

ICPA PRACTICE TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SURVEY OF JURISDICTIONS: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW?

1. QUEENSLAND

QCS is delivering a Women's System Reform program including implementation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations and Transforming Corrections to Transform Lives program in partnership with Griffith University. The reform vision is to reduce the negative impacts of imprisonment for women and their families, embed gender-responsive, person-centred, culturally safe, trauma and evidence-informed programs and services, and acknowledge the over representation of First Nations women and commit to addressing holistically, with focus on equity of access, service system integration, wellbeing, connection and healing, and promotion of social and economic participation.

The QCS Women's System Reform program is underpinned by the QCS Interim Women's Strategy

Anything Else?

In addition to Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce funding for child and parenting programs, QCS has implemented Transforming Corrections to Transform Lives in Southern Queensland Correctional Centre - with Townsville Correctional Centre to follow in mid 2024. This is an innovative collaboration working to transform the lives of mothers in custody and their children. The pioneering partnership between QCS and Griffith University has the principles of co-creation at its core to create a new method of service provision for imprisoned mothers and their children that creates conditions for families to thrive through a holistic system of practice that supports wellbeing and social inclusion and that demonstrates more effective, sustainable service provision that can be scaled up by government.

2. SINGAPORE

Male Offenders

The Involvement, Consistency, Awareness and Nurturance (ICAN) and ICAN Change Programme, formed through the collaboration between Singapore Prison Service and the Centre for Fathering, conducts programme to equip inmates who are fathers with parenting skills, and facilitate bonding sessions between inmates and their children. For example, inmates who are fathers can write notes of encouragement on "Back to School with Dad" cards which would be passed to their families so that their children can be pleasantly surprised and

motivated when school reopens at the start of the academic year.

The following programmes are conducted for male, female and juvenile offenders:

Project Rekindle was launched, through the partnership of Singapore Prison Service and Lutheran Community Care Services, to repair and restore inmates' estranged family relationships using the concept of Restorative Practice. It comprises 4 components: individual engagements, family engagements, group session and facilitated family circles, where conversations address the impact of incarceration and repair harm. Inmates who are struggling with deeply strained familial relationships (evident from poor or no correspondence from their loved ones) and the distressing cycles of pain are eligible for this programme. The goal of the project aims to strengthen family ties for successful desistance, as inmates who lack family support face greater challenges reintegrating to society upon release.

The Family Reintegration Programme prepares inmates and their families for their reintegration by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to enhance relationship bonds with a focus on skills practice. The programme would include family participation through a dedicated session for family members and open-visit family joint session(s) to help inmates and their families resolve issues, improve their responsibility towards their family and enhance family communication. The programme also provides an opportunity for inmates and family members to share about their reintegration plans and discuss how to resolve potential issues together.

Family Joint Sessions are conducted to maintain and strengthen inmates' relationship with their family. For example, these sessions are conducted during the psychological-based correctional programmes that inmates go through to update family members on the inmates' progress and facilitate conversations between inmates and their family.

Family Group Decision Making conferences, an initiative based on Restorative Practices, provide a unique opportunity for the inmates to discuss about the mutual support required from each other and the inmates' plans and goals upon their release. This enhances family engagement and helps to manage expectations between the inmate and the family members to support reintegration after release.

Kids In Play is an initiative created through the collaboration of The Salvation Army and Singapore Prison Service, and provides counselling services to children, their incarcerated parents and their caregivers. Under this initiative, children gets to interact with their incarcerated parents through fun activities provided by partners without physical barriers.

For Women

Initiative for Incarcerated Mothers and Affected Children (IIMAC) programme, run by the Singapore After-Care Association and Singapore Prison Service, analyses the vulnerability of an incarcerated mother and their children during admission. The programme is intended as a

preventive measure for possible lack of care and abuse of these children. After analysis, Singapore Prison Service may refer the children of incarcerated mothers to community resources for assistance. This helps to support parenting from prison and reduce feelings of anxiety and helplessness as incarcerated mothers know that there is support available for their children.

Juveniles

Please refer to the initiatives in the response for “Male Offenders”.

Changes/Modifications

In recent months, Singapore Prison Service developed 5 new satellite visit centres by collaborating with partners including the Assyakirin Mosque, New Hope Community Services and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association. These satellite visit centres are placed around Singapore in strategic geographical locations closer to residential areas and makes it more convenient for visitors to have tele-visits with their incarcerated family members. This also makes family engagements more accessible for family members who may be unable to travel to the prison link centre in Changi due to mobility issues or time commitments.

Anything Else?

Singapore Prison Service is considering the possibility of having visits via Internet and visiting from unmanned pods placed at strategic locations. This could help reduce the manpower usage to facilitate visits, increase accessibility for family members to visit and free up time for staff to do more meaningful work. However, this is still a work in progress, and trials have not been conducted yet.

3. HONG KONG

Male Offenders

Rehabilitative Family Programme (RFP), with different rehabilitative themes, are held from time to time with the participation of family members (including their children) of the persons in custody (PICs). It aims to help them to consolidate relationships with their families. In addition, to recognize PICs’ study efforts and academic achievements, Ceremonies Presentation of Certificate (CPC) are held to invite their families to come in person to witness and celebrate in the event. What’s more, family-based treatment programmes are conducted in Family Gym to enhance family relationship for PICs and supervisees, in order to facilitate them in enhancing positive outlook on life, increasing hopeful thinking and facilitating positive reintegration into the community.

For Women

In addition to the aforementioned RFP and CPC, PSY GYM programmes are conducted for the female PICs to provide diversified and tailor-made psychological assessment and treatment for female PICs with moderate to high levels of emotional distress and psychological needs. A Child Visitor Short Stay Programme was also set up to allow PICs to have a maximum of two children under the age of three stay in institution for seven days during the Lunar New Year, Easter, and Christmas holidays to encourage incarcerated mothers to make a determined effort to reform.

For Juveniles

For the young PICs, Inmate Parent Programmes are held regularly at institutions for young offenders, which aims to help young offenders revive and consolidate relationships with their parents. It helps parents stay positive and prepares for their children's potential rehabilitation issues upon discharge. It also helps boost the determination of young offenders to stay away from crimes upon discharge. The Programme consists of activities such as visits by parents of newly-admitted young offenders, birthday celebrations to enhance parent-child relationships and seminars offered by clinical psychologists. Moreover, an initiative named "Project PATH" – in which "Life planning and rebuilding of family relationships" is conducted. Clinical psychologists arrange family members of PICs to receive family-based treatment together with the PICs in the institution for family breakdown or other serious family problems, so as to restore family relationships and strengthen their determination to start anew through family support. Last but not least, CPC is also held for the young PICs.

Changes/Modifications

Other than the on-going refurbishment and improvement of the visit facility at institutions, the following facilities have been made to support parenting from prison and family engagement:

- Parent-child Centres were set up in institutions which provide opportunities for PICs to build up and maintain parent-child relationship with their children in a suitable environment and strengthen the bond with their families which will provide them with strong support for their rehabilitation.
- Multi-purpose Family and Rehabilitation Service Centres aim to provide psychological and counselling services for rehabilitated offenders and their families, as well as a video social visit service for relatives and friends of PICs so as to strengthen the connection between PICs and their relatives and friends, so that visitors who are unable to visit correctional institutions due to old age, pregnancy, disabilities or other special reasons can make an appointment for a video visit.
- Reconnect Hub - represents reconnection with oneself, family and community, where the department's clinical psychologists provide a series of psychological services for adult supervisees through diverse psychological programmes and family-based psychological

services to help rehabilitated offenders lead a positive life, regain self-confidence, rebuild a harmonious family relationship and reintegrate into society with a positive attitude.

- CSD Social Visit e-Booking Service - which allows advance booking for a social visit for up to next 7 days via the designated online platform. Family members of PICs can enquire the latest visit status and the quotas for approved hand-in articles of PICs.

Anything Else?

Project Break-through activities will continue to provide extended services to the family members of the PICs in Community. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the provision of family services will also be enhanced.

4. NEW SOUTH WALES

For Male Offenders

Dads and Family (Aboriginal Babiin-Miyagang) Program – now also known as Deadly DADS
The Dads and Family (Aboriginal Babiin-Miyagang) Program aims to help participants:

- understand the changing role of Aboriginal dads in society.
- understand kids' needs and how dads can take care of their kids.
- understand grief, loss, and anger (for the child, the dad, and the mum)
- develop new communication skills necessary for improved relationships.
- understand the needs of the kids' mum and form more supportive ways of managing kids' issues.
- develop new coping skills for dealing with life's stress.
- develop new child management skills (both in families that live together and apart).
- recognise ways Aboriginal dads can protect their kids.

Duration: 5 x sessions, each of 3 hours duration

The Deadly DADS Program was recently developed as a re-design/re-development of the Babiin Miyagang program Aboriginal Mens parenting program. It was piloted at Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in 2023 and it is hoped to be implemented state-wide. It is for Aboriginal Men in custody that are fathers, uncles, grandfather's and/or carers of child/ren within families and communities. Non-Aboriginal male offenders can also take part in the program if they hold carer responsibilities for Aboriginal child/ren in their families in the community.

For Female Offenders

Mothering at a Distance (MAAD)

SHINE for Kids

SHINE for Kids is a Non-for-Profit organisation that supports children and young people affected by the criminal justice system. SHINE for Kids has been engaged to facilitate child-friendly weekend visits and child-parent activity days for people in custody, who have a parental or care relationship with their children in the following correctional centres:

- Bathurst CC
- Cessnock CC
- Goulburn CC
- Frances Greenway Complex – Geoffrey Pearce and Dillwynia
- Long Bay CC (No child-parent days)
- Mid-North Coast CC
- Silverwater Complex
- South Coast CC
- Wellington CC
- Parklea CC
- Clarence CC.

SHINE for Kids delivers 18 child-parent activity days each year, usually in the school holidays. In the post-COVID environment, some of those correctional centres have resumed normal service delivery, while others are not yet ready to resume the complete suite of child-activity events and have opted for alternate options to keep children and parents connected, such as 'Storytime'. This is where the parent records themselves telling a children's story that is then delivered to the child.

Changes/Modifications

Visit area refurbishments

The Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW) Infrastructure Standards comprise of the CSNSW Infrastructure Principles, a suite of nine Functional Specifications, Best Practice Examples and Data Sheets and four Performance Specifications. Functional Standards for Visits areas in correctional centres have been developed to include the following four major planning and design themes:

1. Enhanced Community Support and Security
2. Flexible Correctional Infrastructure
3. Staff Support and Offender Outcomes
4. Cost Effective and Efficient Operations

The purpose of the Visits building is to provide a secure environment within the correctional centre in which inmates may receive visitors. Maintaining contact with family and friends is an integral part of the rehabilitation of the inmate. It is important that corrections infrastructure is designed and implemented to facilitate and encourage families and other support networks to make frequent positive contact with offenders and with one another.

Through the construction of new and refurbished existing infrastructure as part of the Prison Bed Capacity Program, CSNSW increased inmate visitation capacity by 4,738 additional weekly visits, bringing the total visitation capacity to 13,586. Newly constructed and refurbished visitor areas have been designed with more welcoming and open space, with family friendly facilities such as children's play and nap areas, and private breastfeeding rooms whilst maintaining centre operations and security. Additionally, CSNSW / PBCP have increased the number of audio-visual link (AVL) suites to provide greater connectivity for inmates for family visits. The increased number of available AVL suites was critical during the CSNSW COVID-19 response which enabled CSNSW to support inmates to maintain contact with family and friends while in-person visits were suspended.

Anything Else?

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) recognises the value of visits between inmates and their families and friends, the importance of maintaining significant relationships, and the need to facilitate contact within the security confines of the correctional system.

Visits with family and friends are supported by CSNSW, as an important part of rehabilitation for people in custody. Visits help to strengthen their sense of connection and belonging with their family and friends, including their relationships with their children. It is argued those who maintain contact with their families during incarceration function more adaptively post-release. The suggestion is that family connectedness, associated post-release planning and support have positive impacts on recidivism, substance misuse, mental health and general community functioning. Each correctional centre has a dedicated space for such visits.

A key function of the Children and Families of Offenders Steering Committee is to support continuous improvement of CSNSW policies and processes to support as normal family interaction as possible for people in custody. The Strategy, Planning and Policy directorate is currently updating the Committee's Terms of Reference to expand its focus to include:

- potentially any activity that builds and maintains social capital for people in prison and outside of prison to emphasise connectedness, including social support, social networks, and social cohesion
- identifying gaps in policy and practice related to any activity that builds and maintains social capital and pro-social relationships
- challenging existing practices that do not foster pro-social relationships
- initiating and overseeing the piloting of new approaches to foster people's relationships with their families and their social capital more broadly
- formulating related research questions and commissioning research
- providing robust governance for an enlivened CSNSW strategic plan for this area
- identifying training and development needs for staff, people in custody and their families.

Child-parent activity days

The purpose of child–parent activity days is to provide an opportunity for inmates and their children to develop and maintain relationships. They offer the opportunity for children to spend quality time with their inmate parent/carer. Activity days involve only inmates and children with whom there is a parental or carer relationship. If possible, activity days should be held at least twice yearly. SHINE for kids is a community-based organisation that provides a range of services to children who have parent(s) and/or family in custody. SHINE assists CSNSW in the planning, coordination, and supervising activity days.

Family Matters Strategy

CSNSW is building on work to date to ensure that the impact on families of offenders is better understood and that greater effort is made to directly involve families in the pre-release work to reintegrate offenders back into the community following a period in custody. The '2018-2021 Family Matters Strategy' (the Strategy) will drive the importance of social bonds and family throughout the work of CSNSW in custodial and community settings as well as continue and expand a number of initiatives that directly promote closer family ties and strengthen key support networks. Through strategic partnerships with non-government organisations, CSNSW is supporting greater positive family contact between offenders and their families. These partnerships work for the benefit of both offenders and their families and also fit with the broader objectives of CSNSW programs and services to reduce reoffending and the likelihood of intergenerational crime. CSNSW is committed to creating better connections between families and offenders and ensuring that working with families is not seen as 'something else' but is part of the mainstream work of CSNSW.

CSNSW is committed to:

- Understanding and recognising the pressure on families with a relative in prison
- Promoting the value of family connections throughout an offender's contact with the corrections system
- Recognising families as an important source of support for inmates while in prison and a motivating force to desist from reoffending
- Working with a flexible definition of family that includes people that provide emotional and other support as well as direct family
- Understanding the importance of kinship and culture to Aboriginal offenders and their families
- Understanding the unique challenges that children face when a parent or primary carer is sent to prison

Regarding visits, this strategy commits to looking at new ways to enhance visits and post release support by:

- Developing a resource for 'First moment' of contact for families of offenders recently incarcerated
- Examining ways to provide support to inmates who receive no or little family/social support

- Looking at frequency and timing of visits including increasing leading up to time of release
- Examining new design standards for visiting facilities
- Developing learning module for Custodial officers responsible for oversight of visit facilities