CORRECTIONS IN NSW
The mood and temper of the public with regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilisation of any country

WINSTON CHURCHILL

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THE FIRST 200 YEARS

We left our country for our country's good
(Early NSW convict play)

The American War of Independence, which ended in 1776, forced Britain to find ways of dealing with her criminals other than by transporting them to America.

The resulting overcrowding in English prisons pressured the British Government in 1786 into deciding on the transportation of convicts to New South Wales.

It was hoped transportation would be a comparatively cheap method of punishment and would remove criminals permanently from England.

The government's instructions to the first governor of the new penal colony, Captain Arthur Phillip RN, were few and scrappy.

Initially, the convicts were housed in tents on one side of Sydney Cove and the soldiers guarding them on the other.

Until a convicts barracks was built there were no quarters for convicts and they had to find private lodging in the town.

Convicts worked part of the day for the government and were free for the rest to find work for pay and so get the rent for their lodging.

As the demand for labour grew in the colony the system of assigned service developed. Convicts were assigned to masters and were entirely under their control.

Assigned service ended following a large influx of convicts after the Napoleonic wars. The system of assigned service was replaced by the chain gangs in 1826.
By day they worked in heavy chains, including a neck collar, and were punished on the spot for trivial offences.

In 1840 the British Government ended transportation to New South Wales as it believed the colony had become too settled and civilised to be useful as a penal settlement.

Five years previously, in 1835, the NSW Legislative Council had appointed a committee to examine the problems of policing and escorting prisoners resulting from the rapid geographical expansion of the colony.

For example, the committee discovered that at Yass Plains the court was held in a blacksmith's shop because there was no courthouse, jail or lock-up in the district.

One witness told the committee: "We secure prisoners by handcuffs and leg irons, and by fastening them to a post in a hut in which the constable is obliged to keep watch; but notwithstanding all these precautions, they sometimes manage to escape."

The committee was critical of conditions at both Sydney Jail (now the site of the Regent Hotel in lower George Street) and Parramatta Jail. It strongly recommended the building of new prisons at both Sydney and Parramatta.

The report of the committee also marked the introduction in NSW of the systems of isolation of prisoners from one another and a total ban on communication between them.

The systems, known as the Silent System and the Separate System, were widely practised in England and parts of the United States.

It was believed the complete isolation of prisoners would prevent "the spread of criminal tendencies by association and communication" and thus aid prison management and the reform of prisoners.
Official opinion in England favoured the separate system, although the debate about its effectiveness lasted into the 20th Century.

The NSW Prisons Act 1840 had to make provision for the transitory period following the end of transportation.

Strict new regulations issued in 1867 under this Act were influenced by the British Prisons Act 1865, which resulted from public demand for more severe measures following an increase in street violence in England in the early 1860s.

The aim of the British Act was deterrence through fear. The House of Lords used the phrase "hard labour, hard fare, and a hard bed."

The regulations introduced in NSW in 1867 were designed to put into effect, in the spirit of severity characteristic of the British Act of 1865, the blend of the separate and silent systems which evolved in British prisons.

Under the new regulations all prisoners served one-twelfth or 12 months (whichever was the lesser) of their sentences in the separate system.

These prisoners could communicate only with warders (prison officers). Some of the regulations included:

"He will not upon any pretence attempt to communicate with another prisoner."

"In marching or returning to or from the exercise yard or chapel, he will keep five yards distance from every other prisoner. He will, if required, wear a mask whenever out of his cell or exercise yard."

"If it is found necessary for a prisoner when out of his cell to permit another prisoner to pass him, he will immediately face and stand opposite to the nearest wall until the other shall have passed him."
During this period there were three inquiries into various aspects of NSW prisons.

The first was a parliamentary committee of inquiry in 1849 into the administration of Darlinghurst Jail. The committee found "debauchery, drunkenness and irregularity of every kind."

The committee recommended the immediate dismissal of the Principal Jailer, the Matron, the Dispenser and the Principal Turnkey.

It urged that an entirely new set of officers and attendants should be appointed to Darlinghurst.

In 1861 the Legislative Council appointed a Select Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Parkes, later NSW Premier, to inquire into prisons in Sydney and Cumberland.

Jails at Cockatoo Island, Darlinghurst, Parramatta and Penrith were examined. The committee described the buildings and living conditions at Cockatoo Island as "of a most deplorable description". A number of criticisms were made of the administration of Darlinghurst.

The committee emphasised the need for an effective system of inspection of the institutions.

Allegations of cruel treatment at Berrima Jail led to a Royal Commission into the jail in 1878.

In 1865 the government had decided to make Berrima a model prison "with a view to introducing the separate treatment system". Unmanageable prisoners from other prisons were sent there for "coercion".

The two Berrima Jail practices mainly complained about for their cruelty were speadeagling and the gag.
The Royal Commission concluded: "It must be admitted that the chaining of a man up to the walls of a cell is a barbarous means of punishment, which should not be tolerated as a means of punishment, and there should be no necessity for resorting to it as a method of restraint".

'We desire to see no further instance of the chaining of a prisoner to the walls of his cell and we beg to recommend that the ring-bolts be removed'.

The Commission also recommended strict limitations on the use of the gag, which was an instrument designed to temporarily silence difficult prisoners.

Despite the harsh methods and emphasis on severity in this era, there was one experiment of note in NSW. This was the construction of an experimental prison at Trial Bay, near Kempsey on the Mid North Coast.

The prison was designed to provide useful work and a certain amount of freedom to prisoners who were fit, well-behaved and within seven years of the end of their sentences.

The prisoners were paid wages and their wives and families were allowed to visit them.

They were engaged in the construction of a breakwall designed to provide a harbour of safe refuge for ships on the coastal route. The experiment was later abandoned.

During the second half of the 19th Century the NSW prison system, in most respects, closely followed the trends and practices of the British system.

An important development in the British system was the appointment by the British Government in 1894 of a committee of inquiry into prisons under the chairmanship of Herbert Gladstone, the Under Secretary of State.
The findings of the Gladstone Committee were to have important repercussions for NSW prisons in the early years of this century.

The committee concluded that conditions of imprisonment at that time did not lead to any moral reform or change in behaviour.

On the contrary, it reduced the prisoner's capacity to cope with the demands of life upon release from prison.

The committee recommended that the British system should be more flexible, adaptable to individual conditions and needs, aimed at reform and at turning prisoners out of prison better, physically and mentally, than when they went in.

The committee also recommended the abolition of servile and punitive labour, and a change in emphasis towards productive and rehabilitative labour.

The committee dismissed the idea that cellular isolation had any reforming effects.

In 1895 Captain F W Neitenstein, a seaman who had been in charge of two training ships for truant and delinquent boys, was appointed chief administrator of NSW prisons.

Significantly, Neitenstein closely studied the report of the Gladstone Committee.

During the following 14 years while he was in charge of NSW prisons Neitenstein displayed an enlightened and humane attitude to the treatment of offenders.

He was particularly concerned about the practice of the time of placing the mentally disturbed in prisons for treatment, in addition to drunks and vagrants.

Many of those jailed for drunkenness in this period undoubtedly would now be treated in hospitals for the disease of alcoholism.
Neitenstein was also disturbed at the mass imprisonment of defaulters, first offenders and petty offenders as well as the sick, the infirm, the aged and even children.

He continually hammered the theme of "unnecessary jailing".

The main changes during Neitenstein's term of office were the grading and use of specialised functions for prisons, such as the use of Goulburn Jail for the confinement of first offenders, the concentration of prisons through the closing of many small jails, the reduction of the separate system and the introduction of restricted association amongst prisoners.

He also pressed for the construction of a separate prison for women. His efforts resulted in the opening of the State Reformatory for Women at Long Bay in 1909, the year he retired.

As a man of vision, Neitenstein also placed great emphasis on the need to help released prisoners.

As a result of his concern, the Association for Aiding Discharged Persons was formed with branches in various parts of the State.

Neitenstein also looked forward to the time when there would be a training college for prison officers.

In his time, elementary examinations were introduced to end the recruitment of illiterate officers.

Some collections of books were built up in prisons so that officers could inform themselves about ideas on crime and punishment.

Numerous other humane changes were made during Neitenstein's administration, including an end to the use of dark cells as a punishment, improvements in general hygiene, and a more varied diet for prisoners.
The impetus for reform which sprang from Neitenstein's changes continued after his retirement, the most significant development being the establishment of an afforestation camp at Tuncurry and the opening of a prison farm at Emu Plains in 1914.

However, the pace of reform was slowed by the nation's preoccupation with World War 1, then the Great Depression and World War 2.

Nevertheless, innovations, such as the lifting of restrictions on the use of library books and magazines, improvements in opportunities for education and a growing awareness of the influence of psychology, signalled an end to the general atmosphere of repression and coercion.

The impetus for reform gathered momentum again after World War 2 when Premier W J McKell appointed a committee to report on prisons.

The committee made a number of recommendations on additional staffing and facilities, improved education opportunities for prisoners, closer monitoring of prison diets, improvements in industries and in the treatment of mental defectives and inebriates.

In the following years action on these and other recommendations of the committee resulted in a gradual change for the better in general prison conditions.

The period from 1946 to 1976 witnessed the introduction of numerous changes and innovations, such as the foundation of the NSW Probation and Parole Service, the work release scheme and weekend detention.

However, two major riots at Bathurst Jail, in October 1970 and February 1974, signalled serious deficiencies.

As a result of the Bathurst riots and their aftermath the State Government set up a Royal Commission. Mr Justice Nagle of the NSW Supreme Court was appointed sole Royal Commissioner.
The Royal Commission Report was tabled in State Parliament on 4 April 1978.

The Royal Commissioner made a total of 252 recommendations for sweeping changes to the penal system. Most of the recommendations were implemented.

The current thrust in the NSW correctional system is towards providing suitable alternatives to imprisonment, particularly for first and petty offenders.

In line with the Nagle Royal Commission recommendations, imprisonment is to be used only a last resort.

Since mid-1988 fine defaulters have generally not been imprisoned. Traffic fine defaulters now may have their licences cancelled, while other fine defaulters frequently carry out unpaid, supervised community work.

In 1989 the government abolished remissions on prison sentences and passed legislation to enable the courts to set unalterable minimum terms of imprisonment.
THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Prisons belong to the community
(Royal Commission into NSW Prisons 1976-78)

Corrections, or the correctional system as it is also known, is part of what is called the criminal justice system.

The criminal justice system comprises the laws, law enforcement agencies, the courts and corrections.

In NSW offenders under the age of 18 are placed under the control of the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Offenders 18 years of age and over, who are sentenced to full-time imprisonment or periodic detention, are the responsibility of the Department of Corrective Services.

The Department of Corrective Services administers the State’s adult correctional centres, formerly known as prisons or jails.

It is responsible for the secure custody and well-being of offenders placed in its care by the courts.

The Department also provides inmates with educational and work opportunities so they can prepare themselves for their eventual release.

Each State and the Northern Territory has its own correctional centres. There are no Federal correctional centres in Australia.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has a remand centre for unconvicted inmates, but sentenced ACT offenders are usually accommodated in NSW correctional centres.
There are almost 6200 offenders in full-time custody in NSW correctional centres, including about 300 women.

In addition, approximately 1300 offenders, both men and women, spend their weekends in periodic detention centres.

More than 13,000 other offenders are under supervision in the community on parole, probation and serving community service orders.

They are supervised by the Community Corrections Service, which is part of the Department of Courts Administration.

The Minister responsible for NSW corrections is the Hon. Terry Griffiths MP, the State Member for the southern Sydney electorate of Georges River.

As the Minister for Justice, Mr Griffiths, who assumed the portfolio in June 1991, is responsible for the Department of Corrective Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Courts Administration.

The Department of Corrective Services is administered by a Commissioner (Major General Neville Smethurst) and a Deputy Commissioner (Commodore Max Sulman). Both are former members of the Australian armed services.

The Department of Corrective Services is responsible for the administration of:

- The Prisons Act 1952
- Sentencing Act 1989
- Periodic Detention of Prisoners Act 1981
- Fine Enforcement Legislation (Amendment) Act 1989
- Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982
- Crimes Act 1900 (sections 461 and 464)
- Habituals Criminals Act 1957
LOCATION OF CORRECTIONAL CENTRES

Imprisonment as a concept is not a desirable state for man or animal and should be carefully justified and not dispensed without careful thought

(John Morony, Comptroller-General of NSW Prisons 1960-68)

Correctional centres in New South Wales are classed as maximum security, medium security and minimum security.

**Maximum security** correctional centres are characterised by high walls, watch towers staffed by armed guards and strict security inside the walls.

These institutions hold inmates whose escape would be highly dangerous to members of the public or the security of the State.

As well as sentenced inmates, those who are awaiting trial or sentence and those sentenced by the courts but waiting to be assessed as security risks are also generally held in maximum security.

**Medium security** correctional centres are surrounded by walls or high security fences.

Inside the walls or fences inmates are still under constant supervision but move around more freely than in maximum security.

**Minimum security** institutions, which are generally not surrounded by walls or high fences, are for inmates who can be trusted in open conditions.

Minor offenders and those nearing the end of their sentences are held in this type of correctional centre.

There are 30 correctional centres in NSW -- 11 maximum, eight medium and 11 minimum security.

Twelve of the institutions are in the Sydney metropolitan area and 18 are in the country.
Maximum Security

Goulburn Correctional Centre
Industrial Centre (Long Bay)
John Morony Correctional Centre (Windsor)
Lithgow Correctional Centre
Long Bay Hospital
Maitland Correctional Centre
Reception Centre (Long Bay)
Remand Centre (Long Bay)
Special Care Correctional Centre (Long Bay)
Special Purpose Centre (Long Bay)
Tamworth Correctional Centre

Medium Security

Bathurst Correctional Centre
Broken Hill Correctional Centre
Cessnock Correctional Centre
Cooma Correctional Centre
Grafton Correctional Centre
Mulawa Correctional Centre (Silverwater)
Parklea Young Offenders Correctional Centre
Parramatta Correctional Centre

Minimum Security

Berrima Correctional Centre
Emu Plains Correctional Centre
Glen Innes Correctional Centre
Kirkconnell Correctional Centre (Bathurst)
Mannus Correctional Centre (Tumbarumba)
Newnes Young Offenders Correctional Centre (Lithgow)
Norma Parker Correctional Centre (Parramatta)
Oberon Correctional Centre
Silverwater Correctional Centre
St Heliers Correctional Centre (Muswellbrook)
Training Centre (Long Bay)
Long Bay is a complex of correctional centres comprising six maximum and one minimum security institution.

Mulawa and Norma Parker are both correctional centres for women.

There are also nine detention centres in NSW which hold offenders sentenced by the courts to various periods of periodic detention, which is served by most of these offenders over a series of weekends.

These centres are at:
- Campbelltown
- Emu Plains
- Malabar (Long Bay)
- Merinda (Parramatta)
- Muswellbrook
- Parramatta
- Silverwater
- Tomago (Newcastle)
- Windsor

Merinda detention centre is the only periodic detention centre for women.
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE SECURITY

The vilest deeds like poison weeds
Bloom well in prison air,
It is only what is good in man
That wastes and withers there.
Pale anguish keeps the heavy gate
And the warder is Despair.

Oscar Wilde
(The Ballad of Reading Gaol)

The first responsibility of the correctional centres is the secure custody of offenders sentenced to imprisonment by the courts.

Correctional centres are secured by traditional means such as high walls, armed watchtowers, gates and locks, and more modern developments including electronic surveillance, alarms and floodlighting.

Armed watchtowers in NSW maximum security correctional centres are generally staffed around the clock.

Officers in the towers are armed with .223 Ruger carbine rifles and .38 Smith and Wesson revolvers.

The use of these firearms and the circumstances in which they may be discharged are strictly governed by the Prison Regulations.

Correctional officers working inside the walls of correctional centres are normally not armed.

Increasing use is being made of electronics, including closed circuit television monitoring and super-sensitive alarms, in the internal and external surveillance of correctional centres.

But electronics are only intended to supplement, not replace, the security methods used and proven over many years.
Extensive use is now made of floodlighting, particularly the perimeter areas of correctional centres.

Classification of inmates
Inmates are graded according to their risk to security, so that security is the main aim of classification.

The placement of inmates in a particular type of correctional centre depends on their security classification.

The classification categories are:
- A1: extremely high risk and a danger to other inmates.
- A2: security risk to be held in a walled correctional centre with armed watchtowers.
- B: to be kept separate from the community by physical barriers.
- C1: cannot be trusted completely in open conditions and needs to be under supervision at all times.
- C2: can be trusted in open conditions. Eligible for work and sport outside institution under supervision.
- C3: can be trusted to go into the community unescorted for work and/or study.
- E1: convicted of escaping or attempting to escape. Considered a special risk to security and must be kept in a high security institution.
- E2: convicted of escaping or attempting to escape from lawful custody. To be confined by secure barriers at all times.

Control of riots and other emergencies
All correctional centres have plans for the control of riots and other emergencies.

Emergency units, comprising specially trained correctional officers, are stationed at Long Bay, Parramatta, Goulburn, Lithgow, Bathurst and Maitland.
These officers, who receive intensive training in the use of tear gas, searching and restraint of violent inmates, enter the institutions in the event of riots and other serious disturbances.

Riot control and the use of weapons form an important part of the primary training of correctional officer recruits.

Response to hostage taking
The Corrective Services Hostage Response Group (HRG) comprises officers from the various emergency units who undergo training in the rescue of hostages taken in correctional centres.

Emphasis is placed on skilled negotiations with the help of correctional centre psychologists. The back-up for the negotiators includes armed assault teams and snipers.

Not one hostage or hostage-taker has been killed or seriously injured in more than 30 hostage-taking incidents in NSW correctional centres since the HRG was formed in 1979.

The HRG works in close co-operation with NSW Police Service hostage negotiators.

Dogs
Two dogs were introduced into the Long Bay Complex in 1981 to detect illicit drugs.

Eighteen dogs and their prison officer handlers are now stationed at Windsor, Goulburn and Maitland.

In addition to drug detection, the dogs are also trained for security operations.
Drug detection
Drugs, except those prescribed by a doctor, and alcohol are strictly forbidden in correctional centres as both pose a risk to security because of their effects.

Extensive and frequent searches are carried out by correctional officers and drug detection dogs.

Visitors caught smuggling drugs into correctional centres are charged and banned from further visits.

Searches are made regularly of correctional centre cells, visiting areas and inmates' work places.

Since May 1988 a comprehensive program of urine testing to detect drug usage by inmates has been carried out in NSW correctional centres.

Inmates failing or refusing to undergo the tests may be deprived of certain privileges such as contact visits.

Investigations
Two special squads in the Department of Corrective Services inquire into matters of a criminal nature in correctional centres.

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU), formed in 1980, comprises detectives seconded to Corrective Services from the NSW Police Service Internal Affairs Branch.

The Internal Investigation Unit (IIU), made up of selected correctional officers, was established in 1985 to examine allegations of incidents in correctional centres involving inmates and staff.

Numbers of correctional centre staff have faced criminal and disciplinary charges resulting from IIU and SIU investigations.

Transporting inmates
Generally, the transporting of inmates between correctional centres and the courts and from one correctional centre to another is carried out by special squads of correctional officers.
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

The problems of crime bring us together. Even as we join in common action, we know that there can be no instant victory. Ancient evils do not yield to easy conquest. We cannot limit our efforts to enemies we can see. We must, with equal resolve, seek out new knowledge, new techniques and new understanding. (Lyndon B Johnson U.S. President 1963-69)

The first duty of correctional officers is the secure custody of those sentenced to imprisonment by the courts.

They are also responsible for the well-being of those placed in their care.

There are about 2800 officers in New South Wales' thirty correctional centres.

The NSW Prison Service is the successor of the Royal Marine Dettechment which arrived with the First Fleet in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

Present day correctional officers are members of the Prison Operations Division of the Department of Corrective Services.

Selection and training
Applicants for the correctional officer ranks must pass a medical examination, educational test and a police check.

Those selected undergo a rigorous primary training course at the NSW Corrective Services Academy at Eastwood, a Sydney suburb, before being assigned to duty in a correctional centre.

After a number of weeks working as a probationary correctional officer the trainee returns to the Academy to complete primary training. The probationary period is 12 months.
The primary training course includes correctional centre practices and procedures, law as it relates to corrections, self-defence and physical fitness, supervision and management of inmates, instruction in the use of weapons and riot control.

Most correctional officers are engaged primarily in security duties such as staffing armed towers and security posts, and general observation of inmates.

However, a number carry out specialised tasks. These include overseeing correctional centre industries, organising inmates recreational activities, transporting inmates to and from the courts, hospitals and between correctional centres, training for emergencies, special searching, and conducting investigations.

Ranks
Correctional officer ranks are divided into two levels -- senior, or executive officers, and other ranks.

The grades of executive officers, in descending order, are:

1. Assistant Commissioner Operations
2. Chief Superintendent (Regional Commander)
3. Superintendent (Grades 1, 2 and 3)
4. Deputy Superintendent (Grades 1, 2 and 3)
5. Senior Assistant Superintendent
6. Assistant Superintendent

Other ranks, in descending order, are:

1. Senior Prison Officer
2. First Class Prison Officer
3. Prison Officer
4. Probationary Prison Officer
Officers attaining executive officer rank are commissioned by the State Governor.

All officers now take the Oath or Affirmation of Office on graduating from the NSW Corrective Services Academy.

Insignia of rank
Following are the insignia of all ranks:

- Assistant Commissioner Operations
- Chief Superintendent
- Superintendent, Grade 1
- Superintendent, Grade 2
- Superintendent, Grade 3
- Deputy Superintendent, Grade 1
Deputy Superintendent, Grade 2

Deputy Superintendent, Grade 3
Senior Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent

Senior Prison Officer

First Class Prison Officer

Prison Officer

Shoulder Patch

Cap Badge
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE DISCIPLINE

As he went through Cold-Bath Fields he saw
A solitary cell,
And the Devil was pleased, for it gave him a hint
For improving his prisons in Hell
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Discipline in correctional centres is primarily the responsibility of institutional superintendents.

The ways in which discipline is to be imposed and maintained are set out in the Prison Regulations, which are based on the Prisons Act 1952 and the Prison Rules.

The Prisons Act (Section 23) lists 16 offences against correctional centre discipline. These are:

. mutiny
. open incitement to mutiny
. escaping or attempting to escape
. common or aggravated assault
. wilfully or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying correctional centre property.
. preferring a complaint against a correctional officer knowing the complaint is false.
. deliberate self-inflicted injuries
. pretending to be ill
. being idle or negligent at work
. mismanaging work
. committing a nuisance
. preferring a frivolous complaint
• cursing or swearing profanely
• behaving indecently
• behaving irreverently at or during Divine Service or prayer
• disobeying any regulation or any of the correctional centre rules or any lawful order of a correctional officer.

Some of these offences may be dealt with by the correctional centre superintendent, who has the power, if the offence is proved, to confine the offender to his or her cell for a maximum of three days.

Other of the offences may be dealt with by a magistrate, known as a Visiting Justice, who visits a correctional centre for that purpose.

The Visiting Justice has the power to confine an offender to his or her cell for a maximum of 14 days.

Escapees, after their recapture, are usually held in maximum security and can face an additional sentence if found guilty by the courts.

The daily correctional centre timetable is strictly adhered to. There are some differences in these timetables, particularly between minimum and maximum and medium security institutions.

The daily routine is different at weekends from normal working days.

There is some overlapping between measures to ensure security and those to maintain good order and discipline.

For example, inmates letters are frequently opened and inspected for possible contraband.

They are read if it is judged the contents may adversely affect the security or the good order and discipline of the correctional centre.
The number and type of personal possessions an inmate may keep in his or her cell are determined by the superintendent. When entering a correctional centre for the first time an inmate must hand over all personal possessions he or she has at the time.

Both discipline and security are maintained by continual searching of all areas of correctional centres, including cells, and the inmates themselves.

Under the Prison Regulations, inmates are bound to adhere to basic hygiene and personal cleanliness.

They are also bound to keep their cells, clothing and bedding in good order and neatly arranged. They must wear correctional centre clothing issued to them unless granted special permission to do otherwise.

The uniform must be kept clean, laundered and disinfected.

The superintendent, or any officer authorised by him or her, has the right to inspect, but not read, documents brought into a correctional centre by a barrister, solicitor or solicitor's clerk.

In the interests of both discipline and security there are a number of rules regarding visits to inmates.

Usually only four visitors per prisoner at a time are permitted. During visits no items may be given to inmates by their visitors, and vice versa. Visitors may also be asked to provide identification.

A strict record of all visits is kept by each institution, and a visitor may be denied entry to a correctional centre if it is judged the visit could adversely affect the discipline, good order or security of the institution.

The correctional centre also has the right, under Prison Regulations, to search both inmates and their visitors.

Drugs, including alcohol, are strictly forbidden in correctional centres. The exceptions are tobacco and drugs prescribed by doctors for medical reasons.
INMATES AT WORK

The treatment of persons sentenced to imprisonment or a similar measure shall have as its purpose, so far as the length of sentence permits, to establish in them law-abiding and self-supporting lives after their release and to fit them to do so. The treatment shall be such as will encourage their self-respect and develop their sense of responsibility.

*United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955)*

Correctional centre inmates work in a variety of occupations. The type of work depends on the security category of the institution and its location in NSW.

Correctional centre industries keep inmates gainfully occupied, earn revenue to help the correctional system pay its way and prepare inmates for their eventual release by giving them work skills and habits.

Inmates are paid for work performed, the pay rates depending on the skill required. In addition to base rates of pay, allowances are also paid for the quality and quantity of work produced.

As more than 15,000 persons pass through NSW correctional centres each year it is not possible to provide work for all of them because sentences can range from as little as several days.

Since unconvicted inmates are innocent in the eyes of the law they also cannot be forced to work.

Consequently, correctional centres industries are concentrated in those institutions holding sentenced inmates.

A recent development in NSW has been the introduction of full-time trade training programs. A number of correctional centres now give selected inmates training in a variety of trades.
In most of the State's correctional centres inmates are engaged in routine work such as staffing kitchens, libraries, laundries, offices, stores and in general cleaning and maintenance.

They also work in:
- bookbinding
- carpentry and joinery
- cattle farming
- circuit board and cable manufacturing
- dairy farming
- forestry work
- gardening
- leatherwork
- light engineering
- market gardening
- metalwork
- milk processing
- motor maintenance
- packing
- pig farming
- plant nursery work
- plastic moulding
- poultry farming
- printing
- sawmilling
- screen printing
- sewing
- spray painting
- steel products manufacture
- tailoring
- upholstery

Rates of pay
The following hourly rates of pay are made to working prisoners:
- proficient worker (excellent worker in a revenue producing industry) ................ 57 cents
- skilled worker ................................. 47 cents
- semi-skilled worker ......................... 40 cents
- unskilled worker ............................. 30 cents
In addition to the above allowances, productivity allowances may also be paid.

The hourly rates for productivity allowances are a maximum 57 cents for proficient workers, 47 cents for skilled workers, 40 cents for semi-skilled workers and 30 cents for unskilled workers.

Trade training
Training in trades is conducted in the following correctional centres:

- Bathurst Correctional Centre -- metal fabrication, carpentry and joinery
- Cessnock Correctional Centre -- air brushing, vehicle painting, industrial painting
- Goulburn Correctional Centre -- cabinet making, welding, vehicle trimming
- Parklea Young Offenders Correctional Centre -- printing, metal fabrication, welding, wood machining, painting and decorating
- Industrial Centre (Long Bay) -- bricklaying
- Training Centre (Long Bay) -- painting and decorating, air brushing, horticulture.
EDUCATION OF INMATES

And it was only when I lay on rotting prison straw that
I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually
it was disclosed to me that the line between good and evil
passes not through states, not between classes, nor between
political parties either -- but through every human heart.
   Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn

In the community, lack of education is considered to be a
severe handicap.

Former correctional centre inmates who cannot get employment
because of a lack of education are likely to return to crime.

As a result, education plays a very important role in preparing
inmates for their eventual release back into the community.

The Department of Corrective Services provides general educational,
trade training and recreational courses.

The State's correctional centres have part-time teachers. Teachers even
visit regularly the geographically remote institutions such as
correctional centre farms.

As about 30 per cent of inmates are illiterate, there is emphasis
on remedial teaching.

Correctional centre teachers help many of these inmates with basic
English and mathematics. Others instruct migrants in English.

In addition to the classes conducted by teachers in the institutions,
at any given time a large number of inmates are enrolled in a
wide range of courses in at least a dozen NSW educational
institutions.
These courses are undertaken either by correspondence or, in the case of some low risk inmates nearing release, in person.

Examples of these courses include:
- arts
- science
- architecture
- engineering
- welding
- rigging
- scaffolding
- data processing
- screen printing
- fine arts
- graphic arts
- small business
- showcard and ticketwriting
- electrical trades
- coastal navigation
- welfare
- real estate
- writing
- administration
- horticulture
- accountancy
- computer studies

Additional funds have been allocated recently to upgrade education computer equipment, video resource material and literacy resources.

Special programs have been developed for Aboriginal inmates, those from non-English speaking backgrounds and developmentally delayed inmates.

An innovative Prisoner Art and Crafts curriculum has been introduced recently into courses including pottery, leathercraft, silkscreen painting, Aboriginal art and painting. A music curriculum has also been developed.
An innovative Family Relationships and Management Program, which was developed at Parramatta Correctional Centre, is now being used in correctional centres around NSW.

Other programs currently in operation include:
- Workplace Education Program (Parklea)
- Basic Education for the developmentally delayed (Goulburn)
- Adult Learning Centre, (Mulawa)
- Multiple Arts and Crafts Programs (Industrial Centre, Long Bay)
- Office Skills Course (Norma Parker Centre)
- Distance Education Programs (Cooma, Grafton, Berrima)

Further information is included in the following publications, which are available from the Department of Corrective Services:
- NSW Literacy Leaflet
- NSW Prisoner Education "Operations to Learn - A Guide for Prisoners"
- NSW Prisoner Education Course Handbook
CARING FOR INMATES

In the end, the major failure at Attica may be that the authorities simply did not know what the desperate men behind their walls really wanted, thought or felt.

Time magazine, commenting on the 1971 riot in New York’s Attica Prison in which 43 inmates and staff died

Correctional authorities are obliged by law (Prisons Act 1952) to feed, clothe and shelter inmates adequately. They are also bound to ensure inmates' medical and spiritual needs are met.

In consultation with dieticians a 28-day cycle menu has been drawn up for all correctional centres so that inmates have a balanced diet.

All inmates, except those confined to their cells for disciplinary reasons, must be allowed at least two hours exercise daily in the open air.

Each inmate, under Section 13 of the Prisons Act, is to be given sufficient clothing "to maintain health and decency".

Medical attention in NSW correctional centres is administered by the Prison Medical Service, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health.

A 120-bed hospital, catering for both medical and psychiatric cases, is located at the Long Bay Complex. This is the principal correctional hospital in the State.

Numbers of country correctional centres also have small hospitals to cater for inmates suffering minor illnesses. Serious cases are transferred to the Long Bay hospital or outside hospitals.

All correctional centres either have full-time medical staff or have ready access to medical doctors on call.
Dental treatment is provided in most correctional centres by visiting dentists.

The major institutions have full-time psychologists who provide counselling and make assessments of inmates for the Offenders Review Board.

Most correctional centres have drug and alcohol counsellors whose employment initially was made possible by funds made available as a result of the National Drug Offensive.

Methadone programs have been set up in a number of institutions as part of a wide-ranging effort to assist drug addicted inmates overcome their addiction and the crime-related problems associated with their addiction.

In 1981 a section of Long Bay was set aside to help inmates undergoing serious emotional crises. These inmates are taught to cope with the special pressures of imprisonment.

The section, known as the Special Care Unit (SCU), was the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

Inmates, before being admitted to the SCU, must sign a contract to abide by certain conditions while in the unit.

The Department of Corrective Services has welfare officers who care for the needs of inmates and their families.

Aboriginal and ethnic inmates have special problems during their imprisonment. Persons of Aboriginal and ethnic background are employed to liaise with both types of inmates.

Aborigines, under Prison Regulation 65A, may be visited by field officers of the Aboriginal Legal Service or organisations which provide legal or other assistance to Aborigines.
Foreign inmates have the right to be visited, if they wish, by diplomats from their country while in prison.

Chaplains minister to the spiritual needs of inmates. Four full-time chaplains, representing the major Christian denominations, are located at Long Bay. Part-time chaplains have ready access to all correctional centres around the State.

Church services, which inmates are free to attend if they wish, are regularly conducted in the institutions.

Inmates are permitted to make monitored phone calls to help keep in touch with their families. The frequency and length of the phone calls are determined by the local correctional centre superintendent.

Long distance calls must either be reverse charged or paid for by the inmate.

Families and friends are permitted to visit inmates. Visits are contact visits, that is, there are no physical barriers between inmates and their visitors.

Inmates may be temporarily deprived of contact visits for disciplinary reasons. In such cases, they must talk to their visitors through glass screens or other barriers.

Inmates are also allowed to send and receive letters. All letters are opened to detect concealed contraband.

However, letters are usually only read if it is believed the contents could pose a threat to the security, good order or discipline of the correctional centre.

Once a week inmates are permitted to buy, out of their own funds and only up to a set amount, goods on a restricted list.
Inmates have a number of avenues for making complaints. Correctional centre superintendents each day interview all inmates who have requested to talk to them.

Inmates are also free to write to members of Parliament and the Ombudsman.

All institutions have Official Visitors, who are members of the community appointed to sort out many of the local problems affecting both inmates and staff.

Some low security inmates, who are nearing the end of their sentences, are periodically allowed out of a correctional centre for the day in the company of an approved sponsor. This is known as day leave.

A small number of low risk inmates, both men and women, live in a correctional centre at night and work in normal jobs during the day. This is known as work release.

The day leave and work release programs aim to help inmates gradually readjust to everyday life before their release and so reduce the risk of them reoffending.
ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

Sentencing people to jail avoids dealing with the social and human injustices in the community which contribute to the framework in which criminal behaviour develops.

Mr Justice Vincent of Victoria, speaking on sentencing at the Australian Bicentennial Legal Convention

The courts have a number of options, in addition to imprisonment, which are used to punish minor offenders.

These include fines, probation, periodic detention, community service orders and attendance centres.

Probation
A judge or magistrate may release a convicted person on condition that he or she be of good behaviour for a set period of time.

It may also be a condition that the convicted person accepts the supervision and guidance of a community corrections officer.

This is called "being on probation", and the offender is called a "probationer".

If the probationer does not carry out the conditions of his or her probation, the community corrections officer is required to report back to the court.

If the court decides the probationer has breached the conditions he or she may be called before the court, thus risking imprisonment or some other heavy penalty.

In NSW there are more offenders on probation than all other forms of compulsory supervision or imprisonment combined.
Periodic Detention

Periodic or weekend detention requires offenders to report every weekend for a maximum of three years either to a periodic detention centre or directly to a nominated workplace.

Detainees are usually engaged for the weekend in unpaid community work. Supervision is carried out by correctional officers.

This scheme causes minimal disruption to family life and enables minor offenders to continue earning a living during the week.

There are nine weekend detention centres in NSW, eight for males and one for females.

Community Service Orders

The courts can order offenders to carry out a maximum of 300 hours unpaid, supervised community work.

Offenders, under the supervision of the NSW Community Corrections Service, are involved in a wide range of work beneficial to the community, often undertaken with such organisations as volunteer bushfire brigades, neighbourhood centres, police youth clubs, and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Attendance Centres

The courts can direct offenders sentenced to community service orders to serve part or all of the orders at an attendance centre.

There are attendance centres, which are run by the NSW Community Corrections Service, at Pendle Hill, Annandale, Liverpool, Emu Plains and Tuggerah Lakes.

Attendance centre programs are also occasionally run at Dubbo, Orange, Goulburn and Wollongong.
The attendance centres have a structured program focusing on common problem areas experienced by offenders, such as employment, self-awareness, money management, drugs dependence (including alcohol), drink driving and shoplifting.
For further information, contact:

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