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Speech delivered by Adam Graycar:

"Community corrections"

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Contemporary Challenges in Community Corrections

Adam Graycar



Queensland

	1993/4	1998/9	% Increase
Community Corrections Population	15,147	19,390	28%
Prison Population	2,259	5,044	123%



Percentage rise in corrections populations: 1993/4 to 1998/9

Jurisdiction	Community Corrections %	Prison %
New South Wales	4.5	7.1
Victoria	-3	13.2
Queensland	28	123.3
Western Australia	-21.3	27.9
South Australia	4.5	14.2
Tasmania	4.3	31.7
Northern Territory	-56.4	39.6



- 1. Community Corrections is a growth business which is under great community and political pressure, and operates within a context of social change**
- 2. Community Corrections can help the State's economy**
- 3. Community Corrections is a risk management exercise with very high stakes**
- 4. Community Corrections involves significant professional challenges for practitioners**



- **Who is your client - the offender or the community?**
- **How do you help someone who may have no interest in being helped?**
- **If you had the power to change something in probation and parole that would achieve better results, what would it be?**



- **Communities are feeling enormous social and economic strain (even though most economic indicators are looking good)**
- **A feeling of exasperation and outrage at those who breach the bounds of civility**
- **Governments seeking more cost-effective human services practices, including contracting out and privatisation**



- **2 per cent increase in the adult population**
- **4 per cent increase in recorded crime**
- **3 per cent increase in offenders proceeded against**



- **the growth of incivility**
- **The demographic boom among the Aboriginal population**



- **proportionate to the crime**
- **unpleasant enough to deter criminals**
- **a real and credible means of protecting the community**



What works

- Supervision practices that include;
 - high levels of problem solving
 - pro-social modelling
 - empathy
- Rehabilitation programs that
 - are structured and focused on developing social, academic and employment skills
 - use behavioural methods with reinforcements for clearly identified, overt behaviours



What Does Not Work

- Poorly implemented rehabilitation programs given to low risk offenders
- Non-directive counselling focusing on insight, self-esteem, depression, anxiety or disclosure
- Rehabilitation programs that emphasise specific deterrence such as shock probation and Scared Straight
- Community sanctions such as Intensive Supervised Probation or Parole; home confinement; community residential programs; urine testing - unless combined with rehabilitation programs



- **Challenges for you as practitioners**
- **Challenges for practice**
- **Challenges for achieving outcomes**



- **Your accountability to the community**
- **Your accountability to your clients**
- **Your accountability to your colleagues**
- **Your accountability to your employer**



- **Changes in laws**
- **Changes in sentencing**
- **Changes in funding**
- **Changes in Staffing**
- **Changes in client base**
- **Changes in service delivery**
- **Changes in management, accountability and evaluation of service delivery**