

PRISONERS, PRISONS AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION C STATISTICS AND 'MAPS' OF DISADVANTAGE

A. Prisons in South Australia

There are nine prisons located throughout South Australia, four of which are in the Adelaide metropolitan area. During 2009 - 2010, South Australia had an average prisoner population of 1,963, of whom 132 were female and 1,831 were male. <http://www.corrections.sa.gov.au/sa-prisons>

B. The Current Situation of Prisons and Prisoners in Australia by Professor Rick Sarre, School of Law, University of South Australia

Power Point Presentation can be obtained by contacting the South Australian Council of Churches – sacc@picknowl.com.au or (08) 8215 0300. It covers aspects such as:

- Rates of Imprisonment in Australia 1999-2011
- Costs
- Crime Trends
- Mental Health
- Education and Work
- Are people punitive? – *here is an extract from this heading:*
 - When given the full information, people tend to agree with the judge. Lovegrove (2007)
 - Victims are no more punitive than the rest of the population. Gelb et al (2008)
 - People who think we need stiffer sentences is on the decline: 85% 1987 to 72% 2007 Roberts and Indermaur (2009).
 - But this does not necessarily apply in marginal seats.
 - Governments do not look at absolute numbers: they look at the numbers in vulnerable seats. [note from SACC: see also **Section I: Advocacy**]

C. Postcodes of Disadvantage

The research of Professor Tony Vinson “Dropping off the Edge” <http://www.australiandisadvantage.org.au/> shows that the most disadvantaged are highly represented in the prison population. The data in his analysis is available by postcode for some states but not for South Australia. It seemed useful to have postcodes as a reference for our SA advocacy on **reducing conditions of inequality and disadvantage**.

The beginning of an analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics measurement of disadvantage for SA has been undertaken and this 2006 data and the Poverty Inquiry data (2003) have been extrapolated to produce an indicative list of the most disadvantaged metropolitan postcodes by Local Council Areas. A further listing of the most disadvantaged Statistical Local Areas across the state is provided.

It should also be noted that **Social Cohesion** can have a moderating influence on the effects of disadvantage. Measures of social cohesion are under development by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and at this stage their best discriminating indicator is the measure of voluntary work for an organization or group.

A copy of this work in progress can be obtained by contacting the South Australian Council of Churches – sacc@picknowl.com.au or (08) 8215 0300.

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