REducing reoffending 10% by 2020

Problem

New Foundations with individualised case planning for all offenders from entry to the corrections system to six months post-release, where appropriate.

Increase in prisoner population requires increases in funding.
South Australia’s prison population is the second highest growth rate in the nation. $246.1M of 2016 budget spent in custodial costs.

To ensure targeted and culturally appropriate services and programs.
All of the Panel’s recommendations must consider the specific and cultural needs of Aboriginal offenders when being implemented.

Employment and Industry

where partnerships are developed between DCS and the South Australian business sector to improve the employment outcomes for prisoners and offenders.

Strategy

Successful return to Community

With individual case management and planning for offenders from entry to the corrections system to six months post-release, where appropriate.

Strategy for Aboriginal Offenders

To ensure targeted and culturally appropriate services and programs. All of the Panel’s recommendations must consider the specific and cultural needs of Aboriginal offenders when being implemented.

Prioritising Target Cohorts

To ensure programs are targeted to groups in whom the best results, which include women offenders, prisoners on short sentences, individuals on remand, and offenders in community corrections.

Dcs Agency and Staff Response

that allows for change within the current system to ensure that the target is supported by DCS, culture, resources, frameworks and structures.

Partnerships and collaboration

with other government agencies and public and private sector partners that ensure the successful delivery of services and programs.

Response

New Foundations

10% reduction in reoffending by 2020

Tailored rehabilitation for Aboriginal offenders

Rehabilitation programs

Legislative amendments

Work ready, release ready

Reductions in prisoner population are a requirement for funding.
Upon becoming Minister for Correctional Services in early 2016, three statistics about our current prison system stood out as key indicators of the substantial challenge facing our correctional services.

The first, was the fact that the prison population is growing at 6.01% per year. The second, is that over 75% of our current prison population have been in prison at least once before. And finally, that the rate of reoffending is 46%.

Reoffending has substantial costs for our community. It means more crime, more victims and more expense to the taxpayer through costly court proceedings and incarceration. However, reoffending must be a key performance indicator of our criminal justice system. If we can reduce the rate of reoffending by 10% by 2020, and following a near-12 month review of the State’s correctional system, we have now driving a fundamental shift in corrections policy.

This document is a blueprint for achieving the reoffending reduction target. It has been informed by the work of the independent panel, Chaired by Mr Nyunggai Warren Mundine, and accepts all six themes and 36 recommendations put forward by the panel.

Almost over $40 million, including $28 million in new funding, is being invested in reducing the rate of reoffending by 10% by 2020 which underpins a whole-of-system change in offender management.

If the target is realised, SA will become a national leader. Our new approach is built upon factors that prevent reoffending - supportive accommodation, employment and community support.

The reality is that the majority of people in prison will be released, which means that successful transition from prison back into the community is paramount.

While the Government will ensure that dangerous criminals that need to be locked up will be, focusing on rehabilitation will result in less crimes being committed, less victims, and the saving of taxpayer dollars.

This fundamental policy shift will not only mean fewer victims of crime and less police, it will also provide real opportunity for offenders to turn their lives around.

The Department for Correctional Services and I will now work swiftly to implement this strategy and realise our target.

Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC
Minister for Correctional Services

South Australia’s prison population has had a decade of sustained growth. If we can reduce the rate of reoffending in South Australia, we will create a safer community with fewer victims and less crime.

It’s time to take a smarter path and stop the revolving door of our prisons.