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The Performance of Work Releasees
on Parole

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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following publication is the third in a series of three reports concerning the New South Wales Work Release Scheme since its inception in 1969.

This volume provides an analysis of the performance of work releasees on parole, as an initial examination of the effects of work release after the inmate is discharged from custody.

Volume 1 describes the administrative development of the scheme over its first seven years of operation, together with attitudes of staff and inmates to the present scheme.

Volume 2 presents statistical data which describes all inmates placed on the work release programme from July 1969 to June 1976 and develops a typology of successes and failures on the scheme.

This study has been made possible by the co-operation of the probation and parole officers who completed the questionnaires on the work releasees. Their assistance in all stages of research was greatly appreciated.

The series of reports on the Work Release scheme is the outcome of research carried out over a seven year period by the Research and Statistics Division under the direction of Mrs. M. Dewdney, Senior Research Officer.

The collection of data for this study was carried out by Mrs. M. Miner, Research Officer. The final report was written and prepared for publication by Miss E. Crossing, Research Officer.

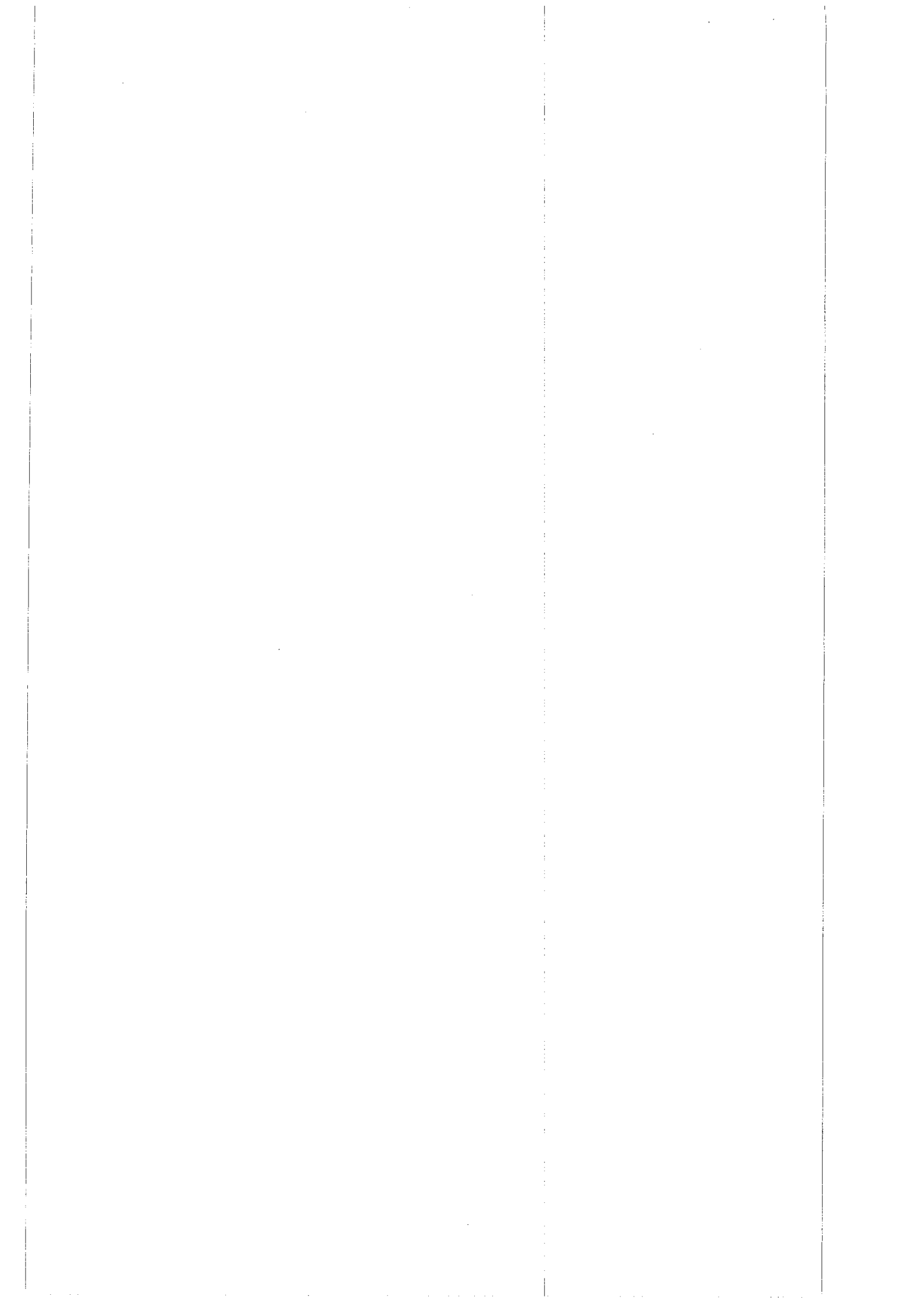
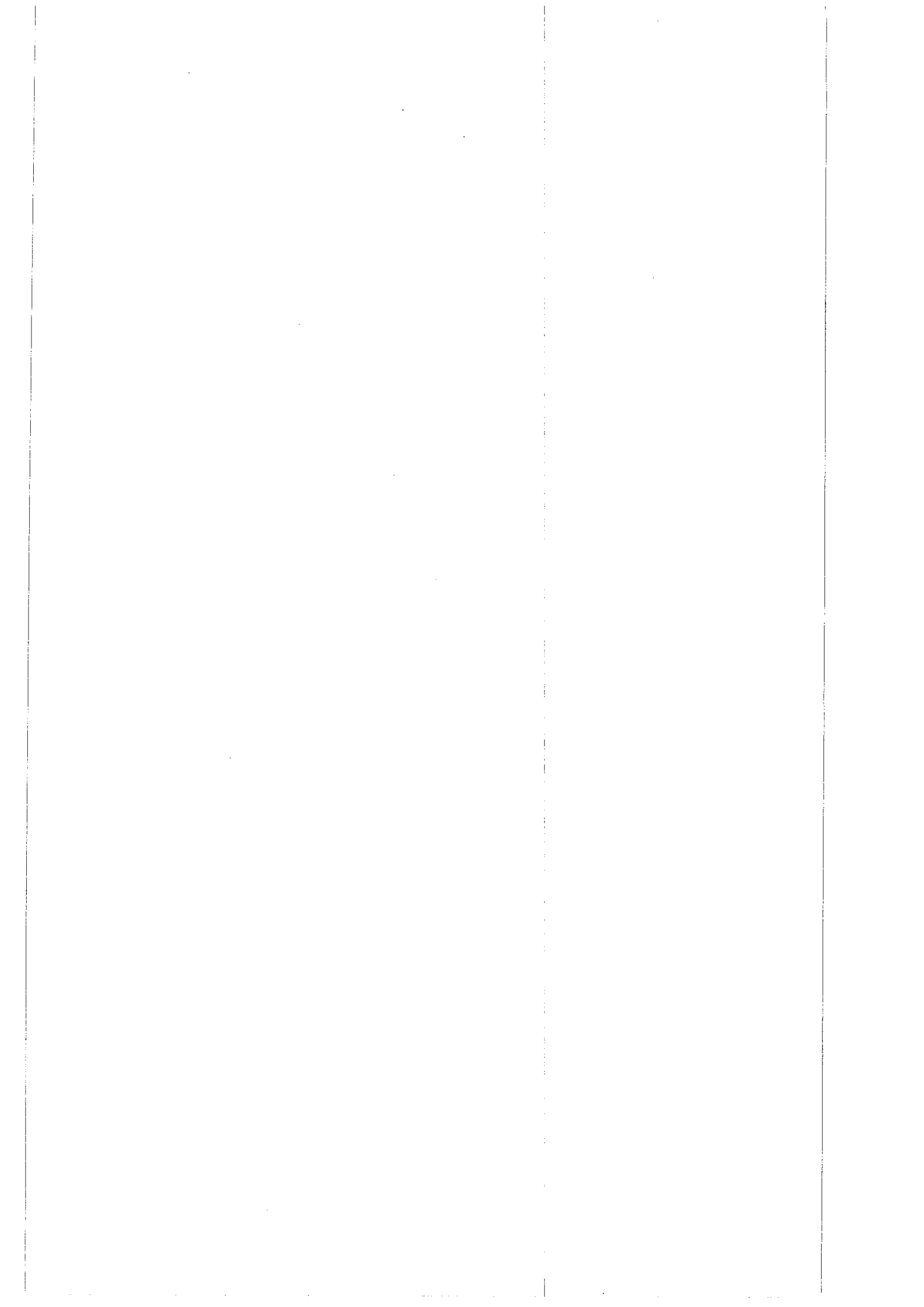


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INTRODUCTION

Work release

Work release is an administrative programme. It enables selected prisoners temporary leave from their institution in order to work at ordinary jobs in the community during the day and return to a prison hostel for supervision at night.

The present work release programme began in New South Wales in July, 1969. The work release centre is situated in an open setting within the Silverwater complex of prisons, 19 kilometres west of central Sydney.

The objective of work release

The main objective of work release is to provide a bridge between imprisonment and the free society, and thereby facilitate a gradual return to society for the inmate.

It provides the offender with community experience, while he still remains under the full authority of the prison administration. Lawrence Root¹ wrote that "Work release has value if only to break down the isolation of the prisoners and the prison."

Focus of study

The focus of this study is centred upon the performance on parole of those men who participated in the work release scheme and the effect that work release had on these offenders. Therefore, in order to put this study into perspective, it is necessary, first of all, to describe the work release scheme.

The work release programme

Employment for the inmate is secured within reasonable travelling distance from the work release centre, at prevailing rates of pay and industrial conditions. Job placements are arranged by an officer of the Commonwealth Employment Service, who is located at the Silverwater centre.

The work releasee is required to collect his wages and hand them intact to the hostel staff. Reductions are then made for board and lodging at the centre, maintenance of dependents and payments of fines or compensation where applicable. A fixed amount is returned to the releasee for fares and incidental expenses, and the remainder of his wages is then placed in a savings account to be received by him on discharge from prison.

1 Root, L.S. State Work Release Programs: An Analysis of Operational Policies. Federal Probation, Vol. 36 March 1973, No. 1, p.57.

The work releasee is subject to certain prohibitions.² These include absence from the centre without permission, gambling, introduction of drugs or alcohol to the centre, unauthorized visits away from the centre, entering into contractual agreements (e.g. hire purchase). Failure to report to or return from authorised employment is considered to be an escape, and serious breaches of the house rules are likely to result in removal from the programme.

An incentive scheme of weekend leave every month operates for the work releasee. This has to be earned by participation in community service projects. Sporting teams are also organized and evening education by correspondence or attendance at local technical colleges is encouraged. Leave is also provided to enable inmates to attend district meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous. Prior to church services being held at the centre, inmates were granted leave to attend local church services. Facilities for recreational activities and hobbies are available at the centre.

Selection

Selection of offenders to be placed on the work release scheme is of obvious importance. Since inception inmates have been selected for work release by a selection committee.

In 1970 the guidelines for selection were set down as follows:

1. Personal qualities of the inmate
 - stability in past employment
 - capacity to accept direction
 - loyalty
 - lack of addictive traits
2. Lack of danger to society
3. Proof of trust within the institution
4. Work release placement only during last six to eight months of non-parole period or in terminal stages of a long sentence if no non-parole period is set.
5. Short term prisoners selected for work release should be reliable first offenders
6. Offence of murder does not result in automatic exclusion but selection would depend on the individual case
7. The prisoner had no previous participation in the programme.

In November 1976, further policy guide-lines were set down. The main question asked for selection now was "will this man at this point of time be able to benefit himself and the community without abusing the privileges granted to him?"

2 see Appendix 1 for a full list of the standing rules.

Advantages of work release

The work release scheme is perceived as having certain advantages for both the inmate and prison administration, which include:

- provision of a job which can be continued on release
- training in normal work habits
- maintenance of family ties (provisions are made for home visits)
- some financial responsibility taken by the offender for himself and his family (the offender contributes to his board at the work release centre and sends money to his dependents)
- decreased costs of prison administration (the offender contributes to his board)
- savings in social assistance (the offender supports his dependents)

In a previous publication in this series³ interviews with the inmates associated with work release revealed that they felt the main benefits of work release were financial benefits, resocialization effects through relating to people and gradually returning to the community, employment benefits through job continuity and learning to keep a job, and support of their families.

In contrast to inmates discharged directly from prison, work releasees have accumulated savings according to the length of time spent on the work release programme, and thus they return to the community with finances⁴ on release. This view is held by Waldo, Chiricos and Dobrin⁴ who state "It is easy to imagine work release participants being more optimistic about their chances of avoiding future criminal behaviour after release from prison, inasmuch as they are leaving prison with more money in their pockets and greater assurances of immediate employment than are most other inmates who have not been on work release".

Work releasees on parole

This publication is concerned with the performance on parole of those men who have passed through the work release scheme.

The aim of the study is to determine what effect the experience of the work release scheme has on offenders when they are released to parole.

While there is considerable material published evaluating work release programmes in other countries, few attempts have been made to examine these schemes in the light of the performance of their participants after their release from prison.

3 N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services, Research and Statistics Division, Publication No.16, The History and Administration of the N.S.W. Work Release Scheme 1969-1977.

4 Waldo, G.P., Chiricos, T.G., Dobrin, L.E. Community Contact and Inmate Attitudes. Criminology. Vol.11. No.3. November, 1973 p.353.

One study of this nature has been conducted by Rudoff and Esselstyn⁵, on the work furlough programme operating at the Elmwood Rehabilitation Center in California during the years 1968-70. Initially they compared the performance and traits of the work furlough inmates with those of the non furlough inmates who resided at the same Centre. They found that over the period of work furlough or work release, changes in self image were more marked and more negative for the work furlough group. The work furlough inmates also tended to view themselves as non criminals compared with other inmates, and thus less accepting of the custody at Elmwood.

Rudoff and Esselstyn then went on to examine the differences in criminality between the two groups after release from the Center.

Matched samples of a group of work furlough and a group of non-furloughs, 100 in each sample, were examined. In order to eliminate selection bias, the groups were carefully matched on age, attitudes, personality characteristics; all alcoholics and drug users were excluded from the study.

Rudoff and Esselstyn found that the work furlough releasees remained at large for longer periods, their offences were not so serious and they spent less time in gaol.

They concluded that "with selection bias neutralized in the matched samples, the results show that men who had been placed on work furlough fared better recidivistically than those who had not. It is inferred, then, that the difference was due to the work furlough experience itself."⁶

Another study testing the effectiveness of work release schemes in changing inmate attitudes and behaviour was carried out by Waldo, Chiricos and Dobrin in 1973 in Florida.⁷

They found in their study that the work release participants do not have significantly better attitudes than non participants at the conclusion of their prison term.

Recidivism

Recidivism amongst work releasees is currently being examined in a study on all work releasees released from Silverwater Work Release Centre during 1973-74.⁸ This study is a follow-up of prisoners focusing on police records in order to determine the percentage of reconstructions and provide a profile of recidivists.

5 Rudoff, A. and Esselstyn, T.C. Evaluating Work Furlough : A Followup. Federal Probation. Vol.36, No.1, March 1973, pp.48-53.

6 *ibid.* p.52

7 Waldo, Chiricos, Dobrin. *op. cit.*

8 Recidivism amongst work releasees. Information currently undergoing analysis, and will be published as a report at a later date by the Research and Statistics Division, N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services.

Parole

In the New South Wales handbook on parole;⁹ parole is defined as "the release of a prisoner, upon conditions, earlier than the end of his sentence. If granted parole, he completes his sentence in the community, obeying the conditions laid down at the time of his release."

The concept of parole "is based on the belief that within the period of the sentence of certain prisoners, there comes a time when they are more ready to return to society and to make a satisfactory adjustment at any other time."¹⁰

The purpose of parole is to provide supervision and support whilst the offender serves the remainder of his sentence in the community. The parolee is liable to be recalled to prison if he does not observe the conditions of his parole order;¹¹ he is also required to report to his supervising officer and to maintain regular contact with him.

The Parole Board

The decision to grant parole and the specification of the date on which to release the offender is the prerogative of the Parole Board.

Each case is reviewed by the Parole Board which also has the authority to revoke the offender's parole order and recommit him to prison. The time that is owed from his sentence is then served in prison.

If the parolee commits a further offence whilst serving parole, he will be given an additional sentence, which is then served either concurrently or accumulatively with the balance of his sentence.

When the case of an offender is being considered, the factors looked at by the Parole Board include:

- whether there is a chance the prisoner will not offend again
- whether he can be a contributing member of the community
- whether he will co-operate with the Probation and Parole service

9 Parole in New South Wales. Issued by N.S.W. Parole Board. 1976. p.2.

10 Information Bulletin - The concept of parole and the operation of the Parole of Prisoners Act, 1966. Issued by the Department of the Attorney-General and of Justice. p.1.

11 see Appendix 2 for a list of the conditions that are printed on the parole order.

Work Release and Parole

Both schemes of work release and parole involve release into the community earlier than normal but under supervision.

Work release and parole have been discussed together by Mr. J. Morony, foundation member of the Parole Board who wrote that "Parole is obviously the subsequent step to work release, if a prisoner is fit to be trusted for involvement in work release, he must be close to the standard required for parole. Parole is a complement to work release."¹²

Thus it was considered important to examine the issue of whether participation on work release facilitates adjustment to life in the community subject to parole supervision.

Specifically this report attempts to examine the following questions:

1. What proportion of work releasees complete parole successfully?
2. What proportion of work releasees breach parole without formal revocation?
3. What difficulties do work releasees experience on parole?
4. What are the characteristics of work releasees who fail on parole?

12 Morony, J.A. A Handbook of Parole in New South Wales. Government Printing Office, Sydney, 1974. p.90.

METHODOLOGY

The population under study comprised 376 men released to parole or licence from the Silverwater Work Release Centre. As there was only a small proportion of the population who were released to licence, these numbers were not distinguished from the numbers released to parole. The study was conducted over a period of 29 months. There were two release groups involved, as well as two follow-up periods.

The first follow-up period (referred in the report as Period I) examined those men released to parole, from work release, between 1st July, 1973 and 30th November, 1974. This time period allowed for a maximum follow-up period of sixteen months and a minimum follow-up period of one month.

The second follow-up period (referred in the report as Period II) dealt with those men released to parole between 1st December, 1974 and 30th November, 1975.

In December, 1974 a questionnaire was administered by mail to all probation and parole officers. Their task was to provide the relevant information about each work releasee, who had been released to parole between 1st July, 1973 and 30th November, 1974. The information was collected as at 31st December, 1974.

In December, 1975 a questionnaire was sent once again to all the probation and parole officers to provide the information about work releasees who had been released to parole between 1st December, 1974 and 30th November, 1975. Work releasees from the first group who were still on parole were also examined. In the latter case, copies of the original forms of those still on parole were sent to the probation and parole officer to check if any changes had occurred in their social situations, for example, reporting conditions, family, employment. In addition, any breaches not resulting in revocation of parole over the twelve months period between the two studies were noted. A check was made to see that those no longer on parole had not revoked their parole after the first examination of those on parole but prior to December 1975.

The questionnaire was designed to collect both soft and hard data about the parolee.¹³ The soft data required the interpretation of the probation and parole officer, as it dealt with the areas of marriage, family, employment, the entire social situation of the subject. The hard data included any revocations of parole.

In addition, some information was collected about the parolee whilst he was on work release. This information was obtained from data already collected for the statistical study on work release.¹⁴

13 See Appendix 3 for a copy of the questionnaire

14 N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services, Research and Statistics Division, Publication No. 17. Work Release in N.S.W. 1969-1976. A Statistical Report.

The χ^2 Test was used to assess the differences between successes and failures on parole. The 5% probability level was taken as the criterion of significance in all cases.

There were 376 men released to parole during the period under study, and data was gathered for 361 parolees, comprising 96% of the total released to parole.

This study only deals with prisoners who were successful on work release and then released to parole. "Success" on work release is usually defined as anyone who is released to parole or remission from the work release centre at Silverwater. However, for this study those prisoners who were released to remission from work release and those who were retrenched from their job and then released to parole were excluded.

In order to simplify the examination of the relevant data, the parolees were categorized into three main groups - current, success and failure.

The current group consisted of those who were serving parole during Period II.

The success group comprised those who had successfully completed parole. This group consisted of the parolees who were currently serving parole during Period I and had completed their parole during Period II and parolees who had completed their parole during Period II. Included in this success category are parolees who were current during Period I and still current during Period II. In these cases the parolees had been followed-up for a period of at least thirteen months with no signs of revoking their parole. The study on Parole Trends and Revocations¹⁵ confirmed "the general belief that the first six months of parole (when almost half the failures occur) are of major importance"; it was felt therefore that these cases could be safely included in the success category.

The failure group comprised parolees whose parole had been revoked, either during Period I or Period II because of a further conviction and/or a breach of conditions.

After an initial examination of the findings the data from both the follow-up periods was combined to provide a better basis for analysis.

It is important to remember throughout, that the information obtained is from a questionnaire completed by the probation and parole officer : it is not a self-administered questionnaire completed by the parolee.

Discussion of the methodology

A number of methodological problems emerged.

The follow-up periods were not uniform for all parolees. In some cases there was a very short follow-up period, for instance : a person released to parole in October, 1975 would

15 N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services, Research and Statistics Division, Publication No.10. Parole Trends and Revocations 1976.

only be examined for two months on parole, as the cut-off point for examination was December. Someone released to parole in December 1974, may still be on parole in December 1975 and hence be examined for a period of thirteen months.

The two follow-up periods (Period I and II) were an attempt to overcome this problem. Period II enabled the sample to be expanded and additional information to be obtained. It also allowed for the possibility of comparing the two groups. This procedure proved advantageous, as no-one had completed parole during Period I. During Period II it was possible to include more revocations as those in Period I were added.

Changes of probation and parole supervisors caused difficulties in providing appropriate information, especially when officers who were unfamiliar with a particular case were required to offer predictions on outcome.

In spite of the difficulties encountered, there were a number of benefits including, inter alia,

- (1) relative ease of processing the questionnaires at one time facilitating an accurate and prompt return rate
- (2) ease of locating the probation and parole officers.

FINDINGS

Section A. Population released to parole

Definition of terms

Throughout this study the population released to parole is divided into three groups

- . the 'current' group consisting of those serving parole during Period II
- . the 'success' group comprising those who successfully completed parole
- . the 'failure' group comprising those whose parole had been revoked.

Attention will be focussed mainly on the revoked or failure group.

1. The parolee population

Table 1 sets out the total number released to parole and revocations during the period under study.

Table 1. Releases on parole during Periods I and II and outcome

Outcome during Periods I and II	Total	%
<u>Period I</u>		
Revoked for breach	1	0.3
Revoked for offence	8	2.2
<u>Period II</u>		
<u>Released to parole during Period I</u>		
Current/successfully completed	162	44.9
Revoked for breach	3	0.8
Revoked for offence	6	1.7
<u>Released to parole during Period II</u>		
Current	163	45.1
Successfully completed	6	1.7
Revoked for breach	4	1.1
Revoked for offence	8	2.2
Total	361	100.0

Table 2 sets out the total failures and successes on parole.

Table 2. Outcome on parole

Outcome on parole	Total	%
Current	163	45.2
Success	168	46.5
Failure	30	8.3
Total	361	100.0

It can be seen that only 8% of work releasees had failed on parole. This failure rate compares very favourably with the rate for parolees in general : 31% for parolees released over 1970-74.¹⁶

Table 3 sets out special parole conditions imposed and their relationship to outcome.

Table 3. Special conditions of parole and outcome

Special conditions \ Outcome	Liquor, gambling, drugs	Psychiatric care	Interstate, overseas supervision	Nil	Total
Current	10	2	9	142	163
%	6.1	1.2	5.5	87.2	100.0
Success	10	-	3	155	168
%	6.0	-	1.8	92.2	100.0
Failure	-	1	-	29	30
%	-	3.3	-	96.7	100.0
Total	20	3	12	326	361
%	5.5	0.8	3.3	90.4	100.0

Parole is release to the community on conditions which all parolees must follow and these conditions are printed on the parole order.¹⁷ However, additional clauses or special conditions may be imposed on a parolee. These conditions include restrictions on alcohol, gambling, addictive drugs, or directions to attend psychiatric treatment centres.

Only 10% of the total parolee population had special conditions attached to their parole order, and 6% of these were for restrictions on liquor, gambling or drugs.

This trend is also evident for the rate for parolees in general, in this instance 20% of parolees had special conditions associated with their parole order.¹⁸

It is interesting to note that, only one (3%) of the revoked group had a special condition, of psychiatric care, whereas 8% of the success group had special conditions.

Therefore, it appears from this table that the imposition of special conditions to the parole order had little or no effect on the outcome on parole.

17 See Appendix 2 for a list of the conditions of parole

18 Publication No. 10. op. cit. p.52.

2. Living arrangements and employment

Living arrangements and aspects of employment were examined in order to relate these factors to success and failure on parole.

Table 4. Accommodation and outcome

Accommodation Outcome	House	Flat/ unit	Boarding	Other*	Not known	Total
Current %	93 57.1	46 28.2	7 4.3	9 5.5	8 4.9	163 100.0
Success %	104 61.8	47 28.0	6 3.6	6 3.6	5 3.0	168 100.0
Failure %	10 33.3	14 46.7	3 10.0	1 3.3	2 6.7	30 100.0
Total %	207 57.4	107 29.6	16 4.4	16 4.4	15 4.2	361 100.0

* Includes no fixed place of abode (N.F.P.A.)

There was a significant difference at the .05 level of probability between the successes and failures in terms of accommodation ($\chi^2 = 7.9$, $df = 2$).

Over half of the parolee population (57%) were living in a house at the time of their follow-up. The next sizeable group lived in a flat or unit (30%).

A different picture emerges for the revoked group. Only one-third of this group lived in a house, whereas over half (56%) either boarded or lived in a flat or unit. The majority of the success group (62%) lived in a house.

It appears from this table that those living in a house are less likely to revoke their parole, than those living in a flat or boarding.

Table 5. Living arrangements and outcome

Living arrangements Outcome	With parents/ relatives	With wife	With de- facto wife	Share with others	Board- ing	Live alone	Other/ not known	Total
Current %	46 28.3	47 28.8	27 16.6	17 10.4	9 5.5	9 5.5	8 4.9	163 100.0
Success %	52 30.9	48 28.6	23 13.7	17 10.1	9 5.4	14 8.3	5 3.0	168 100.0
Failure %	6 20.0	4 13.3	7 23.3	6 20.0	3 10.0	2 6.7	2 6.7	30 100.0
Total %	104 28.8	99 27.4	57 15.8	40 11.1	21 5.8	25 6.9	15 4.2	361 100.0

There was a significant difference at the .05 probability level, between the successes and failures in terms of living arrangements. ($\chi^2 = 6.4$, $df = 2$)

It can be seen from this table that over half (56%) of the total parolee population were living with either parents, relatives or wife. This pattern is repeated for the success group.

A different distribution of living arrangements occurs for the revoked group. Only one-third of their members were living with parents, relatives or wife, while two-fifths lived with a de-facto wife or shared accommodation with others.

Therefore, it seems that those living with parents, relatives or wife tend to have a higher percentage of success on parole.

Table 6. Continuity of employment in same firm as during work release and outcome

Firm \ Outcome	Different firm	Same* firm	Not known	Total
Current	113	50	-	163
%	69.3	30.7	-	100.0
Success	119	48	1	168
%	70.8	28.6	0.6	100.0
Failure	27	2	1	30
%	90.0	6.7	3.3	100.0
Total	259	100	2	361
%	71.7	27.7	0.6	100.0

* This includes six parolees who went back to the same firm, after a period at another firm.

One of the stated aims of the work release programme is the continuity of employment, or the provision of a job which can be continued on release. However it appears from the table that the majority of parolees (72%) were working at a different firm at the time of follow-up, from the one they were employed in on work release.

The difference in distribution between the successes and failures is statistically significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 6.2$, $df = 1$).

Ninety percent of those who failed on parole were working in a different firm from the one they had worked in whilst on work release. This compares with 70% of the success group who had changed firms.

It would appear that the majority of parolees change their firm upon release. However those in the success group are less likely to change than the failures.

This high percentage in change of employment may be due to the difficulty of placing a work releasee in a job appropriate for his qualifications. For professional, administrative and skilled workers, the quality of employment available for these offenders may be less than the optimum.

Table 7. Period of employment with same firm after release to parole and outcome

Period with same firm Outcome	Left immediately on release*	1-3 weeks	4-11 weeks	12-23 weeks	24-35 weeks	36-71 weeks	Total
Current %	103 63.2	17 10.4	19 11.7	14 8.6	8 4.9	2 1.2	163 100.0
Success %	96 57.1	14 8.3	26 15.5	16 9.5	9 5.4	7 4.2	168 100.0
Failure %	12 40.0	9 30.0	8 26.7	1 3.3	- -	- -	30 100.0
Total %	211 58.4	40 11.1	53 14.7	31 8.6	17 4.7	9 2.5	361 100.0

* A small number of 'not knowns' were not distinguished because of a methodological error, and the not knowns have been included in the 'left immediately on release' category.

Over half of the total parolee population (58%) left their job immediately on release.

A higher proportion of the success group left immediately on release to parole than the failures.

A U-shaped pattern emerges for the failure group. Over half of the failures left work release between the first and eleventh week, whereas one-quarter of the successes left during the same period. All those in the failure group had left their job by the twenty-third week on release.

Table 8. Number of different jobs since release and outcome

Number of jobs since re-release Outcome	No job	Same job, one other job	Two jobs	Three or more jobs	Not known	Total
Current	3	69	48	31	12	163
%	1.8	42.3	29.5	19.0	7.4	100.0
Success	1	66	55	40	6	168
%	0.6	39.3	32.7	23.8	3.6	100.0
Failure	1	7	9	5	8	30
%	3.3	23.3	30.0	16.7	26.7	100.0
Total	5	142	112	76	26	361
%	1.4	39.3	31.0	21.1	7.2	100.0

Only one percent of the parole population had experienced unemployment since release. 70% had the same, one or two jobs since release.

Comparing this with the figures for the failure group, it can be seen that a slightly different pattern emerges. 3% of the revoked group were unemployed, and 53% had held the same or one or two jobs since release.

There is however a high percentage of not knowns in the failure group (27%). If these not knowns are removed a slightly different picture emerges. Of the failures there are now 73% who have had the same, one or two jobs since release. This equates with the total parolee population figure of 76%. There is still a high proportion of failures with no job, 5% compared with 2% for the parolee population.

Table 9. Reason for change of job and outcome

Reason for change of job Outcome	Financial	Job satisfaction	Environmental problems	Injury, sickness	Dismissed, retrenched, business changed hands	Other	Total
Current %	17 16.7	23 22.6	25 24.4	7 6.9	24 23.5	6 5.9	102 100.0
Success %	26 23.0	29 25.7	38 33.6	4 3.5	13 11.5	3 2.7	113 100.0
Failure %	5 22.7	3 13.6	4 18.2	1 4.6	4 18.2	5 22.7	22 100.0
Total %	48 20.3	55 23.2	67 28.2	12 5.1	41 17.3	14 5.9	237 ⁺ 100.0

+ 30 not known cases and 94 not applicable cases were excluded from this table.

Financial problems, job satisfaction and environmental problems accounted for seventy-two percent of the reasons given for change of job for the total parolee group.

Environmental problems include such factors as change of address, lack of transport and distance.

Those who had revoked their parole appear to change jobs more for financial reasons (slightly over one-fifth) rather than job satisfaction or environmental problems.

This group also contains slightly over one-fifth in the 'other' category. This 'other' category includes the following variables: currently in gaol, criminal record discovered, lack of job openings, failed to return to work, holiday, seek casual job, training, take care of children, deported, lost driving licence.

Table 10. Period of unemployment and outcome

Unemployment period Outcome	1w < 1m	1m < 6m	6m < 2y	2y+	Not applic- able	Total
Current	5	42	3	6	107	163
%	3.1	25.8	1.8	3.7	65.6	100.0
Success	9	19	1	6	133	168
%	5.4	11.3	0.6	3.6	79.1	100.0
Failure	3	7	3	2	15	30
%	10.0	23.3	10.0	6.7	50.0	100.0
Total	17	68	7	14	255	361
%	4.7	18.8	2.0	3.9	70.6	100.0

The difference between the two groups, success and failure, is statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 11.4$, $df = 1$, at the .05 probability level).

Almost three-quarters of the total population had not experienced periods of unemployment. Of the remaining quarter, the majority (19%) had spent between one and six months unemployed.

In comparison half of the failure group had undergone periods of unemployment. The highest percentage (23%) were represented in the one to six months group.

It is interesting to note that the failure group appears to have a higher rate of unemployment than the parole population as a whole.

Once on parole, the services of the Commonwealth Employment Service and the probation and parole officer are made readily available to each parolee if required. However, it appears that approximately one-quarter of the parole population used the services of these two agents.¹⁹

The same pattern exists for the revoked group. So it would seem that the use or non-use of the Commonwealth Employment Service and parole officer has little bearing on the success or failure on parole.

19 see Appendix 4 for full table.

3. Difficulties experienced whilst on parole

Difficulties experienced whilst serving parole were examined in order to measure the degree of adjustment of these men to the parole situation. The problems experienced by each parolee related to marriage, interpersonal relationships, alcohol, drugs, gambling, accommodation, finance, health and families as perceived by the probation and parole officers.

Table 11. Marital problems and outcome

Marital problems Outcome	Marital problems	No problems	Total
Current %	25 15.3	138 84.7	163 100.0
Success %	30 17.9	138 82.1	168 100.0
Failure %	6 20.0	24 80.0	30 100.0
Total %	61 16.9	300 83.1	361 100.0

Probation and parole officers concluded that slightly over four-fifths of the total parolee population had no problems of a marital nature. Four-fifths of the failure group did not appear to have marital problems.

For the remaining one-fifth, the most frequently stated problem for the parole population was separation from wife/defacto. The two main problems for the failure group were separation from wife/defacto and interpersonal friction. (See Appendix 5 for a detailed table).

The difference in distribution between the successes and failures is not statistically significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 0.1$, $df = 1$).

Table 12. Interpersonal problems and outcome

Interpersonal problems Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
Current %	37 22.7	126 77.3	163 100.0
Success %	35 20.8	133 79.2	168 100.0
Failure %	9 30.0	21 70.0	30 100.0
Total %	81 22.4	280 77.6	361 100.0

According to the information supplied by the probation and parole officers, 22% of the parolee population were experiencing some form of interpersonal problem. The most frequent problem stated was conflict with others.

Thirty percent of the failure group were experiencing interpersonal problems. Half of these problems involved conflict with others, a finding shared by the parole population as a whole.

The failure group shows slightly higher proportion of interpersonal problems. (see Appendix 5 for a detailed table of interpersonal problems).

The difference between the successes and failures is not significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 1.2$, $df = 1$).

Table 13. Alcohol problems and outcome

Alcohol problems Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
Current %	16 9.8	147 90.2	163 100.0
Success %	13 7.7	155 92.3	168 100.0
Failure %	3 10.0	27 90.0	30 100.0
Total %	32 8.9	329 91.1	361 100.0

Only 9% of the parolee population were seen by the probation and parole officers as having an alcoholic problem.

Three (10%) in the failure group were experiencing problems with alcohol. (For more details refer to the table in Appendix 5).

It would seem from the findings that alcoholism was not perceived as being a major factor in failure on parole.

Table 14. Drug problems and outcome

Drug problems Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
	Current %	5 3.1	158 96.9
Success %	1 0.6	167 99.4	168 100.0
Failure %	2 6.7	28 93.3	30 100.0
Total %	8 2.2	353 97.8	361 100.0

There was no evidence of a drug problem for 98% of the parolee population. Of the 30 failures only 2 (7%) were singled out as having a drug problem. (see Appendix 5 for a detailed table).

Drug problems appear to have little bearing on success or failure on parole.

Table 15. Gambling problems and outcome

<u>Gambling problems</u> Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
Current %	4 2.5	159 97.5	163 100.0
Success %	- -	168 100.0	168 100.0
Failure %	1 3.3	29 96.7	30 100.0
Total %	5 1.4	356 98.6	361 100.0

Ninety-nine percent of the parolee population experienced no problems with gambling.

Similarly, only one in the failure group (3%) was mentioned as having a gambling problem.

Gambling does not appear to affect the outcome on parole.

Table 16. Accommodation problems and outcome

Accommodation problems \ Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
Current	9	154	163
%	5.5	94.5	100.0
Success	9	159	168
%	5.4	94.6	100.0
Failure	5	25	30
%	16.7	83.3	100.0
Total	23	338	361
%	6.4	93.6	100.0

Differences between the successes and failures are statistically significant at the .05 probability level ($\chi^2 = 5.1, df = 1$).

Ninety-four percent of the total parolee population had no accommodation problems. In comparison, 17% of the members of the group that failed on parole, were seen by the probation and parole officers to be experiencing accommodation problems. The main problem stated was in terms of relatives failing to provide accommodation.

The failure group has a higher proportion of members with accommodation problems. (For a more detailed table refer to the table in Appendix 5).

Table 17. Financial problems and outcome

Outcome \ Financial problems	Financial problems		Total
	Problems	No problems	
Current	33	130	163
%	20.2	79.8	100.0
Success	28	140	168
%	16.7	83.3	100.0
Failure	6	24	30
%	20.0	80.0	100.0
Total	67	294	361
%	18.6	81.4	100.0

The difference between the success group and failure group is not significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 0.2$, $df = 1$).

Four-fifths of the total population were free of financial problems. A similar pattern exists for the failure group; 6 (20%) of this group had problems.

It would seem that financial problems have no bearing on outcome on parole. (See Appendix 5 for a more detailed table).

Table 18. Health problems and outcome

Outcome \ Health problems	Health problems		Total
	Problems	No problems	
Current %	18 11.0	145 89.0	163 100.0
Success %	15 8.9	153 91.1	168 100.0
Failure %	2 6.7	28 93.3	30 100.0
Total %	35 9.7	326 90.3	361 100.0

Nine-tenths of the total population were free of any health problems according to the views of the probation and parole officers. By comparison, a slightly higher proportion of the failure group was seen to have no health problems.

It would appear therefore, that there is no connection between health and failure on parole. (see Appendix 5 for a detailed table.)

Table 19. Problems in family and outcome

Problems in family \ Outcome	Problems	No problems	Total
Current	36	127	163
%	22.1	77.9	100.0
Success	31	137	168
%	18.5	81.5	100.0
Failure	9	21	30
%	30.0	70.0	100.0
Total	76	285	361
%	21.1	78.9	100.0

The probation and parole officers claim that only one-fifth of the parolee population were experiencing any problems in their families. By comparison, the figure for the failure group is slightly higher (30%).

So it would appear that those who have revoked their parole tend to have more problems with their families than the rest of the parole population. However, the difference between the success group and the failure group is not significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 2.0$, $df = 1$). (see Appendix 5 for a more detailed table.)

4. The effects of work release

Table 20. Effect of work release on parolee and outcome

Effect of work release Outcome	Positive	Negative	Positive & negative	Not specified	Total
Current	117	10	2	34	163
%	71.8	6.1	1.2	20.9	100.0
Success	121	12	1	34	168
%	72.1	7.1	0.6	20.2	100.0
Failure	12	4	-	14	30
%	40.0	13.3	-	46.7	100.0
Total	250	26	3	82	361
%	69.3	7.2	0.8	22.7	100.0

According to the views expressed by the probation and parole officers, work release had a positive effect on 69% of the total parolee population, 7% experienced a negative effect, and 1% a combination of positive and negative effects.

However, for a significant proportion of the parolee population, an effect has not been specified (23%). When this 'not specified' figure is removed, 90% had a positive effect, 9% negative, and 1% positive and negative.

The most frequently stated positive effects were employment, financial and personal.²⁰ No details were given on the negative effects.

Work release was seen by the probation and parole officers to have had a positive effect on two-fifths of those who have failed on parole. If the 'not specified' figure of 47% is removed, three quarters of the remainder were seen to have been positively affected by work release.

During interviews conducted with the work releasees in 1977²¹ over half of the work releasees specified financial gain as one of the main benefits of the scheme (55%). Also stated were resocialization effects through relating to people and gradually returning to the community (23%), employment benefits through job continuity and learning to keep a job (13%) and support of their families (10%).

²⁰ see Appendix 6 for a detailed table

²¹ Publication No. 16. op. cit.

Table 21. Prospects of completing parole and outcome

Parole prospects Outcome	Negative prediction	50/50	Positive prediction	Not sure, not known, not applicable *	Total
Success %	4 2.4	9 5.4	122 72.6	33 19.6	168 100.0
Failure %	5 16.7	- -	4 13.3	21 70.0	30 100.0
Total %	9 4.6	9 4.6	126 63.6	54 27.2	198 100.0

* In the case of the not applicable group, the result was already known by the probation and parole officer at the time of completing the questionnaires.

The probation and parole officers predicted a positive parole prospect for 73% of those who were successful on parole, and a negative prediction for 2% of the successes.

A positive prediction was made for 13% of the failure group, and a negative result for 17% of the failure group.

However, if the not sure, not known, and not applicable grouping is deleted from our analysis a different picture emerges. 90% of the success group is then seen to have been given a positive prediction, 3% a negative prediction and 7% a 50/50 prospect. 44% of the failure group received a positive parole prediction, and 56% a negative prediction.

So it can be seen that over-prediction by the probation and parole officers was the case with the failure group.

Section B. Breaches on parole

A breach occurs when the parolee breaks one or more of the conditions of his parole order.²²

A breach on parole may result in a revocation of the parole order, or may simply lead to a warning, a fine or no action taken at all. Therefore, a breach does not automatically lead to a revocation.

A revocation means the parole order is revoked or cancelled by the Parole Board, and the parolee is returned to prison to serve the time he owes from his sentence.

²² See Appendix 2 for a listing of the conditions on a parole order.

Table 22. Number of breaches and outcome

Breach Outcome	Breach	Did not breach	Total
Current %	19 11.7	144 88.3	163 100.0
Success %	19 11.3	149 88.7	168 100.0
Failure %	30 100.0	- -	30 100.0
Total %	68 18.8	293 81.2	361 100.0

Sixty-eight parolees committed breaches (i.e. 19% of the total parolee population). Ten parolees committed two breaches, of these, eight had their parole revoked.

Nineteen cases were mentioned in the success group as having breached, that is, broken conditions of parole without their parole order being terminated.

Table 23. Period from release to first breach and outcome

Period from release to breach \ Outcome	Under 3m	3m < 6m	6m < 9m	9m < 12m	12m+	Not known	Total
Current %	5 26.3	6 31.6	6 31.6	2 10.5	- -	- -	19 100.0
Success %	2 10.5	2 10.5	5 26.3	4 21.1	5 26.3	1 5.3	19 100.0
Failure %	8 26.7	8 26.7	8 26.7	1 3.3	5 16.6	- -	30 100.0
Total %	15 22.0	16 23.4	19 27.8	7 10.3	10 14.7	1 1.8	68 100.0

Over one-half of the failure group (53%) had committed their first breach within the first six months on parole. Another 17% of the failure group committed their first breach having spent twelve months or more on parole.

This is a higher proportion than the rate for parolees in general, as 45% of the 1974 parole sample²³ were revoked within six months of their release date. However, one quarter of the general parole population were revoked after twelve months, compared with 17% for this study.

Only 21% of those successful on parole breached within the first six months, whilst 26% breached after twelve months.

It appears from this table, that a higher proportion of the failure group breached earlier on parole than the rest of the parole population.

23 Publication No. 10. op. cit. p.63.

Table 24. Action taken on most serious breach and outcome

Action Outcome	No action, warning, fine	Action pending	Revocation- breach	Revocation- offence	Revocation breach and offence	Total
Current %	15 78.9	4 21.1	- -	- -	- -	19 100.0
Success %	15 78.9	4 21.1	- -	- -	- -	19 100.0
Failure %	- -	- -	8 26.7	17 56.7	5 16.6	30 100.0
Total %	30 44.0	8 11.8	8 11.8	17 25.0	5 7.4	68 100.0

Four-fifths of the success group received a warning, a fine or had no action taken on their most serious breach. For the remainder of the success group, action was pending at the time of the study. The same pattern exists for those currently on parole.

Twenty-two (73%) of the revocations resulted from an offence, and eight (27%) involved breach of conditions only.

By comparison with the general parole population under study in 1974²⁴, the trend is similar, as 69% of cases received a revocation for offence and 31% involved breach of conditions only.

Section C. A profile of successes and failures on parole

It is possible that aspects of an offender's past history may influence his performance on parole. Hence, past adult convictions and juvenile offences were examined.

In addition, two aspects relating to the work release experience were examined : period of time on work release and funds on discharge.

The time factor was examined to see if length of exposure to the work release programme had any effect on parole outcome.

Funds held by the work releasee on discharge demonstrates the financial benefit of the scheme. This factor was emphasized by the opinions expressed in interviews conducted with the inmates associated with work release.²⁵ They felt that one of the main benefits of work release was financial gain.

25 Publication No. 16. op. cit. p.36.

Table 25. Age at entry on work release and outcome

Age in years at entry on work release \ Outcome	17y*	18-20y	21-24y	25-29y	30-39y	40y+	Total
Current	1	16	43	40	32	31	163
%	0.6	9.8	26.5	24.5	19.6	19.0	100.0
Success	-	19	47	41	36	25	168
%	-	11.3	28.0	24.4	21.4	14.9	100.0
Failure	-	11	8	3	5	3	30
%	-	36.6	26.7	10.0	16.7	10.0	100.0
Total	1	46	98	84	73	59	361
%	0.3	12.7	27.2	23.3	20.2	16.3	100.0

* 17 years was taken as the cut-off point as this was the age of the youngest person received into work release during this period.

The difference in age distribution between the success and failure groups is statistically significant at .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 12.5$, $df = 1$).

Two-fifths of the parolee population were aged between 17 and 24 years at the time of entry on work release. Slightly over two-fifths were aged between 25 and 39 years and the remaining fifth, over 40 years.

The pattern emerging for the failures is slightly different. A higher proportion of the failures fall within the 17-24 age range (63%) and considerably less in the 25-39 age group (27% for the failure compared with 44% for the total parolee population). 10% were aged over 40 years at the time of entry on work release.

The age grouping of 18 to 20 years can be viewed as a high risk age for failure on parole.

Table 26. Nature of current offence and outcome

Current offence Outcome	Homicides, assaults, & like offences	Sexual, & related offences	Robbery and extortion	Fraud	Offences against property	Driving, traffic & related offences	Offences against enforce- ment of order	Drug offences	Offensive behaviour and related offences	Total
Current %	18 11.0	6 3.7	39 23.9	12 7.4	64 39.3	11 6.8	9 5.5	3 1.8	1 0.6	163 100.0
Success %	17 10.1	11 6.6	34 20.2	20 11.9	68 40.4	8 4.8	6 3.6	3 1.8	1 0.6	168 100.0
Failure %	-	-	5 16.7	1 3.3	22 73.3	-	2 6.7	-	-	30 100.0
Total %	35 9.7	17 4.7	78 21.6	33 9.1	154 42.6	19 5.3	17 4.7	6 1.7	2 0.6	361 100.0

Table 26. Nature of current offence and outcome

The difference in offence distribution between the success group and the failure group is statistically significant at .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 11.1, df = 1$).

Offences against property contained the highest proportion of parolees (43%). Robbery and extortion was the next sizeable group (22%) while the remaining offence categories all contained less than 10% of the total parolee population.

It is interesting to note that the failures were noticeably absent from certain offence groupings - homicides, assaults and like offences, sexual and related offences, driving, traffic and related offences, drug offences, offensive behaviour and related offences. Instead, the highest proportion of the failures had committed an offence against property (73%), robbery and extortion accounted for 16%, while offences against enforcement of order and fraud were less than 10%.

It would appear from this table that there is a correlation between failure on parole and property offences. However, on all other offences there is no evidence to suggest a pattern between offence and status on parole. This trend is also evident for the parole population in general, as the failures had committed a higher proportion of property offences than the successes.²⁶

Table 27. Number of different categories of offences as a juvenile and outcome

Number of juvenile offences \ Outcome	None	One	Two	Three or more	Total
Current %	100 61.4	29 17.8	16 9.8	18 11.0	163 100.0
Success %	133 79.2	12 7.1	16 9.5	7 4.2	168 100.0
Failure %	20 66.7	3 10.0	4 13.3	3 10.0	30 100.0
Total %	253 70.0	44 12.2	36 10.0	28 7.8	361 100.0

Differences between the success and failure groups are not statistically significant at the .05 probability level ($\chi^2 = 2.3$, $df = 1$).

Seventy percent of the total parole population had no prior history of juvenile offences. Of the remainder, 22% had one or two different categories of juvenile offences, with 8% three or more.

A similar pattern exists for the failure group. Two-thirds had no juvenile offences, and the remaining one-third was divided equally amongst the three categories of one, two, three or more offences.

By comparison, the general parole population²⁷ has a higher proportion of parolees with prior juvenile convictions. 55% of the failures had one or more juvenile convictions (compared with 33%) and 40% of successes had one or more juvenile convictions (compared with 21% for the work releaseses on parole).

27 Publication No.10. op. cit. p.37.

Table 28. Number of past adult convictions and outcome

Past adult convictions \ Outcome	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total
Current	54	30	24	9	12	34	163
%	33.1	18.4	14.7	5.5	7.4	20.9	100.0
Success	64	42	10	18	10	24	168
%	38.0	25.0	6.0	10.7	6.0	14.3	100.0
Failure	9	7	1	5	1	7	30
%	30.1	23.3	3.3	16.7	3.3	23.3	100.0
Total	127	79	35	32	23	65	361
%	35.1	21.9	9.7	8.9	6.4	18.0	100.0

The difference in number of past adult convictions between the success and failure groups is not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 1.1$, $df = 2$ at .05 level of probability).

The total parolee population had experienced previous adult convictions in 65% of cases. Those with one previous conviction ranked the highest with 22%, the next sizeable group was five or more convictions on 18%, and those with two, three, four convictions below 10%.

70% of the failure group had previous adult convictions. The highest percentage was for those with one conviction (23%) and five or more convictions (23%).

A slightly higher proportion of the failure group had prior adult convictions than the total population.

The picture, however, differs for the general parole population,²⁸ as 88% of the failures had previous adult convictions (compared with 70%) and 75% of the success group (compared with 62%) had prior adult convictions.

28 Publication No.10. op.cit. p.41.

Table 29. Total funds on discharge and outcome

Total funds on discharge \ Outcome	0 - \$999	\$1000 - \$1999	\$2000 - \$2999	\$3000 - \$3999	Total
Current	124	31	6	2	163
%	76.1	19.0	3.7	1.2	100.0
Success	138	20	9	1	168
%	82.1	11.9	5.4	0.6	100.0
Failure	26	4	-	-	30
%	86.7	13.3	-	-	100.0
Total	288	55	15	3	361
%	79.8	15.2	4.2	0.8	100.0

All money banked on behalf of the work releasee is paid to him by cheque on discharge from work release. This amount will be the total net earnings for the period of employment on work release, less deductions made for board, payments made to dependents, and money spent on fares and incidentals.

Four-fifths of the total population had \$999 or less in funds on discharge.

The failure group had a higher proportion of parolees (87%) with \$999 or less than the total parole population. However, no member of the failure group had savings of over \$2000 (compared with 5% of the total population).

It appears therefore, that those who have failed on parole leave work release with less funds than the rest of the parole population.

The difference in distribution between the success group and the failure group is not statistically significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 0.4$, $df = 1$).

Table 30. Period of time spent on work release and outcome

Period of time spent on work re-lease Outcome	1m < 2m	2m < 4m	4m < 7m	7m < 12m	12m < 35m	Total
Current %	11 6.8	64 39.2	50 30.7	24 14.7	14 8.6	163 100.0
Success %	11 6.6	56 33.3	57 33.9	31 18.5	13 7.7	168 100.0
Failure %	3 10.0	14 46.7	9 30.0	4 13.3	- -	30 100.0
Total %	25 6.9	134 37.2	116 32.1	59 16.3	27 7.5	361 100.0

The difference between the success and the failure groups is not statistically significant at the .05 level of probability ($\chi^2 = 3.0$, $df = 1$).

The selection criteria²⁹ for work release provide that placement on work release should occur only during the last six to eight months of the non-parole period or in the terminal stages of a long sentence if a non-parole period is not specified.

The majority of parolees (93%) had spent less than twelve months on work release, 69% of whom had spent between two and seven months on the scheme.

There were no members of the failure group who had spent twelve months and over on work release. 78% of this group were on work release from two to seven months, and 10% spent one month on work release.

Those who had failed on parole spent less time on work release than the rest of the population. Therefore, it may be said that the longer the period spent on work release the greater the chance of success on parole.

29 see page 2 of this report for further details

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Section A. Population released to parole

(1) The parole population

A total of 361 parolees were examined in this study. Of this total, 30 (8%) failed or revoked their parole order, 168 (47%) were successful, and 163 (45%) were still currently on parole.

Special conditions such as restrictions on alcohol, did not affect the parole outcome.

(2) Living arrangements and employment

A high proportion of the failures on parole boarded or lived in a flat or unit. They tended also to live with their de-facto wife.

Ninety percent of failures changed firms on release. The main reason given for change of job by the failure group was financial. The failure group had a higher rate of unemployment.

Little use was made by the parole population of the Commonwealth Employment Service or the parole officer.

(3) Difficulties experienced whilst on parole

Only one-fifth of the failure group experienced problems of a marital nature. 30% were seen by the probation and parole officers as experiencing interpersonal problems. Alcohol, drugs, gambling, finances, and health presented problems to a very small percentage of the parolee population. A higher proportion of failures experienced accommodation and family problems than the total parole population.

(4) The effects of work release

The most frequently stated positive effects of work release by the probation and parole officers were in areas of employment, finance and personal development.

There was an over-prediction of success on the part of the probation and parole officers for those in the failure group completing parole.

Section B. Breaches on parole

A total of 68 or 19% of the parolee population breached whilst on parole, and 8% had their parole orders revoked. Approximately one-half of those who failed on parole committed their first breach within six months of release to parole. Of those whose parole was revoked, 73% involved an offence, and 27% involved a breach of conditions only.

Section C. A profile of successes and failures on parole

A higher proportion of the failure group was aged between 18 and 20 years of age at their commencement on work release. A higher proportion of the failure group had a property offence as their current offence than the rest of the parole population. On past convictions the failures had a slightly higher proportion with prior adult convictions and a similar proportion as the total population on the number of juvenile offence categories.

The failures had less funds on discharge from work release than the total parole population, and spent less time on work release than the remainder of those released to parole.

DISCUSSION

1. Failure rate

Throughout this study comparisons were made between the work releasees and prisoners in general.

It was found that the work releasees perform better on parole. This was illustrated by the lower revocation rate for work releasees on parole (8%), compared with the average rate of 31% for the general parole population released over 1970-74. As well, the better performance of the work releasees may be attributed to a lower percentage of past juvenile history and past adult convictions.

However, there may be a bias in the selection criteria applied for entry into work release. Fairly rigid guidelines are set down and include: placement on work release during the last six to eight months of non-parole period, short term prisoners to be reliable first offenders, murder offences to depend on individual cases, and no prior participation in the programme.

2. Adjustment

When an inmate goes out into the community on parole he is expected to lead a stable life. This involves being employed, living in a desirable environment, and being a useful member of society.

The failures differed from the remainder of the parole population in the following ways: they demonstrated to a greater degree a lack of continuity in employment, living arrangements involved a higher proportion in a flat or unit as opposed to the majority of successes on parole who lived in a house, and the failures received less funds on discharge from work release.

Very few of the total parole population experienced problems such as alcohol, drugs, gambling and health.

However, these problems were the ones perceived by the probation and parole officers. The parolee, if asked, may have suggested other difficulties that have not been mentioned in this study.

3. Breaches

A breach on parole takes place when the parolee breaks one or more of the conditions of his parole order.

Those who failed on parole committed over half of their breaches within the first six months on parole.

Formal action was taken on 68 individuals (19%) who experienced difficulties whilst on parole, resulting in a breach of conditions of their parole orders. Approximately half of these (30 or 8%) eventually failed on parole, and had their parole orders revoked.

There may be other parolees who also transgressed the conditions of parole, but no formal action was taken in their cases.

Approximately one-twelfth of the population under study failed on parole. Of the failures, 27% had their parole revoked due to breaches of the parole order, and the remainder (73%) were convicted of further offences committed whilst on parole.

4. Failure profile

The findings tend to suggest that the longer an inmate spends on work release, the more successful will the inmate be on parole. The failure group seems to have a higher proportion of members who spent a short period on work release and consequently received less funds on discharge.

The work releasee who failed on parole appears similar in characteristics to the general prisoner who failed on parole. A study of the general parole population³⁰ indicated that "the parolee at risk is likely to be a young, repeated offender convicted of a property offence." From this study it appears that the type of prisoner who fails on parole is a property offender with a past record, a history of unemployment, changes jobs for financial reasons, lives in a flat or unit with his de-facto, has a slightly higher proportion of marital and accommodation problems, entered work release at a young age, spent less time on work release and possessed less funds on discharge.

5. Future research

To undertake a more rigorous study in this area of work releasees on parole, it would be necessary to use matched groups.

As Rudoff and Esselstyn³¹ attempted in their study, it would be necessary to try and eliminate the selection bias by matching as many variables as possible. A group who had experienced work release and then released to parole, would be compared with a group who went straight on to parole. Ideally these two groups would be matched on such variables as age, current and past offence history and sentence.

This does raise the ethical problem of denying the work release experience to a group in order to carry out research. There are also administrative problems involved, as it is difficult in a scheme such as work release to find the number of inmates who fit the criteria of the programme, and with a matched variable study, twice the number of inmates would be required.

It would be necessary also to examine how these inmates perform after the termination of their parole supervision. The recidivism study amongst work releasees³² is aimed at providing further information in this area.

30 Publication No. 10. op. cit. p.71.

31 Rudoff, A. and Esselstyn, T.C. op.cit. pp. 48-53.

32 To be published as a report at a later date by the Research and Statistics Division.

APPENDIX 1.

STANDING RULES - Work Release Programme

1. You will obey all instructions given to you by any member of the staff.
2. The introduction of alcohol or drugs into the centre will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
3. You are not permitted to take any relative, friend or other unauthorised person into the Silverwater work release houses.
4. You are not permitted to send or receive any letter, telegram, parcel or other form of written communication of any description except through the hands of the Superintendent or correctional officer, authorised by the Superintendent, to act in that behalf. Letters may be censored at the discretion of the Superintendent.
5. You must not absent yourself from the precincts of the work release centre after working hours at any time without the permission of the Commissioner of Corrective Services.
6. Gambling is strictly forbidden.
7. You will collect and clock your own Bundy card prior to leaving the centre and again on your return, to register your time of departure and time of returning.
8. You are expected to conduct yourself in a proper manner at all times; boisterous behaviour such as jostling, wrestling or the use of indecent language must be avoided.
9. You will be expected to introduce your visitors to the Superintendent or his Deputy.
10. You are personally responsible for the laundering of clothing, other than articles requiring dry-cleaning.
11. Whilst away from the centre you must avoid contact with ex-prisoners or relatives. Arrangements are provided at the centre for authorised visits.
12. You shall not enter into any 'hire purchase' agreement or any other contractual arrangement.
13. T.A.B. agencies and licensed clubs are strictly out of bounds.
14. All staff members (irrespective of formal rank) will be addressed as Mr., Mrs., Miss, Doctor, etc. - this courtesy will be returned.
15. Failure to report to, or failure to return from the accepted place of employment, or authorised leave, shall be considered an escape under Section 34 of the Prisons Act, 1952, as amended.

APPENDIX 2.

Conditions of parole

1. the parolee shall be of good behaviour and shall not violate the law;
2. the parolee shall subject himself to the supervision and guidance of a parole officer and carry out his instructions;
3. the parolee shall report to a parole officer or other person nominated by a parole officer, in the manner and at the times directed and shall be available for interview at such times and places as the parole officer or his nominee may from time to time direct;
4. the parolee shall enter into employment arranged or agreed upon by the parole officer and shall notify the parole officer of any intention to change his employment before such change occurs, or if this be impracticable, then within such period as may have been directed by the parole officer;
5. the parolee shall reside at an address arranged or agreed upon by the parole officer and shall notify the parole officer of any intention to change his address before such change occurs, or if this be impracticable, then within such period as may have been directed by the parole officer;
6. the parolee shall not associate with any persons specified by the parole officer;
7. the parolee shall not frequent or visit any place or district designated by the parole officer.

(2) Breach of parole/licence conditions:

	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Type of Breach:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

D. Accommodation, living arrangements during parole/licence

Type of accommodation

House Flat/home unit Boarding house Other - specify
 Institution Resident N.F.P.A.

Living arrangements: (tick where applicable)

Live with parents/relatives Live with wife
 Share with others Live in institution
 Boarding Live alone
 Live with common law wife Other:

E. Employment during parole/licence

Is parolee employed by the same firm that employed him while on Work Release?

Yes No

If not, date of change of employment:
 current employer:
 nature of job:
 reasons for change:

Current average weekly earnings: \$

Number of jobs held since release on parole/licence:

Types of jobs held and reasons for change:

	<u>Job</u>	<u>Reasons for change</u>
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Periods of unemployment:

From	To	Reasons for unemployment
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Did parolee seek C.E.S./parole officer's help in obtaining employment?

Yes No

Type of assistance given:

.....

F. Problems experienced during parole/licence

(Tick if applicable and specify nature of problem in space provided)

- Marital Please specify:
- Other interpersonal Please specify:
- Alcohol Please specify:
- Drugs Please specify:
- Gambling Please specify:
- Accommodation Please specify:
- Financial Please specify:
- Health (including psychiatric) Please specify:
- Other Please specify:

G. Problems experienced by other members of parolee's/licencee's family

Specify problems of significance to parolee/licencee:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

H. Officer's evaluation of effects of work release programme on parolee/licencee. Specify:

A) Advantages:

.....

.....

B) Disadvantages:
.....
.....

I. General comments on parolee's/licencee's behaviour and prospects of completing parole/licence successfully

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J. Any other comments

.....
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.....

.....
Name of P.O. (please print)

.....
District office

APPENDIX 4.

Table 1. Use of the Commonwealth Employment Service/Parole Officer and outcome

Use of CES/ Parole officer Outcome	Used	Not used, not known	Total
Current %	41 25.1	122 74.9	163 100.0
Success %	33 19.6	135 80.4	168 100.0
Failure %	8 26.7	22 73.3	30 100.0
Total %	82 22.7	279 77.3	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Difficulties experienced whilst on parole

Table 2. Marital problems and outcome

Marital problems Outcome	Problems in General	Separated from wife/ defacto	Result of further offence	Divorce problem	Strain from work	Inter- personal friction	Death of wife/ defacto	Violence to wife/ defacto	No problems	Total
Current %	2 1.2	12 7.4	- -	1 0.6	- -	9 5.5	- -	1 0.6	138 84.7	163 100.0
Success %	3 1.8	14 8.3	1 0.6	5 3.0	2 1.2	4 2.4	1 0.6	-	138 82.1	168 100.0
Failure %	1 3.3	2 6.7	- -	- -	- -	2 6.7	- -	1 3.3	24 80.0	30 100.0
Total %	6 1.6	28 7.8	1 0.3	6 1.6	2 0.6	15 4.1	1 0.3	2 0.6	300 83.1	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 3. Interpersonal problems and outcome

Inter-personal problems	Problems in general	Isolated	Conflict with others	Difficulty in relating to others	Criminal influence of others	Broken relationships	Psychological problem	Others depend on parolee	Not stated	No problems	Total
Current %	1 0.6	1 0.6	18 11.1	10 6.1	1 0.6	1 0.6	4 2.5	1 0.6	- -	126 77.3	163 100.0
Success %	1 0.6	2 1.2	12 7.0	6 3.6	1 0.6	10 6.0	- -	2 1.2	1 0.6	133 79.2	168 100.0
Failure %	- -	- -	5 16.6	- -	2 6.7	2 6.7	- -	- -	- -	21 70.0	30 100.0
Total %	2 0.6	3 0.8	35 9.7	16 4.4	4 1.1	13 3.6	4 1.1	3 0.8	1 0.3	280 77.6	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 4. Alcohol problems and outcome

Alcohol problems Outcome	Problems in general	Occasional drinker	Heavy social drinker	Drinks when upset emotionally	Dependent on alcohol	Further alcohol related offences	Drink at time of offence	Irresponsible when drinking	No problems	Total
Current %	3 1.8	-	5 3.2	1 0.6	3 1.8	3 1.8	-	1 0.6	147 90.2	163 100.0
Success %	3 1.7	2 1.2	3 1.8	1 0.6	1 0.6	2 1.2	1 0.6	-	155 92.3	168 100.0
Failure %	1 3.3	-	-	-	-	1 3.3	-	1 3.3	27 90.1	30 100.0
Total %	7 1.8	2 0.6	8 2.2	2 0.6	4 1.1	6 1.7	1 0.3	2 0.6	329 91.1	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 5. Drug problems and outcome

Drug problem Outcome	Problem in general	Possible drug problem	Smoking mari- juana	Arrested for drug offence	Not specified	No problem	Total
Current	-	2	1	1	1	158	163
%	-	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	96.9	100.0
Success	-	1	-	-	-	167	168
%	-	0.6	-	-	-	99.4	100.0
Failure	1	1	-	-	-	28	30
%	3.3	3.3	-	-	-	93.4	100.0
Total	1	4	1	1	1	353	361
%	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	97.8	100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 6. Accommodation problems and outcome

Accommodation problems Outcome	Problems in general	Lack of funds	Relatives fail to provide accommodation	Change of residence	Difficulty in finding accommodation	Expiry of lease	Over-crowded	No problem.	Total
Current %	1 0.6	3 1.8	- -	3 1.8	1 0.6	- -	1 0.6	154 94.6	163 100.0
Success %	1 0.6	1 0.6	1 0.6	3 1.8	2 1.2	1 0.6	- -	159 94.6	168 100.0
Failure %	1 3.3	- -	2 6.8	1 3.3	1 3.3	- -	- -	25 83.3	30 100.0
Total %	3 0.8	4 1.1	3 0.8	7 2.0	4 1.1	1 0.3	1 0.3	338 93.6	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 7. Financial problems and outcome

Financial problems	Problems in general	Unemployed	Poorly paid job	Needed second job to manage	Paying maintenance/compensation/fine	Debts and commitments	Frequent job changes	Sickness benefits	Not specified	No problems	Total
Current %	2 1.2	8 4.9	2 1.2	- -	4 2.5	14 8.6	1 0.6	2 1.2	- -	130 79.8	163 100.0
Success %	6 3.6	6 3.6	4 2.4	1 0.6	1 0.6	7 4.1	2 1.2	1 0.6	- -	140 88.3	168 100.0
Failure %	- -	1 3.3	- -	- -	- -	4 13.4	- -	- -	1 3.3	24 80.0	30 100.0
Total %	8 2.2	15 4.2	6 1.7	1 0.3	5 1.4	25 6.9	3 0.8	3 0.8	1 0.3	294 81.4	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 8. Health problems and outcome

Health problems / Outcome	Problems in general	Injury, illness of parolee	Injury, illness of wife/defacto	Illness, death in family	Psychiatric problem in parolee	Chronic physical disability	Hospitalization of parolee	No problems	Total
Current %	1 0.6	7 4.3	1 0.6	2 1.2	1 0.6	1 0.6	5 3.1	145 89.0	163 100.0
Success %	-	5 2.9	2 1.2	2 1.2	3 1.8	3 1.8	-	153 91.1	168 100.0
Failure %	-	1 3.3	1 3.3	-	-	-	-	28 93.4	30 100.0
Total %	1 0.3	13 3.6	4 1.1	4 1.1	4 1.1	4 1.1	5 1.4	326 90.3	361 100.0

APPENDIX 5.

Table 9. Problems in family and outcome

Problems in family / Outcome	Lack of family contact	Illness, death	Financial	Marital conflict	Delinquency	Emotional problems	Work difficulties	No problems	Total
Current %	4 2.5	8 4.9	4 2.5	1 0.6	4 2.5	15 9.1	- -	127 77.9	163 100.0
Success %	3 1.8	5 3.0	3 1.8	3 1.8	2 1.2	14 8.3	1 0.6	137 81.5	168 100.0
Failure %	3 10.0	- -	- -	2 6.7	- -	4 13.3	- -	21 70.0	30 100.0
Total %	10 2.8	13 3.6	7 1.9	6 1.7	6 1.7	33 9.1	1 0.3	285 78.9	361 100.0

APPENDIX 6.

The effects of work release

Table 10. Effect of work release on parolee and outcome

Effect of work release on parolee	Positive										Negative			N.S.*	Total
	Employment	Financial	Personal	Social-family	Deterrent-reform	Gradual return to community	General positive effect	Mixed advance- tage	No pos. effect	Adverse effect	Mixed & Pos.				
Current %	29 17.8	34 20.9	27 16.6	3 1.8	3 1.8	15 9.2	4 2.5	2 1.2	10 6.1	-	2 1.2	34 20.9	163 100.0		
Success %	25 14.8	31 18.5	34 20.2	4 2.4	8 4.8	16 9.5	3 1.8	-	11 6.6	1 0.6	1 0.6	34 20.2	168 100.0		
Failure %	6 20.0	4 13.3	2 6.7	-	-	-	-	-	4 13.3	-	-	14 46.7	30 100.0		
Total %	60 16.6	69 19.2	63 17.5	7 1.9	11 3.0	31 8.6	7 1.9	2 0.6	25 6.9	1 0.3	3 0.8	82 22.7	361 100.0		

* N.S. = Not specified

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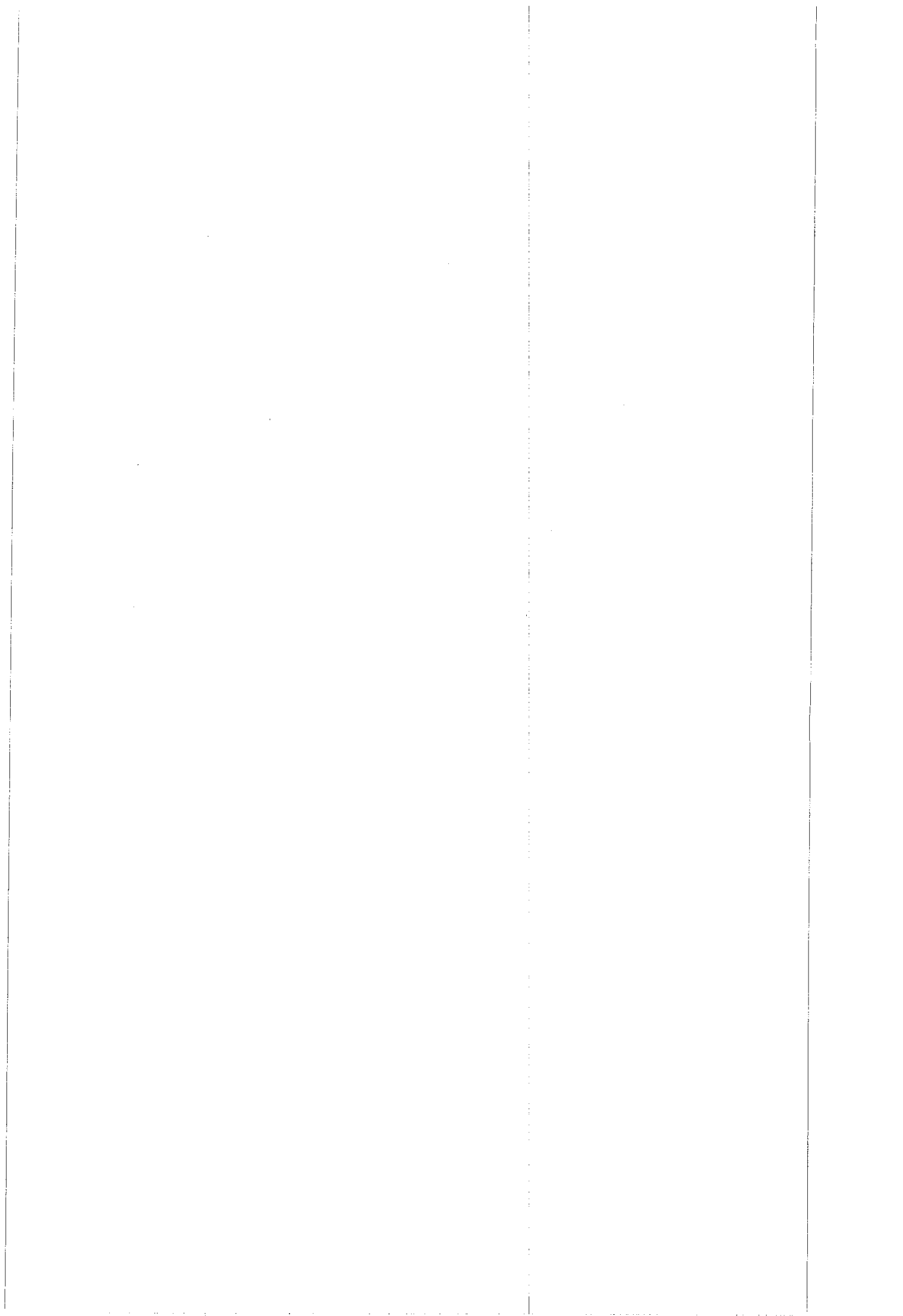
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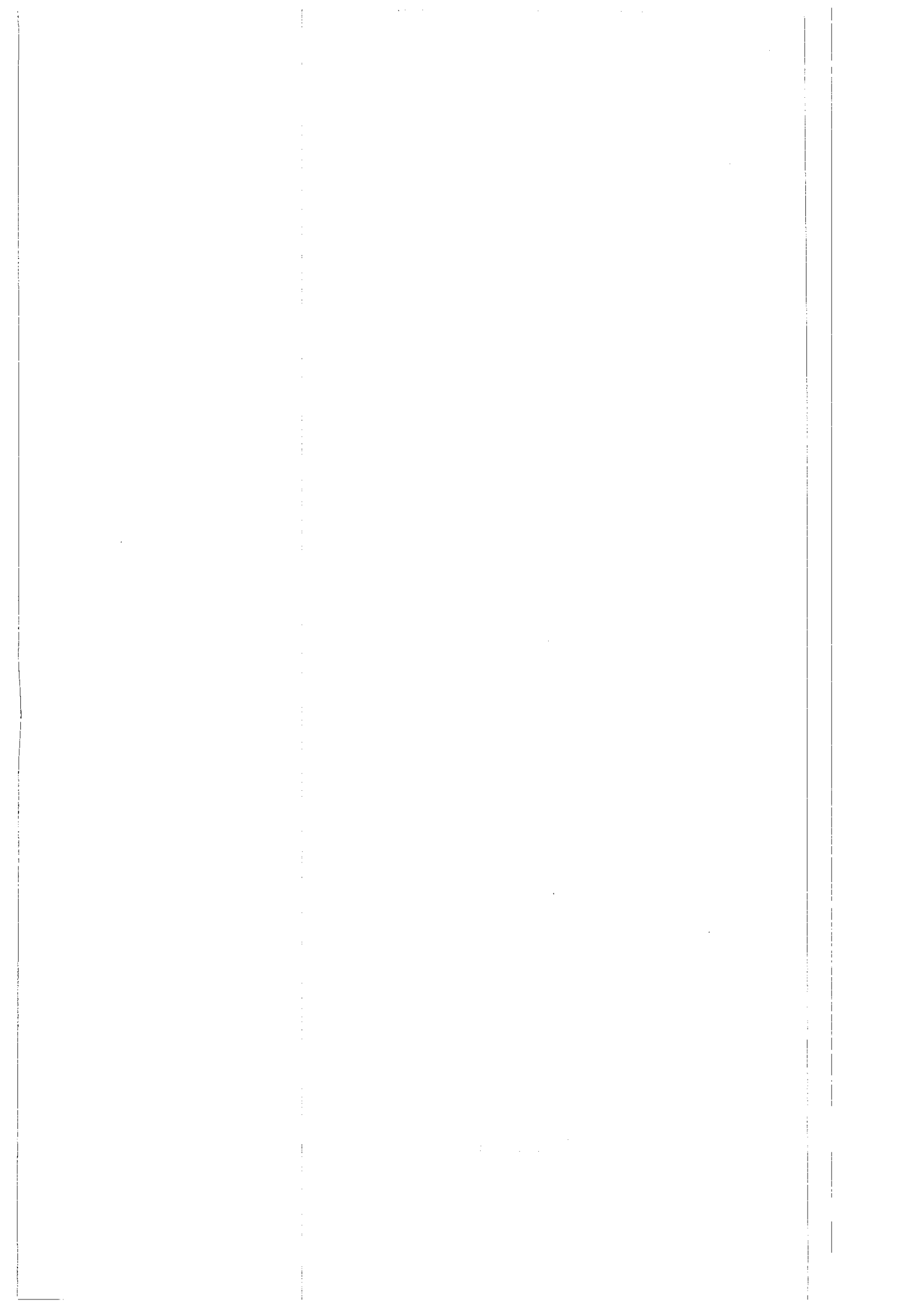
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