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CENSUS OF PRISONERS 1974

PRISON EXPERIENCES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Summary of findings	2-3
Education in prison	4-13
Comparisons between male and female prisoners	6-10
Comparisons between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners	11-13
Employment in prison	14-22
Comparisons between male and female prisoners	17-20
Comparisons between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners	21-22
Activities in prison	23-28
Comparisons between male and female prisoners	24-25
Comparisons between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners	26-28
Professional Services	29-30
Discussion	31-33

I. INTRODUCTION

This study is the fifth in a series of reports presenting data gathered from the 1974 census of prisoners who were in custody in N.S.W. corrective establishments on the night of 30th June 1974. There were 3,112 prisoners in custody on 30th June 1974 and census data were gathered for 3,089 prisoners comprising 99.3% of the total persons in custody. Thus the error rate due to complete omission of cases is less than 1%.

Usually census data relating to prisoners will comprise background social and criminal data. Research into the prison experiences of inmates normally takes the form of in-depth studies utilizing observation, interviews and measurement tools such as rating scales or attitude surveys. However it was considered important to collect some very basic information in certain areas of prison experience for all prisoners to provide a basis for subsequent in-depth research. Four areas of prison experience were selected for study by census questions: education, employment, organized activities and contact with professional staff. It was felt that these were major aspects of the correctional programme and that objective data could be gathered in these areas.

The usefulness of the data collected in this census is limited by the methodological problems which occur in any census. Firstly there is always the possibility of response error, either by inability to understand or answer the question or by deliberate falsification. Secondly there is the problem of respondents failing to answer certain questions: in this census the proportion of 'not stated' responses for some questions rose to almost 20%. Wherever these problems appear particularly relevant to any question, an explanatory note will be given in the discussion following the data table.

II. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Education

1. One quarter of N.S.W. prisoners were taking educational courses in 1974.
2. Of these 714 persons:
 - two thirds were studying technical-vocational subjects
 - one third were studying academic or remedial subjects
 - one third were attending classes in prison or at a technical college
 - two thirds were studying by correspondence or by private study.
3. Ten per cent of N.S.W. prisoners had completed an educational course while in prison and 6% had gained a qualification through these studies.
4. Proportionately more women prisoners were involved in educational courses than male prisoners. Of those women studying in prison:
 - 55% were taking food studies or secretarial courses
 - 65% were attending classes in prison or at a technical college. Almost one quarter of the women prisoners had gained a qualification through studies in prison.
5. Only 5% of unsentenced prisoners were studying educational courses in prison.

Employment in prison

1. Almost one third of male prisoners were engaged in trades or production work whilst in prison and almost one quarter were engaged in cooking, cleaning and related activities.
2. Two thirds of women prisoners were employed in food preparation, cleaning and related work.
3. Two thirds of the unsentenced prisoners who answered the question on prison employment stated that they were not employed in prison. Another 23% were employed in cooking, cleaning and related domestic tasks.

Activities in prison

1. Almost half the women prisoners and one third of the male prisoners stated that they participated in organized prison activities.

2. Women prisoners largely undertook hobbies and other non-sporting activities while male prisoners participated more frequently in sports.
3. Only 10% of unsentenced prisoners claimed to be participating in prison activities.

Contact with professional staff

1. At least one third of the male prisoners claimed to have spoken with each professional staff member employed in corrective establishments. Most frequent contact was made with medical personnel (55%).
2. Female prisoners appear to have a higher frequency of contact with professional staff, and 86% claimed to have spoken with medical personnel.

III. EDUCATION IN PRISON

It is known from overseas research and suggested by N.S.W. data, that those who become involved in crime frequently have a history of failure or deficiency in their schooling.¹ Moreover inmates with a history of juvenile commitments are likely not only to be lower in educational achievement than others in the community, but also to associate school with their failure and rejection.

Poor achievement in education and poor attitudes towards schooling hinder the employment prospects of many prisoners, and all of these factors may prevent a stable reintegration of the offender into the community. For this reason, it is often argued that correctional programmes should be provided to fill the prisoners' educational needs and enhance the prospects of successful rehabilitation.

In N.S.W. the use of systematic training with the specific aim of rehabilitation began in the early 1950s, with the provision of educational services (class tuition and correspondence) and a central library of technical and educational references. However it was not until 1968 that educational opportunities were extended to most prisoners in N.S.W. establishments and a variety of technical and vocational programmes offered. In 1969 trade training courses were offered by correspondence at Sydney Technical College, with related practical work conducted within the prison, and special literacy classes began. Special facilities were provided for prisoners at Berrima in 1970 so that school studies could be taken at evening classes, with study time during the day. More recently, short courses leading to specific skills have been introduced within certain establishments (e.g. commercial cookery, drink waiting) and selected prisoners have been released from custody to attend approved courses at technical colleges.

However the effect of these programmes upon the adjustment of prisoners upon release has not been measured. Overseas studies of the effects of educational programmes yield conflicting results. Lee cites research conducted by the Oregon Board of Control, indicating that freedom from re-imprisonment was associated with

1. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, Task Force Report: Corrections, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1967, p 53.

high-level skills and proposes further evaluative research.²

Yet, in the same volume Roberts more cautiously states:

"In the past ten years, a large body of research reports has been completed measuring the effectiveness of different correctional education programmes. None of the findings have indicated conclusively that the programmes being evaluated have been effective in the long term reduction of recidivism."³

This is reiterated by Waldo, who claims that "those studies that have attempted to establish the relationship between academic and vocational participation and post release behaviour provide only tentative, if not contradictory, conclusions".⁴ Thus there is no clear research support for correctional policies relating to prisoner education.

Administrative problems should also be considered in any evaluation of educational services to prisoners. In N.S.W., some relevant factors include the distribution of approximately 3,500 prisoners over thirty different correctional establishments, the high turnover of prisoners with almost 90% spending less than twelve months in custody,⁵ the broad range of educational backgrounds amongst prisoners and the constraints of a secured environment, in which over half of N.S.W. prisoners are housed.

The following findings relating to the use of educational facilities by prisoners should be evaluated in view of the rehabilitative aims of educational programmes, tempered by inconclusive research findings and considering the considerable administrative difficulties involved in the presentation of programmes within corrective establishments.

2. Lee Allen Evaluation of Adult Basic Education in Correctional Institutions, in Roberts A.R. (ed) Readings in Prison Education, Thomas, 1973.

3. *ibid* p. 349.

4. *ibid* p. 366.

5. Annual Report of the N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services, 1974-75 p. 87.

A. Comparisons between male and female prisoners

Table 1. Educational courses taken during imprisonment

Course	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Remedial, academic and general studies</u>						
Primary grades	6	0.2	1	1.8	7	0.2
Secondary form 1	5	0.2	-		5	0.2
" " 2	3	0.1	-		3	0.1
" " 3	10	0.3	-		10	0.3
" " 4	16	0.5	-		16	0.5
" " 5	5	0.2	-		5	0.2
" " 6	30	1.0	-		30	1.0
University studies	7	0.2	1	1.8	8	0.2
General studies	155	5.1	4	7.3	159	5.2
Subtotal remedial, academic & general	237	7.8	6	10.9	243	7.9
<u>Technical and vocational studies</u>						
Applied electrical trades	11	0.3	-		11	0.4
Art and graphic design	39	1.3	1	1.8	40	1.3
Automotive & aircraft engineering	43	1.4	-		43	1.4
Biological sciences	7	0.2	-		7	0.2
Building trades	96	3.2	-		96	3.1
Business and administration studies	48	1.6	-		48	1.5
Engineering trades	64	2.1	-		64	2.1
Food studies	35	1.2	6	10.9	41	1.3
Mechanical engineering	14	0.5	-		14	0.5
Rural studies	40	1.3	-		40	1.3
Secretarial studies	13	0.4	5	9.1	18	0.6
Other technical and vocational	30	1.0	1	1.8	31	1.0
Subtotal technical and vocational studies	440	14.5	13	23.6	453	14.7
<u>Miscellaneous studies</u>						
Music	10	0.3	-		10	0.3
First aid	7	0.2	1	1.8	8	0.2
No courses taken	2329	76.8	35	63.7	2364	76.5
Not stated	11	0.4	-		11	0.4
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

Almost one quarter of the prisoners in N.S.W. were undertaking educational courses: 8% were studying remedial or academic subjects while 15% were studying technical and vocational subjects.

A higher proportion of female prisoners were studying compared with male prisoners. Of the women in prison, 11% were undertaking remedial or academic subjects while 25% were taking technical, vocational and specialized studies. Most popular subjects for male prisoners were related to the building trades, engineering and business studies while the women most frequently studied subjects in food and secretarial courses.

Table 2. Method of studying courses during imprisonment

Method	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Class in prison	156	5.2	10	18.2	166	5.4
Attendance at technical college	62	2.0	3	5.5	65	2.1
Correspondence	410	13.5	7	12.7	417	13.5
Other	61	2.0	-	-	61	2.0
Not stated, not applicable	2345	77.3	35	63.6	2380	77.0
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

For male prisoners, the most usual method of studying educational subjects was by correspondence, with only 5% attending classes in prison and 2% leaving the prison to attend technical colleges. However the most usual method of study for women prisoners was in a class within the detention centre (18%), followed by correspondence (13%). A higher proportion of females was attending external technical courses (6%): this comprises a small group of women who were enrolled in a special hostess course.

Table 3. Educational courses completed in prison

Course completed	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Remedial, academic & general studies</u>						
Primary grades	4	0.1	-		4	0.1
Secondary form 1	2	0.1	-		2	0.1
2	4	0.1	-		4	0.1
3	8	0.3	-		8	0.3
4	20	0.7	-		20	0.7
5	4	0.1	1	1.8	5	0.1
6	16	0.5	-		16	0.5
University studies	-		-		-	
General studies	46	1.5	-		46	1.5
Subtotal remedial, academic & general	104	3.4	1	1.8	105	3.4
<u>Technical and vocational studies</u>						
Applied electrical trades	5	0.2	-		5	0.2
Art	9	0.3	-		9	0.3
Automotive & aircraft engineering	28	0.9	-		28	0.9
Building trades	20	0.7	-		20	0.7
Business & administrative studies	13	0.4	-		13	0.4
Engineering trades	26	0.9	-		26	0.8
Food studies	25	0.8	9	16.4	34	1.1
Mechanical engineering	5	0.2	-		5	0.2
Plumbing and sheet metal	9	0.3	-		9	0.3
Rural studies	31	1.0	-		31	1.0
Other technical & vocational	13	0.4	-		13	0.4
Subtotal technical & vocational	184	6.1	9	16.4	193	6.3
<u>Miscellaneous studies</u>						
First aid	13	0.4	3	5.4	16	0.5
Other	3	0.1	-		3	0.1
No courses taken	2727	89.9	42	76.4	2769	89.6
Not stated	3	0.1	-		3	0.1
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

Only 10% of prisoners in custody on 30th June 1974 had completed an educational course during their imprisonment. Of the males, 4% had completed miscellaneous, academic or general courses while 6% had completed technical and vocational courses. In contrast, 7% of the women had completed academic or miscellaneous subjects and 16% had completed technical courses in food studies (including the hostess course, mentioned earlier, that covers the planning and presentation of meals).

Table 4. Qualifications gained through studies in prison

Qualification	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Academic Certificate</u>						
Intermediate or school certificate	26	0.9	-		26	0.8
Leaving or higher school certificate	20	0.6	1	1.8	21	0.7
University degree	2	0.1	-		2	0.1
Total academic qualification	48	1.6	1	1.8	49	1.6
<u>Technical or trade certificate</u>						
Technical college certificate unspecified	7	0.2	-		7	0.2
Trade certificate unspecified	11	0.4	-		11	0.4
Boiler maintenance & operation	9	0.3	-		9	0.3
Cook's certificate	9	0.3	4	7.3	13	0.4
Greenkeeper's certificate	5	0.2	-		5	0.2
Welding certificate	6	0.2	-		6	0.2
Carpentry & joinery certificate	4	0.1			4	0.1
Plumber's certificate	4	0.1	-		4	0.1
Motor vehicle maintenance	4	0.1	-		4	0.1
Liquor-cellarman's certificate	4	0.1	-		4	0.1
Other technical-trade certificate	43	1.5	3	5.4	46	1.5
Total technical-trade qualification	106	3.5	7	12.7	113	3.6

Cont'd

Table 4. Qualifications gained through studies in prison cont'd

Qualification	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Miscellaneous certificate</u>						
First aid certificate	19	0.6	4	7.3	23	0.8
Music certificate	7	0.2	-	-	7	0.2
No qualification obtained	2491	82.1	39	70.9	2530	81.9
Not stated	363	12.0	4	7.3	367	11.9
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

Six per cent of male prisoners had gained a qualification through their studies in prison. Less than 2% had gained an academic qualification; almost 4% had gained a technical or trade qualification.

In contrast 22% of the women had gained a qualification with most gaining a technical certificate in cooking or from the hostess course (13%).

B. Comparison between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners

Table 5. Educational courses attended in prison analyzed by status of prisoners

Educational course	Sentenced	% Sentenced	Appellant	Awaiting trial or sentence	Remand	Debtor	Deportee Prohibited Immigrant	Not known	Total NUS	% NUS	TOTAL	%
<u>Academic and general</u>												
Primary studies	7	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	0.2
Secondary forms 1-4	34	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	1.1
Secondary forms 5-6	33	1.2	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.5	35	1.1
Univeristy studies	8	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0.3
General studies	153	5.7	1	1	4	-	-	-	6	1.4	159	5.2
First aid	8	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0.3
Other miscellaneous	10	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	0.3
Total academic & general	253	9.5	3	1	4	-	-	-	8	1.9	261	8.5

Cont'd

Table 5. Educational courses attended in prison analyzed by status of prisoners cont'd

Educational course	Sentenced	% Sentenced	Appellant	Awaiting trial or sentence	Remand	Debtor	Deportee Prohibited Immigrant	Not known	Total NUS	% NUS	TOTAL	%
<u>Technical and vocational</u>												
Art and graphic design	37	1.4	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	0.7	40	1.3
Automotive & aircraft engineering	42	1.6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	43	1.4
Building trades	92	3.4	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	1.1	96	3.1
Business & admin. studies	47	1.8	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	48	1.6
Engineering trades	64	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	2.1
Food studies	40	1.5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	0.2	41	1.3
Rural studies	39	1.4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	40	1.3
Other technical/vocational	79	3.0	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	0.5	81	2.6
Total technical/vocational	440	16.5	7	2	3	1	-	-	13	3.1	453	14.7
No courses taken	1637	61.3	46	102	172	8	13	1	342	81.2	1979	64.0
Not stated	338	12.7	3	5	26	10	1	13	58	13.8	396	12.8
TOTAL	2668	100.0	59	110	205	19	14	14	421	100.0	3089	100.0

Table 5. Educational courses attended in prison analyzed by status of prisoners

Compared with sentenced prisoners, a very small proportion of unsentenced prisoners were undertaking educational courses in prison. Whereas 26% of sentenced prisoners were studying in prison only 5% of unsentenced prisoners were enrolled in courses. The unsentenced prisoners who were enrolled in courses largely comprised appellants (who may have commenced studies upon being sentenced) and remand prisoners. It is probable that remand prisoners were awaiting examination on a substantial charge and were expected to remain in custody for some time either awaiting trial or as sentenced prisoners if they were pleading guilty.

IV. EMPLOYMENT IN PRISON

Work has always formed part of the prison experience of N.S.W. offenders. When the colony was established in 1788, the convicts who arrived on the transport ships were housed in huts at night and put to work during the day on the various projects essential to the colony's development. As gaols were built for convicts, and later for free settlers who committed offences in N.S.W., provisions for prison work were made. By the early twentieth century a considerable number of industrial and agricultural tasks were being carried out by prison labour. Some of these comprised: marble cutting and polishing, mat-making, brushmaking, carpentry, tailoring, bookbinding, baking, market gardening, diarying and pig raising.

Under the influence of the rehabilitation philosophy of corrections, many changes have occurred in prison industries over the last quarter-century. Major changes include the increased mechanization of prison workshops, establishment of more modern industries and abandonment of some obsolete trades, reorganization of industrial management and revision of the earnings scheme for prisoners. Some of the more recently established industries comprise metal fabrication, tubular steel furniture making, and light engineering.

Any prison occupation from which revenue may be obtained is defined as a prison industry, but the primary aim of prison industries is not that of profit although the burden on the community is eased if the industry is self supporting. The primary aim is "to develop work habits in providing a basis for successful future employment."⁶ In this respect, N.S.W. correctional policy is similar to European policy expressed by Neal:

"With limited exceptions, such as the highly developed institutions where it has been given a special status in the treatment regime, few penal administrations would claim that industrial or other forms of work aim seriously higher for the vast majority of prisoners than seeking to inculcate the regular habit of work. The habit of work as envisaged here embraces also such satisfactions as may be derived from achievement and the self-respect that may result from

6. Directory of Corrective Services 1976, N.S.W. Dept. of Corrective Services p.25.

carrying out what the individual concerned regards as a useful activity. This ostensibly modest aim - it is not in practice as modest as it sounds - is held to justify the allocation of staff and expensive resources to industrial, farming, construction and other work activity. If, in the performance of a work task, prisoners allocated to it derive skills that in due course will be useful to them on discharge, that is a bonus."⁷

Some of the administrative constraints which affect the achievement of these aims are discussed by Neale. The most obvious constraint is technological: "the manufacturing capacity of industries in prison will always be constrained by such factors as the turnover of labour, limited resources and the absence of skills".⁸ Secondly is the need to co-ordinate work with all other aspects of prison routine: in even the most basic needs of space, plant, power, time, staffing, prisoner manpower and management effort, the work needs will limit the availability of these resources for other activities. Compromises are necessary. For example, in many corrective establishments, working hours are reduced to less than six hours per day to accommodate staff rostering, counting of prisoners and other demands of a security system. A third constraint is public opinion. This may be favourable if the prison industries are seen to be efficient and little burden on public funds, but even if the industries are viable public opinion may be adverse "especially if private industrial interests are seen to be prejudiced by the activities of prison labour or, perhaps more acutely, if the employment prospects of free workmen in a particular industry or in a particular locality are thought to be threatened."⁹ Neale advocates consultation with trade and employment interests to create understanding of and perhaps support for the specific objectives of prison industries. Finally, the lack of real incentives for the prisoner workforce is a serious problem. Remuneration for prison labour is seen as little more than pocket money with which to purchase a few small articles taken for granted outside.

7. Neale K.J. Work in Penal Institutions, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1976 p. 25.

8. *ibid* p. 36.

9. *ibid* p. 34.

Moreover all of the constraints discussed above operate to make the payment of prisoner labour at market rates uneconomic (with the exception of work release schemes and programmes for offenders living outside the prison). For some prisoners 'normal' wages are unattractive if they are required then to pay compensation or support their families who are then no longer eligible for social service payments. Gains in terms of responsibility or relief to crime victims must be compared with the effects on the prisoner's savings for his release and his motivation to continue working for little immediate personal benefit.

It is with due respect to the history, aims and constraints discussed in preceding paragraphs that the deployment of prisoner labour must be assessed.

A. Comparisons between male and female prisoners

Table 6. Prison employment of male and female inmates (including work releasees)

Job in Prison	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<u>Administrative, clerical and related work</u>						
clerk	85		-		85	
library assistant	33		-		33	
other office & messengerial work (a)	14		-		14	
Sub-total administrative, cleaning & related	132	4.3	-	-	132	4.3
<u>Sales</u>						
salesman	2	0.1	-	-	2	0.1
<u>Farming and related</u>						
farm hand	79		-		79	
timber worker	84		-		84	
gardener	103		2		105	
Sub-total farming & related	266	8.8	2	3.6	268	8.7

Cont'd

Table 6. Prison employment of male and female inmates (including work releasees) cont'd

Job in Prison	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<u>Trades and production</u>						
baker	48		-		48	
boilerman	22		-		22	
butcher	18		-		18	
construction & maintenance (b)	157		-		157	
carpenter	65		-		65	
electrician	15		-		15	
labourer	112		-		112	
machinist	60		-		60	
mechanic	18		-		18	
metal worker (c)	62		-		62	
painter-plasterer	73		-		73	
printing worker (d)	29		-		29	
storeman	47		-		47	
tailor-leatherworker & related	138		9		147	
other trade & production work (e)	75		-		75	
Sub-total trade & production work	939	30.9	9	16.4	948	30.7

Cont'd

Table 6. Prison employment of male and female inmates (including work releasees) cont'd

Job in Prison	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<u>Cooking, cleaning and related</u>						
cook & servery worker	195		7		202	
laundry worker	92		7		99	
hospital orderly	13		-		13	
sweeper-garbage worker-polisher	396		21		417	
other related work (f)	19		1		20	
Sub-total cooking, cleaning & related	715	23.6	36	65.5	751	24.3
<u>Miscellaneous employment</u>						
unskilled light work (g)	30		-		30	
community work & braille writing	29		-		29	
driving (includes tractor)	27		-		27	
other (h)	18		-		18	
Sub-total miscellaneous	104	3.4	-		104	3.3
Not employed in prison	412	13.6	3	5.4	415	13.4
Not stated	464	15.3	5	9.1	469	15.2
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

Table 6. Prison employment of male and female inmates
(including work releasees) cont'd

- a) dental assistant, office worker, typist, messenger, draftsman, manager
- b) bricklayer, builder, concrete mixer, brick cleaner, maintenance worker, rigger, dogman
- c) plumber, presser, welder-fitter, tinsmith, moulder, sheetmetal worker
- d) bookbinder, printer, proofreader
- e) leading hand, general workshop, tyre fitter, tiler
- f) reception room worker, officers mess
- g) folding lottery tickets, cork counting, net making
- h) student, graphic design, technician, barber.

Male prisoners are most frequently employed in trades and production work (31%) or cooking, cleaning and related activities (24%). Very few are employed in clerical and related tasks (4%) or in rural activities such as farming, gardening and afforestation work (9%). Almost 14% of male prisoners stated that they were not employed in prison: these respondents would comprise unsentenced prisoners who elected not to work, and those who were ill or incapacitated.

In contrast, female prisoners are largely employed in cooking, cleaning and related tasks (66%) with only 16% employed in industrial sewing. Only 5% of women respondents stated that they were not employed in prison because of their health.

B. Comparisons between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners
 Table 7. Prison employment analyzed by status of inmates

Employment	Sentenced	% Under Sentence	NOT UNDER SENTENCE						Total NUS	% NUS	TOTAL	%
			Appellant	Trial or awaiting sentence	Remand	Debtor	Deportee prohibited migrant	Not known				
Not employed in prison	183	6.9	17	60	137	6	12	-	232	55.1	415	13.4
Administrative clerical and related work	125	4.7	5	2	-	-	-	-	7	1.7	132	4.3
Sales (work release)	2	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.1
Farming and related work	266	10.0	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	0.5	268	8.7
Trades and production work	931	34.9	4	6	7	-	-	-	17	4.0	948	30.7
Cooking, cleaning and related work	674	25.3	25	29	20	1	2	-	77	18.3	751	24.3
Miscellaneous employment	99	3.6	4	1	-	-	-	-	5	1.2	104	3.3
Not stated	388	14.5	4	11	41	11	-	14	81	19.2	469	15.2
TOTAL	2668	100.0	59	110	205	19	14	14	421	100.0	3089	100.0

Table 7. Prison employment analyzed by status of inmates

Over half the unsentenced prisoners (55%) compared with 7% of the sentenced prisoners stated that they were not employed at the time of the census. In comparison with sentenced prisoners, unsentenced inmates were particularly under-represented in farming and related work (less than 1%), and trades and production work (4%). They were most frequently employed in domestic work around the prison, with 18% engaged in cooking, cleaning and related work.

A large proportion of prisoners in both categories failed to answer this question, and it is likely that many of the unsentenced prisoners were not employed. Thus the known unemployment rate of 55% for unsentenced prisoners should be regarded as a minimum rate. The unemployment rate for prisoners who responded to the census question is 8% for sentenced prisoners and 68% for unsentenced prisoners: it is likely that these figures give a better approximation to the actual employment situation for all prisoners.

V. ACTIVITIES IN PRISON

A number of aims are generally set for recreational activities in prison. Firstly, they are designed to act as a relief from the restrictions of confinement, as a type of "safety valve" after the tensions of imprisonment. Other subsidiary aims are secondly, to provide activities that provide a legitimate use of leisure and foster participation in non-criminal recreational groups upon release, and thirdly, to encourage selected inmate involvement in community recreational activity.

Prior to the 1920s, leisure activities in N.S.W. prisons largely comprised exercise in single file under supervision and the reading of religious and educational material. Since then, organized activities gradually extended to concerts, films, sports and crafts within the prison, and participation in community sporting and cultural activities.

However some administrative problems limit the extent to which leisure programmes may be implemented. With respect to sporting activities, the provision of playing fields, swimming pools and other facilities must be related to costs, potential users and the availability of space when areas for accommodation, workshops and staff facilities are often in demand. Within secured establishments, the use of sporting facilities largely depends on the availability of staff to supervise groups of prisoners, so that a limited number of inmates may be able to take advantage of existing facilities. The problems become more complex when participation in community activities is considered, for the security ratings of all inmates involved must be considered and the costs of transporting inmates to functions or fixtures together with costs of supervision must also be calculated. Since these activities largely occur in the evenings or at weekends, staff salaries at penalty or overtime rates must be assessed. Similar constraints relating to security and staffing apply to hobbies and cultural activities.

In the absence of any research into the effects of prison activities upon the subsequent behaviour of prisoners on release, the data on activities presented below should be assessed using the question:

Are relevant prison activities being organized and are they used as a "safety valve" by the majority of prisoners?

A. Comparisons between male and female prisoners

Table 8. Organized prison activities

Activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No activities undertaken	1740	57.3	24	43.6	1764	57.1
<u>Sporting activities</u>						
Cricket	6	0.2	-	-	6	0.2
Rugby league or union	13	0.4	-	-	13	0.4
Soccer	57	1.9	-	-	57	1.9
Table tennis	6	0.2	-	-	6	0.2
Touch football	63	2.1	-	-	63	2.0
Weight training	83	2.7	-	-	83	2.7
Basketball	91	3.0	-	-	91	3.0
Multiple sports	118	3.9	1	1.8	119	3.8
Other sports	97	3.2	5	9.1	102	3.3
Total engaged in sports	534	17.6	6	10.9	540	17.5
<u>Non sporting activities</u>						
Art	88	2.9	1	1.8	89	2.9
Chess	7	0.2	-	-	7	0.2
Debating or discussion group	33	1.1	-	-	33	1.1
Drama	8	0.3	2	3.6	10	0.3
Handcraft	17	0.6	-	-	17	0.5
Match hobbies	10	0.3	-	-	10	0.3
Music - instrument or listening group	40	1.3	-	-	40	1.3
Toy making	8	0.3	-	-	8	0.3
Woodwork	40	1.3	-	-	40	1.3
Multiple hobbies	35	1.2	8	14.6	43	1.4
Other non-sporting activities	22	0.7	8	14.6	30	1.0
Total engaged in non-sporting activities	308	10.2	19	34.6	327	10.6
Multiple sports and hobbies undertaken	61	2.0	-	-	61	2.0
Not stated	391	12.9	6	10.9	397	12.8
TOTAL	3034	100.0	55	100.0	3089	100.0

Table 8. Organized prison activities

Women prisoners stated that they participate more than males in prison activities: no activities were undertaken by 44% of the female respondents compared with 57% of male respondents. One third of the women claimed to be participating in non sporting activities, comprising art, drama, toastmistress, hair care, fashion and design, pottery, weaving and embroidery. Only 11% of the women prisoners claimed to be undertaking sporting activities during their imprisonment (gymnastics, hockey and softball).

In contrast, 18% of the male prisoners stated that they participated in sports, the most common single sports being basketball, weight training and touch football. Non-sporting activities were undertaken by 10% of the male prisoners, with most popular activities comprising art, music, debating and woodwork. Only 2% of the respondents claimed to be undertaking a variety of sporting and non-sporting activities: for most prisoners only one activity, if any, was tackled.

B. Comparisons between sentenced and unsentenced prisoners
 Table 9. Prison activities analyzed by status of inmates

Activities	Sentenced	Sentenced %	NOT UNDER SENTENCE							Total NUS	% NUS	TOTAL	%
			Appellant	Awaiting trial or sentence	Remand	Debtor	Deportee or prohibited immigrant	Not stated					
No activities undertaken	1444	54.1	43	89	167	8	12	1	320	76.0	1764	57.1	
Sporting activities													
basketball	74	2.8	7	7	3	-	-	-	17	4.0	91	2.9	
weight training	83	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	2.7	
touch football	63	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	2.0	
soccer	57	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	1.8	
rugby league or union	12	0.4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0.2	13	0.4	
other sports	104	3.9	1	4	4	-	1	-	10	2.4	114	3.7	
multiple sports	117	4.4	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	0.5	119	3.9	
Total engaged in sports	510	19.1	9	12	7	-	2	-	30	7.1	540	17.5	

Cont'd

Table 9. Prison activities analyzed by status of inmates cont'd

Activities	Sentenced	% Sentenced	NOT UNDER SENTENCE						Total NUS	% NUS	TOTAL	%
			Appellant	Awaiting trial or sentence	Remand	Debtor	Deportee or immigrant	Not stated				
<u>Non-sporting activities</u>												
art	87	3.3	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	0.5	89	2.9
debating-discussion	33	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	1.0
music	39	1.5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	40	1.3
woodwork	39	1.5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	0.2	40	1.3
handcrafts*	35	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	1.1
other hobbies	43	1.6	1	2	1	-	-	-	4	1.0	47	1.5
multiple hobbies	42	1.5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	43	1.4
Total engaged in non-sporting activities	318	11.9	4	2	2	1	-	-	9	2.1	327	10.5
Multiple sports & hobbies	59	2.2	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	0.5	61	2.0
Not stated	337	12.6	3	6	28	10	-	-	60	14.3	397	12.9
TOTAL	2668	100.0	59	110	205	19	14	14	421	100.0	3089	100.0

* includes handcraft, match hobbies, toymaking.

Table 9. Prison activities analyzed by status of inmates

Whereas one third of sentenced prisoners claimed to be participating in some form of organized activity during their imprisonment, only 10% of unsentenced prisoners were participants. The majority of participants in both groups were engaged in sporting activities. However the small proportion of unsentenced prisoners involved in activities, together with the finding that at least 55% of unsentenced prisoners are unemployed, raises the issue of how these prisoners spend the period in prison.

It must be remembered, however, that unsentenced prisoners usually spend very short periods in custody. According to the publication "Prison Statistics" released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 84% of unsentenced prisoners released during 1974-75 spent less than 1 month in custody and 96% spent less than 3 months in custody (p.p. 28-29).

Prisoners were not asked whether they watched television, listened to the radio or read library books and newspapers for any length of time, but it is likely that these pursuits, together with informal talking, occupied those unsentenced prisoners who neither worked nor participated in organized sports or hobbies.

VI. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Professional staff are employed to provide specialist services for the welfare of prisoners. Not all prisoners may require the services of each specialist, but it is essential that prisoners know which services exist and how the professional staff may be contacted if the need arises.

Medical personnel Full-time medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing staff are employed at the Long Bay Prison Complex, with specialist services provided on a consultation basis. At other establishments medical services are provided by private practitioners who visit the major establishments on a regular basis or by escorting the prisoner from a small establishment to the district hospital or Medical Officers' surgery.

Chaplains Full-time chaplains have been appointed to the prisons within the Long Bay Complex and to Goulburn Training Centre. At other establishments, chaplaincy services are provided by the local clergy who visit on a regular basis.

Psychologists Resident psychologists are located at most of the major correctional establishments and a regular visiting service is provided to some of the smaller establishments.

Parole, Education and Welfare Officers These professional staff members provide special services to certain prisoners. Some staff are located at major reception establishments, but prisoners at smaller establishments are provided with services by officers who visit regularly and to meet special needs.

At the time of the 1974 census, probation and parole staff were located at Cessnock Corrective Centre and the Long Bay Complex for regular prisoner interviews while other establishments were visited from the nearest district office: Welfare Officers were located at the Long Bay Complex, Parramatta Gaol, Goulburn Training Centre and Maitland Gaol, while Education Officers were located at the Long Bay Complex, Goulburn Training Centre, and the Silverwater Complex.

Some of the problems faced by professional personnel in providing a service to prisoners comprise the scattered location of prisons, the lack of sufficient private interviewing rooms in some establishments and often the conflict between security requirements and perceived needs of the prisoner for "ideal treatment". These problems are similar to problems found in prison systems anywhere.

Table 10. Contact with professional staff within the prison

Contact with professional staff member	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Doctor or nurse	1683	55.5	47	85.5	1730	56.0
Parole officer	1297	42.8	38	69.1	1335	43.2
Education officer (programmes officer)	1218	40.2	25	45.5	1243	40.2
Chaplain	1046	34.5	21	38.2	1067	34.5
Psychiatrist	1031	34.0	30	54.6	1061	34.3
Welfare Officer	918	30.3	28	50.9	946	30.6
Psychologist	850	28.0	25	45.5	875	28.3

Between one-third and one-half of the prisoners in custody on 30th June 1974 claimed to have had some contact with each of the professional staff members employed at corrective establishments. It is not known whether the same prisoners contacted all professional staff members or whether different prisoners are represented in each case. Certainly, it must be remembered that only some of these staff members would be available for immediate consultation at smaller establishments.

Female prisoners appear to have a higher frequency of contact with professional staff than male prisoners. In particular 86% stated that they had experienced contact with medical personnel and over two thirds had spoken with a parole officer. Over half the respondents claimed to have spoken with a psychiatrist and a welfare officer.

These findings with respect to female prisoners could reflect the greater accessibility of professional staff in a small establishment where all of the professional staff listed are present for consultation, usually on a regular part-time basis. Alternatively they could indicate a greater readiness for female prisoners to talk with professional staff and use their services (this could be true of women in general).

DISCUSSION

1. Policy implications of findings

A. Prison Industries

An ideal for prison industries as expressed in the Swedish penal system is stated as follows:

"One important characteristic of Swedish prison time is full employment. With the exception of the 10 per cent of inmates who study full time or the physically ill, all able-bodied prisoners work a full work week at relatively high wages (though not yet at outside rates). Work is not "busy work" per se, it is geared toward commercial manufacturing and, thus, the quality is high. Shops are modern and supervised by civilian foremen. Training is available for jobs requiring special skills."¹

Although there is a low unemployment rate in N.S.W. prisons, small numbers are involved in prison industries. However there are problems involved in expanding prison industries.

Especially in times of economic difficulty there is increasing interest by Trade Unions in prison industries because of their potential threat to the jobs and working conditions of free labour.

This concern is well illustrated in an extract from "Red Tape", the publication of the Public Service Association of N.S.W.:

"Over a period of months, and especially in the current economic climate, Labor Council of N.S.W. has expressed serious concern that the employment of prisoners in certain prison industries takes away from free citizens the opportunity of employment, and there have also been apparent suggestions that prison industries may be competing unfairly with commercial enterprise.

"The Association has conferred with the Minister of Justice and Services ... (who) has established an official committee to advise him of current problems in this area.

1. Friday P.C. Sanctioning in Sweden: An Overview, Federal Probation, Vol. XXXX No. 3 September 1976 p.52

"The Minister's committee consists of two representatives of the Department of Corrective Services, two of the P.S.A. and two of the Labor Council. The Committee will inspect certain prison industries in the near future and report to the Minister".²

The policy statements of the Labor Council of New South Wales with respect to prison industries, presented in March 1976 include the following: that there should be no exploitation of prison labour; that departmental tenders for outside contracts should be based on all cost factors that would be applicable in private industry; that prisoners should be paid award rates of pay; that safeguards should be adopted to protect union members against the effects of unfair competition from prison labour.

Particular complaints from the relevant trade unions have been received with respect to the bread baking industry, the Parramatta Linen Service and the furniture production industry.

The response of the department has been to facilitate inspections and discussions on prison industries with representatives of the unions concerned forming the Ministers' advisory committee. The problems of the department in administering prison industries have been presented: problems of gainfully employing prisoners in areas having some parallels with commercial enterprise, of providing training opportunities and of minimizing costs. The attainment of the ideal objective would require large scale capital investment, improved productivity and quality and more importantly, participation with and acceptance by all related bodies such as unions and other business houses sharing the market.

No final solution to the respective problems of prison administrators and trade unions is as yet at hand but discussions are continuing.

B. Prisoner education and activities

While it is difficult to demonstrate that educational courses taken in prison influence subsequent recidivism, there is anecdotal and observational evidence to suggest that educational programmes contribute to the positive social atmosphere. That is, they seem to assist in preventing prisoner unrest and facilitating the short term adjustment of offenders to the

prison environment.

Constraints on the extension of educational programmes mainly lie in the nature of the prison population and the time spent in prison. Thus the goal of increasing the level of general educational attainment of most prisoners would be impractical. A more fruitful approach, it seems, would be to identify and then try to meet special needs of groups of prisoners. This has already been commenced, with special research and activities established for aboriginal prisoners.

2. Methodological implications

The conclusions which may be drawn from the data presented above have been limited because the information was obtained through a census. The census methodology is suited to the gathering of relatively discrete, objective data from large numbers of respondents: it is most efficient when respondents are literate and motivated to complete the form. With censuses of prisoners it has been found necessary to interview a substantial proportion of respondents who decline to answer census questions initially or who are unable to respond. However this technique is not always successful as the incidence of "not stated" replies to many questions indicates.

The census has provided guidelines as to the scope and extent of inmate participation in work, educational programmes and organized recreation. Ideally, the next step in a research programme into these areas would be to conduct sample studies in which the attitudes of different groups of prisoners to these activities were measured. An important area for study within the field of prisoner education would be reasons for the non-completion of courses. Possible variables would include prisoner motivation, system factors such as transfers and release dates, the perceived difficulty of the course and competing activities. Follow-up studies related to the relevance of industrial and educational experiences to post-release activities would also be desirable as the third stage of such a research programme.

