REASONS FOR ESCAPE: EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF INSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

MARIE-THERESE NGUYEN DA HUONG
Trainee Statistician

ANGELA GORTA
A/Chief Research Officer

BARBARA THOMPSON
Research Statistician

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION
N.S.W. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

MARCH, 1989.
SUMMARY

Following an escape from an institution, the superintendent is required to collect reports from the psychologist, welfare officer, wing/overseer officer, parole officer and education officer on the escapee over the previous 3 months. The superintendent is also required to write a report including a list of punishments undergone by the prisoner for offences in gaol and other relevant information. These reports are forwarded to the Assistant Director of Custodial Services who subsequently forwards them to the Research and Statistics Division.

This research report provides an analysis of the reports of different institutional staff concerning escapees who escaped between January 1986 and August 1988. The reports of the institutional officers were analyzed in order to determine which officers were most often aware of possible reasons for the escape and what the most commonly suggested reasons were.

From January 1986 to August 1988 there were 336 escapes from N.S.W. gaols. During this period reports were submitted about 294 (or 87.5%) of the escapees. The percentage of reports received decreased from 95% in 1986 to 90% in 1987 and 76% in 1988. Not all the different types of officers provided reports on each escapee, wing officers had the lowest report return rate (49%) and superintendents had the highest (65%). Only a small proportion of the reports contained suggestions of reasons why the prisoners may have escape. Most commonly officers responded "inmate was unknown to me", "no contact" or "unable to give an accurate appraisal owing to the short period of time the inmate was at the institution". The superintendents had the highest number of reports with some relevant information (14.3%), whereas the education officers had the lowest with only (1.4%). Out of a total 1764 possible reports only 116 of the officer reports (6.6%) contained relevant information which could provide a possible reason for the escape. For those officers who provided some relevant information, the most frequent reasons given were "chronic 'family' problems" or "drug or alcohol related". Differences in reasons given by different institutions and by different institutional officers are also examined.

From the reports supplied to the Research and Statistics Division it would appear that in the majority of cases institutional officers are not aware of the reasons prisoners escape. Hence there do not appear to be signs which would enable officers to predict which prisoners would be likely to escape in the future.
Introduction

Following an escape from an institution, the superintendent is required to collect reports from the psychologist, welfare officer, wing/overseer officer, parole officer and education officer on the escapee over the previous 3 months. The superintendent is also required to write a report including a list of punishments undergone by the prisoner for offences in gaol and other relevant information. These reports are forwarded to the Assistant Director of Custodial Services who subsequently forwards them to the Research and Statistics Division.

In this research study the reports of the different institutional staff are analysed to show which officers were most often aware of possible reasons for the escape, and what the most commonly suggested reasons were.

Methodology

For the purpose of this study, the report written by an individual officer will be termed an "officer report" while the co-ordinated set of officer reports about any escapee will be termed a "combined report". Combined reports may consist of only one officer report.

Up to the end of November 1988, combined reports on 299 escapees were received by the Research and Statistics Division. The escapes fell within the period from 27 December 1985 to 10 September 1988. However, as there were only two reports for the whole calendar year 1985 and only three reports for the month September 1988, the analyses will be confined to the 294 combined reports for the period from January 1986 to August 1988.

The officer reports were grouped according to whether or not they contained suggested reasons for the escape. In order to determine any changes over time, data were analysed in six different time periods: January-June, 1986; July-December, 1986; January-June, 1987; July-December, 1987; January-June, 1988; July-August, 1988.

Findings

1. Number of reports

From January 1986 to August 1988 there were 336 escapes from 22 different gaols in N.S.W. The majority of escapes were from Emu Plains Training Centre (30.0%) and Silverwater Work Release Centre (25.0%). There were no escapes from Maitland Gaol during this period. Among the 20 remaining gaols, the Special Care Unit, Mulawa Training and Detention Centre for the Women, Grafton Gaol, Parklea Prison, Metropolitan Remand Centre and Tomago P.D.C. had only one escape (0.3%) each. The remaining 43.2% of
Table 1: Number of Escapes from each Gaol for different periods and Number of Combined Reports from each Gaol.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Jan-Jun '86</th>
<th>Jul-Dec '86</th>
<th>Jan-Jun '87</th>
<th>Jul-Dec '87</th>
<th>Jan-Jun '88</th>
<th>Jul-Aug '88</th>
<th>Jan '86 Aug '88</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plains</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.C.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.B.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacPherson</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alburn X-Wing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knock</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen Hill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen Parker</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwood Main Gaol</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alburn Main Gaol</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randwick</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.P.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwood X-Wing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.W.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.D.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Z.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.P.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.D.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.E.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.S.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.F.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Jan '86 Aug '88</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Escape in high time period</td>
<td>19.9 17.6 14.6 20.2 22.3 5.4 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escapes with combined reports</td>
<td>92.5 98.3 95.9 85.3 80.0 61.1 87.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
escapes were divided among the other fourteen gaols with the differences between the gaols being small. (See Table 1.) Thus 87.5% of the escapes were from minimum security institutions, 8.6% from medium security, 3.6% from maximum security and 0.3% (1 escape) from a periodic detention centre.

During this period combined reports were submitted about 294 escapes. Hence reports were received about only 87.5% of the escapes. Table 1 shows the number of escapes, the number of combined reports received, the percentage of escapes and the percentage of combined reports based on the number of escapes for each gaol. During the whole period considered, no combined reports were received from Malabar Training Centre, Central Industrial Prison or Tomago Periodic Detention Centre, where the number of escapes were 24, 3 and 1 respectively. Combined reports were missing for some of the escapees from Emu Plains Training Centre, Mannus Afforestation camp, Glen Innes Afforestation Camp, Goulburn X-wing, Oberon Afforestation Camp, Cessnock Corrective Centre and Bathurst Gaol. The percentage of combined reports received decreased from 95.2% in 1986 to 89.7% in 1987 and 76.3% in 1988.

Not all the different types of officers provided officer reports on each escapee. Among the six officers who were required to give comments, the superintendents sent in the highest number of reports (on 65.3% of escapees) while the wing/overseer officers sent in the smallest number (on 48.6% of escapees) (see Table 2). However, few of these reports suggested reasons for the escape. Most responded "inmate was unknown to me", "no contact" or "unable to give an accurate appraisal owing to the short period of time inmate was at the institution". Most other comments were only about the prisoner's behaviour whilst at the institution, background and criminal history.

Table 2: Number of Officer Reports Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Officer Reports Received</th>
<th>No Suggested Reason</th>
<th>Some suggested Reasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>% CR</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation &amp; Parole</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Officer</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Officer</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>51.7</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing/Overseer</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* %CR = as percentage of number of 294 combined reports received. %OR = as percentage of number of officer reports received for that officer type.
Table 2 shows the number of officer reports received for each type of officer and the number of these reports which suggest reasons for the escape. The number of reports with suggested reasons is also given, first as a percentage of the 294 combined officer reports, showing the percentage of escapes for which there were suggested reasons and secondly as a percentage of the number of officer reports written by that type of officer, showing how often the reports of that type of officer had suggested reasons.

The superintendents had the highest percentage of reports with some relevant information. Even so, they suggested reasons for only 14.3% of the escapes (21.9% of the escapes for which they wrote reports). The education officers had the lowest percentage, suggesting reasons for only 1.4% of the escapes (2.6% of the escapes for which they wrote reports).

None of the escapees had reports containing relevant information from all institutional officers (see Table 3) and out of the 294 escapes there were suggested reasons for only 76. In 48 cases the reasons were suggested by only one officer. In 23 of these cases the officer report was from the superintendent, in 9 cases from the probation and parole officer, in 6 cases from the psychologist, in 5 cases from the welfare officer, in 3 cases from the wing/overseer officer and in 2 cases from the education officer. Thus different reasons may be known by different types of officer, and this seems to justify requiring reports from all the officers as at present. For the other 28 cases where reasons were suggested by more than one officer, the reasons were usually compatible. In only 5 cases were the reasons suggested by the different officers significantly different from each other. For example, the psychologist suggested that nightmares from the thought of having to kill pigs and poultry as part of the prisoner's job might be the reason, while the superintendent, welfare officer and education officer suggested it might be due to anxiety about his wife and difficulty in arranging day leave sponsors.

Table 3 Number of institutional officers (out of possible 6) whose reports contained relevant information about the escape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of officers whose report suggested reasons</th>
<th>No of escapees</th>
<th>Percentage of escapees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>294</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4: Number of Escapes for each Suggested Reason

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of Escapes with Each Reason</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emu Plains</td>
<td>4 4 4 2 1 - 1 2 3 -</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverwater</td>
<td>3 10 2 7 4 12 3 2 4 3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5 8 2 3 4 6 - - 10 -</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12 22 8 12 9 18 4 4 17 3</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of Total</td>
<td>11.0 20.2 7.3 11.0 8.3 16.5 3.7 3.7 15.6 2.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reasons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As % of Total</td>
<td>4.1 7.5 2.7 4.1 3.1 6.1 1.4 1.4 5.8 1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Codes for reasons

1. Bad news from outside.
2. Chronic family problems.
3. Personal problems.
5. Threats by other inmates.
7. Afraid to be transferred to another gaol.
9. Other.
10. Work release refused/cancelled.
2. **Suggested Reasons for Escape**

The reasons suggested for each escape were grouped into the following ten categories:

1. **Bad news from outside** (e.g. de facto wife broke off relationship);

2. **Chronic family problems** (e.g. pregnant fiancée suffering from cancer or daughter living with de facto wife who did not communicate);

3. **Personal problems** (e.g. wanted to be transferred to Bathurst Gaol to make visiting easier for girlfriend, could not cope with work at Dairy, or not recovered from being raped at another gaol);

4. **Parole uncertain/refused/deferred**;

5. **Threats by other inmates** (e.g. threatened with violence after giving up other prisoners to an officer);

6. **Drug related/positive urine** (e.g. afraid that urine test for drugs would be positive thus stopping chance of parole, or drunk at time of escape);

7. **Afraid to be transferred to another gaol** (e.g. found out he was to be deported, or feared transfer from minimum security gaol because urine test positive for drug use);

8. **Day leave refused** (e.g. depressed when removed from external education courses after two episodes of late returning);

9. **Other** (e.g. had close relationship with other escaping prisoner, or went on spur of the moment);

10. **Work release refused/cancelled**.

Table 4 shows the number of escapes for which each type of reason was suggested. As sometimes more than one type of reason was suggested for an escape, the total number of reasons is 109 for the 79 escapes with suggested reasons. The number of each type of reason is also expressed as a percentage of the total number of escapes, indicating how often each type of reason was suggested. The reasons given for escapes from gaols other than Emu Plains Training Centre and Silverwater Work Release Centre are pooled together because of the small numbers involved. There was no statistically significant difference among the reasons given for escaping from the different gaols.
Reasons suggested why the escapes occurred by the officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probation Parole Officer</td>
<td>2(13%)</td>
<td>9(33%)</td>
<td>2(18%)</td>
<td>6(33%)</td>
<td>1(8%)</td>
<td>6(23%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>2(29%)</td>
<td>4(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Officer</td>
<td>6(46%)</td>
<td>5(17%)</td>
<td>2(18%)</td>
<td>2(11%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2(29%)</td>
<td>3(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Officer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1(3%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1(8%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1(14%)</td>
<td>1(4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5(17%)</td>
<td>3(22%)</td>
<td>5(22%)</td>
<td>1(8%)</td>
<td>3(12%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wing/Overseer Officer</td>
<td>2(13%)</td>
<td>3(10%)</td>
<td>1(9%)</td>
<td>1(9%)</td>
<td>3(23%)</td>
<td>5(19%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
<td>1(14%)</td>
<td>3(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>3(23%)</td>
<td>7(23%)</td>
<td>3(22%)</td>
<td>4(22%)</td>
<td>6(23%)</td>
<td>12(40%)</td>
<td>3(83%)</td>
<td>1(14%)</td>
<td>9(33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% = as percentage of number of times that reason suggested.

Codes for reasons:

1. Bad news from outside.
2. Chronic family problems.
3. Personal problems.
5. Threats by other inmates.
7. Afraid to be transferred to another jail.
9. Other.
10. Work release refused/cancelled.
The most frequent reasons suggested for escapes were chronic family problems (7.5%), related to drug or alcohol abuse (6.1%), uncertainty or refusal of parole (4.1%) or bad news from outside (4.1%).

Table 5 shows the number of times a reason was suggested by the different types of officers. It also shows the percentage of each type of officer who gave each reason. It can be seen that some types of institutional officers were more likely to suggest or be familiar with certain types of reasons. For example, if the prisoner had received bad news from outside this was more likely to be reported by a welfare officer, while if the prisoner had received threats from other prisoners, been drunk or feared a positive urine test, this was more likely to be reported by a superintendent. A full listing of the reasons given is provided in Appendix 1.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Reasons for the escape could be suggested for only 76 (25.9%) of the 294 escapes reported between January 1986 and August 1988.

2. For some escapees, reasons for the escape were suggested by only one of the six different officers. On different occasions, each different type of officer was the only one to suggest a reason for the escape. This seems to justify requiring reports from this range of types of officers.

3. The most common reasons suggested for escapes were chronic family problems (7.5% of total escapes), related to drug or alcohol abuse (6.1%), uncertainty or refusal of parole (4.1%), or bad news from outside (4.1%).
Appendix 1: Details of reasons given by institutional officers who were able to supply relevant information.


   - Psychologist:
   Inmate appeared to be under a deal of stress during the past 3 weeks of his stay at Silverwater. There appeared to be a possibility of problems associated with drugs in some way and also contributing to his stressful condition was the possibility of him being 'stood over' by certain inmates in the prison. These circumstances may have added to his motive in escaping together with the fact that he had a parole hearing due on or around 14.2.86 which he may have felt would be once again knocked back.
   - Wing/overseer officer:
   A urine sample for drug analysis was requested from him on 12.1.86. He most probably feared a positive drug result in his urine analysis.
   - Superintendent:
   General performance acceptable. Produced a urine specimen a few days prior to his escape. Would have been aware it would return positive. Was suspected in dealing with drugs.

2. Goulburn: D.O.E. 14.1.86
   - Psychologist:
   This inmate attended self awareness classes on an irregular basis. Also I had 2 or 3 interviews with him, he appeared to be concerned about his daughter who was with his defacto-wife, who had had cut off communication. His concern about his daughter may have been a factor in his escape.

3. Malabar D.O.E. 18.1.86
   - Probation & Parole Officer:
   Prior to his escape, he was preparing to submit an application to the Release on License Board for compassionate release on licence. I had interviewed him on 3 occasions and also met his parents. He claimed that his fiancee was suffering from cancer and that there was a possibility that she was also pregnant with their child. He was visibly distressed about his sentence and the prospect of a lengthy
separation from his problem-ridden family. According to his parents, they too suffer from physical illness and had intended to obtain certificates from their respective physicians in order to assist in any way possible with their son's application for release on licence. I had advised him and his parents to submit any material that they thought relevant to his situation. However, they were also made aware of the fact that a licence on compassionate grounds would be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

- Welfare Officer:

17.12.85 He requested for welfare for support to an application for early release on grounds that his wife had cancer and (may be having a miscarriage) as she was 4 months pregnant and the only chance of having his child. He stated that his help was needed at home financially and practically.

8.1.86 request to phone Karen for visit next Sunday and information that his transfer to E.P.T.C. was approved.

10.1.86 request phone call to Karen at home (no contact); phone to her work (off sick)!

- Psychologist:

I saw him several times. His fiancee was diagnosed as having cancer and he sought counselling regarding this. He was extremely distressed and was referred for medication to M.T.C. clinic. On the last occasion I saw him, further information from his fiancee's gynaecologist had given them hope that her prognosis was not as serious as had been suggested initially. He was greatly relieved, had stabilised emotionally and was planning their future optimistically. I am unaware of any further developments during the last month which may have prompted his escape. Certainly, his hopes for the future were entirely dependent on the survival of his fiancee and their relationship.

4. Silverwater  D.O.E. 19.1.86

- Superintendent:

Overall behaviour acceptable. Had 2 misconduct charges. Returned to complex on 18.1.86, 2 hrs 6 mins late. He also failed a breath analysis. As he was aware he would be charged with these offences perhaps this could be a contributing factor in his escape.
5. Oberon  D.O.E.  22.1.86

- **Wing/Overseer Officer:**

  It was alleged that he had given other inmates up to an officer and he was put on the dog and threatened with violence. It was also alleged that his unit would not feed him. He appeared to be kicking along with the system.

- **Superintendent:**

  Information received by different officers and at a later date from some prisoners the reason for his escape was due to the following facts:

  - while working in the pine forest he was speaking to an officer and was overheard by another prisoner, giving up other prisoners.

  - due to this he was called 'dog' by inmates in his hut, and also further types of incrimination by other prisoners around the camp.

  - while none of the above facts can be substantiated I believe he escaped only so that he could avoid any further pressure from his peers.


- **Superintendent:**

  More attuned to recreational pursuits than gaining any work habits. No problem while here. Requested and was approved for Cessnock prior to anticipated move to Silverwater. This request could not be met as the prisoner he was on protection from was already at Cessnock. With hindsight would appear to be not well planned, more of a spur of the moment job.

7. Silverwater  D.O.E.  29.1.86

- **Probation & Parole Officer:**

  He appeared before the Parole Board on 10.1.86 for a public hearing to consider his release to parole. The decision was that the Parole Board would reconsider his case on 25.2.86, i.e. after a period on work release and one assumes that had his conduct and industry been satisfactory that the decision on 25.2.86 would be to release him.
However, it would appear that when he underwent the urine check he knew that the result would prove positive. I endeavoured to see him on Wednesday 29.1.86 and had him paged by the gate. However, he did not respond to the call.

It seems obvious that with him aware that the result of the urine analysis would be positive and that as a result:

1. He believed he would be removed from the work release programme.
2. That he would be removed from Silverwater and that the decision of the Parole Board on 25.2. would be not to release him.

- Psychologist:

Inmate was doing his time successfully having given up a long-term drug problem. He had been off any drug habit for around a year. I believed he had recently been accepted to go out parole, I believe sometime within the next two months. I believe, concerning his most recent misconduct and that inmate felt his parole would be subsequently suspended and so he escaped. He had plans to hold a steady job plus do some welfare work on his release but these plans he had obviously ruined for himself and I should imagine that it was difficult for him to come to terms with the fact that his parole would be suspended and his plans dissolved.

- Wing Officer:

He was placed on the Work Release Programme on the 9.12.85. He was employed as a labourer at on a salary of $253 per week plus overtime.

On the 29.1.86 he was held back from work to supply a urine sample which he did. On the evening of the 29.1.86 he was allowed to go to basketball at Bankstown with the gaol team, he escaped whilst there.

The only reason I can conclude is that he was aware the urine sample would be returned positive and this would result in his transfer from this institution and have an adverse effect on the Parole Board decisions.

- Superintendent:

On Wednesday morning 29.1.86 a urine sample was taken from inmate because the previous evening he was suspected by S.P.O. to be smoking marijuana. Once the urine sample had
been taken he was allowed to carry on as normal i.e. attend work, participate in sport. I am not able to restrict his movements until the result of the urine analysis is known.

8. Silverwater D.O.E. 31.1.86

- Wing Officer:

He was placed on Work Release Programme on 13.9.85. He was employed as a bricklayer on a salary of $319.20 per week plus overtime. He had saved $2,574.57 since he commenced work. He appeared to be happy in his job and had good work reports from his employer. His parole had been granted and he was aware of this.

I feel there would be a possible connection between his escape and another prisoner's escape on the 29.1.86.

The two inmates were close friends whilst at Silverwater.

- Superintendent:

He had 2 misconduct charges. I am unable to determine the reason why he did escape. However, he had a close relationship with another prisoner who escaped on 29.1.86.

9. Emu Plains D.O.E. 10.2.86

- Psychologist:

Trainee was seen on a number of separate occasions since his arrival at E.P.T.C. On these occasions presented with no problems, he appeared stable and quite content to complete his sentence at E.P.T.C. From my understanding the factor that seemed to change the situation for the inmate was that he found out he was to be deported. Before any one could talk to him, he escaped.

- Superintendent:

He seemed to have a very active imagination. He professed to abilities and qualifications that seemed to be far beyond his capabilities. He was sacked from the dairy. He was being transferred to Parramatta Gaol. It is assumed that he realised that he was to be deported, so he escaped.
10. **Emu Plains** D.O.E. 18.2.86

- **Superintendent:**

  Generally a quiet type. Did not seem to have any problems mixing with other inmates.

  It seems that he may have escaped due to him being a 'petty thief' if rumours are correct.

11. **Silverwater** D.O.E. 21.2.86

- **Probation & Parole Officer:**

  He was disgruntled over time served - was under old Act - spent 12 months on remand - Revocation of parole did not take place until time of sentence, then this was incorporated into sentence.

  Did well in gaol - Completed brick laying certificate. However, because he was sentenced under old Act, he stated he did not receive full benefit of remissions due to him. Also depressed due to concern for his mother who is an anxious woman especially since the death of his 18 year old sister last November.

12. **Emu Plains** D.O.E. 22.2.86

- **Wing Officer:**

  Although he made no official complaints to my knowledge, it was indicated to me that he was not well liked by other prisoners and some relationships were strained. I spoke to him on this and he told me he had no problems.

  - **Relationship with prison officers:** he seemed to have no problems relating to PO's. To my knowledge he treated officers with respect - not because he respected them, but because it was expected of him.

  - **Relevant information about the escape:** he had a physical altercation with another inmate a few days before his escape. However, he refused to make a written complaint. Both trainees were spoken to on the matter separately and together, and the situation appeared to be resolved!
Superintendent:

He had only been at E.P.T.C since 4.2.86, therefore, it is too short a time to give an accurate picture.

Even though he had had an altercation with another trainee, both trainees refused to put in a written complaint. Their differences seemed to be resolved but this could be the reason for his escape.

13. Silverwater  D.O.E. 7.3.86

Probation & Parole Officer:

I believe inmate was involved in a relationship with a using addict whom he had visited with the spare time he had after work. I'd say that being in such vulnerable state had caused him to use again. And combined with his emotional involvement with the woman, he has acted irrationally and not returned to the prison.

14. Silverwater  D.O.E. 9.3.86

Wing Officer:

He seemed very anxious on Saturday 8.3.86 about having been granted his day leave. Prior to Saturday he was a little edgy. He failed to return to Silverwater from day leave.

Superintendent:

It was being contemplated that he could be extradited to Western Australia regarding further charges. No firm decision was made re this extradition. I would be very surprised if he was aware of this pending extradition.

15. Silverwater  D.O.E. 26.4.86

Wing Officer:

Inmate has had some trouble with his girl-friend which has caused him great concern.

Superintendent:

Performing quite well at Silverwater. I spoke with him a week before his escape. He informed me that he was having problems with his girl-friend but was not unduly concerned. Perhaps this could be the reason for his escape.
16. Silverwater D.O.E. 28.4.86

- Psychologist:
  He seemed to be quite a submissive and dependent man. He was during his stay here and also previously at Cessnock-coming to terms with an old drug problem. I feel that this recent escape may have had something to do with potential drug involvement.

17. Silverwater D.O.E. 3.5.86

- Superintendent:
  Appeared to be settling in well at Silverwater. Information received from prisoners indicated that he appeared to be upset after a visit he received on 3.5.86. He did not discuss his problems with anyone.

18. Silverwater D.O.E. 6.5.86

- Psychologist:
  There is a possibility that the inmate's escape was drug-linked. He was involved in making efforts to understand and control drug habit. Whether he is still a user of a prohibited drug or not is unknown to me. Otherwise not much knowledge of this inmate.

- Wing Officer:
  During his short stay at this centre, his conduct and attitude was normal. In accordance with prison rules on 2.5.86 he was asked to and provided a urine sample for testing. I can only surmise that the outcome of this test, which he believed would prove positive, could be the reason for his escaping.

19. Silverwater D.O.E. 7.5.86

- Superintendent:
  Performance at Silverwater quite acceptable. Had one misconduct charge. Attended his place of employment and had an argument with his employer. His service was terminated. Failed to return to centre. Reason for escape - positive urine?

20. Silverwater D.O.E. 24.5.86

- Wing Officer:
  He was a problem in the wing. From conversation with other inmates it appeared he was having problems with his girlfriend, no other information has come to light.
21. **Silverwater**  D.O.E.  27.5.86

- **Superintendent:**

Appeared to be settling in at Silverwater. Was raped at Long Bay, staff were concerned that he may be under pressure from other inmates. After questioning by myself, stated he was not concerned for his safety or welfare. Positive urine disclosed after he escaped.

22. **Emu Plains**  D.O.E.  27.6.86

- **Welfare Officer:**

18.6.86 request to contact Ms D__ at Mulawa to correspond with him as he had not received mail from her for a number of weeks. Welfare Officer at Mulawa unsuccessful because Ms D__ was in segregation.

24.6.86 request for intergaol phone calls - disallowed at Mulawa. Co-operation from Mulawa - negative. Ms D__ not interested to have contact with C__. 
PERIOD 2: JULY 1986 - DECEMBER 1986

1. Emu Plains D.O.E. 4.7.86
- Probation & Parole Officer:

On 7.7.86 a phone call was received from inmate's father expressing his concern about his son's escape and his son's illness. Apparently inmate has a degenerative arthritis condition and needs medication. Later a phone call was received from inmate. He said that he could not cope with work at the Dairy. He claimed that he had approached someone for a job change without result. The trainee was urged to give himself up to the authorities. He failed to indicate any decision. He did not divulge his whereabouts.

2. Norma Parker D.O.E. 19.7.86
- Probation & Parole Officer:

I spoke to inmate briefly on the afternoon of 18.7.86 at Norma Parker Centre. This was my first week back at work since taking 3 weeks' leave and the first occasion I had seen her at the centre. I was surprised to find her quite depressed and unhappy in the centre although she had reported as sick that day in the gaol. She told me she had been sacked from her Parklea work position for trafficking a letter from another Norma Parker Centre inmate to a prisoner at Parklea. I later learned that she had been suspended with a one month review, and not sacked as stated. She also said she thought she had jeopardised any chance of gaining work release because of her indiscretion. We briefly discussed a previous broken relationship with Mulawa inmate who apparently had written to her. She indicated that particular relationship was terminated, but did not speak of any other more recent liaison she may have formed at Mulawa. Because of her being ill and depressed I suggested that we discuss things at length next week when there was more time and that we think about her plans for possible parole release.

Her escape comes as a surprise to me and I can only think that she has acted impulsively in her depression, and perhaps been unduly influenced by her companion. It is very regrettable that she has chosen such a course when she had undoubtedly made commendable progress.

- Welfare Officer:

I have had over the past three months moderate contact with inmate. Initially, she came to see me with the specific problem of not seeing her daughter, who lives in Canberra. I contacted her husband about this matter, and
after many lengthy discussions on the issue, it was eventually agreed that she would receive at least one contact visit per month at Mulawa. For some time after this, things were going fine for her. Each time I saw her she seemed content with the renewed relationship with her husband and daughter.

She was always keen about coming to the Norma Parker Centre. She claimed that it would be easier for her mother (who had ongoing health problems) to visit here, and also more pleasant for her daughter. She also told me that she enjoyed living at Blaxland House.

In the weeks prior to her coming to Norma's, I did notice a distinct change in her behaviour. She appeared quieter and detached in her behaviour. She also appeared to barely acknowledge me when she saw me in the gaol, which was noticeably different from previous encounters.

When I approached her about this, she said she wasn't really wanting to go to Norma's now, as her mother said she would see her when she was out of gaol now, not before. She also stated that she had friends at Mulawa that she didn't want to leave. She refused to elaborate on this, and said nothing more.

I saw her the day after she arrived at the Norma Parker Centre and she looked almost morose I thought. I said "A__, don't you think this is better than being at Mulawa." and she replied, "No, I don't particularly like it. I miss my friends". She then proceeded to ask me to relay messages to K__ and M__. The message for K__ was that she was writing that night with good news.

That is all that I can remember of my contacts with her. She always presented as polite and reserved, if not a bit vague. However, as stated above, I did notice a behavioural change which appeared to start about a month ago.

- Superintendent:

She was deferred from working at Parklea for carrying unauthorized mail from the Centre. She seemed to accept the situation but was very vague at times.

She had a relationship with another inmate at Mulawa and although she appeared to settle in alright at Norma Parker Centre, I believe she was missing her friend and was having personal problems adjusting.
3. Norma Parker  D.O.E.  19.7.86

- Superintendent:

She was a borderline C classification. She was popular with other inmates but at times her influence on inmates was noticeable. Another inmate was carrying unauthorized mail belonging to her from the centre. I feel she would have been the influence over other inmate in deciding to escape.

4. Silverwater  D.O.E.  13.8.86

- Probation & Parole Officer:

He had not given me any indication that he was intending to escape. Subsequent information received by me that he had been assaulted could well be the reason for him taking this action.

5. Glen Innes  D.O.E.  24.8.86

- Superintendent:

Inmate was asked why he escaped, upon his recapture. He replied that he had a fight with another prisoner on Friday 22.8.86. On 24.8.86 he just decided to escape.

6. Silverwater  D.O.E.  18.9.86

- Education Officer:

Inmate being Asian and having very poor spoken English skills. May have been subject to threats due to his Asian background. He was attacked previously in the Central Industrial Prison and feared for his safety there.

7. Silverwater  D.O.E.  28.9.86

- Probation & Parole Officer:

Inmate was interviewed on 24.9.86. He indicated concern re his wife's condition whom he said was due to undergo an operation. Time did not permit me to follow this up on the 24th and I introduced inmate to the Silverwater psychologist who agreed to follow up the problem during my absence on the 25th and 26th of September 1986.

- Psychologist:

I had sat in on his classification interview at Long Bay (early August) and had seen him a couple of times during the week prior to his escape. There are extenuating family problems in his case. Inmate's defacto wife was 3 weeks
overdue on her pregnancy and an induced birth was con-
templated. She is allergic to anaesthetic and had been ad-
vised to write her will. I last spoke to inmate on
Thursday, 25th September when I rang his mother-in-law to
check the situation concerning his wife. At that stage his
wife was to see her doctor on Sunday 28th September and was
to enter hospital then or the following day.

He has absconded twice from juvenile institutions.

8. Malabar Training Centre D.O.E. 30.9.86

- Wing Officer:

Inmate was always quietly spoken, polite and courteous in
his relationship with the prison officers but he mixed with
those inmates whom I considered to be the 'less desirable'
element within the Malabar Training Centre and D Wing.

On the afternoon of his escape he was given a telephone
call to his defacto wife and after about 5 minutes he was
heard to slam the receiver down and he appeared to be quite
upset. After discussion he confided that his wife was
leaving and taking his child with her. I suggested that he
again ring the girl, apologise for his behaviour, and at-
tempt to talk the matter over. After about 15 minutes he
appeared more relaxed and at ease and I assumed that he and
his girl had come to some mutually agreeable solution. We
talked about his contacting the legal representatives as
well as the welfare officer who occasionally visits the
Malabar Training Centre.

At the conclusion of our conversation about 4:15 pm he
seemed contented and I witnessed no incidents or action by
him over the next few hours to indicate that he would take
such drastic action.

9. Silverwater D.O.E. 2.10.86

- Psychologist:

Inmate had many disappointments in relation to being ac-
cepted onto the Work Release Programme - due to delays in
Parole Board setting a firm date for his release considera-
tion.

He was distressed and frustrated over this as well as
having problems at home. Apparently, although at the time
of writing I have seen no official documentation, he was in
breach of his weekend leave conditions last weekend. This
would seem to indicate that some breakdown had occurred in
his relationship with his wife and perhaps this was a cause
for his absconing.
10. Silverwater   D.O.E.  23.10.86

- **Psychologist:**

Inmate has been subject to a great deal of pressure since joining the Work Release Programme - frequent urine analysis and searching (despite the fact he had no history of drug addiction). Long delay in acquiring a job change (employed for 8 months in a job regarded by all as extremely unpleasant, where most inmates survive only a few months), more recently, problems in long term relationship; confusion over likely parole date and ambivalence about accepting parole or doing full time, anxiety over the future and doubts about his capacity to survive outside. I can only assume that the accumulation of these pressures plus the stressful environment of Silverwater increased his tension to such a degree that he reacted impulsively by absconding.

11. Silverwater   D.O.E.  23.10.86

- **Probation & Parole Officer:**

He was anxious to get on the Work Release Programme in order that he may have some financial resources behind him upon his release. He commenced work with S__ Pty. Ltd. on 13.10.86 and there were no apparent problems there.

He has been described as a person of low average intelligence who is somewhat institutionalised and who cannot cope with freedom. Whether the freedom of Work Release Programme was too much for him it is difficult to say but may be a factor.

- **Psychologist:**

I interviewed inmate on a couple of occasions. He presented as a reserved, private, introverted individual. He has spent a large proportion of the last 20 years in gaol and feels more comfortable in gaol than on the outside. He would be described as institutionalised. He expressed the desire to establish a normal lifestyle after release but was not confident of his ability to do so.

He may have found Works Release too stressful and reacted by escaping. He has escaped from prison twice before.

12. Malabar   D.O.E.  5.11.86

- **Superintendent:**

Although inmate has a psychotic condition he has not been any problem in this institution and has been seen regularly by the psychologist.
The only reason I could give for his escaping, is that his parole was refused, but his condition was monitored since then and did not appear to have changed, and did not give any indication that he would escape.


- **Superintendent:**

Rumours circulating around the camp at the moment are that both inmates were very much under the influence of alcohol, possibly a home brew, which was hidden behind the camp area near the dam.

1. Norma Parker  D.O.E.  14.1.87

- Probation & Parole Officer:

M_ 's main concern seemed to be with her children, who were in foster care. Generally a fairly anxious woman, who may simply act on the spur of the moment.

- Wing Officer:

Inmate was informed at 11:30 pm on 14.1.87 that she was to start at laundry the next day. She seemed excited and thanked me. She was told by me that I would take her in the next half hour to show directions of journey and that was the last I saw of her. I feel that the pressure of full time work was too much for her to cope with.

- Superintendent:

Inmate had just secured a position at A__ Laundry and had been informed of this shortly before her escape. She had recently been upset over losing custody of her children but seemed to be coping well after the initial shock.

I feel that she may have panicked when told she had been successful in gaining employment. She has had a fighting battle with a serepax addiction and had been worried about her release.

2. Norma Parker  D.O.E.  14.1.87

- Superintendent:

Inmate had been working at Parklea Prison in the kitchen. She left this position recently after asking to remain at the centre and be employed here. She was concerned about her release on licence but had been assured, shortly before her escape, that a favourable decision was likely to be forthcoming next week.

She left my office at 12:30 pm and at that time showed no signs of discontent. I believe that she acted on impulse. She seemed settled and apart from her licence had no apparent problems or worries.

3. Silverwater  D.O.E.  24.2.87

- Superintendent:

He was under surveillance prior to this incident. Three days cells - positive urine (cannabis).
Escaped because he was being transferred for positive urine.

4. Silverwater  D.O.E.  3.3.87

- Wing Officer:

He gave no indication of an intention to escape, he was on the Work Release Programme employed by ____ Foundry as a labourer.

On Monday 2.3.87 he had remained at the complex, off work, sick.

On Tuesday 3.3.87 he departed the complex enroute to work at his normal section; on that same day, following an inquiry made by a Parole Officer, it was learnt that he had departed his work location around 9:00 am. He did not return to his work location nor did he return to the complex.

He has a history of alcoholism which could have some bearing concerning his escape.

5. Mannus  D.O.E.  21.3.87

- Wing Officer:

Inmate behaviour has been normal showing no outward signs of abnormal nervousness or stress. The visiting officer stated that he became agitated after being spoken to for being too familiar with his female visitor on Saturday 21.3.87.

- Superintendent:

In light of the information now on hand the inmate's agitation was probably due to the fact that the female visitor had.... at a pre-determined place on Friday night - the day before the escape.

6. Emu Plains  D.O.E.  21.3.87

- Probation & Parole Officer:

Inmate was interviewed several times after his arrival at E.P.T.C. A "speed" problem was identified and the trainee agreed to receive counselling for this problem. On 20.3.87 the trainee was interviewed by this service, he expressed concern over the lack of contact with his wife and the condition of his son, who is going blind. The trainee was very keen to be transferred to Parramatta Gaol to facilitate frequent visits by his wife and where he believed his brother-in-law and his brother are being held.
7. Silverwater D.O.E. 31.3.87
   - Probation & Parole Officer:
     Prisoner gave no indication of being unsettled. The prisoner appeared to be very attached to the lady who it transpires terminated the relationship with him. The upheaval resulted as consequence.

8. Oberon D.O.E. 12.5.87
   - Superintendent:
     Inmate known to me for 6 days. He did not come under any adverse scrutiny from the custodial officers of this camp. He worked in the forestry work gang and did all work asked of him.

     He did make a telephone call to Sydney on the night of his escape. Reported by the officer on duty that at the end of the telephone call he was distressed. It was reported to me by hearsay only, that his defacto wife had a recent miscarriage. This escape would seem to be a spur of the moment decision by inmate.

9. Oberon D.O.E. 28.5.87
   - Superintendent:
     I interviewed inmate upon his recapture. He stated that he was under no pressure from any inmates in the camp, and that he just wanted to go to one of the Sydney gaols rather than work in the pine forests.

     He also stated that some inmates that were in his unit were getting grog and grass into the gaol at night and that he did not want to get into any trouble if they were caught.

1. Glen Innes  D.O.E.  20.7.87

Probation & Parole Officer:

The escapee has an extensive history of drug abuse and trade and had used cocaine, cannabis, heroin and other drugs although he now claims he is drug-free.

On 9.6.87 the N.S.W. Parole Board assessed inmate as suitable for release to Parole and a Parole Order was issued, however, the Board recognised his dual status as a Commonwealth prisoner and deferred his release as it is necessary for him to be released to licence by the Federal Attorney General about January 1988.

I had interviewed this prisoner several times since his arrival at Glen Innes, particularly relating to his future possible release. He always presented as being intelligent and as taking a responsible attitude towards his incarceration and even when his release situation was explained to him, he gave no indication that he was emotionally unstable or that he was experiencing any trouble in his personal life. I last spoke to this prisoner on 15.7.87 and at that time he appeared to be in good spirits. He was aware that I would commence preparation of a report on him to the Federal Attorney General in September 1987 and I had encouraged him to finalise his post-release plans and again he gave no hint that there were any problems in his personal life.

The escape of this prisoner surprises me and I can only assume that he has been under some undisclosed personal pressures either from outside or within the prison system or both.

2. Oberon  D.O.E.  26.7.87

Superintendent:

Arrived at Oberon on 16.7.87 complained to me that he would be required back at Parramatta within a couple of weeks for a bail hearing and then again in September for appeal hearing. He was told that he would be transferred back to Parramatta as soon as I was notified.

On hearsay only, he complained a lot to other inmates in his unit about problems with his wife and child. He received a telephone on Saturday night after he had a visit from his wife that day. Was not in any form of distress after the telephone call. Did not display any signs of discontent at Oberon.

Probation & Parole Officer:

At approximately 2:00 pm on 13.8.87 I was approached by the Acting Deputy Superintendent and requested to speak with inmate. The Deputy Superintendent indicated to me that inmate had approached him indicating he wished to be transferred to Bathurst Gaol but had been unwilling to elaborate on his reasons. The Superintendent indicated he was concerned inmate may have been under some pressure from other inmates but may have been concerned about discussing the matter with a custodial officer.

I then proceeded to speak with inmate, having clarified that he was seeking to be transferred to H.M. Gaol, Bathurst.

I commenced to point out to inmate the unlikelihood of such a move being undertaken given that he had been transferred from that gaol.

Inmate then commented with words to the effect "What do I have to do to get out of here, smack one of these officers in the mouth". I replied to the effect that such a course of action would more likely result in his removal to Goulburn Gaol.

I then enquired of him as to the reason why he wanted to be returned to Bathurst Gaol. He indicated it was for the purpose of visits. I asked what relation the visitors were and he indicated it was his sister and his girl-friend from Orange. I asked how they travelled to Bathurst and he informed me they hitch-hiked.

I then asked if visits were the only reason. He replied that they were. He then said words to the effect "What if I threatened to escape". Suggested to him that this sort of action would most likely lead to him being placed at Goulburn Gaol or Cessnock Corrective Centre. I then pointed out to him that such negative behaviour would be unlikely to see him returned to Bathurst. I am clear that he used the word "threatened" as if he had asked regarding the outcome of actually escaping I would have appraised him of the possible additional imprisonment he may have incurred.

I then proceeded to inform him that visits were not usually a priority of the department in the location of prisoners and also reminded him that it was his actions which had led to his incarceration.
I then advised him to complete an application for transfer and be fairly detailed in doing so in order that his reasons could be further checked and considered.

I again enquired as to whether there was any reason other than visits, stressing that if there were he could speak in confidence that it would be dealt with discreetly. He replied that there was nothing.

I then accompanied him to the office and asked a custodial officer to issue him with an application form.

I later informed the Acting Deputy Superintendent of the conversation. Later I was informed that inmate had appeared to have left the camp.

During the course of the conversation with inmate his mood appeared to be more of anger and insolence than emotional distress.

4. Oberon D.O.E. 4.9.87

- Superintendent:

At Oberon approximately one month, during that time had been sick on 8 occasions. Below average worker, very lazy, was being harrassed by other inmates around the camp. When interviewed by the Acting Superintendent, he denied that he had any problems and did not fear for his safety, and did not require protection of any form, was quite happy to remain in this camp. He was about to be removed from the camp because of possible assaults over the past month.

5. Emu Plains D.O.E. 4.9.87

- Probation & Parole Officer:

He was interviewed on 2 occasions following his arrival at Emu Plains Training Centre. On each occasion, he expressed concern about the instability in his marriage which had been caused by the offence and his coming to gaol. In spite of regular visits from his wife, it appears he had reason to be concerned.

- Overseer Officer:

Average trainee, a person who tries hard - clean appearance - worries about his wife/girlfriend.

- Superintendent:

Conduct satisfactory - personal appearance satisfactory. Condition of his 'hut' very unsatisfactory. Always appeared to have personal problems see p.p. officer's report.
6. **Cooma** D.O.E. 10.10.87

   **Superintendent:**

   He was refused parole by A.C.T. Parole Board as he was subjected to an extradition order from S.A. prior to gaining this information he was employed on the farm where he worked without incident. He was transferred to main gaol upon advice of the extradition order, again he worked and remained without coming under notice.

7. **Oberon** D.O.E. 12.11.87

   **Wing Officer:**

   He has only been here for about 2 weeks. He appeared to be quiet and kept to himself. From conversations with some other inmates on the night of the escape. It appears that he may have got a 'dear John' letter as he appeared to be upset and agitated after receiving the letter although he appeared normal to myself.

   **Superintendent:**

   Inmate arrived at Oberon on 30.10.87. He had only worked in the Bush gang for a very short period of time. Appeared to be unsettled as he had not received a visit since his arrival. Inmates in his unit were complaining of his attitude and general behaviour.

   Inmate received a letter on the date of his escape, inmates from his accommodation unit informed some officers that he was visibly upset after reading the letter and went directly to his room. I believe that not receiving a visit and the incident with the letter have both had a direct bearing on his decision to escape.

8. **Silverwater** D.O.E. 29.11.87

   **Welfare Officer:**

   I saw inmate on 3 occasions last week. His defacto wife recently broke off their five months' relationship and had her pregnancy terminated. Inmate was finding it very difficult to come to terms with this situation. The young lady wished to remain friends and in a conversation with me confirmed she was planning to visit him last Saturday to talk to him. I suggested he speak with the psychologist. He agreed to do so and I discussed the matter with Mr. Noone last Thursday 26.11.87.
- Education:

Interviewed 23.11.87 expressed an anxiety regarding relationship with defacto wife. Appeared to be very jittery. However calmed down prior to termination. Identified a number of educational goals, claimed to be drug free prior to sentencing.

9. Oberon D.O.E. 29.12.87

- Wing Officer:

Upon his recapture and after a short discussion he revealed to me that he was being stood over by one (wolf).

- Superintendent:

Arrived at Oberon on 24.12.87 was initially seen by the reception committee with no further contact over X'mas break. He remained quiet during this period. He was interviewed upon recapture and stated that he escaped because he was in fear of his safety because he had been threatened by another inmate in his accommodation unit. The inmate concerned has been identified.

10. Silverwater D.O.E. 31.12.87

- Superintendent:

Up to his escape, he was no problem to the administration and had never come to my notice. I feel it was an on the spot decision to escape because he was obviously up to something and realised he was caught.
PERIOD 5: JANUARY 1988 - JUNE 1988

1. Emu Plains D.O.E. 9.1.88

- Welfare Officer:

Inmate came to see me on the 5.1.88 after he had an upsetting telephone conversation with his defacto wife regarding his transfer to Emu Plains. Apparently she was worried about the distance she would have to travel with a young baby for visit. I tried to contact her on a few occasions but had no success. I again saw inmate on 6.1.88 and he said he felt better, and was resigned to doing his sentence and solving the problem with visits. Apparently he escaped a couple of days later.

2. Emu Plains D.O.E. 13.1.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:

This trainee was having difficulty organising a suitable day leave sponsor. His wife is apparently pregnant and using heroin just before his escape, a second sponsor was rejected due to his age (17 years).

- Welfare Officer:

I had contact with both inmate and his wife on several occasions. He seemed genuinely concerned about his wife's welfare and on talking to her she seemed to be very dependent on him. He was worried as his wife was pregnant, having financial problems and generally not coping. Options were offered to her, but she seemed to not be following them up. He was looking forward to day leave, but twice his sponsors were seen as unsuitable. These reasons may have some bearing on why he escaped.

- Education Officer:

Inmate was first interviewed by the case management team on 6.9.87 and monthly reviews were held thereafter. This was his second gaol sentence and both were the result of offences committed to support addiction. On arriving at E.P.T.C. he voluntarily withdrew from a methadone programme he had been on for the last three years and at the first interview was unsettled and found communication difficult.

During November and December he regularly attended drug discussion and relaxation groups held twice weekly within the gaol. On 2.12.87 he appeared before the P.R.C. and was recommended for C3 to attend N.A. meetings at Blacktown.
He escaped enroute to Blacktown Hospital Community Health Unit on 13.1.88 while in the company of another inmate. The decision to escape was made despite the arguing and reasoning of other inmate who returned alone to the centre. A contributing factor to the escape may have been a P.R.C. decision to defer day leave for a second time due to inappropriate sponsor choice.

- **Psychologist:**

Inmate came to see me on Wednesday 13.1.88 because he was finding working in the pig and poultry difficult. He was anxious about being involved in the killing of animals. As a result of his working in this area he was having reoccurring nightmares about a car accident in which his stepfather was killed.

I informed him that I would inquire about his being transferred to another work location as he had already asked for a transfer and it had been refused. He was under the impression that all trainees in this area are required to be involved in the 'kill'. The prospect of this on top of family problems was the last straw. He did not feel that he could cope.

- **Superintendent:**

Inmate's overall conduct and industry was satisfactory, but did no more work than was necessary, especially if he was unable to have his own way.

Up until the time he escaped, he was endeavouring to have his two nominated sponsors for day leave approved, but both were unsuitable and this situation may have contributed to his absconding from lawful custody.

The hut he was housed in was kept at satisfactory standard and the only concern the compound staff experienced, was he was always requesting special phone calls to contact his wife.

3. **Emu Plains**  D.O.E.  14.1.88

- **Welfare Officer:**

First had contact with inmate on 30.12.87, he asked me to ring his Parole Officer from Leichhardt to find out if his parole had been revoked at that stage.

Second contact I had with him was on the 14.1.88 where he again wanted me to contact his parole officer which he had prior to coming to Emu Plains. What he wanted to know was
very vague and I said he'd be best to speak to a parole officer that came to the gaol. He seemed vague and distant that day, but didn't express any worries.

4. Emu Plains  D.O.E. 23.1.88

- Psychologist:

Inmate was first referred to this service by an officer. He appeared very anxious and distressed. He showed many signs of thought disorder.

He was transferred from working in the garden to the compound where he could be seen by this service and the medical nurse when required. In addition, medication for him was being looked into.

He was seen by this service on an almost daily basis from Monday to Friday. He seemed to be settling down, his speech was less florid and his anxiety reduced. On these occasions he presented as quiet and co-operative. He never himself spoke about escaping and he didn't consider it to be a problem when questioned about it.

He has schizophrenia and cannot be viewed as rationally in control of his actions at the time of the escape.

5. Glen Innes  D.O.E. 6.2.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:

I have interviewed inmate on a regular basis since 20.8.87. He has presented as a classic case of 'institutionalised recidivist'. He appears to be of low average intelligence but polite and co-operative in interview, although he has a naive propensity to try and impress with shallow promises and information.

During the time I have known him the prisoner has maintained he has a wife named Cheryl and a two year old daughter. I understand Cheryl has a criminal and drug record.

This relationship has always been related to me by him as a strong and loving relationship. I note from our records that he has claimed similar relationships in the past with other women and children, as if they were all he had to live for.

The prisoner has long standing acute drug and alcohol problems to which I believe he will now again fall prey.
I am confident that he will re-offend in the near future and although I believe his offences will be predominantly non-violent, he is capable of aggression. His past offences range from fraud to theft of property and motor vehicles, B.E.S., receiving, assault female, carnal knowledge and possession of shortened firearm. He has also been known to resist police at the time of his arrest.

At the time of my last interview he seemed composed and whilst he indicated his wife had been having a little trouble with the car all else was satisfactory and he was looking forward to release in August this year. I can only now assume that perhaps relationship problems have arisen which he hasn't disclosed and that such matters, couples with alcohol abuse on the day, may have precipitated the prisoner's escape.

- Superintendent:

The prisoner was received from Grafton on 28.7.87 with C2 classification, he was classified to C3 on 6.11.87, he has had 2 day-leaves without incident with his wife, as sponsor.

Up until his escape he has attracted excellent work reports from the officers in charge of building maintenance, he was employed as a bricklayer on the rebuilding of the prisoners accommodation. There was no apparent change in his behaviour that would have indicated the prisoner's actions.

Since his arrival at Glen Innes he has been in breach of prison discipline on 2 occasions. On the 26.8.87 he received a reprimand and caution for interfering with electrical wiring and on the 31.8.87 he received 3 days cells for consuming an intoxicating substance. Since this last offence his behaviour has been very good.

On Saturday the 6.2.88 he received a visit from his wife and it is rumoured that he left the institution at 11 p.m. on Saturday night to spend the night with his wife in Glen Innes. The manner in which the prisoner replaced the window and left behind all his personal belongings would support this rumour.

It is possible that he had planned to return to the institution prior to the weekend routine of the 7:30 am letgo, however, prison officer was checking the compound areas from 6:30 am and this may have interfered with his return.
6. **Kirkconnell** D.O.E. 23.2.88

- **Welfare Officer:**

  Was seen on reception committee where he indicated that he probably would not get visit whilst he was at Kirkconnell. This could have been a contributing factor to his escape, although he was aware of the service of the C.R.C. bus services for visitors at Kirkconnell.

- **Superintendent:**

  Only received at Kirkconnell on 3.2.88 appeared to be settling in okay. Information received after he escaped that he had received a 'dear John' telephone call last night (22.2.88).

7. **Emu Plains** D.O.E. 27.2.88

- **Education Officer:**

  I quickly got to know inmate after commencing at E.P.T.C. in February because of his willingness to become involved in education. He saw me prior to commencing external study to negotiate a change of labour from PP, a move he had not been able to arrange himself. The move was requested so that he could be placed in a work area where he had no obligation for after hour duties. My intervention on his behalf was similarly unsuccessful. He was anxious about the tension created by his desire to do courses and maintain his commitments to his work.

  He was removed from all external courses after two episodes of late returning; first from the TAFE and then from N.A.

  He was depressed about losing the privilege of external course attendance and was discouraged that his explanations weren't accepted.

8. **Silverwater** D.O.E. 10.3.88

- **Probation & Parole Officer:**

  I interviewed him the night prior to his escape. He gave me the impression that he was affected by drugs. I had also managed to see him at his work place next day to give him information as to date of release. I would put his escape down to his drug involvement within this institution. He had made some progress in relation to his problems of literacy but I doubt whether he has resolved his drug problems.
Wing Officer:
He was suspected of using drugs. I'm aware that he owed money. I am not aware of any family problems.

9. Kirkconnell  D.O.E.  17.4.88

- Superintendent:
Appeared to have settled into camp situation. Had 3 misconduct charges. He was due to appear at local court Bathurst to face further charges on 18.4.88.

10. Kirkconnell  D.O.E.  23.4.88

- Superintendent:
Appeared to be settled in okay. Intoxicated state probably contributed to the escape.

11. Kirkconnell  D.O.E.  23.4.88

- Superintendent:
Appeared to be settled in okay, was previously here in June 87. Intoxicated state probably contributed to the escape.

12. Malabar  D.O.E.  20.4.88

- Psychologist:
I saw him a number of times whilst he was in M.T.C. He had from time to time been diagnosed with a psychiatrically disturbed condition. I'm not aware of any special circumstances that may have caused his escape but naturally with an individual who has displayed behavioural disturbance in the past there is the possibility that he became disoriented and really wasn't totally aware of what he was doing.

13. Silverwater  D.O.E.  26.4.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:
He was due for consideration by Parole Board and he was anxious as to result of hearing. According to his mother when he phoned her prior to his escape that he was worried that he would have parole deferred for 12 months because he said his urine would be returned positive. He had made an effort re his drug problem but still is unable to come to terms without using drug when faced with pressure.
He is without money and probably will commit serious offences now that he is on the run.

His family will try to persuade him to surrender if he contacts them.

- Welfare Officer:

During the weeks before his escape he became increasingly anxious and pre-occupied regarding the outcome of his Parole hearing and his future. He could not relax, was having little sleep and appeared to me to be hyperactive.

His mother expressed concern to me regarding a thyroid condition he had diagnosed a number of years ago and I passed this information to the Clinic sister.

I received a telephone call from his mother at approximately 11:50 26.4.88 concerning inmate and discussed the matter confidentially with Superintendent Unicomb.

- Superintendent:

Performance on work release, above average. Attended outside N.A. meetings in an effort to eliminate his drug problem. Tried very hard to keep off drugs.

It is apparent that he returned to drugs - a urine sample was taken the day before he escaped because he believed it would be positive and could result in his transfer and non-granting of Parole, he escaped. A telephone call was received from inmate's mother, by the welfare officer at approximately 1:30 pm on 26.4.88 stating that inmate had rung her and told her that he would not be granted parole so he was going interstate.

14. Kirkconnell D.O.E. 18.5.88

- Superintendent:

Appeared to have settled in at Kirkconnell. No adverse reports. Had 2 misconduct charges. It is rumoured that other inmates of 3 unit did not get on well with him and had threatened him and should he come up and talked to the 'boss' they would kill him.

15. Glen Innes D.O.E. 24.5.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:

The prisoner was aware prior to his escape that to regain parole would have been most difficult for him when the Parole Board next reviews his case on 28.6.88 due to the nature of his having re-offended whilst on parole release.
It is noted that when on Parole supervision he had been quite difficult to handle. Psychological and psychiatric assessment done on him during 1987 do not show any information that he has any disorders but that he may well continue to re-offend for quite a long time to come. No clear indication can be given as to where this escapee may go as it seems he has abused relationships in the past and may use people anywhere to secure his own ends. The motivation for his escape is by no means clear to me although it may have been precipitated by alcohol and drug abuse.

16. Emu Plains D.O.E. 30.5.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:

On 24.5.88 he was informed that Queensland PP service intended commencing breach action on his Queensland order. He claimed to be surprised about this saying his field Probation & Parole Officer assured him this would not be the case. Enquiries have revealed he was given no such information. He did not appear duly upset about the matter.

On 30.5.88 I spoke with him and explained the case again. I told him I could make no prediction in relation to the outcome but that I felt the Queensland court would take his present sentence into consideration. He did not appear unduly upset and had had a week to consider the situation.

- Welfare Officer:

I have had contact with him since 3.5.88 intermittently. However, I did see him yesterday (30.5.88) in relation to a telephone call which I received. The caller was a female person with whom inmate did not wish to have contact, this telephone call left him quite upset and although I attempted to counsel him and assure him that there was no need for him to be concerned re this person. I felt that I had not been successful in allaying his apprehension. Therefore, I consider that this telephone call was a major factor in his 'leaving' the centre.

17. Emu Plains D.O.E. 6.6.88

- Overseer Officer:

He was employed in the kitchen for 24 days as a cook prior to his escape. He was clean, willing to learn basic cooking and reliable. His performance at work was satisfactory as was his behaviour until he made up his mind that he did not want to work 7 days a week as required in the kitchen. He tried to get a change of work out of the kitchen without success. He became quiet, dejected and moody after this and remained so.
- Superintendent:

He was received at E.P.T.C. on 11.5.88 and placed for employment in the kitchen from 12.5.88. His industry was satisfactory up until a week prior to his escape. When he demanded a change of employment which was denied and thereafter became very moody but continued to work as a second cook at a satisfactory standard. He caused no real difficulties to compound staff apart from becoming dissatisfied on occasion.
PERIOD 6: JULY 1988 - AUGUST 1988

1. **Emu Plains D.O.E. 15.7.88**

   **Welfare Officer:**

   I first saw him on 13.4.88 since then I have seen him on other occasions in regards to contacting his solicitor. I have had informal contact with him at those times, he was friendly and did not require any welfare needs attended to. I have spoken with several people here at the centre in regards to his escape and they have all told me of a telephone call he received informing him that his sister had died. I have been unsuccessful in having this information confirmed. However, his escape was in my opinion out of character for him.

2. **Silverwater D.O.E. 30.7.88**

   **Probation & Parole Officer:**

   I have had numerous interviews with the prisoner during his time at Silverwater. The most recent being on Thursday 25.7.88. I consider the following events may have contributed to his actions:

   1) He recently had a verbal disagreement with prison officer over the allocation of a room in the units area. The condition of the room was at issue, with inmate believing that he was being victimised by having to live in a room which he considered unfit, due to water leakage. He told me later that the room in question was no longer in use, thus contributing to his feeling of victimisation.

   2) At the Parole Board meeting on 19.7.88 he was deferred to 15.11.88. The Board suggested that he complete a period on the Work Release Programme before he would be considered for release. He was most distressed at this but accepted the decision.

   3) In interview, he expressed concern at the treatment he felt he was getting from some prison officers. By the same token, he was also encouraged from the treatment he received from other officers. However, it was pointed out to him on more than one occasion that if he wanted to leave Silverwater he was at liberty to put in an application form, and that his request would be considered.

   4) At the PRC meeting on 27.7.88 his recommendation for a C3 was deferred for 2 weeks, to provide him with the opportunity to improve his reports. He accepted this and expressed his delight at being given this chance.

At no time did he indicate to me his intention to escape.
- Welfare Officer:

I had contact with inmate on a number of occasions since his arrival at Silverwater on 16.3.88, concerning the health of his father who had medical problems requiring surgery every six weeks.

Over recent weeks he became anxious regarding his parole, and problems being experienced in this institution which were fully discussed at PRC on Wednesday 27.7.88.

- Psychologist:

He had made good and successful efforts to bring his performance up to a standard where he could be confidently recommended for work release and parole. Despite his efforts he was deferred on work release until after parole and parole was not granted - rather deferred. Both of these setbacks registered with him in 2 ways.

First, he experienced a certain powerlessness. Second, they registered as personal failures and suggested that the future was not likely to be much different.

He was despondent about the future possibility of either parole or work release. He also registered some contact with staff at Silverwater as destructive. This feeling became a considerable burden to him. Without tangible prospects of success he was late last week - attempting to review his goals and to assess what would be the best course of action for him to achieve stability in his life after release. Whilst escape did not figure in that review, there were few options he could see as possible realising his goal. He planned to participate in the pre-release programme this week.

3. Silverwater D.O.E. 31.7.88

- Welfare Officer:

Over the past week his pregnant defacto wife went missing and he became anxious and concerned for her welfare.

On 28.7.88 I received confirmation from NGURA hostel for Aboriginal women that she had returned to the hostel. This information was passed to inmate who was greatly relieved at receiving the news.
4. Emu Plains D.O.E. 23.8.88

- Superintendent:

A below average type of individual during the short period of time he was at this centre. He had psychological problems, in fact, he was unable to cope within the work sections where he was employed and the hygiene of his hut was only average. In my opinion, his experience of being raped at Cessnock gaol, the prisoner was unable to cope with the reality of such experience and would be difficult to accept in normal circumstances.

5. Silverwater D.O.E. 29.8.88

- Probation & Parole Officer:

Inmate was interviewed by the reception committee on Monday 29.8.88 he had been transferred to this institution from Parramatta Gaol. The prisoner's file indicates that he had been classified to Silverwater after his appearance before the reception committee at Parramatta. There was no indication that written reports had been received from other officers to support such a decision.

He indicated to the committee that he was sent here for assessment for works release. I informed him that his criminal record would create difficulties for him in being accepted by the suitability committee.

I spoke to the parole officer who looked after him while at Parramatta and she expressed surprise at his being sent to Silverwater.

In my opinion his escape from this institution is not the fault of the officers at Silverwater but was the result of an inappropriate decision to classify such a prisoner to minimum security gaol, especially as he had previously had an escape charge and an attempted escape.

- Welfare Officer:

He was in the midst of applying for special escorted leave to visit his wife in hospital. Application was lodged through Parramatta Gaol but he was going to organise another application through here. His wife will be having her third operation on Monday. She is not well and he was most anxious and worried. I feel that the timing of his transfer being so close to the date of his wife's operation and the added worry and uncertainty over his application for an escorted visit would have caused him a great deal of added anxiety.

* D.O.E. = Date of escape