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Ms Laura Ross
Clerk
House of Assembly
Parliament of Tasmania

21 MAY 2026

RE - Constituency Question: Prisoner Support Programs – North West Tasmania

Dear Ms Ross

I write regarding the constituency question of Mr Jaensch MP, Member for Braddon on 16 April 2026, regarding Prisoner Support Programs in North West Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government delivers a wide range of support programs to all its prisoners through the Tasmania Prison Service, Community Corrections and some external providers. This includes a comprehensive and evidence-based suite of education, rehabilitation, industries and intervention programs, focused on improving community safety, by reducing recidivism and providing prisoners with opportunities to succeed once back in the community

For example, the Government strongly supports the new Job Ready Program, which helps prisoners gain accredited skills and qualifications that will help them find work in the community, when released. The program is being jointly delivered by the Civil Contractors Federation Tasmania and the TPS.

The program includes nationally recognised training and practical skills such as work practices, communication in the workplace, use of tools and equipment, a white card, and assistance with job readiness including cv writing and referrals.

The TPS also provides internal employment opportunities for prisoners to develop real life skills and to provide them with necessary foundations and practices to live a balanced life outside of prison.

Rehabilitation programs are also provided on a wide range of issues from:

- Family violence;
- Drug and alcohol addition;
- Sex offences;
- General core skills; and
- Employment opportunities in the Risdon kitchen, laundry or tailor shop.

Pre-release planning

Prisoners receive pre-release planning through individualised Case management. Tasmanian Prison Service Case management addresses risks, identifies goals and facilitates access to necessary reintegration supports, such as accommodation, health, employment, alcohol and drug support, family connection and prosocial lifestyles.

Throughcare referrals are made during Case management while in custody to community service providers and warm handovers are provided to community partners before a prisoners' release. The Government provides access to necessary release needs of prisoners, including:

- access to transport
- food staples
- information packs for access to housing, health and community services
- toiletries and hygiene
- emergency accommodation referrals to temporary housing sites, such as Safe Space and Bethlehem House.

Housing Assistance

The Tasmanian Government continues to prioritise and explore ways to improve access to housing for people returning to the community, following a period of imprisonment.

Prisoners leaving custody and requiring housing assistance receive support through Homes Tasmania/Housing Connect, a one stop shop for all Tasmanians in need of housing assistance.

Specifically, all prisoners may now request a housing needs assessment through Housing Connect, up to 30 weeks before their estimated release date.

The Tasmanian Government has extended funding for two integrated programs that provide vital transitional support and secure accommodation, helping break the cycle of reoffending to make our community safer.

The Government has also provided funding to develop housing on the North West for female prisoners transitioning back into the community. The TPS is working with Homes Tasmania to identify locations for this housing and expects to progress this initiative in the next 12 months.

Criminogenic Programs

In addition to the programs delivered by the TPS, Community Corrections, also provides a wide range of Family Violence, Drug and Alcohol and Sex Offender Treatment programs to support offenders serving their sentences outside of a custodial facility to address their risks of reoffending in the community.

For prisoners who do not meet the relevant eligibility criteria program, or where a program is not considered to be the best fit for intervention, there are community-based interventions and services that may be more suited to address specific needs.

Courts can also refer defendants to Community Corrections for an assessment of suitability and eligibility to engage in a range of programs.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs