

Introduction

Inmates are given education and vocational training to improve their chances of finding jobs when they leave prison. Employment is an important way to reduce reoffending.

Priority is given to inmates with the highest learning needs and most at risk of reoffending.

Education and employment programs provide opportunities to gain recognised qualifications, and in some cases employment experience in prison industries.

Education for inmates reflects best practice adult education in the community.

Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people are provided with opportunities that recognise their land, heritage, relationships and cultural beliefs.

Key facts and figures 2017/2018

- **Education provided a service to 9655 inmates.**
- **368 inmates participated in Intensive Learning Programs**
- **25% Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders in custody participated in education programs.**

What education and vocational training programs are available to inmates?

Intensive Learning Centres

Intensive Learning Centres provide full-time education programs to inmates within a culture of learning to assist them in developing learning and social skills to participate in further education and work opportunities.

The aim of the Intensive Learning Centres is to reduce an inmate's risk of reoffending through educational achievement as measured by the attainment of nationally accredited certificates.

Intensive Learning Centres are located at Mid North Coast, South Coast, Wellington and Lithgow Correctional Centres.

Vocational Training Programs

CSNSW works in partnership with external training organisations to provide courses that include Workplace Health and Safety, First Aid, Forklift, Welding, Chainsaw, Food Preparation, Engineering and Asset Maintenance.

- **4357 inmates participated in TAFE courses**

Traineeships and Apprenticeships

Inmates who are employed with Corrective Services Industries can do a traineeship program. This provides them with an Australian Qualification Framework qualification and a Certificate of Proficiency, which increases their post-release employment opportunities.

Traineeships can be completed in a range of industries including clothing production, construction, engineering, forests and forest products, laundry operations, hospitality and transport and logistics.

- **In 2017/18 a total of 393 inmates participated in a traineeship.**



Tertiary Education Programs

Inmates may be eligible for tertiary courses provided by external education institutions. Enrolment must be supported in an inmate's case plan. Inmates do not have access to the internet, which restricts the delivery of distance education courses.

Some courses and subjects are not available as they require special equipment or field work. Inmates are required to contribute towards the costs of their study.

Library Services

Each correctional centre has a library, where offenders can access a range of fiction, non-fiction and reference books as well as newspapers and magazines.

Correctional centre libraries provide offenders access to:

- The latest edition of appropriate state and federal legislation
- The latest edition of the CSNSW Operations Procedures Manual
- Reference books and legal resources to assist in legal defence and litigation
- Recreational, educational and informational resources
- Access to a legal information research service.

A mobile library service is available for those inmates housed in an area where they cannot access the library.



Offender Access Computers Network

The Offender Access Computer Network provides inmates with access to education programs, online assessments and a range of software packages and programs to support participation in educational programs and distance education as well as access departmental resources such as the Smoke Free Intranet. Inmates also use the Offender Access Computers for CSI employment purposes.

Legal Information Portal

The Legal Information Portal is available on the Offender Access Computers Network and provides plain English legal resources including information about criminal, civil and family law matters.

How are inmates assessed for education and vocational training programs?

Offender assessments are very important tools used by CSNSW to identify offenders who have the highest risk of reoffending and a need for education intervention. Accurate assessments ensure that offenders participate in education and vocational training programs which are relevant and responsive to their specific needs.

Inmates undertake an online core skills assessment to determine their level of reading and numeracy to support allocation to appropriate education programs and services.

Further information

Further information:

www.correctiveservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/CorrectiveServices/programs/adult-education/education-training-employment.aspx