

## Introduction

Research shows participation in education while in custody can significantly increase employment opportunities and reduce the risk of re-offending following an inmate's release from custody.

Inmates are provided with education and employment programs with the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications.

The assistance of inmates to gain skills, qualifications and work experience has direct correlation to helping improve their post-release employment opportunities.

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

### Key facts and figures 2020/21

- **Education provided a service to 10,378 inmates.**
- **306 inmates participated in 406 Intensive Learning Programs**
- **19.4 % 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, assisting 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 the Mid North Coast, South Coast, Wellington and Lithgow Correctional Centres.

### Vocational Training Programs

CSNSW works in partnership with external training organisations to provide workplace licences, skill sets and part and full qualifications. Training is available across a range of sectors, including facilities maintenance, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and technology.

Foundational skills are offered throughout all facilities to improve the capacity of inmates to achieve vocational goals.

- **3139 inmates participated in Vocational courses**

### Traineeships and Apprenticeships

Eligible inmates who are employed with Corrective Services Industries can undertake a traineeship or apprenticeship. This provides them with a recognized qualification and a Certificate of Proficiency, which increases their post-release employment opportunities.

- **In 20/21 a total of 531 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 caseplan. 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. This supports participation in educational programs and distance education, as well as allowing access to 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

Please visit the DCJ Corrective Services intranet:

<https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/csnsw-home/reducing-re-offending/initiatives-to-support-offenders/employment-and-training/education-programs-and-services.html>