

Special recognition for prison case workers on National Corrections Day

Case workers play a critical role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and will be specially recognised by GEO Australia during today's National Corrections Day activities.

Staff at the privately-run Ravenhall Correctional Centre and associated community reintegration facility, The Bridge Centre in Richmond, support hundreds of prisoners to maximise their chances of leading a law-abiding life post-release.

GEO Australia's General Manager of Ravenhall Correctional Centre, Col Caskie said: The theme of the fourth annual National Corrections Day— *Working together to reduce reoffending* — could not be more fitting for staff working in these Centres.

“The role case workers play is critical in ensuring prisoners are guided and encouraged through personalised interventions to address the underlying reasons that might contribute to their re-offending,” Mr Caskie said. “In addition to keeping the community safe from offenders, prisons are about working to improve the future of those in custody post-release.

“Our case management model enables professional and dedicated rehabilitation and reintegration staff to deliver a myriad of evidenced-based programs and services to suit the individual needs of prisoners.

“The strong collaborative approach between our custodial and rehabilitation and reintegration staff is core to our success.”

Once prisoners are released from Ravenhall Correctional Centre, they can continue to access support through The Bridge Centre, as part of GEO's internationally recognised Continuum of Care model. This includes information on and assistance with basic care needs, drug and alcohol counselling, family support, housing and employment.

Mr Caskie said that since opening in late 2017, The Bridge Centre has supported hundreds of men with the rehabilitation journey they began in prison and while they reintegrate into the community.

“While take up of the services offered is voluntary, the high level of support being pursued by former prisoners demonstrates the importance of continuity of care for people exiting custody,” he said.

“Ravenhall's Correctional Officers, rehabilitation and reintegration staff and post-release case workers and are to be commended for their efforts in protecting the community by delivering professional case management best practice interventions.”

On National Corrections Day, Ravenhall's case workers will receive special recognition awards in acknowledgment of their dedicated and professional service to the community.

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- *The GEO Group Australia is Australia's largest provider of private correctional services. Our focus is on rehabilitating prisoners and giving them the support and growth to become positive and productive contributors to our society.*
 - *GEO Australia manages Ravenhall Correctional Centre on behalf of Corrections Victoria, with 600 staff and a capacity for over 1300 prisoners. Find out more at: geogroup.com.au*
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