

## Meeting Minutes – Meeting No. 18

Clarence Correctional Centre Community Consultative Committee

Monday 7 June 2021 – 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**Location** The Clarence Correctional Centre, Avenue Road, Lavadia

**Chairperson:** Margaret Harvie.

**Community representatives:** Jason Connell, Julie Perkins, Robert Thompson, Tania Williams, Geoffrey Jones,

**Local Government representative:** Dan Griffin (Clarence Valley Council)

**NorthernPathways representatives:** Glen Scholes (Serco), John Myers (John Laing)

**In attendance:** Bree Hiatt (Serco)

**Apologies:** Sharron Lee Todd

Item no.	Description	Actions
	<b>Tour in advance of the meeting</b> - A number of questions were raised by CCC members and answered as part of the tour.	
1.	<b>Welcome, apologies and introductions</b> Julie Perkins provided a Welcome to Country and acknowledged Elder’s past, present and emerging.	
2.	<b>Declarations of pecuniary and other interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tania Williams (TW) is a TAFE NSW employee. TAFE NSW has entered into a contract for the provision of vocational education and training to the Centre. Tania is not directly part of the group that is contracted to the Centre.</li> <li>Julie Perkins (JP) is the Chairperson of the Gurehlgam Corporation, an organisation that provides services for Aboriginal people.</li> <li>Geoffrey Jones is a business owner who provides supplies to Corrective Services NSW including this centre.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Correspondence to the CCC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email from Sharron Lee Todd regarding: Inmate art being provided to the Boom Gate Gallery for exhibition.</li> <li>Email from Sharron Lee Todd re concerns about housing shortage and recent media report of comments from Glen about housing and people remaining in the area.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Action items from the last meeting including discussion on these items</b> <b>Serco to update CCC when Enterprise Agreement is finalised</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GS reported that the EA negotiations are proceeding, a minor setback was experienced when the CPSU sought to join the Supervisors to the Enterprise Agreement. This issue has been sorted out between Serco and the CPSU. Negotiation will continue from the week of 14/06/2021</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>GS / JM to seek permission to make figure from the Social Impact Study about the destination of released prisoner publicly available.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information is not readily available to be published. This information will be available after two years of data collection and will be included in future impact studies required to be published in accordance with the requirements of the project Conditions of Approval.</li> <li>Of the inmates released from the Centre 35 were identified as residents of the Grafton area. On release 31 of these individuals chose to remain in Grafton as they have family and social networks in the areas rather than return to areas where they were incarcerated from. It is understood that there has been little impact on social housing as a result of these releases.</li> </ul> <p><b>GS to report back to the next meeting on progress of the Social Impact Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Social impact study is underway and nearing completion. Some of this data will be part of the social impact study. Serco are also making a social contribution via the SES and recent flooding events in the Clarence Valley.</li> </ul> <p><b>MH and BH to action advertising and getting a new member of the CCC prior to the next meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NorthernPathways and Serco will commence advertising for membership on the committee. This will include a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce, local radio station interview and social media exposure.</li> <li>The committee expressed interest in the opportunity being advertised widely including with the Aboriginal community - the value of the CCC has been that it has had broad participation and Martin brought a unique perspective in the link to families and schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action</b> - the CCC would encourage early release of information on the social impacts to reassure the community that has expressed concern about these impacts.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - The CCC to assist in making known the vacancy on the CCC</p>
5.	<p><b>Significant events since out last meeting to report from Serco</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serco provided a comprehensive list of significant events since the last meeting, See attached.</li> </ul>	Bree
6.	<p><b>What we are hearing from the community?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>R Thompson</b> - reported that he understood that legal representatives are attending the Centre to see inmate clients. There is also an effective uptake in the use of the Audio-Visual Link (AVL) for Solicitors consulting with their clients.</li> <li><b>J Perkins</b> – Raised the ongoing issue of the need for NDIS assessments to occur before people leave the centre. CLA reported that that they support inmates seeking NDIS support, however there are issue within NDIS itself concerning when inmates can become eligible for NDIS</li> </ul>	All

	<p>support whilst still incarcerated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JP also raised the issue of the perception of the public when they see an inmate at the Grafton Base Hospital. GS reported that there is a very small number of inmates being treated in GBH and this is usually due to emergency treatment that cannot otherwise be provided at the Centre. The proportion of inmates being taken to GBH CLA is less than the previous inmates attending from the old Grafton Prison as there are health facilities on site (that the CCC saw during the your)</li> <li>• <b>J Connell</b> - Raised the issue that has been reported of public transport to the Centre from Grafton. The issue is with Transport for NSW. The concern is access for families of inmates. GS reported that the Centre was invited to give evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry concerning children of incarcerated people. The Centres approach to support of inmates and their children was presented.</li> <li>• <b>D Griffin</b> - discussed the issue of housing. There is a need to maintain a watch on this issue in the local area and ongoing discussion about this issue and potential impact on housing. The impact of COVID with people moving into the area was also noted.</li> <li>• <b>G Jones</b> - Raised the issue of community concern about staff attrition and the potential link to remuneration. GS reiterated about the EA negotiation underway, the attrition rate has fallen dramatically in the past six month with a more stable work force in place. The finalization of the EA should assist to create a more stable workforce.</li> <li>• <b>T Williams</b> - has heard nothing from the community</li> <li>• <b>S.L. Todd</b> Enquired whether inmates would be able to provide their art to the Boom Gate gallery for exhibition. BH said that the focus was on the local gallery and local connections. Inmates from Clarence have provided approximately 20 pieces of artwork to the Clarence Valley Indigenous Art Awards for judging and showing at the new Grafton Art Gallery. It is considered that these local connections are more appropriate than having the artwork exhibited in Sydney.</li> <li>• <b>SLT</b> also raised in an email received today with her apology about the current housing shortage in Grafton. She pointed to an article that indicated 50% of recent releases have stayed in the Clarence Valley. See text of email below.</li> <li>• Of the 591 inmates released from the Centre between 1 Jan and 31 May 2021, 35 were identified as residents of</li> </ul>	
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	<p>the Grafton area. On release 31 (5.2%) of the total inmates released chose to remain in Grafton as they have family and social networks in the area, that is rather than return to areas where they were incarcerated from.</p> <p>It is understood that there has been little impact on social housing as a result of these releases.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Centre Operations Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community engagement / events/ activities</b> - a list of significant events since the last meeting is captured below.</li> <li>• <b>Any complaints or matters raised</b> - no complaints received at the Centre in the past three months.</li> <li>• <b>Employment update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS reported that the Centre is employing three reintegration and five case planning officers to assist in release preparation and day to day case management of inmates.</li> <li>• The Centre recently appointed Mr. David White in the role of Deputy General Manager, Security and Operations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Aboriginal Legal Services - progress update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ALS is not readily available to indigenous inmates at Clarence as it has been previously through field officers. The lack of this personal interaction for indigenous inmates which is supposed to be different to legal aid is disappointing to the Consultative Committee.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>CCC membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Robert Thompson announced his resignation from the committee. Bob is moving to Queensland to be close to his family and grandchildren</li> <li>• The Committee joined in thanking Robert for his contribution to the Consultative committee sighting his insight and advice to the committee in particular on the legal service situation has been invaluable.</li> <li>• As a result of this resignation the recruitment for CCC membership will now be for 2 members.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action item:</b> Committee members to assist with the promotion for filling two vacancies.</p>
10.	<p><b>Final Questions / comments</b> No issues or comments raised</p>	
11.	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 September 2021 – 2:00pm</li> <li>• This is timed to include a tour of Centre Industry Areas</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Close</b></p>	

**Correspondence**

<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>Sharron Lee Todd - 7 June 2021</b></p> <p>I wanted to raise the issue of the current housing shortage in Grafton as per Real Estate Agent, Alison Paul comments. NBN News May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – posted on Clarence Valley Information exchange fb 21/05. We were assured on several occasions that most /all inmates return to their home area upon release, however comments by Glen at a recent chamber of commerce meeting seem to reflect almost 50% of recent releases have stayed in the Clarence Valley. (31/35)</p> <p>I was approached by a resident just yesterday, a young Mum currently residing in a run-down caravan on her parents property – she has not been able to secure a residence in South Grafton due to a shortage of available properties.</p> <p>This seems to conflict with the answer given by Serco that inmates do not stay in the area after release.</p>	<p><b>Glen Scholes - 7 June</b></p> <p>My comments have been taken completely out of context. What I said was that there has been a net decrease in inmates remaining in the area by 4. There has been no increase whatsoever to inmate numbers from inmates outside the valley deciding to stay in Grafton post release.</p> <p>There is no evidence that released inmates are remaining in Grafton and taking rental properties, in fact the opposite. Inmates released back to Grafton that were picked up in Grafton return predominantly to exactly the same housing location they were in before being charged by police.</p>
<p><b>Sharron Lee Todd - 20 May 2021</b></p> <p>I would like to ask at the meeting if the Centre is planning / allowing inmates to paint art &amp; present the art works at The Boom Gate Gallery.</p> <p><a href="https://www.boomgategallery.dcj.nsw.gov.au">https://www.boomgategallery.dcj.nsw.gov.au</a></p>	<p>See discussion in meeting notes</p>