Boosting prisoner capacity at Barkly Work Camp

The Territory Government is delivering 24 more beds at the Barkly Work Camp in Budget 2012 through a $1.55 million funding injection and work done via a prisoner training program.

Minister for Correctional Services Gerry McCarthy said five new staff would also be recruited to work at the facility.

“Under our New Era in Corrections, the Territory Government has put more resources on the street to reduce criminal activity while maintaining its commitment to breaking the cycle of crime with a stronger focus on education, rehabilitation and training,” he said.

“For this reason, we are boosting prisoner capacity from 50 to 74 people and employing additional staff to help manage those extra offenders.”

“As part of the New Era, fellow prisoners at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre will construct the new beds required in a metal workshop training facility.”

The Barkly Work Camp houses low-security prisoners who engage in work and job training through community projects with local industry and service providers.

Mr McCarthy said since the work camp officially opened last September, the prisoners had completed almost 14,000 hours of community work at an estimated value of $210,000.

“Prisoners undertake work at local sporting clubs and churches, the show grounds and other community facilities five days a week, eight hours a day like any everyday job,” he said. “As part of their programs, they are gaining nationally recognised qualifications through a Territory Government partnership with Charles Darwin University and furthering their education so that they can return to their communities as productive members of society.”

As part of Territory 2030, the Henderson Government aims to expand the availability of education and training in the prison system to create the opportunity for a better life outside prison.

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