

Inspector's Overview

PARDELUP PRISON FARM CONTINUES TO BUILD ON PAST SUCCESS

Pardelup is a highly performing prison that continues to offer positive opportunities for the prisoners who reside there. One of the most notable aspects is that the prison lives and breathes the Pardelup philosophy of 'Proud to be Pardelup' and we saw evidence that its values of 'Trust, Respect and Integrity' are present throughout their work. Both staff and prisoners can take credit for the sense of community this fosters within the prison.

Pardelup now has a settled and stable management structure which will set a strong foundation stone for the future.

In any successful business, some reinvestment of profits is essential for continued growth and prosperity. The farm and garden operations at Pardelup are no different. It was, therefore, a little disappointing that the Department could not support Recommendation 1 relating to the retention of revenue for reinvestment into operations. Such reinvestment will be crucial if Pardelup is to expand operations and make a stronger contribution to food production for the prison estate.

In both of our previous inspections of Pardelup we commented on the need to increase the number of Aboriginal prisoners at both the prison and work camp. There have been some positive improvements in services and facilities for Aboriginal prisoners at Pardelup but only limited progress on increasing the numbers of Aboriginal prisoners. The momentum needs to continue and build so that Aboriginal prisoners have access to the rehabilitative benefits of a placement at Pardelup.

We observed strong evidence of healthy and positive engagement and relationships with the local communities in both Mount Barker and Walpole. The work of the prison and work camp was highly valued and both facilities have been embraced by their local communities.

Health services were generally quite good, but the loss of dental services through a local Mount Barker dentist has had a significant impact on prisoners' satisfaction levels and there were now long wait times for services.

There are many positive benefits for prisoners and the community more generally in having facilities like Pardelup and the Walpole Work Camp operating as part of the corrections environment. The potential to rehabilitate individual prisoners can have lasting implications for them and their families.

Some of the credit for the success we have seen goes to its unique environment, but the work of management, staff and prisoners in both the prison and work camp deserves the most recognition.

The success of our inspection work is dependent on a lot of hard work and strong working relationships with key stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation we received from all stakeholders during this inspection, particularly the Department and the Pardelup leadership and staff. It is also important to acknowledge the significant

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contribution of the members of our inspection team. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Kieran Artelaris for his hard work in planning the inspection and as principal drafter of this report.

Eamon Ryan
Inspector

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