PRISONERS GET NEW LIFE SKILLS AS CROC HANDLERS

Prisoners are learning new life skills thanks to a unique Crocodile Handling course initiated by the Darwin Correctional Centre, said Minister for Justice, Syd Stirling.

“The course is the first of its kind in Australia and will give prisoners the real life skills that they can use back in their communities,” said Minister Stirling. “It also helps with their rehabilitation.”

“The prisoners will not only learn how to handle crocodiles, but more general skills such as fencing repairs, building stock enclosures and providing reports.

“The course also helps with the rehabilitation of prisoners. Even the value of developing a work ethic in preparation for release cannot be underestimated.”

Minister Stirling said the prisoners would receive nationally recognised qualifications on completion of the course.

The Crocodile Farm owner, Mick Burns, has welcomed the initiative.

“This not only assists in the maintenance of the farm itself, but provides life skills which will ultimately be put back into the community,” said Mr Burns.

Five prisoners are taking part in the pilot course which is made up of 3 accredited units - maintaining stock culture and other structures; work with crocodiles and carrying out basic aquaculture activities.

The first 11 week course will finish next month, before a second course gets underway.

It is one of several new programs and initiatives being run from the new Darwin Correctional Centre Living Skills Unit.

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