INSIDE LEARNING FOR OUTSIDE LIVING

Les Elliott, Manager Accommodation Low Security (Farm)
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Introduction
Lotus Glen Farm is a Low Custody Correctional Facility attached to a Secure Facility. The Correctional Centre is situated 73kms west of Cairns on the Atherton Tablelands. The Farm is a 2000 acre property with 680 acres of arable land. The Secure Correctional Centre is situated within the boundaries of the property. The Farm has a diversity of farming enterprises including both agricultural and horticultural practices. The Secure environment is being developed to a capacity of 700 high security prisoners and the Farm has a capacity of 124 low security prisoners and services a 12 man Work Camp at Innisfail. The prisoner population is predominantly indigenous Aboriginal and Islander, comprising between 70% and 75% of the population.

Lotus Glen Farm’s Vision is to address recidivism through vocational skills acquisition. Vocational Education and Training linked with prisoner employment in Lotus Glen Low Security Farm Industries, provides opportunities for offenders to achieve competency in skill sets that increase their employability in the community on discharge.

Lotus Glen Farm accommodation area is a campus style environment with no physical barriers, locks or fences keeping them from the community. The security on the Farm is premised around the dynamic interaction between staff and prisoners and the selection process identifying prisoners for progression to the low security environment.

Prisoners are encouraged to participate in vocational training programs to develop skill sets that improve their employability on discharge. The centre has an approved vocational training budget that allows 2140 teacher training hours and prisoners self-refer to 55 different competencies across 13 training streams.