



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

MEDIA LEAD

Linkage Projects Round Two **For funding commencing in 2010**

Queensland

Queensland will receive a total of \$10,857,031 for 42 Linkage Projects.

Griffith University will receive \$172,951 over three years for the following project:

The quality of prisons for Indigenous persons in custody: determining how prison impacts on culture, community life and recidivism (LP100200229)

International experience with Indigenous prisoners suggests prison need not be the void it presently is for too many traditional Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

Australian penology lags behind international research on prison quality and Indigenous spirituality and its applicability in custodial institutions. This lack of knowledge makes prisons complicit in high Indigenous imprisonment rates.

Until the Indigenous experience of prison is understood and enmeshed in Australia's occidental custodial system, prison administrators are hamstrung in the contribution a custodial sentence has on crime reduction.

The aim of this research is to improve prison outcomes, crime reduction potential and reduce Indigenous suffering through determining what prison quality is for remote Indigenous people, how spirituality presents itself in prison quality and how these two features can combine to reduce recidivism.

Through working in partnership with prisoners from primarily remote communities and the Western Australian and Northern Territory corrections departments, a nationally applicable measure of Indigenous prison quality will be developed.

The ultimate national benefit is a contribution to better health and safety in remote Indigenous communities through custodial reform and reduced criminal justice costs through lower recidivism.

Media contacts

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