Inmates at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC) will shortly begin work at the waste management facility, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the prison and town council.

Prisoners will perform recycling activities at the local landfill site including sorting glass, metals and other materials.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said the MOU is a partnership that will see up to four low-security prisoners employed full time through the Sentenced to a Job program, earning award wages and gaining on-site work experience and training.

“The majority of the prisoners’ earnings will be placed in a trust account with $25 per day deducted for board payments and a further five per cent of their wage paid to Victims of Crime NT,” Mr Elferink said.

“Sentenced to a Job provides low-security prisoners with an opportunity to learn valuable skills and gain a positive work ethic, increasing the likelihood of them retaining employment once they are released from the corrections system.

“This Government has set its sights firmly on reducing recidivism and to achieve this we are placing prisoners in real employment with something to lose, making them much less likely to reoffend on their release.

“Prisoners are captive work forces that are able to provide steady and flexible labour, will turn up on time and be free from alcohol and drugs.”

Mayor of Alice Springs Damien Ryan said it’s great to be working with the Correctional Centre in such a positive way.

“A focus of Council has always been community engagement,” Mr Ryan said.

“With this agreement, we look forward to providing opportunities for those who are committed to the workforce and to the betterment of their town.”

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