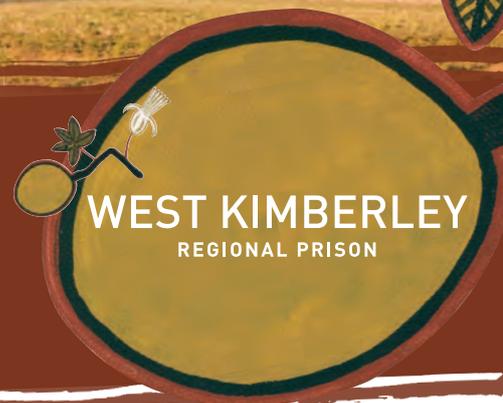




# West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



## New DC for prison project

**N**ew Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial Heather Harker takes up the reins on the West Kimberley Regional Prison (WKRK) project this month as the building progresses towards completion.

Ms Harker said she was looking forward to building on the successes of Deputy Commissioner Ian Giles and his team in getting the project this far.

“Building a prison in a remote location has presented a number of challenges, not least of which have been the extremes in weather,” Ms Harker said. “Staff have done a magnificent job in keeping this project on track.”

Ms Harker is no stranger to the West Kimberley, having visited the prison site as member of the Commissioner’s Executive Team a number of times since building began.

“I’m enormously excited by this project and being able to bring my knowledge and experience of community corrections to the adult custodial mix as we move towards commencement of services,” she said.

“The West Kimberley Regional Prison model presents an opportunity to further integrate custodial and community corrective services to seamlessly case manage offenders

from their time in prison to their re-entry into the community.”

Her next visit will be on 11 May with DCS Commissioner Ian Johnson to attend the local prison recruits’ graduation ceremony.

“I’m looking forward to seeing more of Derby, catching up with the trainees and meeting with community members who will be attending the event,” Ms Harker said.



Deputy Commissioner  
Heather Harker



An aerial view of the new West Kimberley Regional Prison.





Trainees suit up for BA training.

## Training heats up for recruits

**T**HE Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) and specialist Corrective Services trainers joined forces recently to train West Kimberley prison officer trainees in the use of Breathing Apparatus (BA).

The two-day BA course was held at the Derby fire station. On the second day an exercise was conducted at the old maternity ward of the Derby Hospital which saw the new recruits wearing covered masks, unlocking doors and searching under beds for dummies in a simulation of a fire in a prison wing.

WKRP Superintendent Mike Macfarlane said as well as being an excellent training experience for the recruits, working with FESA gave them a taste of what volunteer fire fighting might be like.

“In a small town like Derby, volunteer fire fighters are essential to maintaining the safety of the town and often reflect the heart and soul of a community,” he said. “It’s a vital community service that prison staff can be proud to be a part of.”

West Kimberley FESA Area Manager Jeremy Crawley, who conducted training for the recruits, said he would welcome anyone who wished to join the local volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade or State Emergency Service Unit.

“Volunteering is a great way to connect to your local community, meet people and learn new skills,” he said.

“Best of all, there is a real knowledge that you are part of a community and helping to keep your community safe.

“Come down to the local station, try it out and reap all the rewards that volunteering in the emergency services has to offer.”





The prison kitchen is close to completion.

## Kitchen passes the chef test

**T**he West Kimberley Regional Prison kitchen has had its first inspection from potentially one of its toughest critics, and passed with flying colours.

**Chef Instructor Sally Harris is one of the officers who will deliver training in food preparation in the kitchen.**

The training is an important part of the skills that WKRP prisoners will require as the prisoners will cook for themselves within their living units.

“Prisoners will be taught food hygiene and handling principles, how to budget their food shopping, follow recipes, plan menus and cook,” Ms Harris said.

“The programs that we can offer through the kitchen will help develop life skills for the prisoners that they can take back into the community when released.

“Most of the units are self-care so once prisoners have honed their basic skills in the Orientation Unit, they’ll have the opportunity to cook meals in the general accommodation units with the support of the Chef Instructor and other staff.”

Ms Harris said her first visit to WKRP had left a great impression.

“I was highly impressed by the layout and size of the kitchen,” she said.

“There was a lot of internal consultation with Chef Instructors when the kitchen was being designed, and it’s

clear that their suggestions have been taken on board to excellent effect.”

The large kitchen has two multi-function ovens and solid top hobs with ovens underneath. There is also a small laundry room for the washing of kitchen uniforms.



Chef Instructor Sally Harris



### **WEST KIMBERLEY** REGIONAL PRISON

**For more information about the West Kimberley Regional Prison contact:**

**WKRP Project Office**

West Kimberley House  
16-22 Loch St  
DERBY WA 6728

Postal Address  
PO Box 350  
DERBY WA 6728

Phone: (08) 9193 1953 or (08) 9191 2066

Web: [www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](http://www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au)

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