

Prison Chaplaincy Report

It is now just on four months since I had the great privilege of being the coordinating chaplain for the Darwin correction centre. I got quite a surprise when I discovered that we had some very dedicated people regularly giving freely of their time to run church services and to offer pastoral care in the prison, so thank you Pat Williams, Nichol Anderson and Barry Butler. You are part of a group of chaplains who on any given weekend, in one form or another conduct church services in the prison at which some 50 to 60 people attend, so thank you for your dedication and hard work. Thanks to all who at very short notice donated books games etc. before Christmas. Because of what was received we were able to put together a hamper for all the prison blocks.

There are over 600 persons in the Darwin prison and so there is plenty of work to do. The following are some of the service's we offer: Bible studies every Monday, a book review every Wednesday, and just started a meditation and relaxation time every second Friday, and in the Don Dale centre a basic introduction to the sacraments of the church. Along with all the classes we have to be available for anyone who needs to talk about personal issues.

Chaplaincy has a very important role to play in the prison and will continue to do so in the future as there some 700 people per 100,000 head of population go to prison every year in the NT, very much more than any other state in Australia. It is very encouraging to know that we now have a new superintendent of the prison who at a recent meeting offered his full support for chaplaincy. So with that thought in mind the next year is going to be positively exciting. May God bless our work?

Br. Brian