

OCTOBER
2016

CORRECTIONS

news

A close-up photograph of a woman with brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue Queensland Corrections uniform with a lanyard around her neck. She is holding a tabby cat with yellow eyes. The background is a chain-link fence.

Our animal program partnerships

Collaborating with animal welfare
and assistance organisations for the
rehabilitation of animals and offenders alike.

// This issue



Front Cover: Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre Activities Officer, Anne-Maree Miller is helping to give abandoned and stray cats a second chance.

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The October issue of Corrections News takes a look at some of the rehabilitative programs and partnerships that our colleagues are involved with across the state, many of which have been acknowledged this year with Excellence Awards.

It is always a privilege to see the great work that goes on through the development of professional relationships with stakeholders. These relationships often come as a result of our colleagues devoting significant time, effort and dedication to create a positive outcome for prisoners and offenders.

This issue also focuses on the important role that our cultural liaison and chaplaincy teams play in breaking down communication barriers, promoting reintegration and building personal support networks for prisoners to assist in changing their offending behaviour.

Please enjoy the October edition of Corrections News.

- 3 OUR ANIMAL PROGRAMS
QCS partners with animal welfare organisations to assist in the rehabilitation of animals and offenders alike
- 7 THE LOGAN FRESH START PROGRAM
Assisting offenders to gain the skills they need for employment
- 8 CASE MANAGER, STACEY RAU
Stacey is spearheading a campaign to raise funds to support research into children's cancer treatment.
- 9 G20 CITATIONS
Acknowledging QCS staff for their service
- 10 TIFFANY CAMERON
Meet the Custodial Correctional Officer who is making a difference for those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder

- 11 CULTURAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT MARYBOROUGH CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
Giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners the opportunity to share their culture.
- 12 DON WILLIAMS
Don's work as Senior Cultural Liaison Officer at Brisbane Correctional Centre is focused on breaking down cultural barriers
- 13 CHAPLAINCY SERVICES AND THE SYCAMORE TREE PROJECT
Partnering with Prison Fellowship Queensland to deliver rehabilitative programs across the state



// community matters

QCS partners with animal welfare organisations to assist in the rehabilitation of animals and offenders alike.



QCS is involved in many collaborative programs with animal service providers.

These programs range from animal fostering to community service assistance, but all play a significant role in the mutual rehabilitation of prisoners, offenders and the animals themselves.

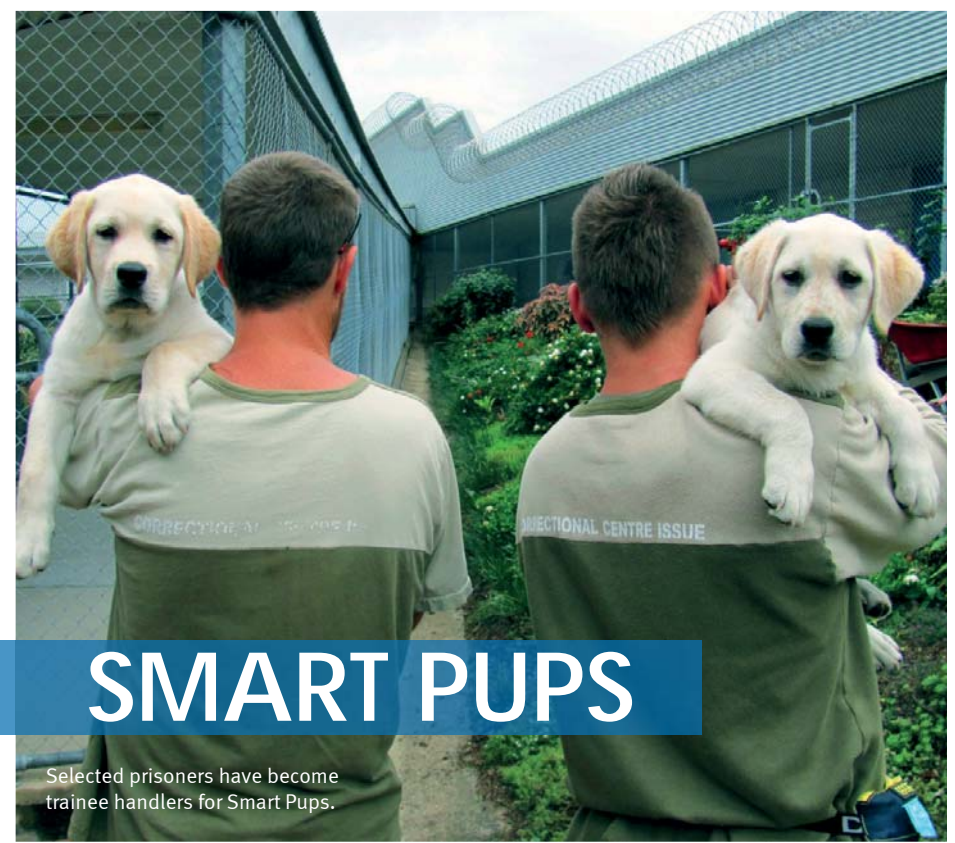
Affording prisoners the opportunity to improve the lives of animals and gain skills and knowledge in animal welfare allows them to give back to the community harmed by their offending behaviour, and also improve their employment prospects upon release.

Smart Pups trains assistance dogs for children with special needs, with a focus on improving the quality of life of young people with autism and seizure-related syndromes and their families.

Smart Pups initiated a partnership with Maryborough Correctional Centre this year with foster dogs, Hope and Hank. Selected prisoners have become trainee handlers and are working with Smart Pups in advancing

the dogs through training modules. These prisoners are also responsible for looking after the dogs during the week and are accountable for record-keeping requirements until the dogs go home with staff each weekend for community socialisation outside of the correctional centre.

Prisoners have also fabricated exercise yards and runs for the dogs from materials supplied by Smart Pups.



SMART PUPS

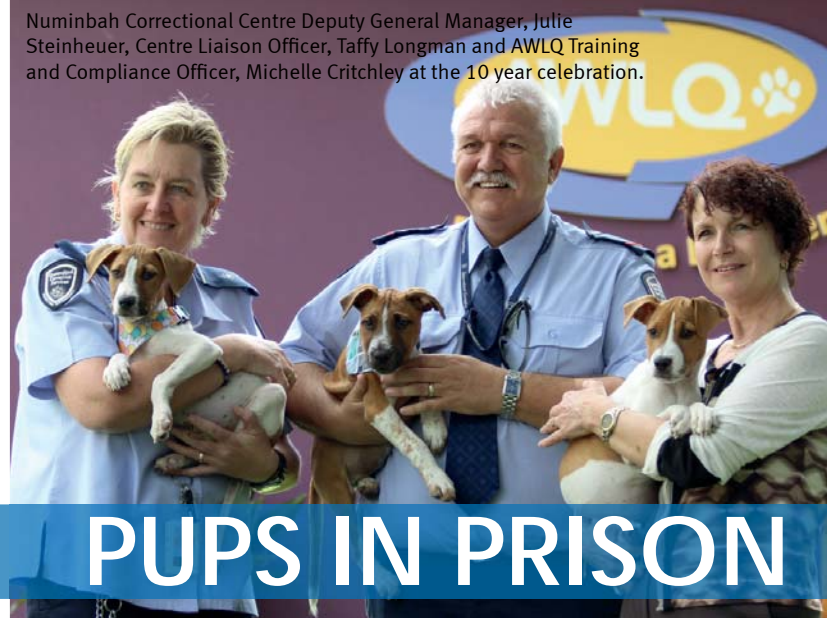
Selected prisoners have become trainee handlers for Smart Pups.

Numinbah Correctional Centre and the Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ) have been in partnership for the past decade, delivering the Pups in Prison Program.

More than 500 dogs have been fostered at the centre, where they have the capacity to take larger breeds and mothers with their whole litters for extended periods of time.

The program also encompasses the temporary fostering of dogs from domestic violence related situations.

Prisoners also perform community service for AWLQ and undergo training to ensure the dogs are healthy and well socialised.



Numinbah Correctional Centre Deputy General Manager, Julie Steinheuer, Centre Liaison Officer, Taffy Longman and AWLQ Training and Compliance Officer, Michelle Critchley at the 10 year celebration.

PUPS IN PRISON



4 PAWS ON THE INSIDE

4 Paws on the Inside was implemented at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre and received a QCS Divisional Excellence Award in the Fostering Innovation category this year.

The program involves the fostering of dogs that would otherwise be euthanized at local impoundments.

Prisoners provide socialisation and obedience training for the dogs when animal control and welfare authorities are at capacity.



4 Paws on the Inside gives impounded dogs a second chance at life.



RSPCA CAT FOSTERING



BWCC Activities Officer, Anne-Maree Miller presenting Julie Herbert and Chloe Bess from the RSPCA with a cheque for the centre's Cupcake Day fundraising efforts.

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre (BWCC) partners with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) to foster stray and abandoned cats. Prisoners are trained to care for the animals, sometimes assisting in their recovery from illness or surgery.

The program has also expanded to assist with the Pets in Crisis Program with DVConnect to provide a safe temporary home for

cats belonging to victims of domestic violence. This year, Correctional Supervisor, Marilyn Cook received the QCS Divisional Award for the Fostering Innovation category for her work in implementing the program.

BWCC has also partnered with the RSPCA to raise funds for the annual RSPCA Cupcake Day. This August, prisoners and staff contributed to raise nearly \$3,000 for animals in need.



The Logan Fresh Start Program

Logan City Probation and Parole Service has partnered with stakeholders including Centrelink and the Department of Education and Training to deliver several programs to assist offenders in gaining employment.

The Logan Fresh Start Program was introduced this year, with six offenders completing a Certificate II in Landscaping and Rural Operations. Of the participants enrolled in the course, three gained employment and two went on to complete a Certificate III in Landscaping and Horticulture.

Throughout the duration of the course, offenders were also given the opportunity to attend rehabilitation courses focusing on gambling addiction, alcohol abuse and financial planning and budgeting, which can be key factors involved with offending behaviour.

With such a positive outcome allowing offenders to improve their employability, Logan City Probation and Parole Service is in the process of setting up a second rotation of the program.



Case Manager, Stacey Rau and Supervisor, Priscilla Berry after the hair shaving event.

Case Manager, **Stacey Rau** is spearheading a campaign to raise funds to support research into children's cancer treatment.

Case Manager, Stacey Rau is making a difference by raising funds to support research into children's cancer treatment.

One year ago, Stacey was diagnosed with stage 4a oral cancer. After having undergone major surgery and completing radiotherapy treatment, she is now back at work and is regaining some normality.

"I am lucky to personally have a positive prognosis, a huge support network, access to the best healthcare in the country, and an extremely supportive employer. I actually feel like one of the luckiest people in the world! I really could not ask for anything more.

"I have the overwhelming desire to give back in some way and have

decided to undertake community fundraising. My charity of choice is The Kids' Cancer Project. My reason for this is that every time I have had a procedure that is painful or scary, I can't help but think about how children diagnosed with cancer must feel.

"There is a lack of specifically designed cancer treatments for children and therefore they are often subject to the same testing and treatments as adults," says Stacey.

In April this year, Stacey shaved her head to raise funds for The Kids' Cancer Project, a national charity that supports childhood cancer research and has invested more than \$34 million to projects since 1993, thanks to community support.

Stacey's fundraising goal started at \$2,500 and after surpassing this amount, has raised over \$3,700.

To donate, head to <https://charityfundraiser.everydayhero.com/au/stacey>.

If you would like to learn more about The Kids' Cancer Project, visit www.thekidscancerproject.org.au.





G20 Citations

On August 17, QCS staff from the Escort and Security Branch were acknowledged for their service during the 2014 G20 event in Brisbane.

During the G20, 68 staff were sworn in by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as Special Constables.

G20 Citations were presented to staff to acknowledge security services provided during the event.

The Citations were developed by the QPS Honours and Awards Secretariat using the G20 logo colours, representing the green, blue and orange of the Australian forests, ocean and deserts.



Custodial Correctional Officer, **Tiffany Cameron** is making a difference for those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.



Tiffany will be attempting to break a world record by pulling a 10 tonne cargo aircraft by the end of the year.

Custodial Correctional Officer, Tiffany Cameron joined QCS because she was looking for a fast paced and challenging career. Now she is challenging herself further by attempting to break a world record by pulling a 10 tonne cargo aircraft by the end of the year for Mates4Mates.

Tiffany's keen attitude toward setting personal goals initiated as an Australian Air Force cadet when she was younger. "I fell in love with flying an aircraft, and formed a huge admiration for the Air Force," she says.

Her current mission involves an attempt to raise \$5,000 for the worthwhile cause in an endeavour to put the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the spotlight. "I really wanted to help Mates4Mates as my father works closely with them through the

Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL). I have seen the good they do in assisting men and women who have served in the Australian Defence Force and I have also seen the impact of PTSD in family and friends.

"I thought to myself, I'm pretty strong - Why don't I put that to good use and try to raise money for those who have been so brave and strong serving in the Australian Defence Force?"

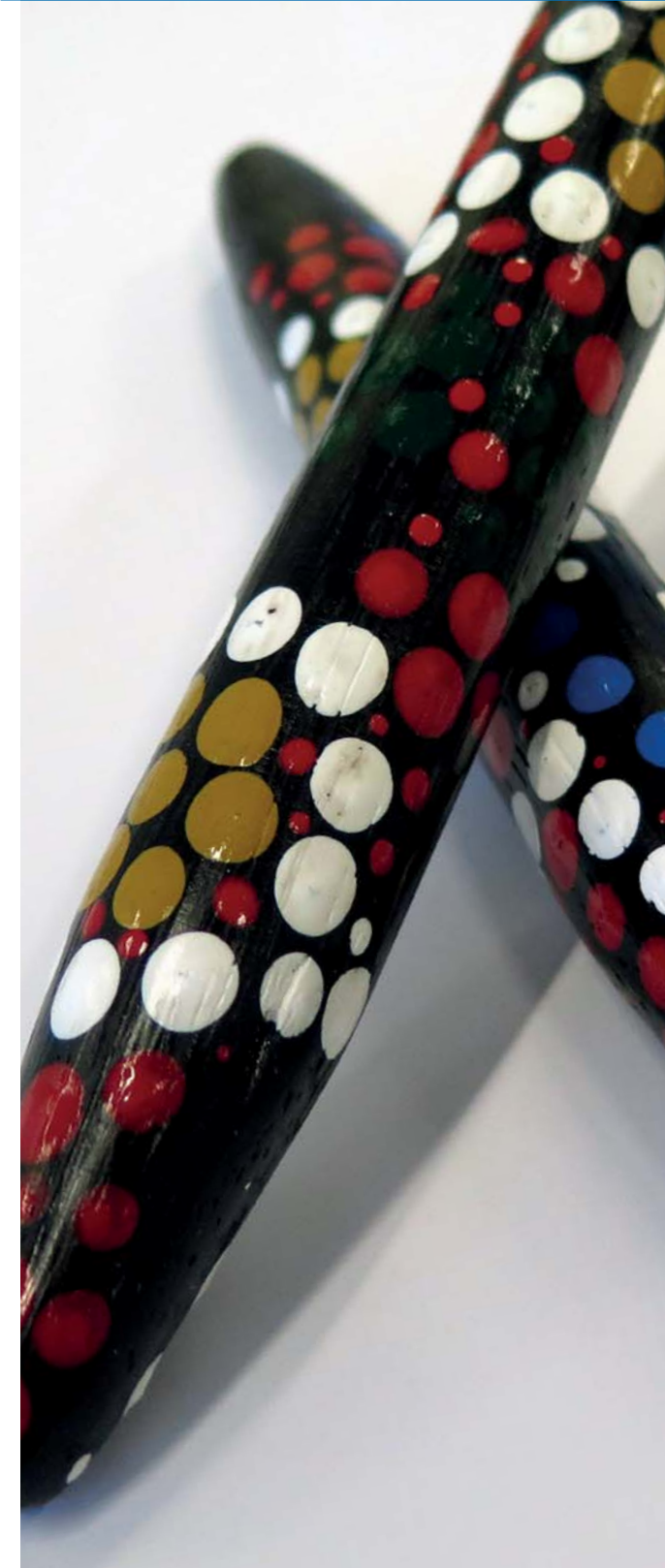
"I thought pulling an aircraft would be very symbolic of my cause, with my passion for aviation and respect for the military, as well as my endeavour to help people in need. I thought, let's do something crazy and huge and ridiculous to try and get a big message across.

"PTSD and depression are not only suffered by those in the military, but it is an issue that is very close to home for a lot of us. We probably all know of someone affected by it. But you are never alone and there is always help," says Tiffany.

To assist Tiffany in her mission, her Go Fund Me page can be found at www.gofundme.com/2jrdkdqw.

For more information about Mates4Mates, head to <http://mates4mates.org>.

CULTURAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Prisoners from MCC hand crafted clap sticks and wombats for the Cultural Community Connections Program.

Maryborough Correctional Centre (MCC) has recently established a Cultural Community Connections Program, an initiative encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners to engage in cultural activities.

MCC was one of the correctional centres that contributed to the Freedom of Expression Exhibition as part of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF). As well as artworks, prisoners at MCC contributed a number of sets of clap sticks for the program organisers to give away to guests and community members attending the launch of the exhibiton.

The clap sticks provided the prisoners an opportunity

to be a part of the CIAF, educating the community, sharing their culture, and allowing them to express their personal journeys and stories.

The timber for the clap sticks was sourced locally, cut and shaped at the centre in one of the workshops, and painted in the 'Duwalami' spiritual centre by prisoners.

Another element of the Cultural Community Connections Program includes the production of hand sewn wombats for NAIDOC Day family visits. Children attending NAIDOC visits were given a wombat as well as the opportunity to paint or draw on it as a family activity.



Don Williams' work as Senior Cultural Liaison Officer at Brisbane Correctional Centre is focused on breaking down cultural barriers.



Don has implemented a ceramics program at BCC to encourage cultural communication.

Brisbane Correctional Centre (BCC) Senior Cultural Liaison Officer, Don Williams is passionate about his role, and this year received a QCS Divisional Excellence Award for his efforts in the development of strategies to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners in gaining a positive sense of identity to their cultural and spiritual heritage.

"Our role in here for the prisoners is to make sure all of their cultural needs are met. It's based on a sense of community and respect and trying to engage them," he says.

BCC offers cultural programs for prisoners waiting for transfer to a placement centre, including art and ceramics, as well as the Cultural Awareness Program.

"This program is very important. We talk to the families and find out things these boys never knew about their heritage and for me, to watch them find out about their culture and take pride in it – that's my ultimate goal. Many of the prisoners lack ownership of who they are."

Don talks about his passion for sharing his strong sense of Aboriginal cultural connection with prisoners.

"We are proud people and there are far better things that these prisoners can do than come to jail.

"They've all got potential – the whole lot – they've just got to find it and we've got to grow that. It's about finding potential in every single one of them and that comes down to sitting down and spending time with people," says Don.

Don established the ceramics program at the centre as a means for breaking down cultural barriers and encouraging communication.

"In our community, our culture is about communicating through story-sharing and that's who we are," he says.

He acknowledges the centre's staff play a significant role in the success of the programs. "I've got magic support here from the General Manager, Bernie Kruhse, Deputy General Manager, Joel Smith, Correctional Manager, Mark Granville, Manager, Offender Development, Gail Kingsford and my team, including Cultural Liaison Officers Sian Williams and Kyle Williams."

Chaplaincy services promote prisoner reintegration by helping offenders build personal support networks that they can continue to access after release from custody. The State Chaplaincy Board is made up of six religious organisations, including the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches, the Salvation Army, Prison Fellowship Queensland and Inside Out Chaplaincy. The chaplains' services are available to all offenders seven days a week, regardless of their faith or denomination.

The Sycamore Tree Project is run by Prison Fellowship Queensland across the state. Adam Leslie is the Project Administrator.

"The Sycamore Tree Project is a restorative justice program that is proven to reduce the recidivism of prisoners and its delivery by us is based on the bible story of the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus.

"Having conducted the program now several times in Queensland prisons, we can share some quite profound success stories and we would like to see the program grow into other Queensland correctional centres," says Adam.

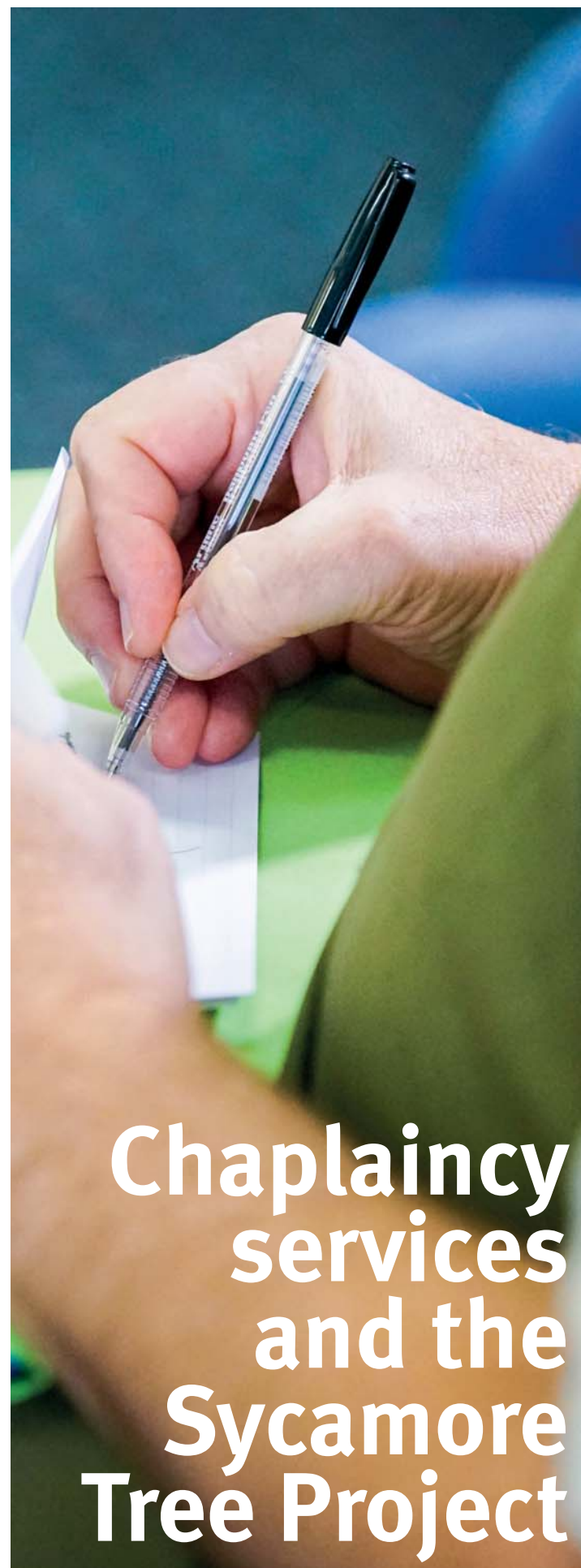
The project gives prisoners the opportunity to listen to the stories of victims. One prisoner shares his experience on completion of

the course:

"For me, the most important message I have taken from this course is that victims of crime can and do forgive the offenders that have committed crimes against them, which in turn enables us as offenders to forgive ourselves. Knowing this does not mean that the offences we have committed are excused however, it does allow us to move forward with our lives in the hope we can get a fair chance within the community, and contribute to society in a positive way."

The program is focused on allowing prisoners to understand the ripple effects of crime and how they can affect not only the victims' lives, but also their families, friends and colleagues.

For further information, Prison Fellowship Queensland can be contacted at:
07 3399 3190
qld.office@prisonfellowship.org.au
www.prisonfellowship.org.au



Chaplaincy services and the Sycamore Tree Project

Queensland Corrective Services Probation and Parole Case Managers



Make a difference to your community - Applications are open!

For more information about these opportunities and to apply, please visit www.manpower.com.au/qcs

Recruitment Process



Experience, behaviour and skills we are looking for:

- » Interpersonal skills and teamwork
- » Conflict management and negotiation
- » Problem solving and judgement
- » Communication (written and verbal)
- » Policy application (following procedures and guidelines)
- » Drive and commitment
- » Self-management and resilience
- » Organisational fit
- » Computer skills

Required Skills:

- » Possession of a degree relevant for the human services or criminology fields such as Law, Justice, Humanities, Psychology, Social Sciences, Social Welfare, Health, Education, Business and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.
- » Final year students are encouraged to apply for temporary vacancies to be assessed for a merit based list for future permanent appointment once full completion and receipt of formal degree is provided from a recognised tertiary institution.

Next Issue

- » Taking a look at some of our key partnerships and projects from 2016

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