

# Changing Tracks

Helping write the next chapter of your story

*An innovative Vocational Education and Training course at the Marngoneet Correctional Centre*

Presented by Karen Wright

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Canberra 2017



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# WHAT WAS THE NEED?

- for prisoners?
- for Corrections Victoria?
- for Box Hill Institute?
- for the Marngoneet Correctional Centre?

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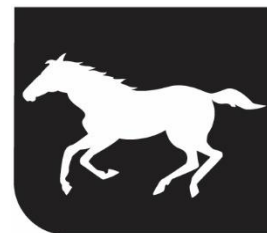
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## Program conception

# WHO WAS INVOLVED?

### Significant stakeholders

- Box Hill Institute
- Corrections Victoria
  - Education Training and Employment Branch,  
Marngoneet Leadership team, Program and Senior Education Officer
- Box Hill Institute teachers



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# GOALS AND VALUES

- Holistic approach to students as they approach release
- Provide practical skills during reintegration into society programs
- Boost student internal self confidence, esteem and awareness
- Establishing trust and esteem by providing mentorship opportunities for past graduates

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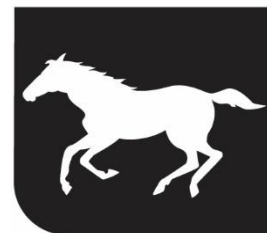
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# CHALLENGES AND RISKS

- Building Trust within the cohort
- Professional boundaries
- Emotional experiences for students
- Integrating program with prison programs and regular VET courses

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# PROGRAM DETAILS

- Bookclub
- Getting ready for work
- Person of the week
- Changing tracks radio broadcast
- Movies as case studies
- Coping strategies using relaxation and breathing techniques
- Positive lifestyles
- Guest speakers

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# FEEDBACK... CONSISTENT THEMES EMERGE

- “everyday I leave with a smile on my face”
- “I look forward to class everyday when generally I would shudder at the thought of sitting in a class for three months”
- “It’s the first feeling of connection I’ve had to the outside world. Also the first time I’ve felt like a normal human being since being in jail”
- “I highly recommend other prisoners do this course”

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# PROGRAM RESULTS

- Hard to measure intangibles
- LLN figures do indicate general improvement
- Many prisoners successfully enter further education as release approaches

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# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

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# FUTURE DIRECTION FOR THE PROGRAM

- Continued/increased support from stakeholders
- Increased capacity in delivery
- Further acceptance/enthusiasm of the program within the prison student population
- Use the program success to open further educational pathways

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

➤ Questions...



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