Female Prisoners Give Back to the Community

The Darwin Correctional Centre’s first female prison work party has begun working in the community.

The Justice Minister Chris Burns said the five low-security women work outside the prison every day except weekends.

Today they were helping tend the gardens at the RSPCA in Berrimah.

“This is a fantastic initiative that allows the women to give something back to the community, helps with their rehabilitation and gives them new skills,” Dr Burns said.

“I’m told the women all love the work and dread weekends when they have to stay in the prison.

“Prison work parties allow prisoners to make better use of their time and provide great benefits to the community.

“The female work party has already been involved in special jobs at the Territory Wildlife Park, Wongabilla Equestrian Centre and collected rubbish from the streets. They also helped with two days of pre-cyclone cleanup in Darwin.”

Dr Burns said the Territory Government will more than double the prison work parties from three each in Darwin and Alice Springs to seven each over the next couple of years.

He said of the eight extra work parties, three are now operating in Darwin and one in Alice Springs. This brings the total number of work parties currently operating in Darwin to six, with four in Alice Springs.

Dr Burns said male prison work parties from both Darwin and Alice Springs have done a lot of good work in the past including mowing pensioners’ lawns and cleaning up after major events.

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