

Question on Notice
No. 750
Asked on Wednesday 23 May 2007

MS PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

Will she outline how the aluminium recycling scheme, instigated at Wolston Correctional Centre, is assisting disabled athletes?

ANSWER:

Disabled athletes have received close to \$30,000 during the past five years from an aluminium recycling scheme instigated at the Wolston Correctional Centre. The scheme was initiated by a Corrective Services Officer at the Wolston Correctional Centre.

Under the scheme, used drink cans are collected in specially marked bins in residential and secure wings throughout the centre and later sold as scrap. In addition to the drink cans, scrap aluminium is also sourced from the centre's ferrous metals workshop.

The proceeds are passed onto the Brisbane West region of the Special Olympics organisation who use the money to purchase sporting equipment, hire training facilities and fund travel costs for approximately 100 athletes aged from eight years to veterans.

This is one of a number of prison programs where prisoners contribute to the community.

For example, during this financial year Woodford Correctional Centre's workshops have manufactured 600 swags for Brisbane's homeless.

- The materials are supplied to the Centre by "Street Swags," a charitable organisation that is associated with a local Church group. The swags are distributed to the needy by Street Swags in association with the Church. The manufacturing costs are borne by the Woodford Correctional Centre including the remuneration for prisoners involved in the project.

Prisoners from Woodford Correctional Centre also refurbished 24 bicycles, just in time for Christmas.

As Minister for Police and Corrective Services, I handed over the bicycles to the Salvation Army for distribution as part of the Salvos Christmas Appeal.

The first six of these bicycles were accepted by young teenagers from the Salvos' Youth Outreach Service in Fortitude Valley, the remainder of these bikes bicycles will be distributed to needy children in the Caboolture area.

The bicycles were refurbished in the prison's workshop by prisoners completing a TAFE course as part of their vocational training.

These prisoners completed a ‘bicycle maintenance’ course and learnt how to replace tyres and tubes, replace the wheel spokes, attach new handlebar grips, touch-up the paintwork and clean and re-grease bearings and cogs.

- Some of the bicycles were purchased for \$5 each from local bike shops, while others were donated.

This project was funded through the Vocational Education and Training program and as additional funding is available the refurbishment of bicycles will continue.

A staff member of Woodford Correctional Centre, with a keen interest in the environment, designed a “wild life box” to be used to re-establish animal habitats destroyed by fire or as a consequence of the drought. Land Care Australia were supportive of the concept and arranged for a number of environmental groups to make contact with Woodford Correctional Centre.

To date, 400 of these wild life boxes have been manufactured by prisoners at the Woodford Correctional Centre, essentially from scrap timber, and put together using screws donated by Nikpot Cabinets and paint donated by Wattyl.

The majority of the wild life boxes are now in the hands of Greening Australia for placement.

Following an approach from a local Church, prisoners commenced a project to refurbish church pews. The first load is completed and awaiting pick-up. The project was aligned for training of prisoners with the costs of production minimised by donation of consumables and the paint.

These projects and activities are tangible examples of how prisoners can give back to the community while still serving their sentence.