

# Prison Libraries

Their role in prisoner transformation



# Content

- Recent literature
- Alexander Maconochie Centre Library
- The Future
- Questions?

# The Reading Outcomes Framework ToolKit

- Empathy
- Increased confidence in ability to learn and express themselves
- Higher self-esteem and ability to cope with difficult situations



# Critical Survey – Special Issue on Reading and Writing in Prison

- Radical pedagogy
- Social transformation
- Positive impact on recidivism



# Recent trends in UK prison libraries

- 80-90 % prisoners in UK use a prison library
- Many discover reading for first time
- Many read only while in prison
- Prison librarians consider work a vocation  
- seeing lives transformed by reading and learning



# Prison Reading Groups Project

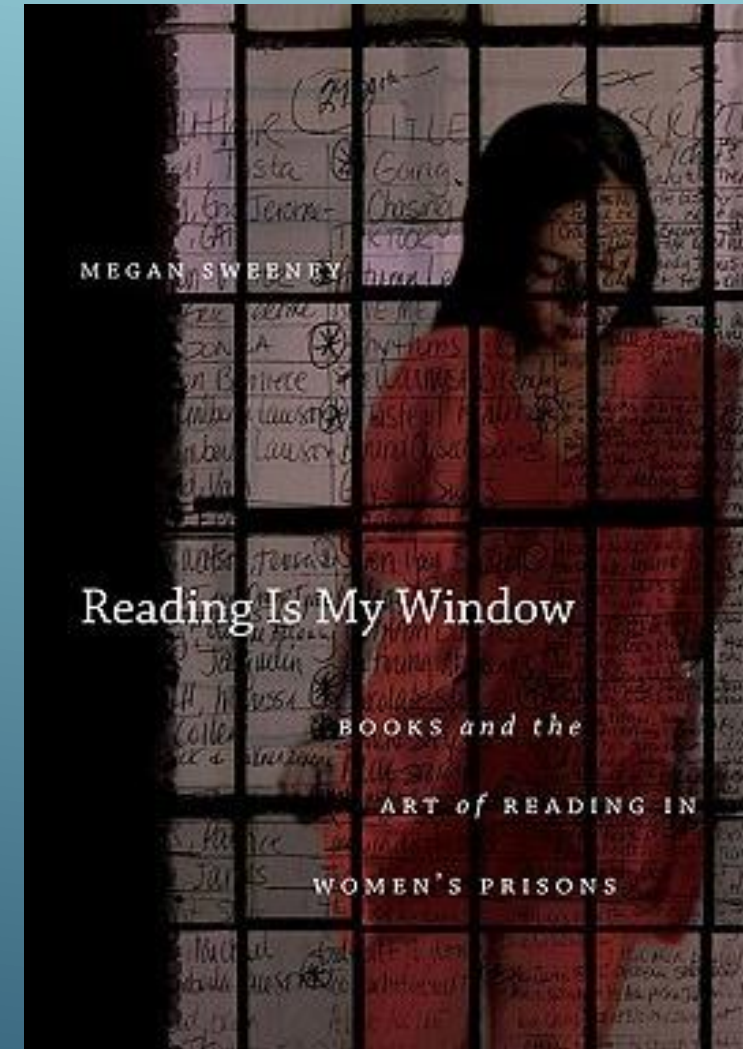
- Connection with wider culture
- Informal learning & purposeful activity
- Reaching readers
- High level learners
- Development of “soft skills”
- Imaginative capital
- Empathy & imagination
- Desistance & pro-social identity





# Megan Sweeney - Reading is my window: books and the art of reading in women's prisons

- Reading counters social-death
- Identification with book character
- Model to emulate or capacity to change
- Tactile and aesthetic properties of books



# AMC Library





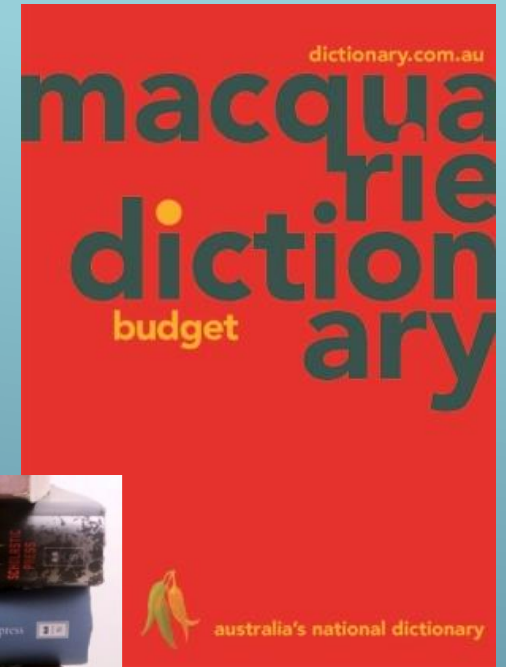
# Books and Reading

- 1600 books borrowed each month
- All detainees can borrow
- Wide range of genre available
- Book suggestions by detainees and staff encouraged



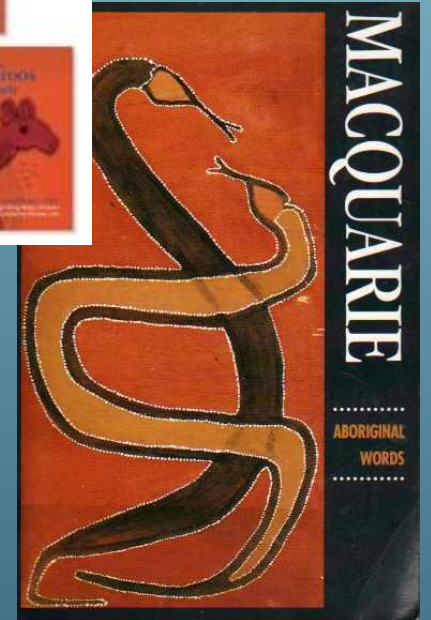
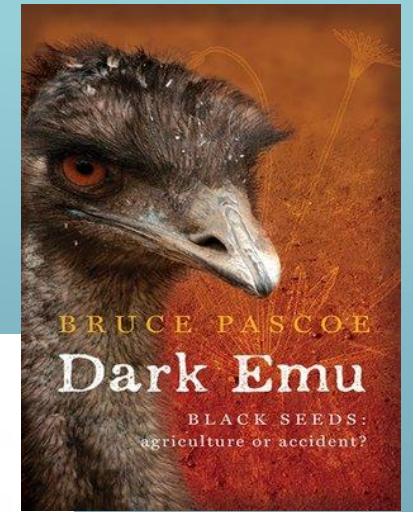
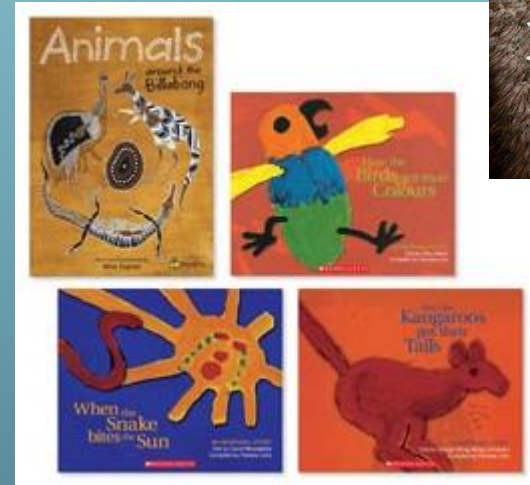
# Literacy

- Quick Reads
- ESL readers
- Dictionaries
- Children's books
- YA books



# Indigenous Readers

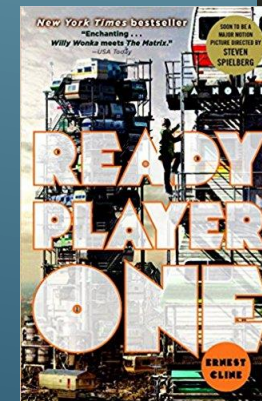
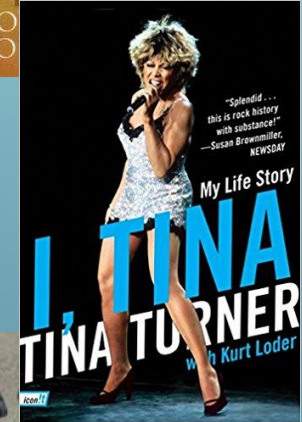
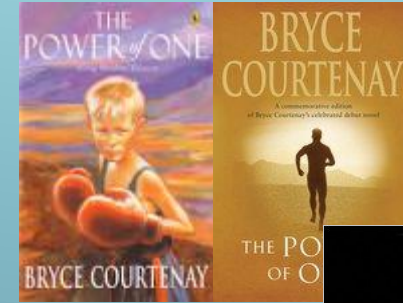
- Large range
- Language resources
- Displays
- Challenging good readers
- Positive engagement





# Book Club

- 4 books, 15 group discussions to date
- To This Day – spoken word poem about bullying
- Bryce Courtenay's *Power of One*
- Tina Turner's *I, Tina*
- Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*





# Positive interactions

- Printing
- Information
- Puzzles
- Guitar chords and lyrics
- Respect




# The Future

## Across Australia

- Implementation of ALIA Prison Guidelines



## At the AMC

- More Indigenous language resources
- A bigger library 
- Tracking books
- More input from other staff

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