Australian Correctional Leadership Program 2009

Professional Development Unit
Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy, Corrective Services NSW

A key feature of the program was presentations delivered by representatives of the CSAC. This year, these representatives included Mr Ian Johnson, Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services Western Australia, Mr Ken Middlebrook, Executive Director Northern Territory Correctional Services and Mr Rod Wise, A/Commissioner Victoria Corrections.

Mr Johnson spoke about corrections in Western Australia and strategies in building and leading a strong team while Mr Middlebrook presented a paper on the history of corrections in the Northern Territory and strategies to overcome the complexities in managing the operations of correctional centres. The participants also heard about a range of strategies to manage offenders in Corrections Victoria, delivered by Mr Wise. Collectively, this group of presenters provide practical experiences in leading a correctional jurisdiction in these times.

The program also featured a number of presentations by senior correctional staff, psychologists, executives and educational consultants. This included a presentation by lecturers from Macquarie University on the importance of considering the environment in all our business decisions.

This year’s Australian Correctional Leadership Program extended its international reach. Not only did some delegates travel from China, Indonesia and New Zealand to attend, but there was also a video-link with the United Kingdom.

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) hosted the two week program on behalf of the Correctional Services Administrators Council (CSAC) at the Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy. This year’s program featured a series of presentations, group assessment tasks and visits to a number of correctional facilities.

Twenty senior custodial and non-custodial executives from Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales Correctional Jurisdictions, as well as internationally, were selected to attend.

Australasian Journal of Correctional Staff Development
Key themes offered by the program include Leadership, Change Management, Corporate Governance and Managing Offenders. The video-link with senior correctional staff from the United Kingdom’s Ministry of Justice was considered a real highlight.

This year participants undertook a range of field visits. This provided the participants with an opportunity to examine what has been presented in the classroom, in practice in various workplaces. Tours included visits to the Mental Health Hospital, and Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at Long Bay, the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre at Windsor and the High Risk Management Unit in Goulburn. The Community Compliance Group (CCG) in Blacktown and Campbelltown were where Community field visits were undertaken, as well as a tour of Bundaleer and Campbelltown Community Offender Services Program (COSP) centres.

This year’s program was a great success in building on inter-regional and international relations in corrections. The program provided a rare opportunity for senior officers to network and share their knowledge and experiences.

It is anticipated that each of the participants will take back what they have learnt and implement it in their respective jurisdictions.

The International and Business Development Manager, Steve Pitts, and a panel of psychologists, senior managers and the head of the Ministry’s Sex Offenders program discussed the challenges and interventions in offender management in the UK. This session was regarded as highly informative and allowed the group to address some of their own challenges and experiences.

The international representation provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships between all jurisdictions and a forum to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding corrections across Australia and in China, Indonesia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

It is anticipated that each of the participants will take back what they have learnt and implement it in their respective jurisdictions.

Margret Dornan
Manager, Professional Development Unit
Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy
Corrective Services NSW

Phone: +612 9804 5444
Email: Margret.Dornan@dcs.nsw.gov.au