prisoners at high risk of drug offending behaviour will soon be able to access an expanded methadone program in prison. This will not only include increased access to a methadone maintenance program, but the trialling of an alternative drug substitution therapy, Buprenorphine, which may be more suitable in a prison setting. While educating prisoners to cease using drugs in preparation for their release, health and safety issues are paramount – promotion of safer drug use will be offered to those who choose to continue.

Other contributors to the redeveloped Victorian Prisons Drug Strategy include the Department of Human Services, the MacFarlane Burnett Institute of Medical Research, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner.

Pre and Post-release Support

Improving transitional support for prisoners is a key element of the Government's strategy to reduce re-offending. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine reported that in the ten-year period between 1990–00, approximately 122 prisoners died of drug overdose within one week of their release from prison. During 2000–01, the Government committed an additional \$10.3 million for pilot programs which assist prisoners to manage the shift from custody to community. An innovative program called Bridging the Gap, provided funding in April 2001, for five community agencies to case-manage 1000 prisoners before and after release. The pilot program eases the reintegration process for prisoners with identified drug and/or alcohol issues, in particular those at high risk of post-release mortality, thereby reducing their risk of re-offending and their return to drug abuse.

During 2000–01 the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner developed a framework for conceptualising and developing Victorian transitional support services for people leaving prison. The report of this work entitled 'Transition from Custody to Community' was released in June 2001.

Rehabilitation and Reducing Re-offending Initiatives

New funding allocation of \$20.6 million from the May 2001 State Budget is set to establish programs in the second part of 2001, for prisoners whose crimes have the greatest impact on their victims – violent and sex offenders. These prisoners will be targeted to undergo prison-based programs which improve their chances for rehabilitation while other prisoners most likely to re-offend will be identified for closer supervision and support after their release from custody. The funding allocation includes resources to evaluate the success of the initiatives through empirical data.

Sex Offender Program

The Sex Offender Program, managed by CORE – the Public Correctional Enterprise, provides a co-ordinated and specialised assessment, treatment and management service across public prisons and community correctional services for convicted sex offenders. The program operates a continuum-of-care model, relying upon inter-agency co-operation to support case management by correctional staff.

Major achievements during 2000–01 include:

- A Certificate Merit awarded in November 2000 in the Australian Violence Prevention Awards;
- Deakin University PhD (three-year detailed study) findings that CORE's sex offender program is consistent with 'best practice' in the treatment of sex offenders; and
- Sex Offender Program staff contributed to training models for interstate correctional jurisdictions.



Koori Liaison Officers are available to counsel prisoners in Victoria.

Indigenous Prisoners and Offenders

Aboriginal people are eleven times more likely to be imprisoned than non-indigenous Victorians. To address this over-representation in the criminal justice system and to reduce the high level of disadvantage and inequality experienced by Aboriginal people, the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement was launched by the Labor Government in June 2000.

In 2000–01, a project officer was employed to implement some of the initiatives that will improve services in both the prison and the community corrections environment. Initiatives focus on diversionary programs which help keep Koori people out of the prison system, as well as support programs such as the Women's Mentoring Program and the Adult Residential Program.

Other Correctional Services initiatives which were established in 2000–01 under the Agreement include:

- the employment of two Koori Welfare Officers;
- the Cultural Connection Program – to provide Koori prisoners with the opportunity to work with Link-up to establish family kinship structure, raise awareness about social and political issues in the community, establish networks with the Koori community across Victoria and interact in a safe and supportive environment;
- a TAFE course (The Youth Leadership Program) delivered in the prison system to help Koori prisoners improve their literacy and numeracy skills;
- Aboriginal Pastoral Care Services – will provide support to Koori prisoners in times of crisis and trauma;

- recruitment of six Aboriginal Official Prison Visitors;
- a Family Visits Program which provides funding assistance for transport and accommodation, so that Koori families can visit a family member in prison; and
- creation of a Certificate 1 in Koori Education (also known as the Coorong-Tongala Program) for Koori prisoners.

System Performance

Enhanced Monitoring of Correctional Services Providers

In 2000-01 the Commissioner for Correctional Services implemented an enhanced monitoring program, which included comprehensive correctional service reviews, inquiries and follow-up reviews, Independent Drug Testing and thematic reviews. During the twelve month period, the Commissioner's Office conducted 17 on-site reviews at seven prisons and Independent Drug Testing on 18 occasions across all prisons. Quarterly reports were prepared on the performance of each of the providers. The enhanced monitoring program now includes a comprehensive review of each prison every two years.

Review of Service Delivery Outcomes

KPMG undertook a review of Service Delivery Outcomes (SDOs) in the year 2000 and concluded that whilst the Service Delivery Outcomes are soundly based, current measures should also include qualitative measures of service delivery. The measures reviewed were primarily quantitative and included items such as number of hours out of cell, number of training hours provided and so on. This was also identified in the Kirby Report and the Audit Review of Government Contracts.

The Minister for Corrections had previously indicated the need to review the current standards that guide the management and operation of prisons, therefore work commenced on the development of qualitative measures during 2000–01 and will continue during 2001–02.

Official Prison Visitor Scheme

The Official Prison Visitor Scheme is one of a number of mechanisms by which the Minister for Corrections receives independent advice on the operation of the prison system. During the year in review, 21 Official Visitors acted as the unofficial 'eyes and ears' of the Minister during their 150 visits to the thirteen prisons across the State. Official Visitors can report on matters about which the Minister or the community may have concerns, or may raise issues in relation to prisoner and facility management with staff from the Monitoring and Review Unit. Visitors are expected to attend Official Visitor Forums and to provide a report to the Commissioner for Correctional Services on each of their visits.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OUTPUT: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Delivery of Prison Services

Private Providers

With the exception of Corrections Corporation of Australia at the former Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre, the private prison providers met their service delivery obligations under their current contracts with the Government, initiating programs beneficial to prisoners at the two private prisons.

CORE – the Public Correctional Enterprise

Eleven prisons are managed by CORE – the Public Correctional Enterprise. Key events during the year in review included:

- receiving an award 'Progress toward Business Excellence', building on a previous award 'Foundation in Business Excellence', recognised in 1999. The Australian Business Excellence Awards are the nation's premier business awards, and CORE is the only corrections agency in Australia to have received these awards;
- the Minister for Corrections launched a series of programs for women prisoners at Tarrengower Prison. Key features include effective linkages between health, welfare and treatment services;
- a joint venture with the Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Reserve in Barwon Heads saw maximum-security prisoners take part in a training program at the Barwon Animal Nursery; and
- elders of the Wurrindjiri people performed a smoking ceremony at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, representing a new beginning for both staff and prisoners.

Reviews and Investigations

Investigation into Victoria's Private Prisons – the Kirby Report

In response to the State Coroner's recommendations following the inquest into five deaths at Port Phillip Prison over previous years, the Minister for Corrections commissioned an independent investigation into the Management and Operations of Victoria's Private Prisons. The investigation commenced on 3 July 2000 and was conducted by an independent three-person panel, chaired by Mr Peter Kirby. The panel's report (commonly known as the Kirby Report) was publicly launched by the Minister for Corrections on 28 November 2000. The investigation, which included extensive consultation with key stakeholders, concluded that the introduction of private prisons had mixed results for the delivery of correctional services in Victoria. Benefits included the construction of more modern prisons to replace antiquated facilities and the development of clearer standards guiding all State prisons' operations. However, the report concluded that the anticipated benefits of competition had not been realised. The report's wide-ranging recommendations are still under consideration by the Government.

Prison Cell Redesign – Building Design Review Project

The Building Design Review Project, co-ordinated by the Commissioner's Office during 2000–01, was the second major review into prison cell design and associated prisoner safety issues. It resulted from internal investigations into prison fires and disturbances, as well as the State Coroner's recommendations following the coronial inquests into prisoner deaths at Port Phillip Prison. The review dealt with the removal of obvious hanging points from all mainstream maximum and medium security cellular accommodation; and fire safety improvement throughout the Victorian prison system. Guidelines established by the review project set the standard for cell design in new maximum and medium security prisons. As well, the Cell and Fire Safety Rectification Project was initiated, with a Budget allocation of \$20 million over the next four years, to reduce the risks in all existing maximum and medium security cells across the State.

Thomas Embling Hospital Review

A review panel, chaired by His Honour Justice Frank Vincent, was established by the Victorian Government on 29 March 2001 in order to consider leave arrangements for patients at the Thomas Embling Hospital. This facility is operated by the Department of Human Services, who are responsible for the treatment of prisoners with diagnosed psychiatric illnesses. The review followed a number of security incidents between November 2000 and February 2001, involving patients escaping over the perimeter wall of the hospital or absconding from escorted leave. The panel recommended that the hospital, which is Victoria's main residential facility for mentally ill offenders, review and strengthen its security arrangements. Implementation of the review panel recommendations, which have been accepted by Government, is now being progressed by the Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner.



Several types of native grasses are grown from seed for the Wyndham City Council to recreate native grasslands along the river bank. More than 10,000 plants have been given to the Council over the past two years.

Other Achievements

Education and Training Programs Inside Victoria's Prisons

Education and training programs in Victoria's thirteen prisons are delivered by six TAFE institutes funded by the Office of Employment, Training and Tertiary Education. This funding covers training at both public and private prisons. Demand for access to education and training programs exceeds current provision. Hospitality, information technology (computers) and basic education continue to be the most sought after courses among prisoners and there is strong demand for engineering, primary industries and furniture studies. In accordance with best practice models, there has been an increased emphasis on integrating vocational training with prison industries and treatment programs, using literacy/numeracy courses to support such activities.

In response to the high demand for education and to concerns about whether the current access policy meets rehabilitation objectives and community expectations, the Commissioner's Office undertook to review prisoner education and training during 2001, and will complete the review in 2002.

Prison-based Industries

During 2000–01, the Prison Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC) developed a Strategic Plan based on their report 'Victorian Prison Industries Survey, Analysis and Issues 2001–04', which details a series of state-wide consultations with prison providers. The Committee prepared advice for the Government to present to the Federal Government in response to a complaint from the International Labour Organisation about prisoner labour in privately-owned prisons. The Committee also dealt with two complaints from commercial operators about competitive prison industries and provided advice to two prison providers considering new industries in their prisons. The Committee visited each Victorian prison at least once during the year.

DNA Testing of Prisoners

During the period from March 2000 to June 2001, a total of 2100 prisoners provided DNA samples, in accordance with the provision of the *Victorian Crimes (Amendment) Act 1997*. Eleven prisoners refused initially to provide the sample. When a prisoner refuses to comply with a Court Order to provide a DNA sample, authorities adopt an extensive communication process in their attempts to persuade the prisoner to comply with the law. Force is only used as a last resort, if the negotiation process fails and has been used on seven occasions to ensure compliance with the legislation. The joint Victoria Police and Corrections process for the obtaining of DNA samples from prisoners has been in place in Victoria since March 2000.

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Detainees

At the annual Corrective Services Ministers Conference, held on 26 June 2001, a resolution was passed by all State and Territory correctional jurisdictions that they would no longer accept into their facilities, Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) detainees who have not been charged with a criminal offence unless there are exceptional circumstances. In response to earlier representations on this issue by the Victorian Government, Victoria received a payment of \$2.2 million from the Commonwealth Government during 2000–01 for the reimbursement of costs for the accommodation of detainees held in State prisons since the 1996–97 financial year.

Corrections (Custody) Act 2001

The Corrections (Custody) Act 2001 was presented to and passed by the Parliament during the Autumn 2001 sitting. This Act:

- clarifies the concept of 'custody' in the *Victorian Corrections Act 1986*;
- defines the powers and functions of those responsible for transporting prisoners and for that purpose establishes a new category of officer;
- streamlines the provisions relating to transferring prisoners;
- enables the release of information about prisoners to certain victims of crime;
- makes changes covering the checking of mail sent to, and received by, prisoners; and
- makes several miscellaneous amendments, relating to confidentiality issues and technical matters.

Significant Event

Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre (MWCC) Step In

On 3 October 2000, following persistent service failures by Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd, a private operator of the Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre, the Minister for Corrections exercised his responsibilities under section 8F (Emergency Powers) of the Corrections Act, and 'stepped in' to takeover the prison. The Chief Executive of CORE – the Public Correctional Enterprise was appointed as administrator of the prison.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OUTPUT: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The step-in action – unprecedented in Australia – followed a detailed report by the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner (*Correctional Services Commissioner's Report on Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre's Compliance with its Contractual Obligations and Prison Services Agreement* dated 13 September 2000, and subsequently tabled in State Parliament) which found that the private operator was failing in the delivery of a number of fundamental correctional services. The operator failed to adequately respond to verbal warnings, written warnings and three separate Default Notices.

The cost to the Government of \$20.2 million for terminating the agreement and buying the facility outright was less than the value of on-going payments for use of the prison under the terms of the original contract. The commercial settlement was on the basis of a fair price for prison buildings, infrastructure and chattels. The Government did not pay any compensation for terminating the Prison Services Agreement with CCA on 30 October 2000. The subsequent settlement agreement reached with the operator was praised in the Victorian Auditor-General's annual 'Report on Ministerial Portfolios' tabled in Parliament on 6 June 2001. The report found that the weaknesses in private prison contracts, which had been prepared by the previous Government, left the Department of Justice exposed to risk. Despite this, the Government was able to terminate the contract on favourable terms, avoiding a prolonged legal dispute with the Corrections Corporation of Australia, and negotiating a commercial settlement amicable to both parties.

Ownership and management of the facility were fully transferred to the public sector during the year in review with the prison being managed by CORE. Following the step-in, CORE's management team conducted a series of reviews relating to security, health services, prisoner programs, accommodation, prison industries, IT systems, and staff recruitment and training. A number of modifications were also put in place to improve security at the facility. This, along with enhanced health services for prisoners and increased participation in prison-based programs, made immediate improvements that were reported by stakeholders soon after the takeover.

On 7 March 2001, the prison was officially renamed the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in recognition of 50 years of service to the Victorian community and to female prison reform in particular, by Dame Phyllis Frost.



Minister for Corrections André Haermeyer and Dame Phyllis Frost at the official rededication of the former Melbourne Women's Corrections Centre to its new name – the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

The Monitoring and Review Unit of the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner conducted on-site monitoring in October, November and December 2000 to address the original concerns raised in the Default Notices and examine the actions implemented by CORE.

In January 2001, the Monitoring and Review Unit undertook a review of strip searching procedures at the facility, testing compliance with CORE's operational procedures in relation to staff training and the frequency of strip searching. An independent drug testing program was undertaken during February 2001, and confirmed the prison's own random general drug testing results.

While short-term instability was apparent in the high number of prison incidents immediately following the step-in, the nature of these incidents suggested they were in part the result of anxieties created among prisoners by the changeover in prison management. The incidents were not untypical in a maximum security reception prison environment. Since then, both the level of self-harming and the number of prisoners testing positive to the use of illicit drugs, has significantly reduced in comparison with levels recorded under the previous service provider.

Output Performance Measures: Correctional Services

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	Var %
Quantity				
Total annual daily average number of prisoners	Number	>3,100	3,276	0
Average daily prison capacity utilisation rate	Per cent	108–111	113.90	2.90%
Policy briefs provided	Number	450	1,096	143.56%
Quality				
Proportion of benchmark measures in prison services agreements achieved	Per cent	90	83.70	-6.30%

Note 1: Variation in performance was a result of persistent service failures by Corrections Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd (CCS) as reported above.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OUTPUT: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Profile

This output provides facilities and programs for the community-based supervision of offenders through Community Correctional Services (CCS). Offenders serving intensive correction orders, community-based orders, combined custody and treatment orders, and parole orders are supervised at a network of CCS centres located across the State. An advice service is also provided to the courts and the Adult Parole Board.

Alignment with Government priorities

This output is fully aligned with the Government's objectives for appropriate supervision of offenders in the community as an alternative to imprisonment. The output is also well placed to be a key component in the Government's strategy to broaden the range of diversionary and rehabilitative options available in the criminal justice system. It also enforces the supervision of community-based orders by the courts and by the Adult Parole Board.

Results

Redevelopment of Community Correctional Services

Community Correctional Services plays a pivotal role in the criminal justice system helping to ensure a balanced continuum between punishment and rehabilitation. From July 2000 to June 2001, Community Correctional Services supervised over 6,000 offenders on a daily basis (almost 17,500 orders were registered during the year) and provided an important interface between courts, the Adult Parole Board and prisons.

However, CCS has struggled to maintain a viable service, in the face of growing demand and decreased funding in real terms. A major review, which was completed during 2000–01, recommended substantial reinforcement to this part of the criminal justice system so that it can fulfill its broadening role in statutory supervision, early intervention and rehabilitation programs. With increased resourcing in line with the Corrections Long Term Management Strategy, it is estimated that by 2005, CCS will have the strengthened capacity to supervise an additional 1,000 offenders.

In summary, the review recommended a major overhaul of Community Correctional Services to more effectively supervise an increasing number of offenders. The State Government supported this recommendation with the announcement of an unprecedented 73% increase in the CCS recurrent operating budget in the 2001 State Budget – \$8.4 million of which is allocated for 2001–02.

The key features of the redeveloped Community Correctional Services are:

- a substantial increase in CCS staffing – in excess of 100 new specialist positions across Victoria;

- a specialist court advice service (similar to that which is already operating at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court) providing the judiciary with accurate assessments of offenders' history and needs;
- intensive services to deal with high-risk offenders;
- an improved prison-based pre-release and parole service;
- state-wide psychological assessment and counselling services;
- expanded programs proven to reduce re-offending; and
- programs, which help offenders to find a job, gain education, training or target problems that led to their offence (such as gambling).

By focussing on offenders most likely to re-offend, these strategies will re-build Community Correctional Services in Victoria and introduce a streamlined, effective service which ensures that Government effort achieves the best results for offenders, their families and the community.

Supporting Offenders in Community Correctional Services

Various initiatives across Community Correctional Services support offenders to successfully meet the obligations of their Orders. In the year 2000–01, they included:

- development and implementation of WOMEN (Ways to Organise and Maintain Effective Networks), a pilot program at Dandenong CCS;
- development and implementation of a program for Indo-Chinese offenders at Sunshine and Dandenong CCS;
- implementation, through a partnership with V-Line – National Express Group, of a travel assistance program offering financial support to rurally-based offenders who are required to travel into metropolitan areas, under the auspice of their court order, for the purposes of treatment;



The annual CCS Partnership Awards recognise and acknowledge community groups and individuals across Victoria for their work in Community Correctional Services. Minister for Corrections André Haermeyer and the Reverend Tim Costello presented the Awards for 2000 in Queens Hall, Parliament House.

- review of the processes in place which support offenders as they exit from CCS supervision/management;
- development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Community Correctional Services and Area Mental Health Services, Department of Human Services;
- development of a pilot program intended to support the families of those offenders who are subject to CCS intervention;
- facilitation of three, two-day training sessions for Community Corrections Officers concerning suicide prevention;
- development of a framework, draft operating procedures, and implementation plan for infection control within CCS; and
- development of new operating procedures for urinalysis within CCS, following the outcomes of the review into the utility of drug-testing regimes. The new framework is in line with the more recent harm minimisation and rehabilitative model of effective offender management.

Relocation of Community Correctional Services Offices

To better meet the needs of Victoria's changing offender population, Community Correctional Services continued its office relocation program. Offices in Boronia and Box Hill were closed during the year, and new offices opened in Ringwood, Heidelberg and Berwick. The Carlton office was refurbished, and a move is shortly taking place for the Prahran office.

Court Support Services and Review of Prosecutions Functions

To enhance the provision of court advice and assessments, dedicated court advice services are being developed for all major Magistrates' Courts across Victoria. The Leo Cussen Institute delivered specialist training courses for staff undertaking prosecutions of offenders to 60 Community Corrections Officers during 2000–01. Subjects included court etiquette, contested matters, and legislation issues.

Continuous Improvement in Community Correctional Services

Sixteen Community Correctional Services business excellence co-ordinators have been trained in the Department of Justice continuous improvement model – Plan, Do, Review and Improve (PDRI). Co-ordinators are identifying processes that require improvement, and forming cross-functional staff teams.

Community Work Partnership Awards

In December 2000, the Minister for Corrections officiated at the second annual Community Work Partnership Awards ceremony, held at Parliament House. These awards acknowledge outstanding contributions by individuals and agencies who provide or supervise community work for offenders whose orders include an 'unpaid community work' component. The work of volunteers was also acknowledged, in recognition of the International Year of the Volunteer.

Output Performance Measures: Community Correctional Services

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	Var %
Quantity				
Community supervision orders registered ¹	Number	22,000	17,466	-20.61%
Average daily offenders under community-based supervision ¹	Number	7,000	6,422	-8.26%
Quality				
Community supervision orders successfully completed ²	Per cent	75	70.00	-5.00%
Offenders with a treatment or personal development program condition who have been appropriately referred to a program	Per cent	87	86.30	-0.70%
Timeliness				
Orders registered within five working days of the order's commencement	Per cent	95	93.30	-1.70%
Offenders inducted within seven working days of the commencement of their order	Per cent	95	94.50	-0.50%

Note 1: The proportions of high risk offenders on Intensive Orders such as ICOs, CCTOs, Parole and to a lesser extent CBOs have increased relative to the high volume, low risk offenders on Community Work (Only) Orders. This accords with national trends in offender profiles.

Note 2: As the proportion of high risk offenders increases so have community expectations in relation to the enforcement of compliance. Completion rates therefore reflect the stringency with which Orders are managed.

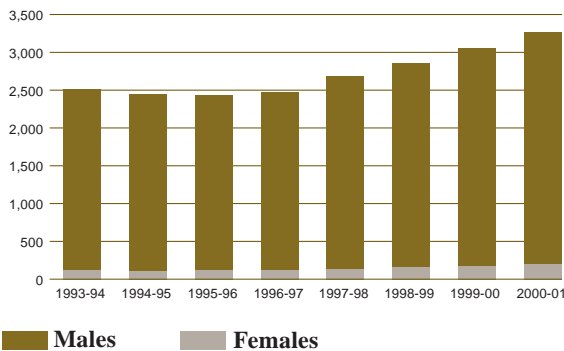
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STATISTICS

Correctional Statistics

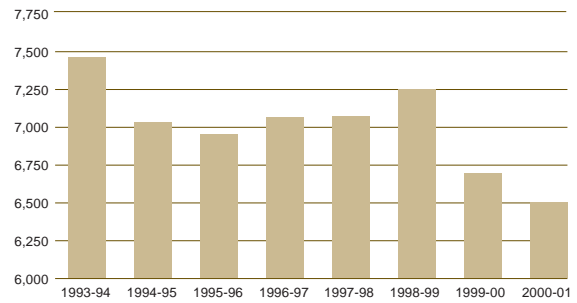
Statistical Profile of the Victorian Prison System

In March 2001, the Correctional Services Commissioner released the third edition of the annual Statistical Profile of the Victorian Prison System. The 104-page report presents a comprehensive range of data about the performance of Victoria's prisons (both publicly and privately managed). It profiles the prison population's major demographic and sentencing characteristics for the years 1995-96 to 1999-00. The report includes system performance data (this enables inter-prison comparisons to be made on key indicators) and details of benchmarks and service delivery outcomes which allow actual performance to be compared with required performance. These service delivery outcomes define the level of performance that each prison provider is required to achieve under the terms of their Prison Services Agreements. This is in accordance with the Government's policy of greater accountability.

Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Victoria



Daily Average Number of Community Corrections Offenders in Victoria



Daily Average Number of Community Corrections Offenders in Victoria 1993-94 to 2000-01

1993-94	7,463
1994-95	7,030
1995-96	6,952
1996-97	7,063
1997-98	7,069
1998-99	7,246
1999-00	6,693
2000-01	6,422

Notes: The proportions of high risk offenders on Intensive Orders such as ICOs, CCTOs, Parole, and to a lesser extent CBOs, have increased relative to the high volume, low risk offenders on Community Work Only Orders. This accords with national trends in offender profiles.

Daily Average Number of Prisoners in Victoria, 1993–94 to 2000–01

	Males	Females	Total
1993–94	2,389	132	2,521
1994–95	2,339	117	2,456
1995–96	2,309	123	2,432
1996–97	2,346	132	2,478
1997–98	2,545	147	2,692
1998–99	2,689	167	2,856
1999–00	2,877	185	3,062
2000–01	3,060	216	3,276

Number of Community Corrections Offenders by Order Type at 30 June 2001^(a)

Order type	Male	Females	Total
Parole	837	63	900
CCTO ^(b)	76	4	80
Intensive Correction Order	491	51	542
Community Based Order	2,257	635	2,892
CBO – Community Work Only	753	171	924
CBO – Fine Default	1,004	203	1,207
Other ^(c)	248	42	290
Total	5,666	1,169	6,835

(a) If an offender is serving more than one Order of the same type, they are counted once in the relevant Order type. If an offender is serving more than one type of Order, they will be counted once in each Order type.

(b) Combined Custody and Treatment Order.

(c) Includes Commonwealth and Interstate orders supervised in Victoria.

Profile of Offenders in Community Correctional Services

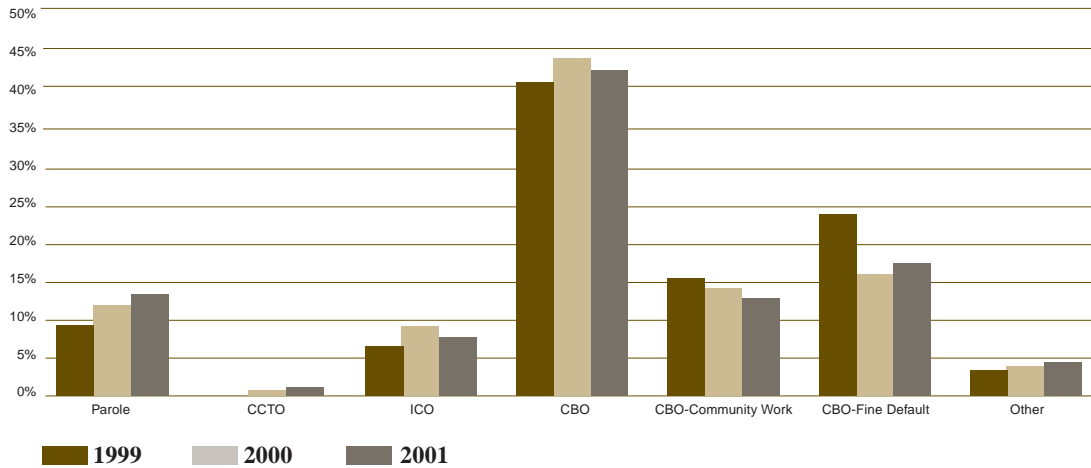
On any given day in Victoria during 2000–01, there are approximately 6,420 offenders serving a Community Corrections Order.

The Community Corrections Services' offender profile had the following key characteristics at 30 June 2001:

- 81.7 per cent of offenders were male;
- 56.4 per cent were under 30 years of age;
- 3.6 per cent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- 91.1 per cent had completed part of their secondary education or less at the time of registration of their orders; and
- 52 per cent were unemployed at the time of registration of their orders.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STATISTICS

Proportion of Community Corrections Offenders by Order type at 30 June 1999 to 2001



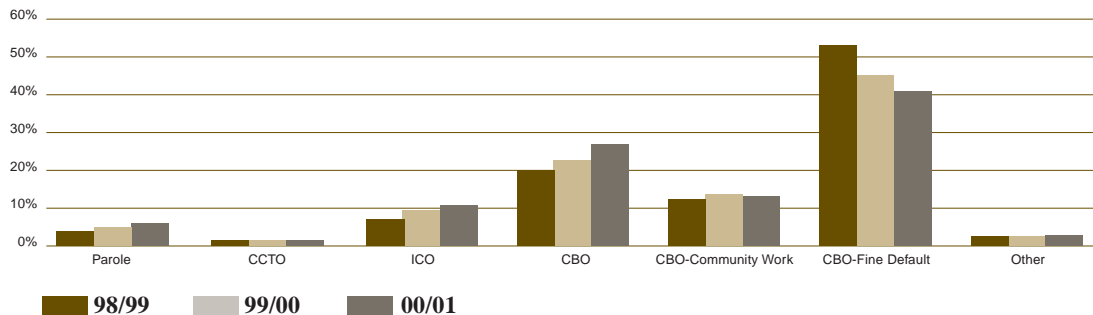
Number of Community Correctional Services Offenders by Order Type at 30 June 1999–01

Order Type	1999	2000	2001
Parole Orders	717	776	900
CCTO – Combined Custody Treatment Orders ^(a)	-	55	80
Intensive Corrections Orders	536	584	542
Community Based Orders	3,115	2,880	2,892
CBO – Community Work Only	1,192	941	924
CBO – Fine Default	1,815	1,070	1,207
Other ^(b)	265	253	290
Total	7,640	6,559	6,835

(a) Combined Custody and Treatment Order.

(b) Includes Commonwealth and Interstate orders supervised in Victoria.

Community Corrections Orders as a Proportion of all Orders Registered from 1998–99 to 2000–01



Number of Orders Registered in Victoria, 1998–99 to 2000–01

Order Type	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01
Parole	871	960	1,123
CCTO – Combined Custody Treatment Orders ^(a)	222	208	205
Intensive Corrections Orders	1,706	1,735	1,845
Community Based Orders	4,225	4,164	4,466
CBO – Community Work Only	2,551	2,266	2,145
CBO – Fine Default	11,363	8,367	7,050
Other ^(b)	347	295	328
Total	21,287	17,995	17,162

(a) Combined Custody and Treatment Order.

(b) Includes Commonwealth and Interstate orders supervised in Victoria.

Community Corrections Orders Registered in Victoria by Order Type, 2000–2001^(a)

Order Type	Males		Females		Number of Orders	Total Number of Offenders (a)
	Number of Orders	Number of Offenders (a)	Number of Orders	Number of Offenders (a)		
Parole	1,035	1,002	88	83	1,123	1,085
CCTO ^(b)	192	188	13	12	205	200
Intensive Correction Order	1,637	1,447	208	208	1,845	1,655
Community Based Order	3,355	3,092	1,007	904	4,362	3,996
CBO – Community Work Only	1,766	1,684	379	366	2,145	2,050
CBO – Fine Default	5,811	3,397	1,239	771	7,050	4,168
CBO – Imprisonment	19	18	1	1	20	19
CBO – Post Breach	59	54	25	21	84	75
Commonwealth Orders	17	17	0	0	17	17
Interstate Orders	260	240	51	51	311	291
Total	14,151	10,392	3,011	2,248	17,162	12,640

(a) The number of Orders registered during 2000–01 in this table varies from the number reported on Page 41 due to updating of Order details on the offender database since 30 June 2001.

(b) Combined Custody and Treatment Order.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STATISTICS

Community Corrections Orders Successfully Completed as a Percentage of all Orders Discharged, 1996–97 to 2000–01^{(a)(b)}

Order Type	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01
Parole	74.45%	69.15%	65.55%	61.42%	60.38%
CCTO ^(c)	N.A-	N.A	37.89%	39.11%	46.67%
Intensive Corrections Orders	68.19%	65.90%	62.60%	56.90%	59.43%
Community Based Orders	54.42%	51.82%	53.91%	49.59%	51.92%
CBO – Community Work Only	70.27%	71.38%	71.11%	65.96%	68.94%
CBO – Fine Default	83.98%	83.56%	81.84%	74.44%	76.62%
Total^(b)	75.00%	73.24%	72.46%	65.93%	66.43%

(a) The percentages of Orders successfully completed during 2000–01 in this table varies from the number reported on Page 41 due to updating of Order details on the offender database since 30 June 2001. The data relating to Order completions in previous years is updated each year as outcomes are finalised.

(b) Orders discharged because of pending breach action where the outcome is not finalised are excluded from the calculations.

(c) Combined Custody and Treatment Order.

Prison Services Statistics

Overview of Five Year Prison Performance Trend

Major trends in prison performance during the last five years have included:

- There were 20 escapes during 2000–01 compared with 14 in 1999–00, compared with a high of 22 in 1997–98. Two of the escapes in 2000–01 were from secure (maximum/medium) prisons. There were nine attempted escapes during 2000–01 compared to four in the previous year, compared with a high of 10 in 1997–98.
- There were 11 prison deaths in 2000–01 compared with three in 1999–00 and a high of 13 in 1997–98. Five of the deaths in 2000–01 were from other than apparent natural causes compared to two in the previous year and 10 in 1997–98.
- The self-mutilation rate declined significantly in 2000–01 from a high of 1999–00, while the attempted suicide rate was stable.

- While the rate of assaults on prisoners in the last five years by other prisoners was at its highest level during 2000–01 (16.5), the rate of assaults on staff or other persons by prisoners (2.5) in 2000–01 fell to its lowest level since 1996–97 (2.3).
- The percentage of positive random drug tests declined from 4.5% in 1999–00 to 4.1% in 2000–01 which is by far the lowest level recorded in the last five years.
- Average out-of-cell hours per prisoner stabilised in 2000–01 (12.2) at the same high level which was recorded in 1999–00.

The general outcomes for prison services 2000–01 has been impacted by the overcrowding in the system. The occupancy rate for 2000–01 was 118.5% of design capacity. Recent government initiatives are addressing the issue of capacity. A number of measures, i.e. self mutilation and positive drug tests are substantially improved on the previous year, due to the co-operation of correctional management, prison providers, staff and unions.

Prison Services Statistics

Five Year Trend

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Containment and Supervision – escapes^(a)					
Number of escapes – total	16	22	17	14	20
Number of escapes – secure prisons	1	1	r4	0	2
Number of escapes – open prisons	10	20	12	10	18
Number of escapes – other	5	1	r1	4	0
Escape rate – total (per 100 prisoner years)	0.65	0.82	0.60	0.46	0.61
Escape rate – secure prisons (per 100 prisoner years)	0.05	0.04	r0.16	0.0	0.07
Escape rate – open prisons (per 100 prisoner years)	2.20	6.10	3.67	2.93	4.62
Number of attempted escapes	8	10	2	4	9
Containment and Supervision – deaths^(b)					
Total number of deaths in custody	5	13	9	3	11
Death rate (per 100 prisoner years)	0.2	0.48	0.32	0.1	0.34
Number of deaths other than from apparent natural causes	1	10	8	2	5
Death rate other than from apparent natural causes (per 100 prisoner years)	0.04	0.37	0.28	0.07	0.15
Number of Aboriginal deaths in custody	0	0	0	0	1
Containment and Supervision – self harm					
Self mutilations (per 100 prisoner years)	4.1	5.5	5.3	8.5	6.3
Attempted suicides (per 100 prisoner years)	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.8
Containment and Supervision – assaults^(c)					
Assault rate – assaults on prisoners by other prisoners	12.2	14.3	10.6	13.1	16.5
Assault rate – assaults on staff or other persons by prisoners	2.3	3.4	2.5	4.1	2.5
Containment and Supervision – illicit drugs					
Percentage of positive random drug tests	5.6%	6.3%	4.8%	4.5%	4.1%
Offender care					
Average out-of-cell hours per prisoner, per day – total	11.4 hrs	12.0 hrs	11.9 hrs	12.2 hrs	12.2 hrs
Average out-of-cell hours per prisoner, per day – secure prisons	10.6 hrs	11.6 hrs	11.5 hrs	11.9 hrs	11.9 hrs
Average out-of-cell hours per prisoner, per day – open prisons	14.9 hrs	14.9 hrs	14.8 hrs	14.8 hrs	14.8 hrs
Number of visits (per 100 prisoner years)	34.1	r35.2	r35.3	r33.4	30.7
Reparation – Employment^(d)					
Employment rate – all prisoners	74.9%	r84.5%	r74.6%	r86.8%	84.2%

r = Revised from 1999–2000 Report.

- (a) The escape categories have been revised to conform with the current definition of escapes for the Report on Government Services for the Productivity Commission. Escapes by prisoners on unescorted leave, in work parties or activities outside the prison perimeter without direct one-to-one supervision are classified as 'other' escapes. All other escapes, including during transfers between prisons or escorts outside the prison under one-to-one supervision, are classified according to the security level of the prison.
- (b) The cause of all prisoner deaths is subject to confirmation by the Coroner.
- (c) The assault rate is based on the number of victims of assaults. The measure in this report differs from the definition adopted this year for the 2002 Report on Government Services which disaggregates assaults by seriousness but excludes minor assaults that did not result in bodily harm or require any form of medical intervention.
- (d) Prior to 1999–2000, the prisoner employment rate was calculated as a proportion of all prisoners except those in full-time education or programs and remandees who chose not to work. The definition was revised to also exclude prisoners whose situation may preclude their participation in work, e.g. hospital patients, aged prisoners and prisoners in transit. The employment data from 1997–98 onwards has been recalculated in accordance with the revised definition.



OUTPUT GROUP: COMMUNITY SAFETY

GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE

People feel safe in their day-to-day lives
Readiness for fire and other emergencies is maintained
and effectively co-ordinated

OUTPUTS

DELIVERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Police and Emergency Services

OUTPUTS

DELIVERED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Support for Community Safety and Crime Prevention
Support for Emergency Readiness

COMMUNITY SAFETY

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTPUT: SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Profile

This output provides policy advice and executive support services as required by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, as well as strategic coordination and support for community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Alignment with Government priorities

The output seeks to provide the necessary legislative and program frameworks to ensure that Victorian communities are safe and that people are confident about their safety. The output provides the Government with program advice, based on analysed crime data collected from a diverse group of agencies through its key agency Crime Prevention Victoria (CPV). CPV is committed to delivering integrated and tailored crime prevention measures. Actions include education and information campaigns about public safety, the formation of Government/community partnerships and the dissemination of best practice approaches.

Results

Programs

Launch Of Crime Prevention Victoria (CPV)

Crime Prevention Victoria was formally launched in May 2001, in line with the Government's commitment to establish a crime prevention agency to work with other State Government agencies, local government, business and communities on integrated and tailored crime prevention programs. Crime Prevention Victoria is a Business Unit of the Department of Justice and is developing a Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy which will focus on targeted crimes, places and people. Existing program funding is \$5 million per year, however for the period 2001–03, Crime Prevention Victoria received an additional \$6 million through the Community Support Fund.



Minister for Corrections and Minister for Police and Emergency Services, André Haermeyer, officially launches Crime Prevention Victoria in May 2001.

Collaborative links are being developed with Victoria Police, the Victorian Community Council Against Violence (VCCAV), community agencies, business and Government departments. Services provided by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education, Employment and Training are particularly important, due to their impact on the development of young people in our community.

In order to reduce the impact of car thefts in Victoria, CPV also works with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

Crime And Violence Prevention Strategy

During the year in review, a whole-of-Government, whole-of-community crime and violence prevention strategy began in order to identify crime prevention initiatives in three specific areas – reducing offending and violence by young people, safety in neighbourhoods and families experiencing violence. A Crime Prevention Interdepartmental Consultative Committee comprising representatives from each Government department was formed and established working groups to ensure community and Government input to the strategy.

Crime Prevention awareness activities occurred throughout the period under review, based in communities across the state and featured local, national and international speakers, including Ms Liz Haggard from the Home Office, United Kingdom. Over 1500 information kits containing fact sheets on topics such as Crime and Multicultural Communities, Crime and Schools, Crime and Car Theft, were also distributed to secondary schools, local government, Members of Parliament, police and crime prevention officers. The kit is updated and expanded as required, and is available to individuals online at www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au and in printed format.

Targeted Crime Prevention Initiatives

During the year 2000–01, a shift from the process for receiving grant-based funding to program-based funding occurred, enabling the targeting of specified crimes, as identified by Crime Prevention Victoria on the basis of their collated data. Funding was approved for applications which focussed on priority crimes in identified high risk locations, such as the prevention of armed robbery, the prevention of car theft or improved safety around parks and building sites. Fourteen local governments shared in a total of \$748,416 of Safer Communities funding for various initiatives including those that lessened the impact of offences on both young and old members of the community. Drug and alcohol-related research projects were funded through the Victorian Law Enforcement Drug Fund.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTPUT: SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Over the next 12 months, the strategic priority for program funding will be based on the Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy and focus on the four high-priority crimes of household burglary, motor vehicle theft, assault, and armed robbery.

Local Crime Data and Information

Crime Prevention Victoria disseminated local crime data together with effective program results to councils and other agencies across Victoria. The information is specific in relation to community perceptions and demographics, and when collated against crime data, it helps identify neighbourhood crime issues, analyse its causes, and implement successful prevention programs at the local level. Sources of information include the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Victoria Police, and the Australian Institute of Criminology.

In March this year, 11,418 residents were randomly selected from each of the 78 local government areas in Victoria, and asked to participate in the annual Local Safety Survey. Victoria Police District Inspectors along with local government, use the data to plan their crime reduction strategies.

Community Safety Week

Community Safety Week (CSW), is co-ordinated by Crime Prevention Victoria. Community Safety Week 2000, involved over 520 activities, conducted by 300 organisations across Victoria. Around 45 per cent of activities were geared to crime prevention and 55 per cent to injury prevention and community safety. A total of six Government departments and 71 local councils participated in 2000, with research showing 46 per cent of the population recognising Community Safety Week.



A water rescue demonstration on the Yarra River as a part of the launch of Community Safety Week 2000.

Livestock Theft Working Group

Over the past 12 months, work has progressed on issues relating to livestock theft. A working group was convened to examine this issue, comprising representatives of Victoria Police, the Departments of Justice, Natural Resources and Environment, and the Victorian Farmers Federation. The group's report will be finalised and delivered to Minister Haermeyer and Minister Hamilton later in the year.

Road Safety

The newly-formed Ministerial Road Safety Council released a discussion paper in 2001 on road safety initiatives and priorities for inclusion in the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2001–06. This work has progressed throughout 2000–01 through the management group which comprises the Department of Justice, Victoria Police, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), and VicRoads. The Strategy is expected to be released early in the next financial year.

Violence Prevention Projects

- *Research for the reduction and prevention of violence*
An innovative research project into how the system deals with children and young people engaging in sexually abusive behaviours, began during 2000–01. The report and recommendations will be released early in 2002.
- *Family violence database*
Development began on a Family Violence Database which will store and analyse information collected from the Magistrates' Courts, Victoria Police and other violence support agencies.
- *Violence Information Kit*
During 2000–01, a community Violence Information Kit was released with fact sheets covering violence-related issues around indigenous communities, alcohol and hate-related crimes.
- *New weapons legislation*
In line with the Government's commitment to public safety, the *Control of Weapons (Amendment) Act 2000*, was introduced in December 2000, specifying amended conditions and limitations for the selling, possession and carriage of knives, dangerous articles or weapons.

Legislation

New Weapons Legislation

Control of Weapons amendments commenced operation on 17 December 2000 to significantly increase the controls on knives and dangerous weapons in line with Government commitments. The introduction of the *Control of Weapons (Amendment) Act 2000* and the *Control of Weapons Registrations 2000* saw:

- new requirements for vendors to record the sale of all prohibited weapons;
- an increase in the maximum penalty (to \$12,000) for offences under the Act;
- an extension of the concept of 'prohibited persons' from the *Firearms Act* into the *Control of Weapons (Amendment) Act*;
- an increase in the number of weapons within the class of prohibited weapons; and
- the creation of a new offence to stop the sale of a prescribed weapon to a person who has neither an exemption nor an approval under the Act.

Legislative Reform

Work continued on implementing legislative reforms regarding Private Agents and Peaceful Assemblies. Discussion papers were prepared for consultations with the community in order to elicit views on the reform models proposed. It is expected that the legislative reform processed in these two areas will be progressed during 2001–02.

Major Review of Administrative Arrangements for Police During 2000–01, Mr John Johnson (former Commissioner of Tasmania Police and Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police) completed the Administrative Review of Victoria Police. This Review was conducted at the request of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and put forward recommendations relating to four broad areas:

- administrative reforms, which are being considered by the Chief Commissioner;
- major reforms to the *Police Regulation Act*, reflecting governance and accountability recommendations which will be worked on consultatively by the Department, Victoria Police and the Police Association;
- the introduction of a Police Career Services Commissioner, which will also be developed into a legislative model within a consultative framework; and
- the introduction of improved career path opportunities through a new career rank structure, which is being examined as part of the Enterprise Bargaining negotiations.



New Police recruits graduate from the Glen Waverley Police Academy – a result of the Labor Government commitment to boost police numbers by 800 members.

Output Performance Measures: Support for Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	Var %
Quantity				
Policy briefs, legislative and regulatory matters and Ministerial and general correspondence concerning policing and community safety and crime prevention arrangements ¹	Number	850	930	9.41%
Grants applications received	Number	150	180	20.00%
Committees and taskforces supported	Number	32	37	15.63%
Quality				
Achievement of milestone targets for grant processing	Per cent	100	100	0.00%

Note 1: A number of funding rounds were held during 2000–01 with a higher than expected number of applications received. Crime Prevention Victoria expects to receive fewer applications as it makes strategic investments in targeted programs to respond to crimes, places and people in 2001–02.

SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

OUTPUT GROUP: COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTPUT: SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY READINESS

Profile

This output establishes and monitors performance standards for fire and emergency services and Government contributions to the services organisations, ensuring that the capability of combined services is appropriately maintained. This output provides policy advice, strategic coordination and executive support services as required by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Alignment with Government priorities

This output is fully aligned with Government policies on keeping Victorians safe and encouraging volunteers. It is aligned with the Government's commitment to ensuring Victoria has a well-resourced, community-based network of professional and volunteer emergency services – one that can rapidly assist in all kind of emergencies. The output group seeks to provide the necessary legislative and program frameworks to ensure that Victorian communities are safe and people are confident about their safety.

Results

During 2000–01, the output group furthered the Government's commitment to supporting emergency readiness by delivering:

- 'minimal harm' responses to fire and other emergencies;
- effective preventative and intervention measures for fire and other emergencies;
- a framework for Government/community partnerships to prevent, respond to and recover from emergencies; and
- information campaigns to raise public awareness of the risks associated with handling emergencies and how to avoid them.

A Model of Fire Cover for Victoria

During 2000–01, the Office of the Emergency Service Commissioner distributed a discussion paper entitled 'A Model of Fire Cover for Victoria.' The paper relates to resource planning for the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFESB). The paper considers prevention measures, response times, weight of attack and geography with the objective of providing a standard level of fire cover to all areas of similar risk, irrespective of which agency delivers the service. The discussion paper incorporates an evaluation of interstate and international practice.

Co-location Model for Emergency Services

A model to assess the viability of co-location proposals for emergency services commenced development. Following completion of the Lorne facility, a number of other co-location opportunities have been identified and planning for sites and locations for several agencies has begun.



Outside the new Emergency Services co-location facility in Lorne.

Community Safety Emergency Support Program

The Community Safety Emergency Support Program was initiated during 2000–01 to enable CFA brigades and VICSES units obtain new equipment through a combination of fundraising and grants. In its first year of operation, the fund distributed \$1.77 million to CFA brigades (46 grants) and VICSES units (56 grants). The program will distribute \$4.5 million over a period of three years.

Training and Support for Volunteers

During the year, in preparation for the implementation of the National Public Safety Training Package, 250 VICSES volunteers were trained and qualified as Workplace Assessors. Volunteer Units are also being encouraged to conduct their own assessments as the first part of Certificate II of the National Public Safety Training Package.

A database containing the qualifications of all VICSES volunteers commenced development during 2000–01. It will assist VICSES align volunteers' skills with the core functions of their individual units.

Emergency Management Manual

The Ministerial Municipal Emergency Management Planning Guidelines (Part 3 of the Emergency Management Manual) were reviewed, refined and publicly launched during 2000–01. These guidelines help municipalities prepare effective emergency management plans, based on an assessment of risk. Other parts of the manual will be revised to ensure that Victoria's emergency management arrangements remain robust and effective, and that roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated.

Event Planning

The co-ordination of emergency plans across Government, emergency services and industry has been enhanced to minimise duplication and maximise the effectiveness of emergency management situations. This co-ordinated approach was adopted at several events during 2000–01, including the World Economic Forum and the 2000 Olympic Games. These plans add to existing arrangements and enhance the State's readiness for a wider range of emergency situations.

Transition Arrangements for Public Safety Communications Services

Arrangements to transfer the management of public safety communications to a State-owned company began during this financial year. Public safety communications cover emergency call taking and dispatch centres for police, ambulance, SES and fire services in the greater Melbourne metropolitan area. The existing contract between Intergraph BEST Victoria and Emergency Service Organisations (ESOs) expires on 4 September 2002 and Intergraph signalled they did not wish to continue the operational contract.

State-wide Integrated Public Safety and Communications Strategy

The State-wide Integrated Public Safety Communications Strategy (SIPSaCS), was developed to map the future developments and improvements for Victoria's emergency response capacity. Over the next decade, the strategy will guide the State's investment in emergency telecommunications on a multi-agency basis. The strategy provides for the use of multi-agency communications tools where possible for day-to-day operations.

The strategy aims to maximise value for money outcomes for Government, by sharing common infrastructure where possible and using technologies that support high quality management information for all ESOs. In addition, the strategy provides a framework for guiding implementation principles and evaluating operational projects.

Mobile Data Networks and Other Communication Improvements

Work continued during 2000–01 on the development of business cases for the provision of mobile data network services for ESOs in the greater Melbourne area to enhance operational efficiency and the safety and security of emergency services personnel in the field. Preliminary work also began on a state-wide Personnel Alerting System and a Metropolitan Melbourne Radio System for Emergency Services.

Output Performance Measures: Support for Emergency Readiness

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	Var %
Quantity				
Audited municipal emergency management plans meeting Ministerial guidelines (VICSES) ¹	Per cent	100	100	0%
Timelines				
Proportion of responses to emergency calls meeting benchmark times:				
• VICSES – road accident rescue calls	Per cent	95	95	0
• Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services	Per cent	90	90	0
• Country Fire Authority ²	Per cent	90	90	0

Note 1: New guidelines and process adopted for progressive audit over three-year cycle.

Note 2: Only applies to benchmarked services.