Sharing Information and Ideas for a Better Corrections System

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Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink has received an insight into the United States (US) correctional system through extensive meetings and prison visits at Texas and Colorado.

Mr Elferink has returned from the US where he also presented an address on the Northern Territory’s Sentenced to a Job program at the annual International Corrections and Prison Association (ICPA) conference at Colorado Springs.

The theme for this year’s conference was *Thinking Outside the Cell: Reducing the use of Imprisonment*, and was attended by more than 170 corrections and prisons professionals from 42 countries.

“The Sentenced to a Job program presentation was well received, and the audience was interested in the program’s growth and acceptance from the community, as well as the early results of reducing recidivism.

“The Northern Territory Government has taken the Sentenced to a Job program and given it a real shakeup, applying it right across the corrections system.

“Prisoners, many who had never held a job, are now employed, learning skills and setting themselves up for a positive life outside of the jail system,” Mr Elferink said.

Mr Elferink also toured prisons in Texas and met with the Warden’s office at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

“I observed the operations of their prison industries and was impressed by their efficiency and ability to deliver outcomes,” he said.

“Prison systems around the world differ, and it is important to learn about the successes and failures of each system to better develop our own.”

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