

## Darwin Correctional Precinct

The Northern Territory Government entered into a project deed with Sentinel Partnership Pty Ltd for the design, construction and finance of the new Darwin Correctional Precinct (DCP) on a greenfield site on Willard Road, Holtze, approximately 29km from the Darwin Central Business District. Construction began in November 2011 with expected completion due by late 2014. Local industry participation has been a key requirement of construction; 78% of the total works have been contracted to local suppliers which is 3% above the contract terms. In April 2014 there was approximately 455 construction workers on site each day. The General Manager, Project Control Group, working groups and Commissioning Team have continued to progress key activities to ensure both the physical and operational commissioning of DCP. DCP embodies the innovation upon which the department prides itself. A few of the innovations at DCP are detailed below.

- A Diesel Rotary Uninterrupted Power Supply (DRUPS) has been operational on site since September 2013. This system provides the facility with 100% site wide power in the event of a mains power blackout, ensuring no activity, work or system is affected and also eliminates the need for battery back-up on any system or equipment. Additionally, DCP will utilise alternative power options such as solar power which will realise significant savings as well as reduce the site's ecological footprint.



Darwin Correctional Precinct – Low security area at May 2014

- DCP provides a significant change to the department's core business of managing prisoners into the future as the infrastructure and operational procedures have been specifically designed to enable the growth of programs and work opportunities critical for the successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.
- DCP has cutting edge industries facilities including kitchen, laundry, metal fabrication and wood working operations that will not only train prisoners to achieve a minimum of a Certificate 1 qualification, enhancing their employability upon release but will fully service the facility and have the potential to generate revenue through external contracts thus reducing costs for tax payers.
- The Prisoner Educator Listener Scheme (PELS) has been identified as an appropriate support service to be provided by prisoners for prisoners. The idea behind PELS is that appropriately identified and trained prisoners will offer information and support to prisoners in the correctional setting. Peer educators will provide information to prisoners around achieving and maintaining good health and how to safely deal with some physical health risks. Peer listeners will provide support to prisoners in relation to psychological and emotional issues such as grief and loss, relationship issues, difficulties with the prison environment and so on. Training will be provided by corrections clinical staff.
- The Volunteer Fire Brigade Unit (VFBU) at DCP is an initiative to fight local grass and wild land fires which will be manned by trained staff and prisoners. NTDCS and the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) will work cooperatively to actively promote and develop learning opportunities and skills for staff and prisoners relating to wild fire and land management. Once operational, the VFBU could expand its capability at DCP to become involved in community support for fighting fires within the Howard Springs area when called upon by the NTFRS.
- DCP encompasses the first purpose built mental health behavioural facility in the Northern Territory. The Complex Behaviour Unit (CBU) is a secure accommodation and treatment centre for adult prisoners with severe mental health or behaviour management issues and for people who have been found not guilty of an offence due to mental impairment. NTDCS will operate the CBU in line with the current practice principles of managing high needs persons in custody. NTDCS continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Health (Aged and Disability Services and Forensic Mental Health Services) to develop an in-reach model of delivery for the CBU.