



COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE

Changing Lives, Reducing Crime
Annual Report 2009





Our Patron

The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby, AC, CMG

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Please Note:

In order to maintain anonymity, some names
have been changed and images of models
and CRC representatives have been used
throughout this publication.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Message from the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG Patron of the Community Restorative Centre



The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

I am very pleased to be patron of the CRC.

In my early days in the law, the judiciary was much involved in issues affecting the return of prisoners to the community, after service of their sentences. Moreover, criminology was then in its infancy in Australia. Great exponents, like the late Professor Gordon Hawkins, expounded the principle of minimisation of the use of imprisonment. Today, the political climate is one that sometimes involves a kind of electoral auction between the major political parties, designed to increase the use of incarceration and to diminish the protection of prisoners as human beings and citizens.

Every now and again, the courts draw a line in the sand. This, the High Court of Australia did in its constitutional decision in *Roach v Electoral Commissioner* (2007) 233 CLR 162. In that decision, by majority, the High Court concluded that the Australian Constitution prevented the valid enactment of a law depriving all prisoners of the right to vote in federal elections. Many prisoners thereafter participated, as citizens, in the federal election of 2007.

However, court interventions of this kind are rare in Australia. Without a constitutional, or even a statutory Charter of Rights, the remedies available for the protection of prisoners' rights in and after imprisonment, are relatively few. That is why a body such as the CRC is so important. It seeks to explain the basic needs and entitlements of prisoners. Moreover, it seeks to persuade other citizens to the self-interests of society in the humane treatment of

prisoners and in support for them in their transition to civilian life. The work of CRC has a distinct impact in reducing re-offending and in promoting re-absorption to society. It is in the community's interests to strengthen the CRC both to promote the proper consideration of viable alternatives for anti-social conduct and to inform parliament and government on the legislative and policy strategies that work best.

To sustain the work of the CRC, and to help it expand its services, it is essential that it have substantial increases in public funding. The focus in the past 12 months has been on increasing the knowledge and capacity of government and non-government services to address issues facing prisoners and their families after release from prison. Even with welcome increases in funding, there will remain a serious gap in knowledge within the broader community concerning the needs of prisoners in transition and the assistance they require if that transition is to be successful for themselves and for society.

The CRC provides health, drug and alcohol counselling, housing, correctional service and support for the families and children of prisoners. It facilitates video visits for families and children who may find it difficult to visit a parent, sibling or child located in a rural or interstate prison. This is truly work of great importance for our society. But it is also highly moral work. All of the world's great religions teach the importance of helping the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. Because virtually all prisoners will one day return to society, it is in society's interests to support the CRC and to fund the essential work performed by its staff and volunteers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Michael Kirby'.

MICHAEL KIRBY
Patron

1 October 2009

FOREWORD

What does it mean to lock somebody up? What does it say about the community who *does* the locking up? And what does it mean for the communities whose lives are regularly touched by the event of incarceration?

Imprisonment is now so enthusiastically adopted as a style of punishment (not just in NSW, but across the world), it has achieved a form of cultural inevitability. It is seen as *natural* – simply 'what happens' when somebody commits a crime.

Although important political and policy debates continue to explore questions of bail, remand and other sentencing matters, it seems that the impulse to send people to prison has achieved a firm foothold at the centre of our *thinking* about the criminal justice system, and prison is all too frequently the institution at the centre of the system itself.

Despite our enthusiasm for locking people up, however, as a community we are somewhat less connected to the pragmatic questions of what happens to somebody *during* their time in prison – and then what happens to them *after* they have been released.

In NSW there are over 10,000 people in prison on any given day. More than twice this number cycle in and out each year, and the majority of these people have been in prison before.

If we were to take a snapshot of the NSW prisoner population today we would find close to 70% had spent time in adult prisons previously. If we were to take a picture of everybody released from prison last year, we would find that around 43% of those releasees will return to prison within two years. This figure is significantly higher for people who have been in prison a number of times before, who come from disadvantaged communities, and who have unstable accommodation options. This is the group CRC is focused on supporting.

The return to prison rate of CRC's high risk, transitional clients during the last twelve months is 7%, significantly lower than the recidivism rates of those who do not have support. It is also extraordinarily cost-effective. It costs between \$187 and \$225 a day to keep someone in prison in NSW, yet CRC spends less than \$10 a day providing intensive transitional support to ex-prisoners.

CRC is intimately connected with the pragmatic and practical questions involved in incarceration because of the personal, intensive and long-term support work it carries out with prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. As an organisation it is, perhaps uniquely, familiar with the serious and complex consequences of imprisonment – consequences that extend well beyond the obvious deprivation of liberty.

Imprisonment all too frequently disconnects people from their communities. It separates families, (including parents and children), alienates people from mainstream health, education, employment and housing, erodes identity and self-esteem, and too often exacerbates the structural and personal factors that contribute to offending behaviour. Although there are certainly useful programs inside some prisons, for the clients of CRC, their time inside is usually *part* of the cycle of crime, imprisonment and re-offending, rather than an end-point.

CRC works to help prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families cope with the damage of incarceration and ultimately move away from involvement with the criminal justice system entirely.

The personal stories contained in this report give vivid expression to the imprisonment and post-release system as it is lived by people who have experienced it. We hope that in sharing these stories, some insight might also be shared into what it *actually means* to lock someone up and then release them back into the community; the challenges, the kinds of support people require and, significantly, the centrality of hope in navigating the difficult terrain of life after prison.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Mindy Sotiri'.

Mindy Sotiri
Vice President

Our History

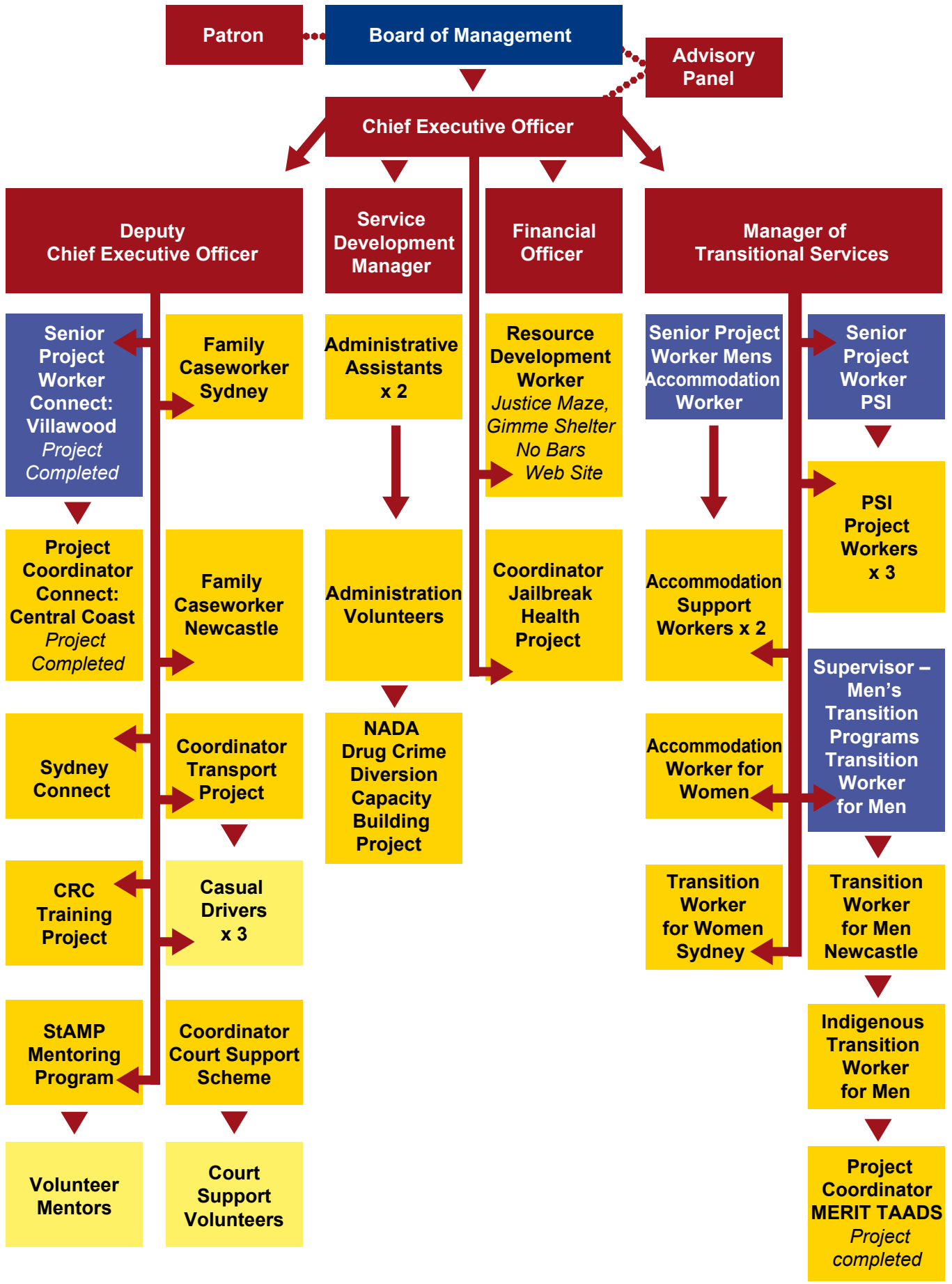
CRC was founded in 1951 on the beliefs that:

- People released from prison have paid their debt to society and have the right to re-establish their lives in the community without stigma, stereotyping or discrimination. They should be offered support which eases their transition back into the community, improves their life options and assists them to avoid re-offending.
- Families of prisoners should not be punished or suffer from discrimination by the justice system. They should be entitled to support to minimise the effects of having a relative imprisoned.
- This support must help sustain their relationship with their relative in prison, and enable the family to be re-established upon release of the prisoner.
- People should leave correctional facilities in a better physical, emotional and educational state than when they entered. They should be given a sense of personal dignity and worth and real chances to obtain employment and re-establish themselves in the community.
- Many prisoners are people who have experienced significant social and economic disadvantages, disadvantages which contribute to their offending and re-offending, and require support to move out of this cycle.
- All clients of CRC have the right to support which is non-judgemental and preserves their confidentiality and dignity.

Our Future — CRC Mission

CRC aims to change lives positively by supporting people affected by the criminal justice system. Our primary goal is to improve our client's quality of life by providing practical and emotional support. We aim to reduce crime, and to reduce the impact of incarceration on individuals and the community, through a range of services and targeted projects.

CRC works in partnership with other organisations to improve access for our clients to support and services. We create opportunities for our clients to participate in the wider community and achieve independence.





During 2008/2009 CRC was very pleased to have the opportunity to welcome the appointment of John Robertson, as Minister for Corrective Services.

Together with our Chief Executive Officer, Alison Churchill, I have had the opportunity to meet with Minister Robertson. The Minister has demonstrated a very welcome sensitivity to the question of how we, as a society, can more humanely respond to the needs of our fellow citizens involved with the criminal justice system.

We took the opportunity to point out to the Minister that people on CRC programs have a return to prison rate, after two years, of between 6% and 15% depending which program they are involved with. During the year 2008/2009 the return to prison rates are again only 7%. These figures obviously compare very favourably with the state wide return to prison rate of 43% after two years. Armed with these very persuasive facts, Alison and I have now discussed with the Minister the concept of expanding the reach of proven CRC programs in regional NSW. The Minister has requested some additional information, which has been supplied and we are quietly hopeful of a favourable outcome.

The eternal battle for government grants continues

unabated. This work takes up an enormous amount of time on the part of Alison and her team and requires an amazing degree of energy, commitment and perseverance. CRC and, most importantly, our clients are incredibly fortunate that all of the above virtues are in ample evidence right across the CRC team.

During the course of the year, our patron, the Honourable Justice Michael Kirby, retired from the High Court of Australia. While we wish Justice Kirby every success, retirement hardly seems to be the right word as, quite apart from his involvement with CRC, he continues to embrace a wide range of interests and responsibilities right across the social justice spectrum both here in Australia and internationally.

Throughout the year Justice Kirby has been active in arranging introductions for CRC to the Magistrates, to the District Court Justices and the Supreme Court Justices.

Following these contacts, Alison Churchill was invited to speak at the Local Magistrates conference. Her presentation was very well received. A key feature of these associations is that CRC is approaching them with a view to

establishing ongoing relationships. Alison has also taken up an invitation to join the Institute of Criminology Advisory Committee. This involvement provides an important opportunity to make influential decision makers aware of CRC's views.

I would particularly like to commend Wayne Watson, our Deputy Chief Executive Officer and his team for the very proactive training programs that we are delivering. These training initiatives provide the opportunity to make key departments of government more aware of the realities that confront our clients. Most importantly, it also provides an opportunity to dispel many of the groundless apprehensions that some elements of these departments hold regarding the provision of services to this client group. This training delivery also generates important and much needed revenue for CRC. Congratulations go to all those involved.

As always, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to our marvellous staff and volunteers. We have a whole range of wonderful and highly accomplished people working with CRC. They continue to make a most enormous difference to the lives of our

clients. I also wish to acknowledge my fellow Board Members who, through their varied and impressive range of skills, contribute so generously to all we have achieved on behalf of our clients during 2008/2009.

I am particularly delighted to acknowledge our Chief Executive Officer, Alison Churchill, for her first class leadership of CRC. We are well blessed to have such a talented and committed leader. Alison has again done a wonderful job across the current year.

We look forward to the coming year, with a real sense of hope and a renewed sense of commitment to each and every one of the clients that we seek to serve.

Stephen Grieve
President



The incredible achievements of our clients over the past year continue to demonstrate that goals can be achieved, lives changed and offending reduced with the support of skilled and committed workers.

CRC staff work to create new opportunities for those affected by the criminal justice system. In partnership with their clients, staff strive to increase access to essential services, assist in developing life skills and relieve the causes and effects of physical and psychological ill health, family stress and breakdown.

Through encouragement, support, creating a sense of belonging and a belief that things can be different, we believe that people can increase their sense of self worth and can contribute to society rather than offend against it.

It is this belief that underpins our work, and has led to the delivery of programs and services to record numbers in 2008 / 2009.

Over the past year CRC recorded the following achievements:

- 188 ex-prisoners were provided with long term intensive transitional and accommodation support;

- 29 individuals were assisted through the MERIT TAADS project;
- 114 families were provided with ongoing casework support and a further 428 families were assisted via our intake service;
- 1663 individuals were transported to regional Correctional Centres to visit their friends and families;
- CRC's Court Support Volunteers assisted over 59,900 people within our local and family court systems;
- 12 ex-prisoners were linked with a volunteer community mentor;
- Over 300 people from a diverse range of services across NSW attended CRC training sessions on issues facing prisoners post release and issues facing families of prisoners;
- 4 Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation Services participated in the No Bars Training and Change Management Project to assist them in working with criminal justice clients;
- CRC's Telephone Information and Support Service (Intake), recorded the provision of over 1000 occasions of support to clients and

organisations requiring more than 30 minutes of assistance each;

- 52 Jailbreak Radio shows were aired, 2 of which were produced by prisoners "In House";
- Thousands of people received copies of our information resources within prison and the community; and
- We received over 230 unique visits to our CRC information web site each week and an average of 219 unique visitors per month to the CRC Gimme Shelter information web site.

As in previous years we continue to demonstrate that our work can contribute significantly to a reduction in the number of clients returning to prison. For the year 2008/2009 the return to prison rate of our intensive Transitional and Accommodation Support Service clients was 7%. At a fraction of the cost of incarceration, our programs continue to demonstrate efficacy in the post-release arena.

In line with past years, CRC has experienced the ebb and flow of government funding. Our Connect Projects on the Central Coast and in the Western Sydney region have come to an end, as has our MERIT Transition and Aftercare Project. Each of these projects produced exceptional outcomes, assisting individuals and families to make positive changes to their lives and building the capacity of government and community organisations to better assist those affected by incarceration.

Over the next twelve months new funding will contribute to increasing the hours of operation of the Jailbreak Health Project; the completion of a DVD resource for families of prisoners; the development of a web based resource for the Drug and Alcohol sector on working with offenders post release; increased delivery of training to government and non-government services on the issues facing offenders and families of prisoners; the development of new resources for prisoners and their families and increased video visiting for families and children with an incarcerated family member.

The year ahead will also see the bus trip to Junee Correctional Centre increased from fortnightly to weekly trips; production of a low literacy, low cost, one pan cooking, nutritional cook book; and we will continue to assist a number of other organisations with projects, exploring the impact of sexual assault in prison and the

educational value of the Mad Morro documentary written and directed by Kelrick Martin.

For many years CRC has argued the individual, societal and financial benefits of providing increased post release support services. The effects of which are evidenced by our low return to prison rates yet again this year and our voice is now supported by research in the field within New South Wales.

Post release support is clearly documented as a key strategy in bringing a halt to the increase in the prison population. A reduction in the prison population would enable increased resources to be directed to victim support, early intervention in disadvantaged communities, diversion programs, youth at risk interventions, family support, and increased post release services. These interventions could not only tackle the underlying social causes of crime but address the social determinants of ill health that remain responsible for the frequent premature death of our client group.

Over the past year CRC has continued to deliver this message through conference presentations, participation in community and government forums, Ministerial meetings and membership of a diverse range of committees. We will continue to seek increased funding from the State Government to augment services in this area. Furthermore, we will seek to form partnerships to undertake a rigorous independent evaluation of our programs to better inform practice and government policy in the future.

Whilst we wait for a shift in government policy to occur, CRC staff remain grounded in the everyday reality of providing services that can make a difference to individuals and families in the here and now. CRC continues to offer services that many government and non-government organisations remain reluctant to provide, further exacerbating an individual's chances of successful resettlement.

The following report aims to bring to life the personal stories of the people we work alongside.

We hope to highlight the positive gains that can be achieved in reducing offending beyond the use of bars, locks and keys.

Alison Churchill,
Chief Executive Officer



Family Casework Service

Like many family members, Carol* first heard about CRC through a friend who recommended she book herself a seat on the bus to visit her son.

“I was pleasantly surprised to find out that CRC could assist with a lot more than that!” she says. “My meetings with the family case worker became the only safe and peaceful space where I could find myself listened to and understood. For the first time since this nightmare started I could talk to someone who I felt really comfortable with and whom I felt was being compassionate and non judgmental towards the situation.”

Funded by the Department of Corrective Services, CRC’s Family Casework Service provides practical support, counselling, information and referrals to families who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system. In addition to this service, CRC assisted over 428 families through our Telephone Information and Support Service.

Carol’s introduction to the legal system in NSW had come as something of a shock to her. “I recall very clearly the day my son called to say that he had been arrested. Before I could try and make sense of this tragedy, while listening to his voice, my legs wobbled and I fell on my knees from the shock.”

Since her son’s incarceration over six years ago, Carol has come a long way in making sense of a legal and corrections system that is conducted in English, her second language. Her health also suffered once her son was sentenced and moved to a prison a long way from where Carol was living.

“The long distance travelling had an obvious consequence on my budget, but also an important impact on my health: I started having back complaints from so many hours of driving.”

When Carol’s mother came to visit from overseas, she found it extremely challenging to travel such a distance to see her grandson. With assistance

from the family case worker at CRC, Carol applied to have her son transferred to a closer prison on compassionate grounds, during her mother’s stay.

But it’s the emotional support that Carol has found has had the most impact. “I remember the day when the family case worker asked me about my needs, with tears running down my face, half believing that finally the time had come for someone to offer me some support.”

After an incredibly difficult time in which she lost not only her job, but her home and its contents, Carol is now renting a two bedroom flat. “I am able to provide my son with a home for when he comes

out, and at the same time, having the responsibility of paying rent has helped me find the strength and confidence to keep a steady job again. It’s given me more courage to heal and look into the future with hope.”

With only a few months to go until her son’s release, Carol is starting to feel bright about the future as she reflects on her contact with the CRC family case worker. “I know that looking in retrospect we will say that our life experience was definitely a different one before and after their support.”

*not her real name

Family Casework Service Outcomes

Families provided with intensive support:	
Hunter Office	47
Head Office	57
TOTAL	104
Accompanying Children	140
Men	11%
Women	89%
ATSI	5%
CALD	14%

Percentage of families assisted with:	
Accommodation	13%
Financial	29%
DoCs / Childcare / Parenting	12%
Drug and Alcohol	7%
DCS Related Issues	50%
Health / Mental Health	31%
Legal	15%
Counselling / Mediation	73%



Video Visits

Children don't usually need much persuasion to watch a video or get on the computer, and for kids like Matt and Grace* they don't need to be asked twice when it means getting to talk to Mum!

For this brother and sister, talking to mum via video link while she serves her sentence in Western Australia, is the best way to keep in touch.

Living with different carers, Matt and Grace don't get to spend much time together, so their last visit to CRC gave them a chance to catch up. The CRC office has a room set up where families can 'visit' their loved one in prison over a video link, providing them with a chance to see and talk to the inmate while talking through a microphone attached to the computer.

For families and friends visiting inmates in correctional centres, the costs can be high, physically, emotionally and financially. For many, visiting a jail will include travel costs and for those in more remote areas, a lot of time. Many children miss out on attending weekend activities if a visit to

a jail means staying overnight in another town.

By giving families the opportunity to keep in touch via video visits, CRC is able to provide a positive alternative for those who cannot always make the trip to a jail. With funding from the Department of Corrective Services, CRC is able to meet the costs involved, ensuring this is a free service in NSW.

"The benefit for families is enormous," says CRC Family Caseworker, Emma Goroncy. "The first video visit for Matt and Grace was such an exciting day as they hadn't seen their mum for over eight months. The joy on their faces when they actually got to see her and hear her voice was such a delight."

As well as being able to see and hear their mum, the advantages of a video link visit soon became evident when Matt and Grace came into CRC.

"Matt was so excited to see his mum again," recalls Emma, "he made up a song and dance on the spot and performed them for her in front of the camera."

* not their real names



Transport Service

"The journey is just as important as the destination" so the old saying goes, and Bridget* is one traveller on the CRC bus who wholeheartedly agrees.

"The CRC bus provides a meeting place, one could say a room on wheels, for people who are otherwise disadvantaged, to meet in the community," says Bridget. "The bus gives us the opportunity to meet, get some support and information is shared because we all have a need to offload, talk and share with others who are in a similar position."

Funded by the Department of Corrective Services, the CRC Transport Service currently connects families and friends via a low cost bus service visiting inmates in St. Heliers, Cessnock, Oberon, Lithgow and Bathurst prisons. The bus also travels to Berrima, Goulburn, and Junee Correctional Centres in south-west NSW providing a vital link for those making weekend visits.

"It's most unusual", says Bridget. "We spend almost every weekend together through the year,

travelling in the bus, eating, living and sharing time together. We look out for each other yet we are virtual strangers. We rely on each other before we even know each other because often there is no other source of support and we know we have a connection and the path we tread is hard."

Part of the hardship for families of prisoners comes from keeping things together on the outside.

"Many have great loads to carry," Bridget explains. "Being responsible for the home, work, looking after the children, worries of a financial nature, being alone, learning to survive in very difficult circumstances. They do all this while supporting the inmate and all the various problems that go with that."

Relief can come for some family members in a much unexpected form. "For a short period of time while they are travelling on the CRC bus they are forced to stop. Sit. They are not going at a hundred miles an hour, trying to do all the things that need to be done. The worries for a while can be forgotten or

spoken about openly with no one to judge you and you are not made to feel constantly ashamed.”

Some passengers on the CRC buses may travel once or twice. Others have been using the service for years.

“Waiting is what we know very well,” explains Bridget. “Waiting for years, months to pass, waiting for a visit, waiting in queues. It is a very lonely road that can last for a number of years. So having and meeting others, helps along the way. It offers a bit

of comfort, perhaps someone to talk to standing in a queue.”

Of course, occasionally people stop using the CRC bus because the need is no longer there. “When someone leaves the bus because the inmate is going to be released the whole group feels happy for them. Everyone feels uplifted because they can see that there is hope. It gives them the endurance to keep going, for one day it will be them.”

* not her real name

Transport Service Outcomes:

Total number of clients travelling to:	
Bathurst, Kirkconnell, Lithgow (fortnightly service)	429
Cessnock (monthly service)	198
Goulburn, Berrima (fortnightly service)	389
Oberon (fortnightly service)	221
St Heliers (fortnightly service)	162
Junee (fortnightly service)	264
TOTAL	1663

Men	17%
Women	64%
Children	19%
ATSI	9%
CALD	2%



Transitional Support Program for Women

For Lisa*, getting stable accommodation upon release meant not only a new lease to sign, but also a new lease on life.

“Every day I count my blessings and still pinch myself to see if it is real and not a dream,” she says.

It was at a private school in an inner city suburb of Sydney that Lisa was first introduced to narcotics at the age of eleven.

“I was always a loner and an anxious child. Drugs gave me confidence and made me feel whole,” she recalls. “Yet as the years went by drugs robbed me of many, many things: my self esteem, family, friends, my daughter, my health, my home, and eventually my freedom.”

In and out of custody and rehabs for many years, it wasn’t until she was sentenced to a prison term of four years that Lisa was really in a position to look

at where her lifestyle was leading her.

“While in custody I was given stability, a roof over my head, a bed to sleep in, food to sustain me, and services such as counselling. I was given the chance to reflect and heal, and even though there were many challenging days, I did slowly begin to heal. I was at a turning point where I could go either way. While in custody I started to look at the choices I was to make upon release.”

Funded by the Department of Corrective Services, CRC’s Transitional Support Program for Women supports women identified as medium to high risk of re-offending (women with prior incarceration, drug and alcohol misuse issues, health issues and minimum support post release). Support commences three months prior to their release from custody and up to twelve months post release. The program provides holistic, intensive outreach support addressing the myriad of issues that

place people in danger of re-offending including supported accommodation, drug and alcohol misuse, social isolation, family breakdown, lack of education and employment opportunities.

CRC’s Transition Worker for Women met with Lisa three months before her release, and Lisa was at last able to start planning for a different future for herself and her daughter.

“I was so unaware of the lengths these people would go to in order to help me. There is no possible way that I would have what I have today without them. They are truly like a family to me.”

Lisa now has stable accommodation for her daughter and herself.

“I am so, so well looked after and with continuous support I am able to heal and move forward. I have a safe haven to protect me from the dark streets, the hard days - and I will be forever grateful,” she says.

“I hope to relay a message that we are not alone, there are services out there who can help if you want it and are prepared to work for it.”

* not her real name

Outcomes for CRC
Transitional Support Programs

Total Number of clients supported	88
(44 existing + 44 new accepted)	
Men	62
(32 Sydney / 30 Hunter)	
Women	26
Referrals Received	116
Unable to be assisted	72
Returned to Custody	6
ATSI	15%
CALD	14%

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES



Transitional Support Program for Men: Sydney

For the first time in many years, Alan* has a home to call his own. After spending most of his adult life in and out of prison, Alan would often find it easier on the inside than trying to cope with life on the outside.

“There is little rehabilitation done in gaol. When you get out you have nothing but a Centrelink cheque which lasts a few days if you’re careful. You get depressed then go out and offend to go back.”

Nearing his latest release date, Alan was referred to CRC’s Men’s Transition Program. A case worker began working with Alan three months prior to his release.

Funded by the Department of Corrective Services the Men’s Transition Program works with men identified as medium to high risk of offending with prior periods of incarceration, drug and alcohol misuse, complex needs and minimum supports

upon release. The program commences support three months pre-release and provides up to twelve months post release outreach support.

At the point that Alan met the Men’s Transition Worker his longest period out of prison between sentences was eleven months.

“Since release I’ve been in Community Housing which was organised by my CRC worker before I got out. I have a roof over my head and don’t have to sleep on the streets or go to shelters to get food. This has stopped me going back to gaol. I’ve been out now for three years. It’s still hard to survive but there’s someone to fall back on.”

By working with clients like Alan, CRC’s Men’s Transition Program provides the assistance client’s need to get out - and stay out. For many this will include help with filling in forms and paperwork and transport to appointments with the myriad

of support agencies they often need to access. Some will need assistance with living skills such as budgeting, shopping and cooking. Many also make use of in depth casework and counselling on a wide range of issues such as physical and mental health, confidence, self esteem and social isolation.

At the heart of CRC's Transition work is the relationship between client and worker which, due to the intense and long term structure of the program, is typically one of trust and collaboration.

For Alan, this support has been invaluable. Each

day he sets a new record of his longest stretch out of prison; but in his mind there is still much that can be done.

"The government and the community need to change their attitudes towards people coming out of prison. We've done our time and need a chance and some support or we'll just go back to prison. We need a home and a job just like other people.

I'm now on the Board of CRC and can share my experiences and hopefully make a difference."

*not his real name

Transition Worker For Men

Mandy's view

"The biggest challenge of my work is dealing with the bureaucracies and negative community attitudes that make it even more difficult for ex-prisoners to find a place in mainstream society after release.

Despite seemingly insurmountable odds, many

clients achieve remarkable life successes and remain out of prison for longer than ever before. They often attribute this to the transitional support they receive and while they do the 'hard yards', it is hugely rewarding to know that a typical day's work has such a life changing effect."

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES



Transitional Support Program for Men: Hunter

For 40 year old Brett, it seems that life has involved a lot of running. "The longest I've been out *[of prison]* is 12 weeks, and I was on the run the whole time!" he says with a wry smile.

But the running actually started much earlier. Brett started running away from home at the age of 8 to escape a violent alcoholic father. In and out of juvenile detention numerous times, Brett eventually ended up in the adult correctional system, where he has served a total of 24 sentences.

While in custody Brett engaged in a number of programs that he describes as useful but, without support on the outside, it wasn't long before he was back in prison again each time he was released.

Before completing his last sentence however, Brett engaged with CRC's Transitional Support Program. Michael, our Transition Worker in the Hunter, met with him before release to start talking about how he would like things to be different this time. Released in February, Brett has made significant progress with CRC's support. He has secured permanent accommodation in a one bedroom flat, the first secure home Brett has had since he was a

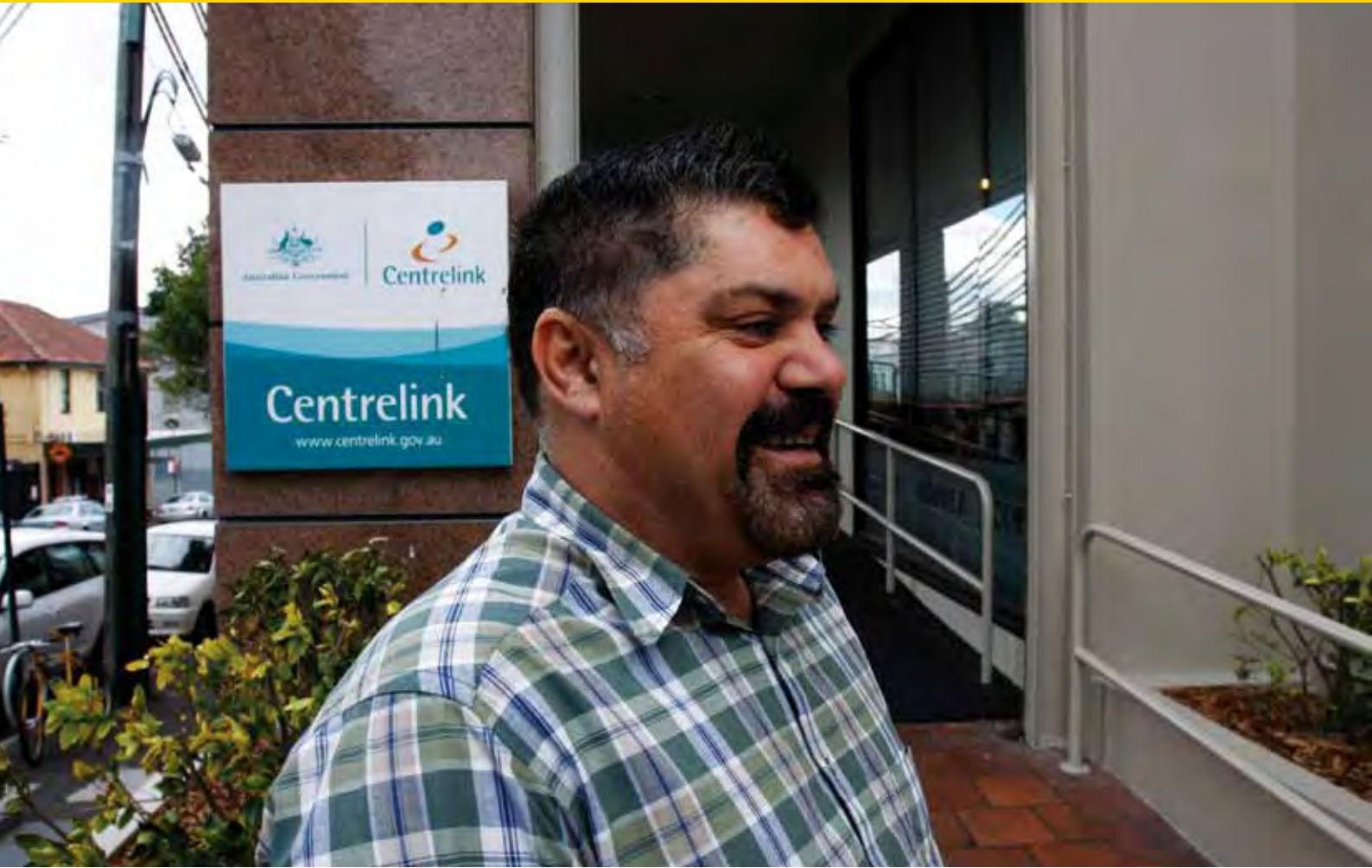
child. "Life begins at 40, so they say," he says.

With a long history of drug dependency, Brett now says he used drugs to run from those things that made his life so difficult. "I was never given the skills to deal with day to day problems, so I turned to drugs as a way of escape. This only led me into more trouble as I had to live a life of crime to support my habit."

This time round, Brett has set himself up with a support network to overcome his dependency on drugs. "I'm over jail," he says. He has not used opiates since his last release and is now moving towards coming off methadone and living a life totally free from all drugs.

"Five months doesn't sound like long to us," says Michael "but for Brett it's been a life changing experience."

Brett is now volunteering for several local charities and has been given the added responsibility of caretaker for the grounds that surround his property. With support, Brett has finally been able to get his life up and running!



Indigenous Transitional Support Program

Finding a job can be difficult at the best of times, especially when you have limited experience. Finding out that your life experience can be counted towards gaining employment, can be a great surprise – especially for people like Matt and Jim.*

For Matt, his drug and alcohol use has led to offences that have seen him serve a string of prison sentences. Since engaging with CRC’s Indigenous Men’s Transition worker, Matt has had the support to find stability in his life and use his experience to establish a new career in the drug and alcohol field.

The Indigenous Men’s Transition worker, Ross, met with Matt three months before release from his latest sentence and spoke with him regarding his plans for life back in the community.

With Ross’ support Matt has been able to secure permanent housing, giving him a firm foundation from which to rebuild his life and re-enter the workforce.

For Jim, prison has been a regular feature in

his life. After spending 14 of his 36 years in prison Jim has been able to make some changes since engaging with the Indigenous Men’s Transition worker.

Providing up to 12 months support after release, and sometimes longer as needed, the Indigenous Men’s Transition project has worked with Jim since he finished his last sentence. In that 12 month period, Jim has been sober and drug free and is working towards finding employment or doing a course to enhance his already developed artistic talent.

For Ross, one of the best things about working with these men has been discovering the talents and skills that lie within them. “For many people, prisoners are people who inspire fear. In working with these men it’s a privilege to discover that beneath the surface there are people who have much to offer and deserve the support and care of those around them.”

*not their real names

Outcomes for Indigenous Transitional Support Program

Total Number of clients supported	15
Men	15
Women	0
Referrals Received	11
Unable to be assisted	5
Returned to Custody	0

“CRC provide a much needed service which has helped me immensely. They understand that some of us are good people that have made bad decisions, whilst others are just blokes down on their luck who need a hand up.

I feel that in time there is much that I can contribute to the community, and I know plenty of guys like me who would benefit from a little support from organisations like CRC... if there were any others!”
CRC Client.



Men’s Accommodation Service

One of the best things in life for Jay is being able to spend time with his eight year old son.

“I have always had the privilege of a close bond with my son and I always felt that it was in fact him that was serving the real sentence when I went to prison as, for the better part of two years, he was without his father in the normal sense.”

Like many prisoners, Jay had limited family support during his incarceration, but was lucky enough to receive fortnightly visits from his son with the help of a community agency.

“Many people are of the opinion that gaol is an unsuitable environment for a child to visit a parent and, while I can understand and appreciate their views and concerns, I felt that in my particular situation it would have been much more detrimental to my son’s development had he not been able to continue some form of relationship with his father

throughout my incarceration.”

As Jay’s earliest release date approached, a worker at the prison recommended he apply for assistance through CRC’s Men’s Accommodation Service.

“She explained that they had a place where recently released prisoners could stay while they got their affairs in order and went on to say that if it was herself in my situation, she would want to be staying at one of CRC’s places due to the ongoing support they provide helping people to get back on their feet upon release.”

Funded by the Department of Community Services (Supported Accommodation Assistance Program), CRC’s Supported Accommodation Service provides a staged approach to reducing homelessness and re-offending.

The Accommodation Service provides one reception and three transitional houses to assist clients immediately following release from prison. after which medium and longer term housing solutions are ensured through partnerships with many community housing providers.

After a short stay in a men’s hostel, Jay moved into CRC’s reception house in Sydney’s Inner West. “Needless to say I was elated. I now had my own CRC case worker who was genuinely interested in me getting my shit together and a secure place to stay while I rebuilt my life.”

Over the next month, Jay’s case worker helped him apply for priority housing and Jay spent every weekend with his son, trying to make up for lost

time. Jay has since moved into CRC’s medium-term supported accommodation until he is able to get his own place. He also now has shared custody of his son and feels positive about their future.

“I am deeply grateful for all of the help that has been provided to me by all of the staff at CRC. My case worker in particular has been extremely helpful, supportive and instrumental in helping me ensure the experiences the future holds for me and my son are positive ones. I honestly don’t know where I would be right now if it wasn’t for all the support CRC continues to give me, but I do think that wherever I may have found myself without their help, it wouldn’t be a place I’d want to be!”

Accommodation Service Outcomes

	No. Supported	Return to Prison	Recidivism
Men	44	4	9%
Women	33	2	6%
TOTAL	77	6	8%
Accompanying Children	16		
ATSI	16%		
CALD	17%		



Women's Accommodation Service

For Jess*, 31, things are looking up since her last release from prison.

"When you come out, and there isn't any support, and you've got nothing, sometimes you wonder why they let you out." However the last time she was released, things were different.

"This time, when I got out, it was the first time I had a proper place to go to. That's because the CRC worker helped me to get a place before I got out. It's worked out really well, because I've had a base, you know, to get the other things happening that I wanted to do."

Having stable accommodation has also helped Jess achieve things she'd never found possible when living on the streets.

"I've been able to stay off the drugs, which can be really hard when you're homeless. I've been

homeless for a lot of my life. I know about abuse and alcohol: I grew up with those, so I ended up in the city and one thing led to another. I started using, and the things that I did got me arrested. I never want to be like that again."

Funded by the Department of Community Services (Supported Accommodation Assistance Program), the Women's Accommodation Service targets women at high risk of homelessness and high risk of re-offending post release. The service commences work with women up to three months prior to their release from custody and offers over twelve months post release support. Through outreach support the program aims to address the issues that place people at risk of homelessness, re-offending and relapsing into drug and alcohol misuse and ill health.

The Women's Accommodation Worker met Jess three months prior to her release during her most recent incarceration and has supported her on and off for almost two years. Jess appreciates the practical support she has received and simply having someone to talk to.

"Your self esteem can be pretty bad and you don't have the confidence to do a lot of things, or you feel like going back to your old ways, so having someone to get you through that... there have been times when I thought, if I didn't have the help, I might have ended up dead."

Although she still has challenges to face, this time around, Jess has things in her life that make it

worthwhile staying out of prison.

"Since I've come out this time, I've started working again. It's not much, but it gives me a routine, and I like feeling like I'm responsible for myself."

That feeling is part of what helps Jess continue to meet the challenges she faces as she starts her new life. "With the support worker, having someone on your side who understands what you're going through, it's still hard, but it makes all the difference."

* not her real name



Parolee Support Initiative

For Judith, having a two bedroom unit with some basic furniture is a sign of a big change in her life. In prison for most of the last 23 years, her charges have ranged from the most severe to petty misdemeanours. “Every time I’ve been released I’ve walked straight back into using drugs and criminal activities. Usually I am out only a few months, then straight back in again.”

During her last sentence however, Judith spent her time completing numerous workshops and personal management courses.

“I’ve got up to 29 certificates ranging from self-esteem to anger management to a proper TAFE course. Since doing programs in gaol my personal behaviour has changed.”

For Judith, a big change came after a Probation and Parole Officer referred her to CRC’s Parolee Support Initiative (PSI) project.

Funded by the Department of Corrective Services through the NSW Housing and Human Services Accord, the PSI Project provides support and accommodation to people with a mental illness and / or intellectual disability, who are exiting prison on parole.

This client group is frequently at risk of being denied parole due to a lack of suitable accommodation and support. With no support on release they are at an even higher risk than most of re-offending and returning to prison, often within a very short time frame. Accessing support within the community is difficult and many people are denied services due to fear and a lack of understanding of their needs.

Based within the Housing NSW office at Fairfield, the PSI Project provides an intensive, individualised, practical and emotionally supportive service. The project links parolees and their families

with a range of services in the community such as disability and mental health, drug and alcohol, employment and recreation services. Support commences 3 months pre-release and is then provided for up to 6 months via outreach to clients in their own properties, provided in partnership with Housing NSW.

“PSI staff started working with me 3 months before my release, giving me hope that things may change this time. I was then released into a beautiful two bedroom unit with basic furniture, both of which PSI provided.”

Judith’s case worker continues to work with her now she is living in the community and provides support in many areas of her life. “This is the first time in my life I have had good and positive support. Without that I would be back in prison by now.”

For many PSI clients, support can include assistance with basic living skills such as cooking and shopping, and accessing community services. For Judith this support also includes making and keeping appointments and becoming stable on methadone.

“My case worker always tells me I am doing well. I have got stability. I am able to do things I like to do

now. I am doing good things and not involved in any criminal activities.”

After spending more than half her life in prison, Judith still faces many challenges as she leaves prison behind, but is feeling positive about her future and how much she has achieved so far.

“PSI are always there for me when I need it. Those guys give me hope in my future. They support me not just for today, but tomorrow and the next day. My case worker said to me: PSI is proud of me for what I did for myself.”

Parolee Support Initiative Outcomes

No. clients	8
Women	1
Men	7
Returned to custody	1
ATSI	2
CALD	0

Senior PSI Project Worker

Craig says

“A ‘typical’ day at PSI can see me doing anything from driving a client to an appointment, to assembling curtain rods at a client’s home in preparation for their release. I may be assisting clients with difficult family relationships, or meeting a client at prison on their release and sharing the joy of first day out and the exhaustion of the many things to do on that day. Or I may be riding my bicycle in tandem with a client for their 7.30am job start!

The most fulfilling aspect is to see when goals made in prison are realised on the outside.

We have several clients who are now living independent and happy lives in the community. Observing the moment when they realise a life on the outside is really possible is a particular joy.

I can see that these people not only deserve, but have earned their chance to live in a society that once rejected them. Change doesn’t necessarily happen overnight, but they personify my belief that change is always possible, particularly with a bit of support and the offer of hope.”

MERIT Transition and Aftercare, Alcohol and Other Drugs Support

Bianca* had never imagined that one day she might inspire others. Finding somewhere safe to stay was a more pressing concern! But with ongoing support and by making positive changes, Bianca is now interested in trying to help others with their own life challenges.

Bianca was introduced to alcohol and cannabis by her family at an early age and recalls regular conflict in the family which led to chronic anxiety, depression and low self worth as a child. In both her family home and later as an adult she was exposed to many instances of violence and trauma.

She was able to achieve some stability during her involvement with the Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment Program (MERIT), however her life still appeared very chaotic at times. While she had reduced her drug use, she was still regularly using heroin and amphetamines intravenously.

Like many CRC clients, home for Bianca had been a long history of living insecurely in hostels and boarding houses. This situation continued. She was also experiencing mounting anxiety over the imminent release of an ex-boyfriend from prison.

A short time after completing MERIT, Bianca began working with CRC's MERIT Transition and Aftercare, Alcohol and other Drugs Support (TAADS) Worker.

Funded through Sydney South West Area Health Service, the TAADS Program provides extended support for people exiting the MERIT Program and assists them to transition into lifestyles of reduced or ceased substance abuse and offending. It aims to work alongside clients to address issues that include, accommodation, alcohol and other drug issues, debt and finance issues, employment and training, family mediation and social isolation. These are the many issues that contribute to relapses in offending and alcohol and other drug misuse.

After only a short time on the program Bianca was forced to leave her accommodation with little notice. Ineligible for public housing assistance and blacklisted from renting privately, the TAADS worker was able to find her alternate crisis accommodation. In time, Bianca was able to access

a rental lease through one of CRC's Community Housing partnerships.

The combination of safe accommodation and regular support has now allowed Bianca to regain stability in her life. Over the course of the last two years, she has learned how to manage her anxiety without drugs and has worked extremely hard to transform the relationships in her life. She has not only mended her estrangement with her family but is now assisting family members in making their own life changes.

"It's been a pleasure working with Bianca," says her TAADS support worker. "Life has not suddenly become easier, but Bianca has developed many resources, skills and supports, and is now focusing on how she can draw on her experiences to make changes for others."

*not her real name

MERIT TAADS Support Outcomes

Number of clients assisted	29
Men	77%
Women	23%
ATSI	8%
CALD	15%



Court Support Scheme

Like many who have retired from full time work, Olive gave up her free time to assist people in need. As a volunteer with CRC's Court Support Scheme, Olive assisted people from a great many walks of life who were required to attend court.

"I found I could relate to most, and particularly to the young ones. I just found I had a love for them. There were times I could laugh with them, chastise them for returning once again and, at times, weep with them," says Olive. "You see they became like your family and you cared for their welfare."

Funded by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, CRC's Court Support Scheme is staffed by 43 volunteers who, like Olive, assist the community by providing support in 14 local and family courts across the greater Sydney Metropolitan and Central Coast regions. The volunteers provide information on court procedures, sources of legal assistance, emotional support, and referrals to other services.

The Court Support Scheme is available for defendants, witnesses, victims of crime, as well as the many friends and families of those attending court.

"There were times when parents would leave the court in a distressed state," recalls Olive. "They could not believe their son or daughter had been imprisoned. Their grief and feelings of guilt and shame were terrible to see, but what could you do? Make a cup of tea and take them into another room away from others and just listen to their heartaches."

For many people the court process can be confusing, intimidating and highly distressing. By being an impartial body, Olive found she could offer some comfort during what can be a very emotional time.

"You needed to be non-judgemental, yet have a caring attitude," she reflects. "My clients knew they

would face the Magistrate who would judge them. They did not need me to judge them as well. To many gaol was a real possibility and they often came without any support, so we played a vital role in providing that support and encouragement.”

Looking back, Olive is grateful for her time as a volunteer, which she spent at Blacktown Court in Western Sydney, and later at Gosford Courthouse on the Central Coast.

“I loved being there; the staff were great and so helpful. The years that followed were some of the most rewarding years that I have experienced,” she recalls.

“There were moments of laughter, sadness, despair and anger at the destruction of young lives caused by stupid decisions. Not one of us is infallible. One of the rules insisted we were not allowed to give

legal advice, which is sensible because we did not know the whole situation. Sometimes all I could do was give a hug and a cup of tea.”

Now, after 10 years as a CRC Court Support volunteer, Olive has retired from her charity work and is looking forward to what lies ahead. Asked whether she would take back the many hours spent as a CRC Court Support Volunteer if she had known the highs and lows that she would experience from helping those who find themselves before our judicial system, Olive replies:

“Not for all the tea in China.”



During the past twelve months the Court Support Scheme assisted over 59,900 people.

Jailbreak Health Project

For many people, the idea of what life is like in prison is shaped by popular television dramas and fictional movies. For those with a loved one caught up in the system in real life, getting accurate information can be difficult, and fears can be exacerbated by scenes of prison life shown on TV. In spite of this, help did come via the media for one family. This time, however, it was through CRC’s *Jailbreak* radio show.

“As a family our introduction to the previously unknown justice system was harsh, terrifying, confusing and something we had never contemplated as part of our future,” says Mary. “The incarceration of our loved family member exposed our lack of knowledge about the corrections system and revealed the lack of information available to the public - especially family members previously informed (and terrified) through television shows and movies.”

Broadcast in and around Sydney on 2SER

107.3FM and available for podcast online, the *Jailbreak* radio show helps to fill this information gap whilst restoring a sense of humanity to the people who feel their lives have become disconnected from society.

By talking to inmates, health professionals and community workers, *Jailbreak* broadcasts inmates’ music and poetry, news on contemporary issues for inmates and their support people as well as health promotion messages developed and spoken by people on the inside.

Funded by Sydney South West Area Health Service *Jailbreak* is part of the Jailbreak Health Project which was developed in recognition that the prison setting is a high-risk environment for blood-borne communicable infections. The project aims to deliver a range of targeted and relevant health promotion messages to prison inmates and other people affected by the NSW correctional system.

“Not only does *Jailbreak* provide the incarcerated with wise, practical and possibly life-extending health advice, but it’s also a space to have their usually silenced voices heard, especially through some of the deeply personal and moving poetry presented on the show,” says Mary.

But the benefits are not just for those incarcerated. Many people on the outside tune in each week to listen to the half-hour radio show. “At the same time, for the listener, *Jailbreak* provides a degree of comfort in knowing that our loved ones have members of the community prepared to demonstrate they do care about them as people, with rights to practical health advice and a voice, and not just as criminals who should be locked away and forgotten.”

It is exactly those attitudes, often promoted by the mainstream media, that the weekly half-hour broadcast of *Jailbreak* aims to challenge and ensure that the rights of those in custody and their support people are not forgotten.

“Families do not forget,” says Mary. “We live each day with our loss and sadness and frustration at our inability to make a difference to our own and loved one’s daily lives. At least *Jailbreak* gives us some

hope for a different daily experience as it often provides interviews with people who have survived incarceration and who have re-entered society with a chance at a positive future.”

Views from inside:

“I was introduced to the *Jailbreak* programs through a discussion group and wish that I had discovered them earlier.

The programs provide factual content in an environment where myths and suppositions thrive.

They have also given me information about support systems and confirmed my opinions of the value of a balanced diet. All in all, food for thought!

These programs are direct, easy to follow and cover relevant topics. If there was one flaw, I would have to say that I wish I had discovered them sooner.”

Candy

“I enjoy listening to *Jailbreak* - it is information about different subjects discussed frankly and honestly. Also family outside can tune in and listen to their loved ones from inside.”

- Inmate, no name given.

Outcomes for Jailbreak Health Project

- 52 *Jailbreak* radio shows were broadcast in the past year, including 2 shows produced “in house” by prisoners and one show produced by ex-prisoner Big Dave.
- Jailbreak* is now routinely Podcast via the community radio station 2SER website with the show generally available within days of broadcast.
- 135 peer produced pieces of health promotion were broadcast (including 20 live health messages).
- 16 *Jailbreak* programs focused on health related issues including programs on Sexual Health Week, Hepatitis Awareness Week, World AIDS Day, Drug Action Week, the Justice Health Connections Project and Users News.
- 107 ex-prisoner, prisoner and family contributions (interviews, creative pieces, songs, poetry, and health promotion messages) were incorporated into the show content throughout the past year.
- An 8 week pilot ‘In-Cell Project’ took place that delivered pre-recorded *Jailbreak* radio shows directly to offenders in their cells via the television. The results of the pilot are currently being evaluated.
- The Project established a partnership with Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) that operates within NSW Correctional Centres.
- 12 pre-existing *Jailbreak* radio programs (including the health promotion material) were chosen for use by AEVTI as a source material in educational activities. (AEVTI is developing work sheets and assessments for AEET Listening and Speaking Units at Cert 1 and Cert 2 levels using *Jailbreak* CD’s as the primary source with a focus on oracy skills).
- 5000 2nd Edition *Jailbreak* Families CDs were produced for distribution to families of prisoners via NSW Correctional Centres.
- An extensive evaluation of the *Jailbreak* Health Project has commenced with results available in the next financial year.

COMMUNITY



StAMP Mentoring Program — Smiling from the heart

It’s a wonderful thing to be greeted by the beaming smile of the 36 year old woman known as ‘Cowboy’, but there hasn’t always been too much to smile about in her life.

After leaving home at 14 due to family violence, she began drinking at 15 and was smoking drugs by 17.

“I have been abused by six different people in my life and at times found myself very angry at the world and abusing myself.”

This anger led to her being taken into custody for a string of charges relating to violence and drug misuse.

After spending time in various women’s correctional centres, Cowboy was released and is facing the next 4 years on parole.

In addition to her parole officer, Cowboy has regular contact with two counsellors to address her drug use and work on childhood issues and managing

emotions. She has also recently been linked with the StAMP Mentoring Program at CRC.

Funded through the NSW’s Attorney General’s Department and conducted in partnership with Marrickville Council and Petersham TAFE Outreach, StAMP links community volunteers, who are trained as mentors, with people exiting custody or those considered at risk of going into custody.

Currently operating around the Central and Inner Western suburbs of Sydney, trained mentors may meet with mentees once a week to catch up and offer support. This support may come in the form of a friendly chat or encouragement, commencing new hobbies or recreational activities, assistance with TAFE homework, job seeking or assistance to access essential services in the community.

“Since my release, CRC support has been the most beneficial to my circumstances and I only hope that parole and corrective services in the future support

more programs that CRC offers inmates in custody and upon release.”

Now living in stable accommodation, Cowboy finally has something to smile about.

“I never had much desire to live and have pushed things too far in the past. I can now say that I’m in control and smiling from my heart. Things can, and still are, changing, so now I look forward to most days.”

StAMP Mentoring Program Outcomes

- 9 Mentors returned to the program from previous stages (2004-2007).
- 10 new Mentors were trained in conjunction with Petersham TAFE Outreach.
- 21 Mentees have been assessed.
- 12 matches between Mentors and Mentees have been initiated.
- 7 Mentees were assessed and are waiting to be matched with Mentors.
- The average age of Mentees is 40.
- 72% of the Mentees are male, 28% are female.
- The average number of custodial sentences served per Mentee is Seven.
- On average, 2.5 years is the longest period in the community between sentences for Mentees.
- On average, Mentees identify they have only two close friends they can rely on for support.
- Only one matched Mentee returned to prison.
- Some of the milestones for Mentees since participating in the StAMP Mentoring Program are: longest time out of custody since first sentence; longest time in rehab; first time to use a public library; learnt to use email and the internet, and to quote a mentee “it’s the first time I’ve hung out with someone ‘normal’”.

A mentor’s view:

“I have found that fear of being around others is one of the biggest hurdles people have to overcome. I firmly believe that in order to go forward after being in gaol people seriously need someone to encourage them to participate in normal community activities. If all I do, is be with my

mentee and encourage them to mix and participate until they are at ease, I will feel that I have done something worthwhile.”

Rhia, StAMP Mentor.



Resource Development

The issues facing prisoners and their families are rarely discussed in the public arena and support can be difficult to find. The lack of information available to this client group often exacerbates their sense of isolation and disconnection from the community. The lack of government funding for direct service provision reinforces the need to develop and distribute resources.

Over the past 12 months the Resource Development Worker has managed multiple projects which aim to meet the information needs of prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families and support services.

The Justice Maze DVD

Production of *The Justice Maze DVD* has also continued in 2008/09. Funding for this project was received from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW to produce a free, accessible, informative, factual and interesting DVD for families of people caught up in the criminal justice system.

Using both drama and documentary styles the DVD covers issues relating to arrest, the court process, imprisonment and finally release into the community. Interwoven between scenes the DVD will also provide information relating to a range of essential legal, community and government resources.

The DVD will enable government and community workers to better understand the system and the economic, legal, social and psychological impacts of incarceration on prisoners and their families.

The Families Handbook

Development of *The Families Handbook* began in 2007 and was completed this year after lengthy research and consultation with a range of government and community service providers.

Many families of prisoners were interviewed and the 180 page publication contains their personal experiences. In addition, the families interviewed identified the major issues a family member will encounter when someone is arrested, goes to court and is sent to prison. The handbook covers each of these issues in detail and provides contact numbers and information on where to get help and support throughout this difficult period of their lives.

Gimme Shelter

In December 2008, Federal Housing Minister, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, launched *Gimme Shelter* at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts. *Gimme Shelter* is a communications strategy consisting of web and print based resources for services working with ex-prisoners, primarily in meeting their accommodation needs.

Gimme Shelter aims to reduce homelessness amongst ex-prisoners by increasing awareness of community and government organisations about the challenges faced by this client group upon release.

Gimme Shelter was funded as a Communication Activity by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs under the National Homelessness Strategy. The project has developed a website and resource kit, (consisting of booklet, information pack and postcard) in order to build the capacity of services to better support and address the issues faced by ex-prisoners. In addition, services are able to access CRC's Telephone Information and Support Service (Intake).

The Parolee Support Initiative Resource

People with complex mental health issues and intellectual disabilities are vastly over-represented within the criminal justice system. Existing resources seldom cater to people with poor levels of cognitive function.

With funding from the Department of Corrective Services, the Resource Development Worker is currently in the first stage of researching and developing appropriate and much needed resources to cater for this client group. In consultation with service users and service providers, CRC will identify the current gaps in information and prioritise a number of key areas in which to develop resource material. A web based information resource providing essential information to mental health and disability services is currently being considered.

CRC Website

In addition to the production of the above publications, CRC has continued to update and maintain all CRC brochures, the CRC Newsletter and the CRC website.

CRC regularly receives positive feedback from individuals and services regarding the usefulness of the CRC website, which provides essential information on CRC projects and free access to all CRC publications. The website also contains statistics and research relating to the criminal justice system and links to many other services.

In 2008/09 the site received 11,852 unique visitors, an increase of nearly 3,000 visitors from 07/08.

CRC's Telephone Information and Support Service (Intake)

CRC's Telephone, Information and Support Service, (Intake) is available four days per week. The service provides advice, information, crisis support and referral to people affected by the criminal justice system. The service has never received direct funding, so all project staff contribute to the service via rostered duties. As the only service of its kind available in NSW, it provides essential support and information to a diverse range of individuals

and services. The service receives calls from government departmental staff, non-government organisations, peak bodies, students, families of prisoners, prisoners and ex-prisoners both interstate and overseas.

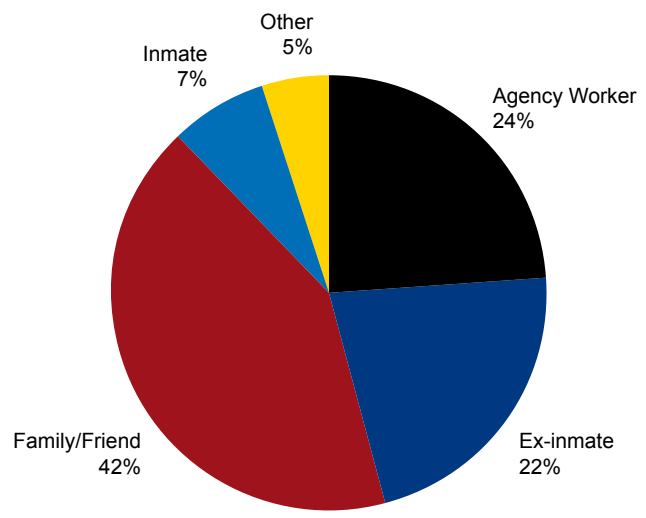
All calls to the service requiring 30 minutes or more are recorded in the CRC data base. The following data provides a snapshot of who accesses the service and the issues they present with.

Intake

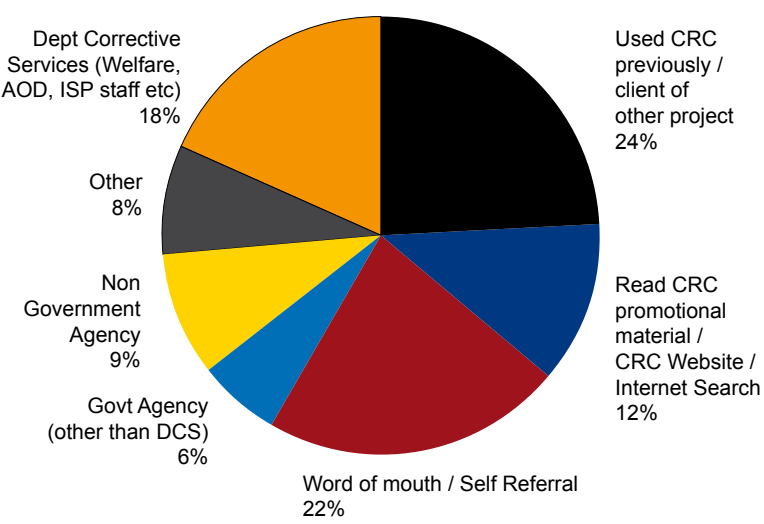
The intake service received 1019 calls in the financial year 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009.

TOTAL	ATSI	CALD	Male	Female
1019	173	255	346	673
	17%	25%	34%	66%

Caller type



Referral Sources



Presenting with the following issues:

ISSUE DESCRIPTION	% OF CATEGORY	% OF OVERALL CALLS
ACCOMMODATION		22%
No Accommodation On Release	33%	
Long Term Accommodation	20%	
Emergency Accommodation	17%	
Advocacy	4%	
Other	26%	
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES		19%
Procedures	25%	
Transport to Correctional Centre's	23%	
Visits	15%	
Transfers	11%	
Other	11%	
Inmate Location (Sentence Administration)	8%	
Inmate Safety	4%	
Complaint Information	3%	
GENERAL CRC INFORMATION		17%
CRC BUS INFORMATION		10%
FINANCIAL		7%
Material Aid	51%	
Material Aid for Rent/bond etc	12%	
Material Aid for Transport to / from Correctional Centres	12%	
Utilities EAPA	7%	
Methadone Assistance	7%	
General Info re Debt and Finances	5%	
Bank / Finance Company	2%	
Utilities Debt	2%	
Info / Referral to Gambling Counselling / Support	2%	
LEGAL		5%
Legal Info/ Advice / Referral	81%	
Court Support Scheme Information	19%	
HEALTH		3%
Mental Health Information / Referral	47%	
Justice health Access to Treatment	32%	
Physical Health Information / Referral	16%	
Justice Health Other	5%	
ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS		2%
Counselling Referral	58%	
AOD Treatment	25%	
Harm minimisation/relapse prevention info	8%	
AOD Other	8%	
OTHER		14%
Counselling / Support / Advocacy	28%	
Recreation / Social Connection	23%	
Info / Referral to Support Group	21%	
Referral for Ongoing Individual Counselling	9%	
Info / Referral Employment / Training	7%	
Info / Referral re Childcare / Access / Custody Issues	3%	
Living Skills	3%	
Referral for Ongoing family/couple Counselling	2%	
Property Retrieval	1%	
Info / Referral re Identification	1%	

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



Connect

Connect: Supporting Families of Prisoners, July 2008 – October 2008

Connect: City of Sydney, October 2008 – June 2009

CRC is not the only agency in NSW that has contact with families of prisoners.

Families of prisoners have contact with all types of support services. They have children who go to childcare and schools. They access doctors. They visit neighbourhood centres. They may go to a charity for financial aid or attend places of worship.

Unfortunately, many of these services are not aware of the issues families of prisoners can be dealing with. Families tell us that they are reluctant to disclose the full extent of their situation to agencies due to the belief that services won't understand and the fear of being judged and found guilty by association.

In relation to understanding the needs of

prisoners post release the issues are dissimilar. Many services report a lack of knowledge and confidence when working with this client group. Information about who goes to prison, life in prison and transitional issues is hard to come by. Prison is predominantly a closed system and information is not readily available in the public domain. Lack of accurate information often feeds the myths and stereotypes that prevail in the media and reinforces the concerns of service providers.

CRC's training packages aim to address gaps in knowledge, build on workers existing strengths and skills, and build the capacity of organisations to better assist this client group. *When a Family Member Goes to Prison* and *From Prison to Community* are currently offered free to workers in the City of Sydney and on a fee for service basis in other areas of NSW.

Funding from the Lord Mayoral Salary Trust Fund enables the training to be delivered free to services in the City of Sydney.

Outcomes for Connect Projects:

From July – October 2008 one final workshop was held for community volunteers in south west Sydney with a total of eight people in attendance. Since its inception in October 2008 until 30 June, Connect City of Sydney has run 8 workshops with a total of 131 people attending.

Feedback from training participants

“The content covered was thorough and I have been able to use new found knowledge when working with clients in this situation. Thank you for providing valuable knowledge and resources.”

“Good mix of stats, facts, stories and personal experiences.”

“The training was excellent and very helpful. We gained a greater understanding of the issues prisoners and their families face.”

“Very pleased with the training and the amount of knowledge that was shared around the room. Learnt A LOT and very grateful.”

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

CRC Training

Whilst CRC believes that there will always be a need for dedicated services supporting high need ex-prisoners and their families, we also know that many people impacted by the criminal justice system could be assisted by the vast range of health, financial, legal, accommodation and welfare services currently operating effectively in the community.

CRC is committed to increasing the knowledge and building the capacity of government and non-government services enabling increased access and support to prisoners and their families. We hope that through increased co-operation and sharing of knowledge and resources, service provision can expand to change people’s lives and further reduce crime and its impact on the community.

CRC Training Outcomes:

CRC Training has run: 11 Training Sessions
No. of Participants: 171

NADA

Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA) Drug Crime Diversion Capacity Building Project

The Drug Crime Diversion Capacity Building Project began in 2008 in response to a request from the Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA) to develop a training and change management package aimed at increasing access for criminal justice clients to drug and alcohol services.

CRC undertook a lengthy consultation and development process identifying a variety of issues and difficulties commonly experienced by criminal justice clients and workers in drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

In particular, clients expressed great difficulty accessing rehabilitation services from within custody and often felt they were treated differently to other clients, or perceived as only being motivated to enter treatment as a ‘get out of gaol free card’.

CRC consulted many drug and alcohol services to further explore these issues, and found that services often had policies in place that prevented people from entering rehabilitation directly from custody. Many services also listed entry criteria that inadvertently excluded this client group.

In addition, both clients and workers discussed a clash resulting from the differences in culture between the prison and rehabilitation settings. In a custodial setting, prisoners are often forced to ‘shut down’ and withdraw, as survival can depend on anonymity, protecting personal information and never ‘dogging’ (giving authorities’ information about another inmate).

The residential rehabilitation environment is the opposite. Clients are expected to be open, share knowledge and experiences and report people who break program rules. For ex-prisoners entering rehabilitation, the differences between the two environments can make clients appear guarded or non-participatory in activities and programs.

In order to address some of the issues, the Drug Crime Diversion Capacity Building Project originally developed a comprehensive training and change management package to be delivered free to NADA member agencies across the state. The

package was piloted in two residential rehabilitation services in late 2008 and evaluation feedback from these pilots showed workers found the information extremely useful. The package required further revision and adaptation following the two pilots and the decision was made to offer the package as two distinct components: training, and change management.

The training component is designed to increase the knowledge and confidence of workers to meet the particular needs of criminal justice clients. It aims to meet the needs of services currently working with criminal justice clients, and particularly services receiving clients directly from prison. It provides workers with comprehensive information about the criminal justice system, the issues facing prisoners and their families, what programs prisoners have access to and how they can best work with this client group.

Services are also able to undertake the change management component of the package, which examines the policies and practices in place within the service that may act as barriers to this population. The facilitator works with the service to develop strategies for change to enable workers

and agencies to feel more confident to accept referrals of criminal justice clients.

To date four services have now participated in the pilot project, providing training to a total of 51 individuals. The feedback from participants on the training to date assisted in the revision and finalisation of the package. CRC and NADA have also commenced consultation with Namatjira Haven Drug and Alcohol Healing Centre to ensure the project and training package is culturally appropriate and meets the needs of Aboriginal Services and participants.

The package has been re-branded as No Bars and will roll out to NADA member agencies from August 2009.

CRC and NADA have also commenced work on a value-added project, developing a web based resource known as *No Bars*. The website will provide comprehensive information and publications for drug and alcohol services on working with criminal justice clients.

Feedback from training participants:

“Our organisation will look at how we can make changes to minimise barriers and create new relationships.”

“[I now have an] understanding of issues facing offenders accessing treatment. Improved optimism that these issues can be addressed.”

“[The training] has made issues far clearer, and achievable.”

“[The training has] increased my knowledge of court systems and criminal justice systems overall; gave me more knowledge on barriers in prison and

following release; awareness of personal factors of offenders.”

“I am more aware of the justice system. I have a better understanding of the issues for those in custody. I was can now see the barriers for people trying to get into rehab from their side of things”.

Outcomes for NADA Drug Crime Diversion Capacity Building Project

Three Pilots were run with staff from four Residential Rehabilitation services, training a total of 51 participants.

Governance and Management

CRC is an incorporated body, registered under the NSW Associations Incorporations Act 1984. The organisation is governed by a volunteer Board of Management.

CRC has a total of 31 paid staff members ranging in duties from direct client assistance, resource development, management, delivery of training and administration.

During the past twelve months paid staff have worked alongside 56 volunteers. Our volunteers work within the local Court system, in the community as mentors and assisting with the administration of the organisation. We estimate that our volunteers continue to contribute approximately 230 hours of service per week. This is the equivalent of an additional 6 full time staff, the cost of which amounts to over \$304,000 per year.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) holds responsibility for the day-to-day operations of all funded services and programs. The CEO reports program activities and outcomes and financial documentation to the Board of Management on a six weekly basis.

Although each have distinctive roles and responsibilities, the CEO and Board of Management work closely to ensure the strategic vision and goals of CRC are implemented.

Elections for board members are conducted annually at the Annual General Meeting. Board members are elected for a two year term of office. Sitting Board Members are able to stand for re-election. The Board may also fill a casual vacancy to address a skill gap on the Board.

The conduct of Board Members is governed by the CRC Constitution and CRC policies and procedures.

The Constitution outlines the role of a Board Member, their responsibilities to the association, how they must address any conflict of interest and guidelines for managing the CEO relationship.

CRC Board members are drawn from a diverse range of personal and professional backgrounds offering expertise in a range of areas including, health, homelessness, business, media, research and criminology.

At the time of writing the Board Members of CRC are:

President	Stephen Grieve
Vice-President	Mindy Sotiri
Treasurer	Stuart Loveday
Secretary	Gary Gahan
Ordinary Member	Bill Pope
Coopted Member	Chris Hartley
Ordinary Member	Angela Owens
Coopted Member	David Adams

There are two Board of Management positions vacant at the end of this financial year.

Financial Future

Currently CRC has a strong reliance on government funding. We receive grants from 13 funding bodies. While much of our funding is considered stable we would benefit greatly from longer term funding commitments in all of our major program areas.

The organisation remains committed to establishing long term relationships and partnerships with non-government, corporate and philanthropic institutions to enhance internal infrastructure, management systems and direct service provision.

During the past twelve months we have sought input into fundraising strategies which we hope to implement in the 2009 / 2010 financial year. We believe that through investing in and supporting the work of CRC, donors and potential sponsors can play an integral role in reducing offending and creating safer communities.

CRC is dedicated to developing strategic partnerships across NSW to increase its funding base and strengthen its service delivery. The organisation has a history of developing effective partnerships to achieve great outcomes in the sector. In addition, CRC hopes to formalise partnerships with key universities, enabling the organisation to secure grants to implement a research framework.

The past twelve months has seen an expansion of our training services. Training has been delivered on a fee for service basis regionally and free to services in the Inner City region of Sydney. The revenue raised through this service has enabled an expansion of existing services.

CRC will continue to expand the delivery of its training programs to government and community organisations in the next financial year providing an opportunity to diversify our income streams and fund new greatly needed services.

CRC Strategic Plan

2008 - 2012

The Strategic Plan outlines key directions for the next four years. The Strategic Plan is has four key result areas.

Key Result Area 1: Increasing the quality of programs and services

1. Enhance existing programs and services that support and improve the lives of people affected by the Criminal Justice System in line with CRC's mission
2. Increase access to services and programs across NSW

Key Result Area 2: Strengthening organisational sustainability and capacity

3. Secure appropriate future facilities to meet CRC's organisational needs
4. Increase and diversify CRC's income through strategic partnerships to ensure sustained financial health
5. Strengthen CRC's staff resources and organisational capability

Key Result Area 3: Developing effective community relations and positive partnerships

6. Enhance CRC's profile as a leading expert and source of information in the sector
7. Develop and maintain positive relationships and strategic partnerships with other key service providers and stakeholders

Key Result Area 4: Influencing public policy and contributing to research

8. Raise CRC's profile as a think tank and engage social research partners
9. Influence public policy for the benefit of people affected by the Criminal Justice System

CRC Risk Management

CRC takes the management of risk seriously.

Through strategic planning and ongoing review and policy development, CRC works to reduce and manage risks and / or threats that could impact on the service. The past twelve months has seen the updating of all CRC policies and procedures including: human resources, service delivery and occupational health and safety policies; insurance coverage; financial management procedures, ensuring sound financial and asset controls; volunteer management; fundraising and resource management, including people, computers, records, facilities and potential funding risks.

CRC has a strong history of sound human resource and financial management. The Board of Management, CEO and staff draw on their wide range of skills to ensure all organisational resources are closely aligned to accomplishing the organisation's mission, and that staff and volunteers are treated fairly and comply with legislation and agency rules and regulations.

Human Resources

CRC believes that its' staff are the organisations most valuable asset. We strive to provide a supportive, professional, respectful and culturally safe work environment.

Individuals working collectively with the same mission and vision contribute to the achievement of the organisations objectives. The maxim, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, comes to life within CRC.

CRC's Human Resource Policies and Procedures have been reviewed and updated in the past twelve months and reflect sound Equal Employment Opportunity principles and legislation.

Staff re-numeration and employment conditions are governed by the Social and Community Services Award and Tourist and Service Coach Drivers (State) Award.

CRC complies with all Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

Over the past 12 months there were no accidents or incidents reported that resulted in time off or remediation of work practices.

CRC provides a flexible work environment for staff and volunteers and, as outlined in this report, is committed to the professional development of staff and volunteers. Staff attend courses and conferences that improve networks, increase their capacity to work more effectively and encourage the sharing of best practice knowledge, policies and practices.

This last year saw a number of internal staff changes: Wayne Watson was given the title of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Jodie Martin adopted the position title of Service Development Manager. Mandy Marsters increased her duties to include supervision of the Men's Transition Programs and Cathy Saunders moved from her previous role as Women's Accommodation Worker after being appointed into the position of StAMP Mentoring Program Coordinator.

In the past twelve months CRC has farewelled the following members of staff:

Greg Kilby, Lloyd Neill, Tam Nguyen, Monique Schmidt and Kevin Simpson. CRC would like to acknowledge the work of the employees mentioned above and their contribution to the achievements of the organisation.

In the last twelve months CRC has welcomed Donatella Cifali, Andrew Finch, Emma Goroncy, Cameron Kevin, Ross Moore, Kate Pinnock, Michael Self and Laura Sowden.

Staff Professional Development

CRC is committed to investing in the ongoing professional development of staff. We recognise that the attainment of new skills and knowledge can contribute greatly to an individual's personal development and career advancement. In addition to personal growth, professional development is critical in building the organisations capacity to better address the increasingly complex and diverse issues facing our client group.

At CRC professional development encompasses a range of learning opportunities, including training budgets for external courses, in-house training and quarterly staff development days, conference attendance, internal and external supervision and numerous informal learning opportunities situated in practice.

Over the past year CRC staff have attended many hours of external training. These courses have included: Keeping Children and Young People Safe; the Complexities of Working with Substance Using Parents; Brief Interventions With Clients Who Have Anxiety; Coaching and Mentoring; Developing Your Presence as a Group Leader; Youth Mentor Training; Building Relationships; Family Group Conferencing; Signs of Safety: Involving Children and Building Rigorous Safety Plans In Child Protection; Understanding Problem Gambling; Blood Borne Viruses Workshop; Introduction to Excel; Intermediate Word; Psychopharmacology Workshop and Financial Counselling Workshop.

This professional development is in addition to the core-training already provided to CRC staff which covers Security Awareness through the Corrective Services Academy, Senior First Aid through St Johns Ambulance, Child Protection and CRC's own training programs: 'When a Family Member Goes to Prison' and 'From Prison to Community'.

CRC staff have also presented at the following conferences: Justice Health in Australia – Beyond the Convict Era (Public Health Association of Australia); Local Magistrates Annual Conference NSW; 2nd Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference; Outside In (MHCC and NADA); 2009 Homelessness NSW Members Conference; Newtown Social Justice Forum; Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference; ACT Department of Corrective Services – Throughcare.

Staff gave 6 talks at TAFE in the Sydney and Newcastle Regions.

Staff have attended the following conferences:

2009 Homelessness NSW Members Conference; Connecting Up Conference 2009; Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment 2009 Conference; Outside In Conference; Mental Health Conference, New Horizons; Discovering Balance – Prison Reform, Restorative Justice and Human Rights; NSW Health BBI/HIV and STI Prevention Strategy Mid -Term Review Forum and the Reintegration Puzzle.

CRC staff have also represented the needs of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families through their participation in the following Interagency and Consultative Committee's: Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Interagency; Jigsaw Throughcare Group; Justice Health Consumer Consultative Committee; Villawood Community Consultative Committee; NSW Legal Assistance Forum - Working Group on the Legal Needs of Prisoners; Dept of Corrective Services and Housing NSW Liaison Committee Meeting; Women in Prison Advocacy Network; and DCS Womens Advisory Committee Consultants Group.

Student Placements

Where resources permit, CRC is committed to providing learning opportunities to workers in training through the supervision of student placements.

In February 2009, Aleysa Cullen successfully completed an internship from University of New South Wales with CRC, under the supervision of Alison Churchill, Chief Executive Officer. This placement has contributed toward her Bachelors degree.

At the time of writing this report Ciara Donaghy is in the process of completing a placement with CRC for a Diploma in Community Welfare.

Treasurer's Report

There was a deficit of \$58,276 for the year ended 30th June 2009 with accumulated funds being \$162,224 at the year end. The unfavourable result is misleading because the deficit arose from utilising unused funding from previous periods taken up in accumulated funds. There was only a deficit for the year of \$466 after adjusting for these items. More detailed information is shown in Note 5 to the Financial Statements.

There is a negative cash flow of \$320,284 which was due to a decrease of grants in advance mainly as a result of non-recurrent projects being commenced and /or completed during the year. This had the effect of substantially offsetting the favourable cash flow of \$494,845 in the previous year.

CRC continues to remain in a healthy financial position and we continue to be successful in diversifying our funding projects, although mostly from the NSW State Government departments. There continues to be uncertainty over funding in the longer term because much of this funding is subject to tendering processes. This means that it

is difficult to strengthen our management structure, which would result in the delivery of a more effective and efficient service to our clients.

The global financial crisis is making it increasingly difficult to secure additional funding, although the organisation feels that it is well placed to compete for such funding when it becomes available.

At a time when both prisons and prisoner numbers are increasing rapidly, increased secure funding is essential in order to strategically plan for the years ahead and to meet the ever increasing demand on our services.

The Board of CRC would like to acknowledge the expertise of our Finance Officer, Nick Gill.

Treasurer
Stuart Loveday

Community Restorative Centre Inc. gratefully acknowledges the following funding grants, excluding GST, which were received during the year:

NSW Department of Corrective Services	\$1,019,372
NSW Department of Community Services - Accommodation	\$397,398
NSW Health – Jailbreak Health (SSWAHS)	\$139,945
NSW Health – MERIT TAADS Project (SSWAHS)	\$55,006
NSW Legal Aid Commission – Court Support Scheme	\$52,893
The GEO Group – Transport	\$33,630
Commonwealth Attorney General's Department - Indigenous Transitional Support Program	\$30,000
NADA – No Bars Website	\$30,000
Law & Justice Foundation of NSW	\$14,753
Lord Mayoral Salary Trust	\$27,273
Marrickville Council – StAMP Mentoring Program	\$20,000
StreetSmart – I Can Cook Project	\$4,545
City of Sydney – Gamarada	\$4,200
Donations	\$2,369

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Community Restorative Centre Incorporated (Non-reporting) for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

S Grieve, President	
W Pope, Vice President – resigned Vice President	3 February 2009
S Loveday, Treasurer	
M Sotiri, Secretary – Resigned Secretary and Appointed Vice President	3 February 2009
G Gahan, Secretary	Appointed 3 February 2009
P Newman	Resigned 28 October 2008
B Henwood	Resigned 28 October 2008
C Berry	Resigned 28 October 2008
A Owens	Appointed 1 April 2008
C Hartley	Co-opted 3 February 2009
D Adams	Co-opted 6 June 2009

Principal Activities

Community Restorative Centre Inc. provides pre and post release support to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families through a range of services. These activities include counselling, supported accommodation, mentoring, subsidised transport to rural gaols, a court support service, outreach to prisons, support for diversion program participants, training to other NSW services and information and advice about the criminal justice system in NSW.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The deficit from activities for the year was \$58,276 with total members' equity being \$162,224 at 30 June 2009. The organisation, being a non-profit organisation, does not pay income tax.

Signed on behalf of the Members of the Committee.



S. Grieve
President



S. Loveday
Treasurer

Dated this 1st day of September 2009

The committee has determined that Community Restorative Centre Inc. is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report attached:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Community Restorative Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Community Restorative Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



S. Grieve
President



S. Loveday
Treasurer

Dated this 1st day of September 2009

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE INCORPORATED



Postal Address:
Level 2/154 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 20000

Telephone: 02 9267 9227
Fax: 02 9261 3384

Email:
admin@bryanrush.com.au

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Community Restorative Centre Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet at 30 June 2009, the income statement, the cash flow statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of The Community Restorative Centre Incorporated presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of The Community Restorative Centre Incorporated as of 30 June 2009 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Bryan Rush & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Principal..... David Conroy

Dated this 1st day of SEPTEMBER 2009

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Petty Cash		2,600	1,200
Cash at Bank	- Cheque Accounts - Investment Account	20,686 803,502	43,677 1,100,795
Accounts Receivable		18,233	75,345
Prepayment		2,222	2,092
Sundry Debtors		8,842	10,259
Other		2,026	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		858,111	1,233,368
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investment at Committees' Valuation		1,994	1,994
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		1,994	1,994
TOTAL ASSETS		860,105	1,235,362
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accruals	2	57,785	124,161
Provisions	3	108,339	93,762
Grants Received in Advance	4	296,550	612,261
Payroll Liabilities		50,216	36,865
Provision (Annual Leave)		92,868	69,290
Provision (Sick Leave)		7,000	7,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		612,758	943,339
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision (Long Service Leave)		85,123	71,523
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		85,123	71,523
TOTAL LIABILITIES		697,881	1,014,862
NET ASSETS		162,224	220,500
COMPRISING:			
Accumulated Funds Prior Year		220,500	165,836
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year		(58,276)	54,664
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	5	162,224	220,500

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Grant (Department of Corrective Services)		1,012,694	946,017
Grant (Department of Community Services)		397,398	387,140
Grants (other)		652,091	459,391
Other		147,433	113,659
TOTAL INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		2,209,616	1,906,207
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITY			
Employee related expenses		1,646,432	1,311,934
Office		151,306	112,173
Property related expenses		125,559	127,406
Motor vehicle expenses (including purchases)		111,395	147,569
Professional Fees		93,373	54,681
Other		139,827	97,780
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		2,267,892	1,851,543
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE		(58,276)	54,664
Income Tax Expense relating to Ordinary Activities		-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER INCOME TAX EXPENSE		(58,276)	54,664
TOTAL CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY		(58,276)	54,664

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Receipts from funding		1,746,472	2,148,680
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		(2,120,124)	(1,693,571)
Interest Received		53,368	39,736
NET MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR	6	(320,284)	494,845
CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		1,144,472	649,627
CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR		824,188	1,144,472

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW). The committee has determined that the Community Restorative Centre Inc. is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements

AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in AASB 108: Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

AASB 1031: Materiality

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets and liabilities. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated:

a. Income Tax

The Association, being a non-profit organisation, is not subject to income tax .

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

The capital costs of equipment and motor vehicles are expensed at the time of purchase, with any residual value received on disposal being offset against the cost. In the case of motor vehicles, money is provided each year so that there are sufficient funds at the time of replacement to cover the cost of the new vehicle, less any trade-in value received.

c. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. The provision for long service leave is provided from the date of employment although, in most circumstances, it is not payable until after 7 years of service.

Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount.

d. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in these financial reports are shown inclusive of GST.

e. Allocation of Overheads

Costs common to all or most projects, such as rent, telephone and office costs are collected in one cost centre, Administration, and allocated to each project based on an estimate of usage. Consequently, individual project accounts contain a cost "Contribution to Overheads" whilst the Administration cost centre shows the sum of all the projects as "Internal Overhead Recovery". In the Consolidated Accounts, these amounts are not shown because they eliminate on consolidation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Note 2: Creditors and Accruals		
Sundry Creditors	54,107	34,900
GST Collected	3,678	89,261
	57,785	124,161
Note 3: Provisions		
Car Replacement	61,839	62,762
Office Relocation	31,000	31,000
Loss on Justice Maze DVD Project	10,000	-
Teleconferencing	5,500	-
	108,339	93,762
Note 4: Grants Received in Advance		
MERIT TAADS	-	38,609
Families Book Resource (DCS)	-	8,320
Connect - Villawood	-	17,485
Connect - Central Coast	-	34,450
Gimme Shelter	-	28,987
StAMP Mentoring Program	40,964	118,578
Parolee Support Initiative	186,933	171,935
Indigenous Transitional Support Program	(8,731)	32,367
Justice Maze DVD	11,199	18,440
NADA Drug Crime Diversion Capacity Building Project	100,038	143,090
"No Bars" Website	25,135	-
Legal Aid - Court Support Scheme	5,001	-
Jailbreak Health Project	(72,345)	-
Lord Mayoral Salary Trust	3,811	-
StreetSmart - I Can Cook	4,545	-
	296,550	612,261
Note 5: Total Accumulated Funds		
NSW Dept of Corrective Services (DCS)	22,122	35,329
NSW Dept of Community Services (DoCS)	16,367	29,875
Jailbreak Health Project	-	6,695
Connect - Central Coast	-	12,886
Connect - Villawood	-	11,514
Community Restorative Centre Inc	123,735	124,201
	162,224	220,500
Note 6: Statement of Cash Flows		
Surplus (Deficit) after income tax	(58,276)	54,664
Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in receivables	57,112	52,116
- (Increase)/decrease in other assets	(2,139)	11,963
- Increase/(decrease) in payables	(53,025)	18,807
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	51,755	1,163
- Increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	(315,711)	356,132
Cash Flow from Operations	(320,284)	494,845

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	1,012,694	946,017
Grant - NSW Department of Community Services - Accomodation	397,398	387,140
Grant - NSW Health	233,560	152,331
Grant - NSW Legal Aid Commission	47,892	42,756
Grant - The GEO Group	33,630	32,493
Grant - Department of Community Services - Connect Projects	51,935	123,550
Grant - NSW Attorney General's Department	80,942	56,704
Grant - Commonwealth Attorney General's Department	71,098	17,633
Grant - Network of Alcohol & Other Drug Agencies (NADA)	36,918	22,910
Grant - Dept. of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs	28,987	11,013
Grant - Lord Mayoral Salary Trust	23,461	-
Grant - Marrickville Council	16,673	-
Grant - Law & Justice Foundation of NSW	26,995	-
Profit on Disposal of Motor Vehicles	15,384	-
Rent Received	28,706	31,915
Bus Ticket Sales	11,177	13,945
Donations	2,369	4,218
Interest Received	55,394	39,736
Training - CRC	21,500	10,000
Miscellaneous Income	12,903	13,846
TOTAL INCOME	2,209,616	1,906,207
EXPENSES		
Audit	5,000	6,000
Computer Expenses	28,062	15,090
Equipment Purchases including Computers	46,450	34,309
Household Expenses	13,097	9,848
Insurance - General	17,125	14,686
Labour - Wages & Salary	1,416,457	1,150,840
Labour - On Costs	229,976	161,094
Motor Vehicles Capital Expenditure	17,036	91,203
Motor Vehicle Expenses	94,359	56,366
Office Expenses	76,794	69,088
Other	64,957	37,919
Professional & Consultant Fees	93,373	54,901
Property Related Expenses	125,559	127,406
Repairs/Maintenance	4,156	4,893
Travel/Accommodation	35,491	17,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,267,892	1,851,543
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(58,276)	54,664

AUDITOR'S DISCLAIMER

THE COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE INCORPORATED ABN 75 411 263 189

AUDITOR'S DISCLAIMER

The additional financial data presented in the following pages is in accordance with the books and records of the Association which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2009.

It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data.

Accordingly, we express no opinion on whether they present a true and fair view of the position or of the year's trading and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given.

Neither the firm, nor any member or employee of the firm, undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than The Community Restorative Centre Incorporated) in respect of the Accounts, including any errors or omissions therein however caused.

Bryan Rush & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Principal.....

David Conroy

Dated this day of 2009

ADMINISTRATION PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Internal Overhead Recovery	460,415	404,508
Donations	2,369	1,187
Interest Received	55,394	39,736
Miscellaneous Income	11,657	12,827
Profit on Disposal of Motor Vehicle	6,276	-
TOTAL INCOME	536,111	458,258
EXPENSES		
Audit	5,000	6,000
Computer Expenses	16,333	4,077
Equipment Purchases	14,169	28,000
Insurance - General	17,071	14,686
Labour - Wages & Salary	256,230	177,866
Labour - On Costs	38,984	30,251
Loss On Project	11,262	2,595
Motor Vehicle Expenses	17,230	23,951
Other	22,868	9,353
Printing/Stationery	14,721	18,110
Professional Fees	21,388	17,488
Property Expenses	71,788	63,270
Telephone/Postage	33,463	28,184
TOTAL EXPENSES	540,507	423,831
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(4,396)	34,427

COURT SUPPORT SCHEME PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Legal Aid Commission NSW	47,892	42,756
TOTAL INCOME	47,892	42,756
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	16,394	13,874
Labour - Wages & Salary	27,122	26,034
Labour - On Costs	3,421	4,227
Loss On Project	-	(2,595)
Other	955	2,439
TOTAL EXPENSES	47,892	43,979
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	(1,223)

NSW DRUG COURT WELFARE SUPPORT PROGRAM PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Attorney General's Dept.	-	19,770
TOTAL INCOME	-	19,770
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	-	4,651
Labour - Wages & Salary	-	12,685
Labour - On Costs	-	2,041
Travel	-	393
TOTAL EXPENSES	-	19,770
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

JAILBREAK HEALTH PROJECT — PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Health	139,945	67,600
Donations	-	2,800
TOTAL INCOME	139,945	70,400
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	21,696	21,841
Labour - Wages & Salary	66,605	43,680
Labour - On Costs	13,228	2,477
Other	3,044	2,496
Professional Fees	28,278	-
Program Costs	13,789	-
Transfer Between Projects	-	(6,789)
TOTAL EXPENSES	146,640	63,705
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(6,695)	6,695

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES - HUNTER PROJECTS (TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE) PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	165,474	157,639
TOTAL INCOME	165,474	157,639
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	32,864	29,820
Labour - Wages & Salary	87,674	90,052
Labour - On Costs	23,116	5,520
Motor Vehicle Expenses	8,103	126
Other	13,112	7,735
Property Expenses	8,509	8,509
TOTAL EXPENSES	173,378	141,762
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(7,904)	15,877

In 2008 "Labour-On Costs" has been reduced by \$6,504 due to the write back of the long service provision of an employee who resigned before the entitlement was due. However, in 2009 the policy was changed and the employee was subsequently paid the entitlement. In 2008 "Motor Vehicle Expenses" has been reduced by \$9,661 due to the profit on disposal of the vehicle when it was traded-in.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES - SYDNEY PROJECTS (TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE) PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	328,028	316,676
Profit on Disposal of Motor Vehicle	7,040	-
TOTAL INCOME	335,068	316,676
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	103,202	103,202
Labour - Wages & Salary	180,615	167,472
Labour - On Costs	32,409	14,707
Motor Vehicle Expenses	7,649	5,482
Other	16,630	21,265
TOTAL EXPENSES	340,505	312,128
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(5,437)	4,548

ACCOMMODATION SERVICE — PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Community Services	397,398	387,140
Other	2,027	372
Profit on Disposal of Motor Vehicle	2,068	-
Rent Received	28,706	31,882
TOTAL INCOME	430,199	419,394
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	135,801	111,537
Equipment Purchases	8,763	978
Household Expenses	12,791	9,092
Labour - Wages & Salary	192,019	183,348
Labour - On Costs	34,271	30,263
Motor Vehicle Expenses	27,095	27,157
Other	12,604	10,122
Property Expenses	16,748	19,560
Repairs/Maintenance	3,615	4,682
Transfer Between Project	-	(11,348)
TOTAL EXPENSES	443,707	385,391
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(13,508)	34,003

TRANSPORT SERVICE PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	125,870	121,437
Grant - The GEO Group	33,630	32,493
Bus Ticket Sales	11,177	13,945
TOTAL INCOME	170,677	167,875
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	39,246	40,494
Labour - Wages & Salary	99,096	94,652
Labour - On Costs	15,774	11,433
Motor Vehicle Expenses	14,070	10,934
Other	1,342	565
Travel/Accommodation	6,453	5,061
TOTAL EXPENSES	175,981	163,139
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(5,304)	4,736

STAMP MENTORING PROGRAM PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Attorney General	80,942	18,750
Grant - City of Sydney etc	16,673	18,184
TOTAL INCOME	97,615	36,934
LESS: EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	16,271	8,632
Labour - Wages & Salary	46,063	26,460
Labour - On Costs	12,261	4,309
Motor Vehicle Capital Cost	15,520	-
Other	7,500	2,124
TOTAL EXPENSES	97,615	41,525
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	(4,591)

**CONNECT - VILLAWOOD
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Department of Community Services	17,485	59,950
TOTAL INCOME	17,485	59,950
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	14,249	816
Labour - Wages & Salary	9,904	28,654
Labour - On Costs	1,564	7,957
Other	3,099	4,748
Rent	2,496	10,294
Loss on Projects	(2,313)	-
Transfer Between Projects	-	6,789
TOTAL EXPENSES	28,999	59,258
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(11,514)	692

**CONNECT - HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Department of Community Services	34,450	63,600
TOTAL INCOME	34,450	63,600
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	8,012	10,000
Labour - Wages & Salary	21,232	22,669
Labour - On Costs	1,788	6,216
Loss on Projects	(2,067)	-
Rent	3,750	7,500
Other	4,621	4,329
Teleconferencing Facility	10,000	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	47,336	50,714
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(12,886)	12,886

**MERIT TRANSITION AND AFTERCARE, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS SUPPORT
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Health	93,615	84,731
TOTAL INCOME	93,615	84,731
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	28,259	28,641
Labour - Wages & Salary	54,998	47,125
Labour - On Costs	3,824	8,480
Surplus on Projects	5,693	-
Other	841	485
TOTAL EXPENSES	93,615	84,731
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**INDIGENOUS TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Commonwealth Attorney General's Dept.	71,098	17,633
TOTAL INCOME	71,098	17,633
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	10,162	3,720
Labour - Wages & Salary	48,531	10,605
Labour - On Costs	10,000	3,058
Other	2,405	250
TOTAL EXPENSES	71,098	17,633
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**PAROLEE SUPPORT INITIATIVE
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	359,697	335,065
Other	-	273
TOTAL INCOME	359,697	335,338
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	22,550	23,024
Client Brokerage Costs	8,040	-
Computer Expenses	4,364	6,419
Equipment Purchases	8,459	4,078
Labour - Wages & Salary	240,980	171,921
Labour - On Costs	30,189	28,732
Motor Vehicle Expenses	21,125	14,307
Motor Vehicle Capital Cost	-	64,948
Other	5,785	8,270
Property Expenses	18,205	13,639
TOTAL EXPENSES	359,697	335,338
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**NADA DRUG CRIME DIVERSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA)	32,052	22,910
TOTAL INCOME	32,052	22,910
EXPENSES		
Labour - Wages & Salary	20,000	-
Labour - On Costs	594	-
Professional Fees	8,791	20,100
Travel	1,804	2,066
Other	863	744
TOTAL EXPENSES	32,052	22,910
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**PAROLEE SUPPORT INITIATIVE PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - NSW Department of Corrective Services	25,304	-
TOTAL INCOME	25,304	-
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	5,833	-
Labour - Wages & Salary	16,975	-
Labour - On Costs	2,496	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,304	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**NO BARS WEBSITE
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA)	4,865	-
TOTAL INCOME	4,865	-
EXPENSES		
Professional Fees	4,800	-
Other	65	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,865	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**COMBINED OTHER PROJECTS (Families Book Resource, DCS, DoCS and CRC Training)
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Families Book Resource	8,320	15,200
CRC Training Income	21,500	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	29,820	25,200
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	1,020	-
Labour - Wages & Salary	1,000	36,892
Labour - On Costs	1,570	4,282
Other	2,108	2,864
Printing	5,579	6,700
Professional Fees	3,180	8,500
Travel & Accommodation	-	-
Transfer Between Projects	5,995	19,348
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,452	78,586
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	9,368	(53,386)

In 2009 there was no surplus from the from the Families Book resource project funded by the Department of Corrective Services. All the surplus relates to training carried out by the organisation.

In 2008 the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and the Department of Community Services (DoCS) have no corresponding funding because surplus funds from previous funding are being utilised in agreed projects. The Training project has a surplus of \$9,092 for the year ended 30 June 2008 whilst there were no surplus funds for the combined Printed Resources projects funded by the Department of Corrective Services.

**JUSTICE MAZE DVD
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Law & Justice Foundation of NSW	26,995	-
TOTAL INCOME	26,995	-
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	-	-
Labour - Wages & Salary	10,500	-
Labour - On Costs	1,243	-
Other	252	-
Professional Fees	15,000	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,995	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**CONNECT - CITY OF SYDNEY
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Lord Mayoral Salary Trust	23,461	-
TOTAL INCOME	23,461	-
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	-	-
Labour - Wages & Salary	20,240	-
Labour - On Costs	2,465	-
Other	756	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,461	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

**GIMME SHELTER
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME		
Grant - Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (National Homelessness Strategy)	28,987	11,013
TOTAL INCOME	28,987	11,013
EXPENSES		
Contribution to Overheads	3,876	-
Labour - Wages & Salary	16,672	10,104
Labour - On Costs	1,555	909
Other	1,008	-
Printing	5,876	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	28,987	11,013
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	-

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRC's achievements would not be possible without the significant support we receive and the strong working relationships we have with a diverse range of government and non-government organisations. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the people who have assisted our staff and clients during the past 12 months.

In addition, CRC would like to acknowledge the staff, volunteers, members, partners and funding bodies that have enhanced our work during 2008/2009.

Staff

CRC continues to be supported by a skilled and dedicated team of staff, often working in conditions of great stress and in difficult environments. Their ability to see past presenting problems and devise and implement unique solutions is extraordinary.

Alina Axia, Parolee Support Program Worker

Jack Carnegie, Resource Development Worker

Glenn Carr, Transport Project Coordinator

Alison Churchill, Chief Executive Officer

Donatella Cifali, Women's Supported Accommodation Worker

Ruth Clarke, Family Caseworker (Hunter)

Anne Davies, Part Time Administrative Assistant

Julia Davis, Manager of Transitional Services

Melanie Dower, CONNECT Project Coordinator

Allan Doyle, Court Support Scheme Coordinator

Allan Fell, Casual Bus Driver

Andrew Finch, Casual Bus Driver

Nick Gill, Finance Officer

Emma Goroncy, Family Caseworker (Sydney)

John Hennigar, Casual Bus Driver

Anna Kearns, Parolee Support Program Worker

Cameron Kevin, Men's Supported Accommodation Worker

Rebecca Lewis, Transition Worker for Women (Sydney)

Mandy Marsters, Transition Worker for Men (Sydney), Supervisor

Jodie Martin, Service Development Manager

Ariane Minc, Jailbreak Health Coordinator

Craig Mitchell, Senior Parolee Support Project Worker

Ross Moore, Indigenous Men's Transition Worker

Kate Pinnock, Jailbreak Health Coordinator

Sally Ringrose, Men's Supported Accommodation Worker

Cathy Saunders, StAMP Mentoring Program Coordinator

Michael Self, Men's Transition Worker (Hunter)

Laura Sowden, Part Time Administrative Assistant

David Taylor-Booth, Men's Transition Worker (Hunter)

Wayne Watson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Lennie Wellington, Men's Supported Accommodation Worker

Clients

The Board and staff would like to acknowledge the clients with whom we work on a daily basis. The men and women coming out of prison, and their families that continue to inspire them with their capacity to overcome enormous obstacles, and their ability to change, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

CRC Members

CRC would like to acknowledge the 300 individuals and organisations who silently support the work of our organisation through their membership.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play an integral role in the operations of CRC. (The names of our volunteers have been deliberately withheld to maintain their anonymity outside of their work).

This year our volunteer programs have included:

Court Support Scheme

We would like to acknowledge the continued dedication of our 43 Court Support Scheme volunteers, many of whom have been working with the project over 10 and 20 years. Their assistance to the court staff, offenders, their families and witnesses is highly regarded by all who access and work alongside the service.

The Court Support Scheme Volunteers once again assisted over 59,900 people presenting at local and family courts in the Greater Sydney Region of NSW.

StAMP

The StAMP Mentoring Program volunteers have dedicated many hours of their own time to the resettlement of people exiting the NSW prison system and returning to live in Marrickville and the City of Sydney since the program re-commenced in December 2008. We look forward to expanding our mentor volunteer base over the next 12 months.

The StAMP Program would like to acknowledge the support and contribution to the program from the following services and partner agencies: NSW Attorney General's, Marrickville Council, Petersham TAFE Outreach, Ultimo TAFE, Our Place Support Centre, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, WIPAN, Justice Health Connections Program.

Administration Volunteers

CRC has benefitted greatly this year from the work of our administrative volunteer Margaret Holm. Margaret has taken on a myriad of administrative tasks assisting us to produce correspondence, data bases and reports that we would have been unable to complete without her.

Partnerships

CRC has built a reputation as the lead NSW agency working with people affected by the criminal justice system. Researchers, community organisations and government bodies often seek advice, resources and support from CRC and we remain one of the most trusted organisations in our field.

CRC is proactive in building strong partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders, with the aim of collaborating to achieve mutual goals. These effective partnerships and community relationships enhance our profile and assist us in our efforts to influence public policy and research.

CRC Transitional Support Services

(This includes the Men's and Women's Transitional Support Programs, Indigenous Transition Program, Accommodation Service, MERIT TAADS, Parolee Support Initiative)

CRC Transitional Support Service staff work closely on a daily basis with a range of service providers. Their strong working relationships contribute significantly to client outcomes.

CRC Transitional Support staff would like to acknowledge the following:

The staff of the male and female Department of Corrective Services Correctional Centres; Transitional Centres; COSPs; Mental Health Screening Unit; Statewide Disability Service; Violent Offenders Program; Aboriginal Support and Planning Unit Principal Advisors; and Community Offender Services sites; Housing NSW; Housing NSW Fairfield; Junction Works; St. George Community Housing; Bridge Housing; Wentworth Housing; Women's Housing; Affordable Community Housing; Hume Housing; Compass Housing; Pacific Link Community Housing; Office of Community Housing; South

West Area Health (Mental Health Division); Fairfield Liverpool Mental Health Teams; Members of the Housing and Human Services Accord; Prisoners Aid Association; Homelessness NSW; Justice Health staff; MERIT Data Collection and Evaluation team - Northern Rivers Area Health Service; MERIT Summer Hill and Downing Centre Offices; Metro Housing; Woodville Community Services; Neami; Victoria Park Leisure Centre; Friendship House (Newcastle); Newcastle City Mission; Post Release Interagency (Newcastle); Mental Health Coordinating Council; Guthrie House; Lou's Place; Leichhardt Women's Health; Jacaranda House; Justice Health Connections; Samaritan House; Marrickville Community Health; National Dental Foundation for their Volunteer Charity Day; Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service; Hepatitis C Council of NSW; Port Jackson Housing; Metro Community Housing; Mount Druitt Aboriginal Justice Steering Committee.

Jailbreak Health Project

In the production of the weekly radio program and the development of peer led health promotion messages, the Jailbreak Health Project Coordinator has worked with many individuals and Correctional Centres throughout the year.

Jailbreak would like to thank and acknowledge the following people who have played key roles in the production of the shows and contributed in many varied and significant ways to the Jailbreak Health Project:

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Jailbreak would like to give a special acknowledgement to the 90+ prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families (not listed above for privacy reasons) for their vital contribution to the Jailbreak Health Project.

Resource Development

Numerous individuals and organisations have been involved in the content, design, layout and writing of the important resources developed by CRC. The Resource Development Project would like to thank Bronwyn Elliot, Melinda May, VACRO, Michael Wall, Deidre Hyslop, Peter Peters from the Department of Corrective Services, Art Resistance and also the many prisoners and families of prisoners who have contributed their stories and ideas.

Hunter Network

CRC is grateful for the continued involvement, support and guidance of the following members of the Hunter Network: Hughen Edwards, Bev Henwood, Helen Kulhanek and Sharon Sharpe.

2008 Annual General Meeting

CRC would like to thank Stephen Thomson for his spectacular performance as Judge Rudy at our 2008 Annual General Meetings event "Let's Get Quizzical".

Further thanks go to Murray Cook and Marlene Cummins for their musical contribution on the evening.

External Consultants

CRC staff would like to thank and acknowledge our external consultants for their support and expertise during the past twelve months: Steve Armstrong; Steve Bailey; Bronwyn Cintio; Jan Grant; Jan Hatch; Matrix on Board; Keith Roberts and Christine Wilkinson.

Funding Bodies

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2009 Annual Report

The Chief Executive Officer would like to acknowledge Melanie Dower and Jodie Martin in the writing of this year's Annual Report and Jack Carnegie for the photography.

Lastly the staff of CRC would like to acknowledge the passing of three long standing CRC clients. All had experienced long histories of offending, drug and alcohol misuse, physical and mental health issues. Despite all the odds Les, Clive and Rick worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges they faced. In partnership with their CRC workers they secured stable accommodation, addressed long term drug and alcohol issues, engaged in employment, voluntary work and other meaningful activities. They remained out of prison for the longest periods of their lives.

Our sympathies and best wishes go to their families and friends.



changing lives
reducing crime

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