

**Question on Notice
No. 928
Asked on Thursday 7 June 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to advice I have received that prisoners at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre are currently manufacturing coffee boxes which are used by a local company, Skybury, in the export of their product to Japan—

What benefits does this type of project provide to prisoners and to the local community?

ANSWER:

In July 2006, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre was approached by Skybury Coffee located in far north Queensland with a request to make boxes suitable for despatch of high grade, green coffee overseas. It was envisaged that these boxes would replace the jute bags imported from overseas.

Lotus Glen built a prototype including the screen printing of the sides of the boxes to advertise the company's product.

The skills sets associated with the assembly of coffee boxes, while fundamental in nature, provide prisoners with the confidence to progress to projects that develop more advanced skills such as furniture and other joinery products that compete directly with imports.

To date, 800 coffee boxes have been manufactured and screen printed with several shipments of coffee exported to Japan and to France.

The grower, Skybury advised that the coffee is priced at \$25 per kilo in comparison to the standard \$5 per kilo for better known brands. The marketing of the coffee has been directed at the discerning buyer who appreciates high quality.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre is pleased to be associated with a company exporting products to Japan and France and showcasing the capability of far north Queensland's primary industry sector.

Prison Industries at Lotus Glen also operate workshops dedicated to the following activities:

- Light industries; fabricate gates and panels, build industrial bins and manufacture secure cabinets for the storage of valuable items.
- Laundry of items for hospitals and the health care sector in the local area and laundry of prisoner clothing for the secure and open custody centres.
- Bakery provides bread, pies and sausage rolls as internal supply.
- Carpentry and joinery workshops making indoor and outdoor furniture.
- Tailoring includes the sewing of prisoner clothing,
- Provision of Centre repair and maintenance including landscaping.

In the order of 120 to 150 prisoners are employed in Lotus Glen's Prison Industries each day, five days per week.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre operates its prison industries workshops with a team of trade qualified instructors who also hold training and assessing qualifications. Each project undertaken in the workshops provides the participating prisoners with skills, knowledge and attributes that compare favourably with the expectations of the private sector. It is these skills and attributes that may assist the prisoners in gaining meaningful employment upon release.

In recognition of the commitment of the trade instructors to their work with prisoners in the workshops, the trade instructors at Lotus Glen were the recipients of the Director-General's Team Excellence Award for 2007.

In the Financial Year 2005/2006 the Post Release Employment Assistance Program (PREAP) in Lotus Glen provided services to a total of 156 Stage1 participants, 76 Stage 2 participants and 57 Stage 3 participants.

PREAP has in the current financial year provided services to 183 Stage 1 participants, 71 Stage 2 and 49 Stage 3 participants assisted. The success rate of PREAP is reflected in the study by Victor Callan stating 6.9% reduction in recidivism for participants who were registered with the program, as opposed to those who were not registered.