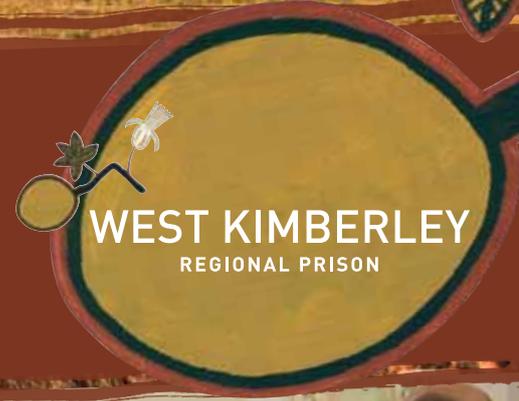




# West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**



*The Derby Community Reference Group meets monthly to discuss the progress of the new prison.*

## Simply Listening

You can often learn more by listening and this was the mandate for the meetings recently organised by the Department of Corrective Services with West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) stakeholders.

**I**n early November DCS staff including, Ian Giles, Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial, Brian Lawrence, Director Public Private Partnerships and Mike MacFarlane, Superintendent WGRP, toured the Kimberley, meeting with as many of the key stakeholder groups as possible.

“Kimberley locals have a shared desire for community involvement in many different ways with the new 150 bed prison in Derby and it’s so important to bring this to life” Mr Giles said.

*“Community engagement is central to the prison’s operating philosophy. Working together with a desire to do things differently will make a very positive difference.”*

“It’s really important to engage key stakeholders within the Kimberley community. We listened to their thoughts, ideas and concerns and everyone we met provided great feedback.

“We have come home with a richer view across many different aspects of the prison’s future operations and this level of engagement needs to be, and will be, maintained.”

The WGRP offers many firsts across Australia, with its design and operating philosophy premised upon Aboriginal cultures and values as far as is possible.

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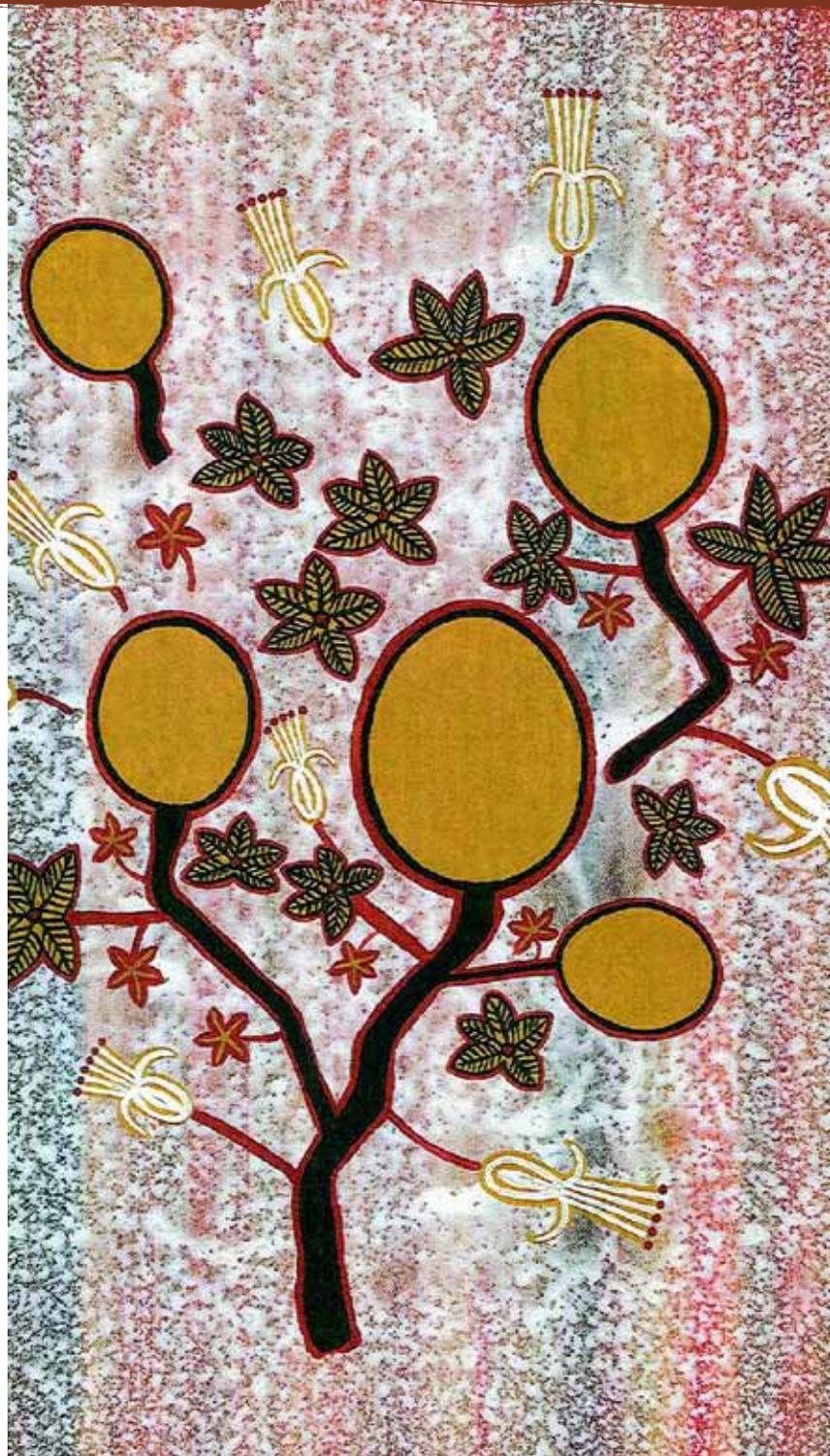


# Principles Guide Prison Development

**A**ll aspects of the West Kimberley Regional Prison have been developed to ensure community, staff and prisoner safety is paramount.

The new prison has also been based on the five guiding principles which support the Kimberley Custodial Plan. These include:

- **Custodial proximity to land and family** – new custodial facilities must guarantee the location of Aboriginal prisoners close to their supports of land and family.
- **Cultural responsibilities** – there is recognition of and respect afforded to traditional law and cultural obligations, and support provided to Aboriginal prisoners maintaining and fulfilling their cultural obligations and responsibilities.
- **Spiritual relationship to land, sea and waterways** – there is recognition and acceptance of the cultural and spiritual connection to their country, and recognition that they have custodial rights and interests.
- **Kinship and family responsibilities** – there is recognition and acceptance that familial responsibilities are central to the fabric of Aboriginal society and critical to the well-being of the community and the individual, and that there is recognition and acceptance of customary protocols that link kinship ties with reciprocal obligations.
- **Community responsibilities** – there is recognition and acceptance by the Aboriginal community of its responsibility to address issues identified by Aboriginal people. Issues such as substance abuse and other anti-social behaviour and the development of skills to assist prisoners after release are necessary to promote the social and economic well-being and independence of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley.



## Winning painting inspires WKRP logo

**I**n 2010, the Department undertook an art competition to find a logo for the West Kimberley Regional Prison. Some 20 prisoners, from the Kimberley, entered the competition and the winning entry is pictured above.

As created in this picture, the three icons – the Boab Tree nut, leaf and flower – have been used to create the easily recognisable WKRP logo. The painting, from which the logo originated, will be on display at the WKRP from mid 2012.

# Safety front of mind for WKRP

**D**CS has taken a sure and steady approach to filling the West Kimberley Regional Prison when it opens in mid 2012. WKRP Superintendent Mike Macfarlane says there will be a gradual fill of the prison during the first six to twelve months.

“Community safety and ensuring the security of the new prison is our top priority,” Mr Macfarlane said.

“Embedding the philosophy and developing a culture conducive to this philosophy comes a close second.

“It is for these reasons that we plan on having a staged approach to filling the prison.”

Stage one of the fill plan will commence from mid 2012 with a mix of 60 male and 24 female offenders of minimum and medium security ratings. Stage two will commence in early 2013 with the remaining offenders. Once the prison is at capacity, it will accommodate some 120 males and 30 female offenders.

## Locals line up to work in the prison

**M**ore than 50 applications have been received from Kimberley residents interested in working as a prison officer in the WKRP.

DCS Recruitment Manager Jaki Wyburn said she was really pleased that so many people had applied for the positions.

“Of the 100 and more jobs that will eventually be established in the prison, we wanted to ensure that Kimberley residents had an opportunity to get in on the ground floor,” Ms Wyburn said.

“I feel the local promotions and information evenings were very useful in helping Kimberley residents learn more about the employment opportunities in the prison, especially the prison officer positions.”

Of the applications received, only a small handful were deemed ineligible - mainly because the applicants lived outside of the Kimberley region. The remaining applicants have since completed their Employment Profile Assessment and interviews have commenced.

*“Community safety and getting the right fit for a prison officer position is always our first priority,” Ms Wyburn said.*

“The process is competitive, with a number of assessment stages so we won’t know who or how many people are selected until the end of this process.”

“Those people who expressed an interest should know whether they have been successful or not by the end of this year.”

Ms Wyburn went on to say that anyone else who is interested in upcoming positions in the prison should send an expression of interest to [wkrp.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](mailto:wkrp.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au) or ring 9264 6224.

*Pictured below: Aerial view of the new prison.*





*Self care accommodation units under construction*

## Self care accommodation supports philosophy and life skills

**S**elf care units at the West Kimberley Regional Prison are nearing completion in readiness for the arrival of the first offenders in mid 2012.

There are some 20 self care units on the prison site, with seven different housing types for men and four designs for women.

Director of Strategic Assets, Andy Daniels, said the self care units are designed to accommodate 120 male and 30 female offenders in separate accommodation of varying security classifications. Units accommodate six, seven or eight beds.

*“In keeping with the prison philosophy, the accommodation units are grouped houses, arranged so that prisoners can be located according to family ties or language, as well as security rating,” Mr Daniels said.*

“Additionally, the units are designed to be self care. This means they have a kitchen, living room and bedrooms so that offenders can retain, or develop, life skills including cooking, cleaning and maintaining their own space.”

*Some units in the women’s section can accommodate mothers and their babies.*

Construction has also commenced on the prison gymnasium, resource centre and library and a spiritual centre.



*The Department of  
Corrective Services and  
the West Kimberley  
Regional Prison wish  
you a happy and safe  
festive season.*



**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)