Media Release

John Elferink
Minister for Correctional Services

A message of safety in Territory prisons

8 July 2014

Prisoners in the Northern Territory have partnered with local company iTalk to produce a multi-media video, which will be used by inmates to learn about work health and safety in prison industries.

The videos use traditional storytelling in both English and local Indigenous languages to convey important messages to audiences with low levels of literacy.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said there are increasing numbers of inmates involved in prison industries, and it is essential to get safety messages out in formats that can be easily understood.

“As well as producing important informational material, prisoners who have created the videos have the opportunity to gain skills they never would have had in the past,” Mr Elferink said.

“They are now more competent with computers and technology, and have improved their own literacy and communication skills.

“Inmates will now also have the opportunity to build on their learning by producing other informational products for various projects within the corrections system.

“There is also potential to work with agencies and organisations to get key messages across to people in culturally appropriate ways in areas such as education and health.”

Mr Elferink said there is a very strong link between education and learning and a prisoner’s behaviour.

“A person who has a job, is skilled, educated and engaged is much less likely to offend and end up in jail than someone who is unemployed and welfare dependent,” he said.

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