

SENATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 38

Senator Stott-Despoja tabled the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

a) When Minister Ellison addressed the National Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council in Fremantle last year he referred to ongoing funding for programmes for developing parenting skills of people in prison. Please provide details of Commonwealth funding for programmes of this kind.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

This question was answered in the reply to Question number 43 from 31 October 2005. A copy of the reply to this question is attached.

That answer detailed *Prisoners and their Families* a national pilot program funded under the National Crime Prevention (NCP) Programme.

In addition to the NCP program, funding is available under the \$64 million National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP). The objectives of the NCCPP to provide practical and flexible support for local projects and to trial new approaches to deal with local crime prevention issues, to increase public awareness of an support for crime prevention at the local level; and increase the capacity of diverse communities to deal with crime and victimisation. To date 86 projects have been approved, committing some \$14.8 million. Included amongst these projects are two that specifically focus on the needs of women in prisons. Details of the two projects are as follows:

- Centacare Catholic Family Services *Stop and Start* Grant \$110,096

The project will engage women exiting the criminal justice system by offering them a holistic approach to enhance skills and exclude social isolation. Through a creative experience, women will develop links with the wider community and have the opportunity for reunification with their children and families. There will also be a focus on reducing recidivism.

- Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies (Trescillian)
Mothering at a Distance Grant: \$447,421

The *Mothering at a Distance* project establishes a self-sustaining education and support program to assist with the case management and addressing the criminogenic needs of incarcerated mothers. It will also enhance their ability to provide appropriate and sensitive parenting, reducing the emotional and social impact of separation due to incarceration on their children aged nought to five years with the aim of breaking the inter-generational cycle of crime.

SENATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
(ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT)

Question No. 43

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) Can you please provide details of the program to develop the parenting skills of people in prison, referred to by the Minister in his speech to the National Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council this year?
- b) How much funding is allocated to this program?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) *Prisoners and their Families*, a national pilot program funded under the Australian Government's National Crime Prevention Program, provided practical support to the children and families of prisoners and to improve the parenting skills of prisoners. The *Prisoners and Their Families Program* provided activities at thirteen prisons across the country and concluded in 2004. The program was delivered by *Good Beginnings*, a community-based organisation with special skills in developing parenting programs across the country.

The program generally consisted of an 8 week course (two to three hours per week), covering:

- relationships and responsibilities
- parenting and prison
- ages and stages of development
- play and enjoying being a parent
- conflict and coping with hard times, including difficulties in communication and abuse
- returning home - what to expect.

The program is the subject of an evaluation report *National Evaluation of the Prisoners and their Families Program* which is available on the internet at www.crimeprevention.gov.au.

- b) The Government committed \$5 million to the project. Funding included \$150,000 for an external evaluation of the national program