

Department of the Attorney General & of Justice NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research

Research Report 8

Day-In-Gaol Programme

ISBN 0 7240 2688 6



Research Report 8 July 1980

Published by the Department of the Attorney General & of Justice NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research

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PREFACE

Since its commencement over a year ago the Parramatta Day in Gaol Programme has generated a great deal of interest in the community. There is appeal in the idea that convicted prisoners should seek to deter others from following the path that they have taken. For the prisoners there is a reward for carrying out work which many see as useful and which gives them activities and some facilities which decrease the burden of incarceration. On the face of it it seems likely that to show a young man directly what it would be like to be sent to gaol, should have a powerful deterrent effect on future criminal behaviour. However, there are a number of complicating issues; for example, the degree to which fear is used in the programme, the nature of the information presented, the amount and type of contact between young people referred to the programme and the prisoners, and selection and follow-up of referrals. This report explores these issues and attempts a preliminary evaluation of the programme. At the time it was undertaken only 21 persons had passed through the programme, and so the results of the evaluation must be treated with caution. Hopefully, the report will provide some guidance to those administering the programme and those who seek to expand in Parramatta and other gaols and provide an opportunity for balanced discussion amongst those who support and those who oppose the development of the 'Day in Gaol' programme.

To assist us in the preparation of the final version of the report a draft was circulated to a number of people with responsibility or interest in the area*. Comments have been received from all those listed and have been taken into account in the writing of the report. Their comments do not represent in any sense an approval of the final document which is the responsibility of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. We are grateful for their help and for the help of all those we interviewed, for the prisoners who conduct the programme, and for the authorities at Parramatta Gaol and in the Department of Corrective Services.

The research was conducted by Jenny Morrison, a former staff member of the Bureau, and the first draft written by her. The second draft and incorporation of the comments by those listed below was made by Julie Stubbs, Research Officer. A number of members of staff at the Bureau read the Report and commented on the draft. Editing work was carried out by Ros Wood, and Jeff Sutton. The typing was done by Ales Daly.

A. J. Sutton,
DIRECTOR

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RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. In general the programme has been carefully administered and has been well supported by the administrative and custodial staff of the Department of Corrective Services, particularly of those at Parramatta Gaol. The prisoners in the Parramatta Recidivist Group have taken a very responsible approach in moving on from the basic idea first used in the United States. The United States programme used fear to an excessive degree: the Parramatta programme was more thorough, careful, and in the case of some of those persons interviewed in this evaluation, apparently having some deterrent effect. Nevertheless, this can only be a preliminary report and it is recommended that the programme be further evaluated for a period of one year to assess its effects in more detail.

2. In a programme designed to educate and change attitudes which is initiated and administered by prisoners and which uses examples and fear to a limited degree, continuous monitoring and supervision is essential. In that sense, an evaluation period would never be completed and there may be variation in the degree to which the programme is made available at Parramatta or other prisons, depending on prisoners available to man the programme and subsequent experience with it.

3. It is recommended that the role of the prison psychologist be more defined and more closely interwoven with the programme. The psychologist should be responsible for:

(1) assessment of offenders for referral to the programme and participation of referrals in the evaluation,

(2) the psychological safety of the referrals during the day,

(3) interviewing the referral immediately after attendance to handle any trauma caused by the day, assess immediate needs and arrange for the provision of further assistance if necessary.

(4) provide feedback to the Parramatta Recidivist Group members.

It may be necessary to use another professional person not attached to the gaol to perform some of these functions, particularly the post-programme assessment and follow-up which is considered to be absolutely essential to build on the effectiveness of the programme.

4. It is recommended that the emphasis on the discussion session of the programme be somewhat less based on the features of the prison system. There should be a development of positive themes such as alternatives to crime in coping with life.

5. Considerable attention was given to the proposition that persons under the age of 18 be eligible to attend the programme. Strong arguments were put by the Department of Youth and Community Services that no juvenile or young person be eligible to attend, through concern for their safety and the possibility that such a referral might be construed as a kind of remand in custody, a procedure which the Department has been anxious to reduce. In fact the programme is suited to those who have been in difficulty with the police and courts before and are now facing the possibility of a gaol term for the first time. Such people will often be aged between 16 to 18 and it is recommended that the power of referral be extended to officers of the Department of Youth and Community Services and Magistrates in Children's Courts for the referral of such persons.

6. It is important that no referral be made by a Children's Court or a Court of Petty Sessions without prior assessment by a prison psychologist or by a recognized person.

7. This report is not concerned with the other aspects of the programme carried out by the Parramatta Recidivist Group at Parramatta, such as the use of films and other material for groups outside the gaol. Evaluation of these procedures would need to be the subject of a separate study.

2. INTRODUCTION:

THE PRISON ENLIGHTENMENT PROGRAMME

"I know how I became what I am and I don't want youngsters to follow my path, thinking me and my like social heroes. I'm a father myself and I'm sure I can stop young kids becoming hardened crims."¹

The words of a member of the Parramatta Recidivist Group (PRG). They capture the major aims of the Prison Enlightenment Programme which operates at Parramatta Gaol - to persuade or deter young people from pursuing a lifestyle which would lead to imprisonment. The method for achieving this aim is to use themselves as "mirror images of the results of crime".² Although the kernel of the idea was taken and developed from a programme operating at Rahway State Prison, New Jersey, U.S.A., the tactics used at Parramatta Gaol are based on a different philosophy from that of the American Programme. The "shock and terror" tactics used in Rahway Programme have been replaced by:

"non-authoritarian experiences, factually and soberingly explained".³

The programme relies on rationality and reasoning combined with the somewhat threatening experience of a realistically simulated day in gaol.

The "Day-in-Gaol" Programme is only one part of a fourpart "Prison Enlightenment" programme, involving a number of different approaches to the potential or actual offender. Each approach is aimed at a different type of offender, as is outlined below.

Programme one: This programme is aimed at Youth in general, schools, clubs, organisations. The aim is to increase their knowledge of the results of criminal activities, and consists of films, talks and discussion material.

Programme two: This programme consists of a "Day-in-Gaol", designed for the individual. The aim here is to deter the individual from following a life of crime.

Programme three: This programme is aimed at the Youth in Boys' Institutions, and consists of educational material (films, discussion papers etc.)

Programme four: Members of the Parramatta Recidivist Group assist the juveniles and first offenders at Parramatta Gaol to overcome the harsh realities of, and introduction into, gaol.

The focus of this evaluation is the "Day-in-Gaol" Programme, which is designed for persons who:

- (i) Are 15 years of age or older;
- (ii) Have been before the courts and/or are on probation
- (iii) Could be classed as a "genuine" delinquent. (This implies that the referral does not necessarily have to have been through the apprehension and prosecution stages).

The aims of the programme are:

- (i) to give first-hand experience of life in Parramatta Gaol in order to highlight the futility of a life of crime
- (ii) To give the young person the opportunity to consider the consequences of criminal behaviour and to change.

A person who has been referred to and experienced the "Day-in-Gaol" programme, has been described as a "referral": this terminology was coined by the P.R.G. members and has hence been adopted in this study...

1. Allison, Colin. Insiders' Guide to Keeping Out of Jail.
2. The Parramatta Recidivist Group. Document for a Public Meeting, 12th July, 1979, p.5.
3. *ibid.* p.4
4. *ibid.* p.7

Description of the "Day in Gaol"¹

Here is a brief summary of what a referral would go through:

- 9.00 Met at the gate where brief details of the programme are explained by a prison officer or psychologist. He is asked to fill out a confidential questionnaire that is seen only by P.R.G. members and returned to him that afternoon.
- 9.15 Description taken; fingerprints*; strip searched; issued with gaol uniform. Interview by the Superintendent.
- 9.30 Sweep a concrete yard, pick up the sweepings and polish brass locks.
- 10.30 Escorted to Circle and locked in a yard.
- 11.30 Given gaol lunch of the day and locked in a regulation cell.
- 1.00 Escorted to Administration Building where he observes an Officers' muster.
- 1.30 Confrontation with P.R.G. members where they simply explain about gaol life and the undesirable aspects of crime and its involvement.
- 2.30 Escorted to a yard and locked in for three quarters of an hour for reflection on the day.
- 3.15 Dressed in own clothes and personal property returned.
- 3.25 Interview with Superintendent and discharged.

The members who speak to the referral are selected from those with similar backgrounds to the referral and there are never more than four members who speak to him. They do not give advice nor do they make friends or frighten the referral.

The P.R.G. recognise that the programme does not provide a total answer to crime, but could only operate in co-operation with other programmes set up by concerned government departments and voluntary agencies. A number of such agencies are available to provide a follow up for referrals to the programme; these are discussed in detail later in the report.

1. PRG op.cit, p.8

* The fingerprints are destroyed in the presence of the referral at the end of the day.

3. THE OPERATIONAL BASIS OF THE PROGRAMME: DETERRENCE?

Discussion of the literature

Since the "Day-in-Gaol" programme operates in an attempt to deter young offenders from crime, it is necessary to consider the literature on deterrence in some detail.

Zimring and Hawkins¹ discuss deterrence as:

"...applying only to cases where a threat causes individuals who would have committed the threatened behaviour to refrain from doing so. The 'net deterrent' effect of a particular threat is the total number of threatened behaviours it prevents less those it creates..." The deterrent effect has been defined as: "...a transaction which involves two parties, a threatening agent or agency and a threatened audience."²

The P.R.G. programme is unique in that although using the threat of further punishment as a consequence of criminal behaviour, it is not in itself, the agent of the threat. The programme focuses upon the reality of the threat through the simulation of the 'Day-in-gaol' and thus has an educative rather than a punitive emphasis. However, the programme could also be perceived as punishment when attendance has been enforced through a court order. In this case the programme operates not only as a punishment but carries with it the threat of future punishment, it is operating as a "punishment for deterrent purposes".

James Finckenauer in evaluating the Rahway State Prison Juvenile Awareness Project, states that the project is an example of the use of 'special deterrence'. Special deterrence has been defined as:

"the threat of further punishment of one who has already been convicted and punished for crime; it may be the same medicine that is threatened as a method of dissuading him from recidivism or it may be threat of a larger or different dose."³

Zimring and Hawkins disagree with the concept of special deterrence claiming that the same mechanism operates in all situations of deterrence. The so-called difference lies in the target groups. Special deterrence is aimed at individuals or small groups, general deterrence is thought to operate as part of a socialization process for society. Special deterrence is thought to operate on individuals 'after the event', while general deterrence operates in advance of the presumed event. Thus if one agrees with the division of deterrence into 'special' and 'general' then the PRG Programme is an example of 'special' deterrence.

The effects of attempts at deterrence will vary from individual to individual. A programme may work for one offender but could have an opposite effect for another. This is true also for the Day-in Gaol Programme.

Zimring and Hawkins suggest three possible reactions to punishment. They could also be possible reactions to the Day-in-Gaol Programme:

- (i) Punishment may either increase or decrease the anxiety its subjects experience about future punishment.
- (ii) Familiarity with punishment may also diminish the effectiveness of threats which derive their potency from the fear of the unknown.
- (iii) The threatened behaviour may either acquire a lower or higher value in the offender's eyes.⁴

1. Zimring, Franklin E and Hawkins, Gordon J. Deterrence the Legal Threat in Crime Control, Uni. of Chicago Press. 1973, p.71.
2. *ibid.* p.91
3. Morris, Norval Impediments to Penal Reform 1966, 33 Uni. Chicago Law Review p.632.
4. Zimring and Hawkins *op. cit.* p.227,228,229.

Deterrence also operates in a wider context. Environmental factors are equally important in determining the direction a potential offender may take. The impact of environmental factors is particularly relevant to referrals to the Day-in-Gaol Programme, because the programme itself does not aim to alter an offender's environment. (Follow-up agencies are available, however, to assist the referral who desires to change his environment in seeking new employment and a new place of residence.) The effects of the programme can only be positive when environmental factors are also operating to induce a change. Knight and West¹ in 'Temporary and Continuing Delinquency' attempted to distinguish the factors which cause some young men to give up delinquency on reaching adulthood while others continued. The report was based upon 83 boys who constituted the most delinquent fifth of a sample from a long term survey of a cohort of 411 boys representative of the normal population of a working class neighbourhood in London.

The sample was divided into two groups:

- (i) Temporary Delinquents - 33 youths who up to the time they were interviewed (age 18-19) had acquired no criminal convictions since turning 17, and denied committing any offences in the previous year.
- (ii) Continuing Delinquents - 48 youths. Those who had acquired either one or more criminal convictions as adults, or admitted one or more offences.

Two of the original 83 were not interviewed. A follow up of the boys' records when the majority were aged 20, revealed that since the interview at age 18½, 52.1% of the continuing delinquents had been reconvicted at least once, in comparison with only 10.0% of the temporary delinquents. In addition the reconvicted temporary delinquents had had a conviction free period of more than three years.

The authors found that there were differences between the two groups in the following factors:

- * Disengagement from the influences of delinquent peer groups was an important feature in the abandonment of delinquency.
- * Temporary delinquents tended to say the motivation for their offences was enjoyment, rather than as a means to a rational end.
- * Temporary delinquents rarely committed their offences alone.
- * Low socio-economic status and having a member of the family with a criminal record were both significantly more frequently found in the continuing group.
- * In the temporary group the reason for giving up delinquency, were stated as the consequence of being caught. In this group, those who had spent periods in custody, felt that the experience had caused them to change while others felt that the experience of conviction was sufficient to lead to serious consideration about their position.
- * Continuing delinquents were more casual about their convictions experiences and saw no benefit in the penal measures to which they had been subjected.

These factors will be used in examining the results of the interviews with referrals to "Day-in-Gaol" programme.

The recent years have seen research on deterrence concentrate on perceptual measures to indicate factors which may prevent further delinquent behaviour. Finckenauer cites a number of studies conducted with juveniles who had not been in trouble with the law.² Operating on the belief that perception of the risk of swift, certain and severe reactions by the police, court and correction officials is what acts to deter or not deter, they found that there was little deterrent effect for either perceived severity or perceived swiftness of legal reactions. However, some support was found for the deterrent effects of perceived certainty. On the basis of these findings Finckenauer recommended that the Lifer's Group should:

"confront this reality and attempt to convince those juveniles who are amenable to convincing that confinement in a maximum security prison is a reasonably likely consequence of their future involvement in delinquent behaviour."³

1. Knight, B.J. & West D.J., British Journal of Criminology, Vol.15, No.1, January, 1975.
2. Finckenauer, James O., op. cit. p.3. Evaluation Report No.2.
3. See p.2 Evaluation Report No.1.

Richard J. Lundman ¹. also noted that recent research "indicates that the 'certainty' of punishment correlates inversely with rates of criminal deviance.". The existence of controversial evidence that the severity of punishment may also deter criminal deviance was also mentioned. .

A number of Australian studies have also examined the concept of deterrence with regard to juvenile offenders and potential offenders. Kraus ². found that deterrence of juvenile delinquency was not related to fear of apprehension, punishment, the objective knowledge of possible consequences of delinquent acts, or perception of community disapproval. In a subsequent study ³. Kraus found similar results with regard to potential offenders - the hypothesis that potential juvenile offenders are deterred by fear of apprehension and punishment was not supported. Kraus ⁴. also found that punitive measures appeared to decrease the fear of apprehension and punishment. This latter finding, however, must be considered with regard to the methodological problems inherent in the study - the use of a control group rather than a before and after comparison design prevents any firm conclusions being drawn about the effect of punitive measures upon juvenile offenders.

Such research not only questions the value of punitive measures in deterring juvenile offenders, but also indicates a need for alternative means of deterrence to be evaluated. The "Day-in-Gaol" programme with its rational and experiential basis represents one such alternative.

1. Will Diversion Reduce Recidivism? Crime and Delinquency p.436 Oct. 1976 Vol.22(4). see Gibbs, Crime, Punishment and Deterrence Southwestern Social Science Quarterly March, 1968 p.515. 30
C. Logan, General Deterrent Effects of Imprisonment Social Forces Sept. 72 p.64-73.
2. Kraus, J. Threat of punishment and the potential offender. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology, 1974.
3. Kraus, J. Juvenile delinquency and the psychology of general deterrence. International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 1976, 22, 112-119.
4. Kraus, J. Do existing penal measures 'reform' juvenile offenders. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 1977, 10, 217-222.

Comparable programmes in the United States

In Australia there has been a dearth of programmes where the prisoners themselves operate as agents of attitude change, usually through relating their own experiences to selected groups. However, in America during the 1960's, inmate groups were formed in about twenty states, for the express purpose of deterring the young from crime. Some examples were "Operation Teenager" in Texas, "Prison Profiles" in Illinois, "Don't Follow me" in Colorado and "Operation Crime Prevention" in Tennessee. 1.

These programmes, generally have not been the object of evaluation. However, in 1970, Brodsky studied the effects on those youths who participated in the "Prison Profiles" programme at Illinois State Penitentiary. He found that the pre-delinquent and delinquent groups were not strongly influenced.

The literature on deterrence, and specifically on delinquency prevention programmes, is pessimistic concerning the supposed effects of these programmes. Lundman, McFarlane and Scarpitti,² in an assessment of a number of delinquency prevention projects, came to the conclusion that:

"All of these projects failed to prevent delinquency."

They continued to say that while all the programmes were subjectively evaluated as successful, "objective measures failed to support subjective evaluation... that subjective evaluations do not permit reliable assessment for the results of delinquency prevention attempts."

The Juvenile Awareness Project at Rahway State Prison was evaluated using a more rigorous research design. As the idea of the Rahway project was used in the development of the Day-in-Gaol Programme, it is important to note the findings of the evaluation of this project.

The Rahway State Prison Juvenile Awareness Project came into existence in September 1976. It was designed to deter youth from crime through a "shock-confrontation" treatment. The approach has been described as authoritarian in style and intended to represent the most negative aspects of prison life.

The purpose of the evaluation³ was to study the effects of the programme and to address the question of "whether it is reasonable to expect this Project to have a deterrent effect on such a complicated attitude and behaviour pattern".

The researchers began the evaluation with the assumption that the Project had no effect either attitudinally or behaviourally on the juveniles attending.

Using a quasi-experimental design James Finckenauer pre and post tested 46 experimentals (juveniles attending the programme) and 35 controls (juveniles not experiencing the programme).

Using nine attitude measures, he tested for attitude change, as an intervening link to behavioural change. A second part of the evaluation was concerned with evaluating any behavioural change and comparing this behaviour with that of a control group.

The characteristics of the referral group to the Rahway Project differed from the characteristics of the P.R.G. referrals* in two ways:

1. Finckenauer, Ev. Report No. 1, p.3.
 2. Lundman, E.J., McFarlane, P.T. & Scarpitti, F.R., Delinquency Prevention A Description and Assessment of Projects Reported in the Professional Literature Crime & Delinquency July 1976 p.306.
 3. Juvenile Awareness Project Help. Evaluation Report No.1. James O Finckenauer, Janet R. Storti, Dec. 1978.
- * Details of the characteristics of the "Day-in-Gaol" referrals are discussed in Chapter 5.

(i) Finkenauer found that 70.5% of the experimental group could be described as having a low probability of delinquency.¹ (From an examination of the criminal records, the P.R.G. referrals could be described as having a high probability of delinquency).

(ii) The mean age of the experimental group was 15.4 years, ranging from 12 years to 18 years old. The mean age of the control group was 14.6 years, ranging from 11 to 18 years old. In contrast, the mean age for the P.R.G. Programme was 20.14 years, ranging from 16 to 46 years.

The result of Phase 1 of the evaluation indicated that attitude change did not occur in the experimental group in a number of areas. Juveniles in the experimental group did not change their attitudes towards the punishment of criminals more than did a comparable control group of juveniles. The juveniles visiting Rahway became significantly more negative in their outlook on crime than did the comparison group. This was the direction hoped for by the Lifer's Group. Time lapse (since attendance at the Programmes) did not have a significant effect on this. However, no significant changes in attitude occurred in either group towards the law, justice, the self and policemen.

There was a shift among the experimentals in the desired direction of becoming more negative about prison although this was not statistically significant. Finkenauer was undecided whether this would affect future behaviour. Attitudes towards punishment and obeying the law showed a slight shift in a more positive direction.

At this point the authors found no reason to reject the initial hypothesis and stated that it was probably unrealistic to expect "that a two or three hour visit to Rahway can counteract the long term effects of all these other factors."²

Phase two of the evaluation tested the following hypothesis:

"...that the Juvenile Awareness Project has no significant effect on the juveniles participating in terms of deterring their future delinquent behaviour."³

Juvenile court records were surveyed a minimum of six months after the experimental group visited Rahway and after the control group was pre-tested. This was done to determine the following facts:

- (i) Whether or not there was any recorded delinquent behaviour.
- (ii) Type and seriousness of delinquency.
- (iii) A measure of recidivism.

Highlighting the "low probability of delinquency" status of the group, 19 of the 46 youths in the experimental group had no record of prior offences. For the other youths, checking of the court records for a period of six months, showed that:

"a significantly higher proportion of the juveniles who did not attend the Project did better in terms of subsequent offences than did the group which attended".⁴

For the experimental group, the success rate was 58.7%. Among the 27 youths with prior records 51.87% were successes. For the non-delinquent controls there was a 95.2% success rate.

With regard to outcome the experimental group did significantly worse than the control group. The mean seriousness of their subsequent delinquency scores was also significantly higher.⁵

1. Finchkenauer used the Glueck Social Prediction Table to determine the probability of delinquency for the experimental and control groups.
2. Finckenauer, James O. op. cit, p.27.
3. Juvenile Awareness Project Evaluation Report No.2., James O. Finckenauer. April, 1979,p4.
4. Finckenauer, James O. Report 2, Op. cit. p.8-9.
5. Ibid p.9.

Finckenauer warned against those who have raised unrealistic expectations and goals for the project and argued for a re-thinking process to begin. The programme is not a cure all for delinquency and does not attack the causes of delinquency. Finckenauer implied that one of the directions in which the project might develop was that of the provision of follow up, that the Project could be merely a beginning rather than an end in itself.

The lack of clear and consistent evidence in the literature regarding the deterrence of juvenile offenders, and the somewhat equivocal results of the Rahway study, provide an indication both of the need for a careful evaluation of the "Day-in-Gaol" programme, and for such an evaluation to have appropriate expectations and goals.

4: AIMS AND METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

Aims of the Evaluation

These could be briefly described as:

1. To conduct a preliminary study of the operation of the programme to ascertain whether:
 - (a) the programme has affected an offender's chances of reoffending;
 - (b) the extent of attitude/behavioural change in the offenders;
 - (c) the extent of the use made of the programme by judges, magistrates, probation officers;
 - (d) the need for structural change in the internal operation of the programme and in the way it is functioning in the community, including both the referral and follow-up processes.
2. To develop a plan for a long-term evaluation of the programme.

Data collection

Information on the programme was collected from four sources:

- (i) Information re convictions: Criminal Records Office.
- (ii) Criteria for Referral and Supplementary Background information: Court papers for the appearance related to attendance at the programme.
- (iii) Information or criteria for referral and general opinion of the programme: Interviews (where possible) with, or questionnaires given to, referrers to the programme.
- (iv) Information on effects of the programme: Interviews (where possible) with referrals to the programme.

Contact was also made with the three agencies named as providing a follow-up service in order to ascertain the extent of their activities.

(i) Criminal Records Office

The records of the first twenty-one referrals to the programme were checked, primarily to determine whether further offences had been committed. In these cases the date of conviction and location of court were noted. The following information was also obtained from the criminal record files:

- * correct name and last given address,
- * date of birth,
- * prior conviction, court order.

(ii) Court Papers

In all cases, the court papers for the offence committed prior to attendance at the programme were checked. In the four cases where a further offence was committed, the court papers relating to the further offence were also checked. Information obtained from the court papers was mainly of a subjective nature used to supplement the information obtained from the other sources.

The most important information obtained concerned:

- * the criteria used by magistrates and probation officers in referring.
- * the extent to which probation officers' recommendations were accepted by judges or magistrates.
- * the extent to which attendance at the programme (often presented as being voluntary) was used as a 'bargaining' tool.
- * the amount of follow up occurring in the context of the court situation.

(iii) Interviews with Referrers to the Programme.

There were thirteen referrers to the programme. A questionnaire was devised,⁽¹⁾ which was administered through a personal interview in nine cases. One interview was conducted by telephone and in three cases referrers completed the questionnaire in writing. The major purposes of the questionnaire were to ascertain:

- * Source of the referrer's knowledge of the programme,
- * Reasons for this particular referral
- * General considerations taken into account when deciding to refer
- * Nature of follow up provided
- * Opinions on various aspects of the operation - especially the process of referral.

(iv) Interviews with Referrals.

Of the 21 referrals to the programme, nine could be contacted and assented to an interview. The response rate and method of interviewing will be discussed with the results of these interviews.

The major purposes of these interviews were to:

- * Ascertain the type of lifestyle of the referral before and after attendance at the programme.
- * Ascertain the attitudes of the referral with regard to crime and the law, both before and after the programme.
- * Gauge the referrals' reaction to the different parts of the programme and the follow up provided.

A critical question which should be asked about the programme is this:

Did attendance at the programme cause the observed effects (in either a positive or negative direction) or were other factors responsible?

This is a difficult question to answer, especially when the nature of the programme is considered - one day in the life of a person who returns to the same environment he came from. It is important in this or any future evaluation, to be aware of the expectations appropriate for this type of programme and to evaluate accordingly.

The question posed earlier -

"How far can this programme be responsible for observed changes in the referrals behaviour and attitudes?"

cannot be answered with any degree of accuracy through this study. At the most, by using a variety of sources of information, it is possible to come to tentative conclusions.

"A consistent set of observations on program impact, growing out of several kinds of 'weak' research techniques, provides a better basis for confident conclusions than would be the result from one method alone." ².

The answer to the question posed above can only be found through a more 'scientific' research design whose aim is to answer this question. It is not the aim of this evaluation to reach definite conclusions but merely to indicate trends.

1. See the Appendices.
2. Gibbons, Don C., Lebowitz, Barry D. and Blake, Gerald F.
Program Evaluation in Correction. Crime and Delinquency July, 1976, p.319.

5. THE DATA: STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERRALS

At the commencement of this evaluation 21 persons had experienced the 'Day-in Gaol' Programme. Since that time a total of 31 persons have been through the programme. For reasons of expediency, related to the aims of the evaluation, it was decided not to follow up the remaining persons. A criticism might be made that this number of persons is too small a number upon which to make an effective evaluation of the programme. According to the strict rules of research design, this would be correct.

It is also important to keep in mind some of the features of the target group for this programme, when examining the data:

"most researchers have found that an offender's chances of recidivism are greater, the more previous convictions he has, the shorter the time since his last conviction, the younger he is, and the younger he was when first convicted...
...offences against property generally have higher reconviction rates than those committing offences of violence..."¹.

The programme is thus aiming generally at what could be called a "high risk" group, where the likelihood of the criminal behaviour continuing is strong.

Programme evaluation in correction has consistently used the criterion of reconviction as an indicator of success or failure of the programme.

"...the measure of the effectiveness of punishments and treatments which has been used by most researchers, i.e. 'the conduct of offenders in a period after the completion of their sentences' does not discriminate "2.
between the variety of effects which punishment may have on individuals."

It is proposed not to use reconviction as the sole criterion for the success or failure of this programme, but to look also at the possible positive educative or reformatory effects.

Age of the Referrals

18 of the 21 referrals were aged between 16 and 18 years. This reflects the selection criteria used by the referrers, i.e. that this age is the most suitable one for this type of experience. However, it must be emphasised that the individual situation is equally a determining factor. The likelihood of committing further offences with the resulting gaol sentence overrides the age factor.

Table 1 Age at time of Attendance

<u>Years</u>	<u>No. of Referrals</u>
16	1)
17	1)
18	11) 18
19	5)
23	1
28	1
46	1

1. Hood, Roger & Sparks, Richard. Key Issues in Criminology, 1970 p.180.
2. Zimring, Franklin E. & Hawkins, Gordon J. Deterrence The Legal Threat in Criminal Control, Uni. of Chicago Press 1973 p.234.

Previous convictions

The total number of previous convictions for each referral is shown below. It is evident that a wide variety of selection criteria have been used.

Table 2 - Previous Convictions of Referrals

<u>No. of Previous Convictions</u>	<u>No. of Referrals</u>
1	2
2	3
3	6
4	1
5	3
6	3
7	2
8	
9	1

N.B. Each conviction represents one or more offences or complaints.

Table 3 - Age By Previous Convictions

<u>Referral</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Previous convictions Prior to attendance</u>
1	16	1
2	17	7
3	18	3
4	18	7
5	18	2
6	18	6
7	18	3
8	18	6
9	18	9
10	18	4
11	18	2
12	18	2
13	18	3
14	19	6
15	19	5
16	19	5
17	19	3
18	19	1
19	23	2
20	28	5
21	46	3

For the age of 18, there was an average of 4.27 previous convictions. For the age 19 years there was an average of 4 previous convictions.

It is evident from these figures that the referrals have a high probability of future delinquency which must be taken into account in examining outcomes.

Seventeen of the 21 referrals had appeared in a Childrens' Court. (One of the first offenders was referred from a Childrens' Court not in this State).

Table 4 - Appearances in Children's Courts

<u>No. of Children's Court Matters</u>	<u>No. of Referrals</u>
1	6
2	2
3	1
4	1
5	-
6	2
7	-
8	-
9	1

Fifteen of 21 referrals had convictions in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

Table 5 - Convictions in Courts of Petty Sessions

<u>No. of Petty Sessions Convictions</u>	<u>No. of Referrals</u>
1	3
2	6
3	6
4	-
5	1

Thus, the programme had been used, in the majority of times, early in each offender's path through Petty Sessions, before gaol experience had eventuated.

Previous Institutionalization or Gaol Experience Prior to Attendance

Child Welfare Institutions

Eight of the 21 referrals had spent time in one or more child welfare institutions.

GAOL

One referral had been in gaol prior to attending the programme.

One referral experienced a modified version of the programme while on remand at Parramatta Gaol. He was, in fact, the first to go through the programme.

Previous experience in child welfare institutions does not exclude a person from referral to the programme. Rather, the programme was often used as an attempt to dispel any illusions about the similarity of institutional experience to gaol experience. Comments made by some of the referrals on this aspect of the programme will be discussed in a later section.

On the other hand, previous gaol experience was generally thought to defeat the purposes of this programme. However, this was not an absolute condition, as in an individual case the programme was thought to be suitable. In this case the referrer felt intuitively that the referral could be receptive to the ideas of the programme.

Number of Reconvictions

Currently, 4 of the 21 or 19.04% of referrals have reoffended in the 18 months since the programme's inception.

The time between attending the programme and the date of offending is given in Table 6. Three of the 4 referrals reoffended within 2 months of attending the programme. All reoffenders were aged between 17½ and 18½ years.

Table 6 - Time to Subsequent Offence

<u>No.</u>	<u>Time Lapse</u>	<u>Age</u>
1	4 weeks	18 years 2 months
2	6 weeks	17 years 10 months
3	7 weeks	18 years 6 months
4	6 months	18 years 6 months

However, it is interesting to note that all referrals who reoffended, did so after a maximum of 6 months. This meant that the majority have not reoffended after periods of up to 18 months.

Assessing the significance of this figure is difficult due to the lack of comparable research in this area.

Two studies completed by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research allow some comparisons to be made.

1. N.S.W. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Two Studies of Recidivism, October, 1979.

Recidivism and Criminal Records

A total of 1,365 offenders were studied, as a sample taken from the set of 1965 requests for records. Offenders included both males and females, offences both indictable and summary. The results of the study showed that 25% were reconvicted in less than two years. Of these 10.4% were reconvicted in one to three months and 9.3% were reconvicted in six to twelve months. Thus, while 14.3% of persons attending the Day-in-Gaol programme were reconvicted within three months, the overall reconviction rate was lower.

Consideration of the small sample size, however, leads to the conclusion that these differences are minimal. The reconviction rate is similar to that of most non-custodial programmes¹ and indeed, compares favourably. In the larger study of those reconvicted in less than two years, 34% were 18 years and under. The high propensity of juveniles to commit further offences was noted.

Patterns of Recidivism for Break, Enter and Steal Offences²

A sample of the first 200 male persons (18 to 25 years) registered with the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, Sydney, from February 1972 for trial or sentence at the District Court for the offence of Break, Enter and Steal, was used, to decipher patterns of recidivism. The results showed that although younger offenders have a much higher probability of reconviction for offences of all sorts, this trend was not evidenced for BES offences.

The following table shows the percentage of offenders reconvictions³.

Table 7 - Age and Subsequent Other Offence

	<u>Under 20</u>		<u>Over 20</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
Subsequent other offence	65	79.3	69	59.5	1	135
No subsequent other offence	14	17.1	43	37.1	1	58
Unknown	3	3.6	4	3.4	0	7
	82	100.0	116	100.0	2	200

It can be seen from this table that 79.3% of persons under 20 committed a subsequent offence in the period to August 1977. It has been noted in other studies, however, that property offenders are likely to have higher reconviction rates.

This is relevant to the programme as the largest group of offences committed were property related⁴ further illustrating the vulnerable nature of the target group. The 'type of offence' was given by one referrer as the criterion used for referral to the programme. Generally, this was not seen to be a crucial factor in the decision to refer, other factors (to be further elaborated on) were thought to be more relevant.

1. For example in the Bureau study 22% in non-custodial programmes were reconvicted in less than two years.
2. N.S.W. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Two Studies of Recidivism, 1979.
3. *ibid.* p.16.
4. See appendices.

6. THE REFERRALS: INTERVIEW DATA

Of the 21 referrals to the programme, only nine were interviewed. This low response rate was due to a combination of factors -

1. The difficulty in obtaining correct addresses and telephone numbers. (4)
2. The high mobility of a number of the referrals combined with the length of time since attendance at the programme. (3)
3. Refusal by some referrals to grant an interview. (4)
4. The first referral through the programme was not interviewed because the programme was in a totally different form.

This highlights the need to structure any future evaluation so as to facilitate the interviewing process.

The interview with the referrals consisted of three parts:*

PART A: Administration of questions to the referral on his general attitude to crime, lifestyle.

PART B: Six groups of photographs showing segments of the programme were shown to the referrals. After each group each referral was asked to describe what he was thinking or feeling during this time. The answers were recorded by ticking off the appropriate words on a given list.

PART C: Further questions on the overall impression and effects of the programme. Discussion of any follow up provided.

A major problem with this type of data recording was that it relied heavily on the referral's ability to express his feelings and to think about concepts. Initially, referrals were asked to read the lists of words, after each group of photographs, and tick the appropriate ones. However this proved to be a difficult task so this section of the interview was conducted verbally in order to elicit more information.

A summary of the main factors evident in interviews with the referrals is presented below, whilst a detailed description of each interview is included in Appendix 5.

Summary of Interview Data

(i) Lifestyle and attitudes prior to attending the programme.

Of the 9 referrals interviewed, 4 were unemployed at the time of the offence. In 4 cases the referrals reported being alone when the offence was committed, and in 6 of the 9 cases referrals admitted mixing with other offenders or living in an area where crime was a social norm and a demonstration of 'toughness'. Case 4 was atypical in that the referral was aged 46 years, held a responsible job, had a wife and family, and was very religious. Case 6 was a difficult case in that the referral was handicapped.

5 of the referrals reported that they had not thought that they would go to prison, or had not considered it to be a concrete reality. Fear that they would not be able to cope with imprisonment was expressed in 5 cases.

For 6 of the referrals attendance at the programme had been enforced, or had been agreed to as a means of "getting a better deal in court".

(ii) Experience of the programme and reported outcome .

Only 1 of the referrals reported not being worried by the experience of a day in gaol. Most of the referrals were relieved to be released at the end of the day, and 8 of the 9 cases reported being scared, shocked or humiliated by the experience. Only 2 of the referrals felt that "this wouldn't happen to me", which is an important finding when considered with regard to the research reviewed earlier which had established a negative relationship

* See appendices for the Questionnaire.

between certainty of punishment and rates of criminal deviance.^{1.}

In 6 cases 'official' follow-up in the form of an interview with a probation officer was provided. 7 of the referrals also discussed their feelings about participating in the programme with family and friends.

Changes in lifestyle and/or attitudes were reported by 7 of the referrals. The reported changes included in some cases disassociation from previous friends, increased determination not to re-offend, and attempts to find employment. However, several of the referrals reported that the effects of the programme were short term.

Conclusions

As with any social programme, the effects on each individual vary. This is especially so for the "Day-in-Gaol Programme" because of the short duration of the programme and the large number of environmental factors which emerge immediately after the referral leaves the gaol. The programme is not an attack on the referral's environment, but is rather a brief episode during which the results of crime are described in an experiential and rational manner.

The discussions with the referrals indicated the following points,

- (i) There was no evidence of psychological damage due to attendance, although in two cases (Case 4 and Case 6 - See appendix 5 for details) there was some potential for damage. Careful handling by the PRG and intensive follow up appears to have made the experience positive, in both cases.
- (ii) The effects of the programme appear to be short term (2-3 months) although the details of the programme seem to remain clear for a far longer time.
- (iii) The programme seems to be less effective for referrals who have built up an image of themselves as a "criminal", and who talk about their 'criminal career' (see especially case 2 and case 8). For referrals who have not developed a "criminal" self image the programme seemed more positive.
- (iv) The programme cannot change environmental influences on the referrals but may alter their perceptions and ability to cope with their environment.
- (v) It is difficult to assess the exact nature of the attitudinal and behavioural change that has occurred through this study. This should be subject matter for a more definitive study.

1. Finckenauer, James O. Evaluation Reports No. 1 and No.2 op. cit.
Lundman, R.J. op.cit.

7. THE PROCESS OF REFERRAL

Type of Referrer and Method of Referral

Very few criticisms were made of the programme itself by the referrers. However, some criticisms were made about the method of referral, and the lack of safeguards evident in the referral and follow up process. This particularly applies to referrals made by magistrates, without the assistance of the Probation and Parole Service or other agencies. These criticisms and suggestions for change will be outlined in the following pages.

Table 8 - Type and Method of Referral

<u>A. Type of Referrer</u>	<u>No. of Referrals made</u>
Magistrates	9
Probation and Parole Service	9
Other	3
<u>B. Method of Referral</u>	<u>No. of Referrals</u>
Court adjournment - Returned for sentence	8
Condition of adjournment and bail. Returned for sentence	2
Recommended to attend by Magistrate - not made a condition of court order	2
Attendance made a condition of Recognizance	3
Referred by Probation and Parole Service (Probationers)	2
Referred by Prison Psychologist - on remand at Gaol	1
Referred by Salvation Army Officer	2
Unknown	1

N.B. Seven referrals from court were recommended for the programme in a report by the Probation and Parole Service. Nine referrals from court were referred by Magistrates with no pre or post programme assistance from the Probation and Parole Service, or other person and/or agency.

Distribution of the Referrers

This was seen to be limited. Magistrates from four courts and Probation Officers from four offices referred to the programme.

It can be inferred from this that a majority of magistrates and probation officers are not using the programme. Does this mean lack of knowledge concerning the programme, indifference, lack of suitable candidates or a conscious decision not to refer to the programme?

Answer to the question 'How did the referrer find out about the programme' provided the following results.

Personal involvement	2
Information from work colleagues	7
A conference or seminar	1
Newspapers T.V. etc.	-
Other (circular from PRG)	3

It appears that personal involvement or contact with those who have been personally involved is an important factor in knowledge of the programme and a decision to refer.

Follow up provided

All the referrers were asked whether follow up was provided. Twelve of the thirteen referrers answered 'Yes'. The referrers were then asked whether they considered the follow up was adequate.

'Yes'	9
'No'	2
Don't know	2

Further questioning about what this follow up involved revealed that it consisted of:

- . questioning in court
- . discussion/counselling either immediately after or in the next few days
- . discussion with a prison officer
- . referral to another agency or person

Only eight of the 13 referrers discussed the programme with the referrals afterwards. It is the reply "Questioning in court" that creates the most concern. This lack of follow up is linked to the method of referral. In some cases where a magistrate referred a person to the program, no provision was made for assistance if the referral required it. (Three of the four who reoffended had no follow up assistance.)

One development could be that where a magistrate refers to the programme he should arrange for an officer of the Probation and Parole Service, the Prison Psychologist or other specified person to provide pre and post programme assistance, whatever may be required.

Who should have the power to refer?

This question was asked to all referrers. The answers varied between a complete opening up to tighter restrictions on who could refer.

Some of the suggestions were as follows:

- only Probation and Parole, not Youth and Community Services (unless person close to 18 years).
- Youth and Community Services, others - depending on knowledge of the prison system. An assessor of cases for referral could work.
- Like to see it completely opened up so that anyone could refer. District Officers and Probation Officers could act as screeners.
- YACS, Probation and Parole and the Courts. Could use Probation and Parole or the prison psychologist to act as an assessor if referred by another person.
- Parents and schools should be able to refer but have to go through the prison psychologist. District Officers should be primary users.
- District Officers and Probation and Parole should act as screeners for other referrals.
- District Officers, Welfare Agencies.
- Parents

Emerging from these suggestions is the necessity for a wider system of referral but with certain safeguards. Although opinion varied, it was generally suggested that officers of Youth and Community Services should have the power to refer to the programme. Some thought that District Officers should act as screeners while others thought that they should

themselves be screened. Another major suggestion was that schools, parents and welfare agencies should be able to refer to the programme provided that a screening process is set up. This would require the use of the Probation and Parole Service, District Officers, the Prison Psychologist or another independent person.

Age of the Referrals

Referrers were asked if they would like the present age restriction of 18 lowered. Twelve of the thirteen referrers answered 'yes'. The reason given for a 'no' answer was that the programme should be kept "for the kid that the next step is the long term prison sentence." However, the other referrers saw that this did not necessarily preclude persons younger than 18 years. Whilst most referrers suggested 16 years of age, ages as low as 13 years were proposed in cases where adequate safeguards could be provided. Some of the reasons given for these suggestions are quoted below:

- "provided the programme itself is regarded by psychologists and others as being appropriate for persons of the age in question, and is tailored when necessary to meet their requirements, it is vital that younger people - and I mean those from about 13 or 14 years onward - should, in appropriate cases, be sent...
- persons less than 16 years should be eligible given appropriate safeguards
- the age should be lowered to 17 years but referrers should be "fairly selective"
- no younger than 16 years
- selection should be careful, because of the 'status' problem
- 15 or 16 years
- 16 years when involved in serious crime and handed over to Probation and Parole
- in certain cases where reasonable maturity is evident and there are previous juvenile convictions
- 15 is a more appropriate age so long as the boy was motivated
- 16½ - 18 years
- because many 18 year olds have already been imprisoned it would be more effective to lower the age to 15,16."

It was evident from discussion with them that the referrers exercised a careful discretion in selecting referrals. This supports the lowering of the age from 18 years. Additional support for the lowering of the age for referrals is provided by statistics published by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research¹. - in 1977 52% of juvenile offences were committed by persons aged 16 years or less. Further to this argument, the lack of sentencing alternatives available in the Children's Courts would appear to indicate a need for a non-punitive measure such as the "Day-in-Gaol" programme to be used in appropriate cases. For persistent re-offenders the "Day-in-Gaol" programme may be a valuable alternative to detention, or adjunct to supervision by the Probation and Parole Service.

Criteria for Referral

Referrers were asked to pinpoint the most crucial factors in their decision to refer each person to the programme. They were also asked to specify the general factors they would consider when making a decision. The results are shown below.

1. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Court Statistics 1977, p.55.

"...I hope it will bring you to your senses and finally save you going to gaol."
"...I think it is time he had a bit of a shock ...to bring him back to reality. He is just taking advantage of everyone who is trying to help him..."

From general discussion six factors emerged as important:

Maturity: There was general consensus not to refer boys who were "immature" for their age. Age had to be commensurate with experience. The referrer had to assess whether the boy was sensible enough not to see it as a climb in "status", or mature enough, if the programme was used as a scare tactic.

Attitudes: What was considered important was closely related to the circumstances surrounding each case "...a judgement involving the complex of matters that you have mentioned, in the overall context of the person's personality, and the extent to which one considers in regard to his thus-far association with crime that he might benefit from the programme."* Thus the programme could be suitable for a person with a causal, careless attitude to crime, gaol or probation or for someone with ideas of bravado about gaol. One probation officer stated they would not refer a person already well involved in a criminal subculture, but would refer a person who was judged receptive to the ideas of the programme.

Risk of Reoffending: General consensus was that a person who looks like getting into further trouble with the law would be suitable for the programme - the person must be "at risk" so far as crime is concerned.

Institutional Experience: Generally, referrers would not refer a person who had had previous gaol experience but would refer a person who had experienced a child welfare institution. Individual circumstances would of course be the ultimate determining factor.

Age: The majority opinion was that the programme was more appropriate for young people.

Type of Offence: Persons committing offences so serious that a gaol sentence was required would not be referred. One referrer stated that the composition of the Parramatta Recidivist Group (mainly property offenders he thought) should determine the kind of offender referred.

It is obvious from the criteria used by the referrers that a careful selection process has been ongoing. This selection process has been shaped, in many ways, by external constraints placed on referral to the scheme. These constraints are:

1. The age restriction of 18 years.
2. The constraints on Children's Court Magistrates and officers of the Department of Youth and Community Service in their legal right of referral to the Programme.

Effectiveness of the programme as assessed by Referrers

Whilst all referrers supported the programme, comments on the effect of the programme on each referral varied from ignorance through negative to positive comments. Most assessments of the short term effectiveness were cautious. Eight of the thirteen referrers made comments about the positive effects of the programme. Some of the comments are quoted:

"combined with court experience, there were definite changes... saw where he was going..."

"Put the wind up him - is aware that he will go to gaol."

* A referrer to the programme.

"Quite good, positive, constructive - given him an actual experience of what he can expect if he reoffends. Acts as a counter balance - if he can control his behaviour, then battle won."

"Gave him a realistic picture of what being imprisoned means - a deterrent effect, facilitated a better understanding between client and P & P officer..."

From these comments it was evident that deterrence from further crime was a primary aim of the referrers. They saw the programme acting as a deterrent force through the methods of rational explanation combined with a "reality shock" - prison life.

Some of the more negative comments made questioned whether actual attitude change (leading to change in behaviour) had occurred.

"Although he spoke as if a deep impression had been made it is unlikely his attitudes have been affected..."

"Not very good - it hasn't influenced motivation, been committing other offences. Given him an insight into what to expect."

Information from the referrals themselves does shed some light on this problem.

Comments on the long term effectiveness were even more cautious and could be summed up as "wait and see". However, all referrers stated they would continue to refer to the programme.

Changes suggested by the Referrers

General satisfaction was expressed with the present internal structure of the programme. Two comments were made:

One probation officer disliked the presentation of the 'non-official' aspect of gaol life (e.g. the blood stained shirt), another suggested that different types of offenders should have different emphasis placed on different parts of the programme. Overnight stays for older men were also suggested.

All suggestions for change related to the referral and follow up process. These suggestions are outlined below.

- Probation officers are not "thinking PRG way". They still need to be educated, more publicity is needed. Aids for probation officers describing the programme to clients were also suggested.
- The referrers to prepare the referral for the programme and afterwards gauge his reaction.
- The parents should be actively involved.
- Follow up, using the American movie "The Glass House" (Alan Alda, Vic Morrow) a vivid story set in an American prison (This is opposed by the PRG as inappropriate).
- Magistrates should be more aware of the aims of the PRG, and more prepared to refer young offenders to the programme.
- The PRG should be supported and encouraged by all right thinking people in our community, and especially by those who have it within their power to refer young persons to them.
- Greater opportunities for PRG members to expound their message, apart from the "Day-in-Gaol" programme. Extension of the activities of the group to schools through the media or through personal visits. (This is now beginning to occur).

- Groups such as the Civil Rehabilitation Committees should become more actively involved in the programme, perhaps delegating one branch of the organisation to be on stand by to provide immediate follow up assistance when any person is attending the programme. The referral's attendance at such follow up should remain voluntary.
- Police should be notified of a referral attending the programme and asked to "lay off". It was suggested that police harassment of referrals was having a negative impact upon the effects of the programme by making it more difficult for a referral to change his lifestyle.

Other comments made on the age of referrals and the power of referral have been discussed in previous sections.

Suggestions Offered by the PRG

Consistent with the recommendations of many of the referrers to the programme, it was suggested by the PRG that the age limit for referrals should be lowered. The group suggested 15 years as an appropriate age since involvement with crime is, in many cases evident at that age.

A second suggestion by the prisoner group was that both pre and post assessment of the referral should be conducted by the same person - preferably an independent psychologist with full knowledge of the "Day-in-Gaol" programme. The PRG suggested that if the referral is assessed by the prison psychologist prior to entry into the programme, familiarity with that psychologist may lessen the impact of the day in gaol. Since the period during which the referrals upon whom this evaluation is based attended the programme, a compulsory follow-up section has been incorporated in the programme.

A further proposal offered by the group is that young offenders who have been held on remand may be suitable for referral to the "Day-in-gaol" programme. Since prisoners held on remand frequently experience much better facilities and more amenities than convicted prisoners, as befits their unconvicted status, the PRG suggest that such referrals may be very receptive to a programme which demonstrates the realities of prison life.

It was also suggested that provision should be made for funding by a government department for those persons referred to the programme from outside the Sydney area.

8. FOLLOW UP SERVICES

Currently, three agencies have offered their services and facilities to participants in the programme, if assistance is required. However, at this stage, none of the referrals have requested or been assessed as requiring assistance. Another agency is, at the present time, operating as a feedback service for PRG members, by interviewing referrals immediately after they have attended the programme. The activities of the follow up agencies are described below:

The Association of Civil Rehabilitation Committees of New South Wales

Twenty committees in metropolitan and country areas of New South Wales form this Association. They were first established in 1951 to co-ordinate the efforts of individuals and organisations in the field of prison after-care.

Volunteers of various ages, educational and cultural backgrounds, with diverse interests, attitudes, abilities and skills form these committees, whose main concern is the well-being of persons under the supervision of the Criminal Justice System in N.S.W. and their relatives and families.

The Association of Civil Rehabilitation Committees is an independent organisation administered by a Council of Representatives with a Board of Management and a Central Office, staffed by an Executive Officer and assistant. C.R.C. receives an annual grant through the Department of Corrective Services and is also a Registered Charity.

Through their aims and resources the Association can provide practical assistance and personal guidance to referrals from the programme. They regard the Parramatta Recidivist Group as a referring agency and a formal referring process has been established.

Although the PRG can make its own decisions as to the necessity for referral, the prison psychologist should also advise the group. The Association, through its volunteers, can liaise with the family, provide alternative accommodation, find employment and provide 'friendship' and counselling, if required. Support and advice is also provided to the Parramatta Recidivist Group. Recently, the Friends of the Recidivist Group has been receiving support from the Association.

Epping Youth Service

This service can provide assistance for referrals in the following ways:

- (i) Crisis Accommodation - short term stays of up to six months. Room for six people.
- (ii) Finding employment - part of the CYSS Scheme.
- (iii) A Youth Service providing counselling. Psychiatrists and Social Workers are on call.
- (iv) Drop-in centre - unstructured centre providing leisure activities.
- (v) A Special Interest Programme providing more structured leisure activities e.g. camps, dances, etc.

Learning to Live (Previously Blacktown Youth Advisory Council)

The primary service of this organisation is the operation of a Youth Refuge/Halfway House which provides temporary accommodation. Acceptance to the refuge is based on individual need, there are no actual limits on the length of stays. They will also assist young people to find employment if they can.

To assist the PRG in assessing its own operation the

North Parramatta Probation and Parole Service: interview all referrals immediately after they have attended the programmes, and sends a tape to the PRG. This function was previously fulfilled by another individual youth worker. The Probation and Parole Service will offer what assistance can be provided from its own resources and will also refer to the appropriate volunteer and support groups.

There are some difficulties in the provision of this type of service by the Probation and Parole Service:

- (i) The problem of interviewing referrals on weekends - problem of staffing
- (ii) If the number of referrals becomes too large, then the workload for the service may be too much.
- (iii) The Probation and Parole Service is not as well equipped to handle juvenile problems as are other government departments.
- (iv) Probation and Parole represent 'authority' and as such may be resented by referrals. *

The use of volunteers, together with more active participation by the Department of Youth and Community Services in the provision of a follow up and evaluative service has been suggested. In addition, the provision of hostels has been proposed as an aid to the follow-up of the referrals by providing alternative accommodation and counselling if required. However, such hostels are not yet available.

* A voluntary 'non authority' organization may be better received by the referrals.

9 DISCUSSION

Major Criticisms

Some criticisms have been made of the programme by both probation officers and prisoners. An article in INPRINT¹ raised some serious questions about the value of the deterrent effects of this type of programme and wondered about the possible psychological effects of the programme on young offenders. The use of fear as a deterrent they saw as having three possible responses:

- (i) a young offender could come out of gaol "grandstanding" and become a hero in the eyes of his peer group.
- (ii) he could come out saying 'Well, what's so bad about that?' and an effect opposite to deterrence could occur.
- (iii) the young offender could be quite traumatised by the experience and could become more alienated and more anti-social in his behaviour.

The possibility of a person being genuinely deterred was also mentioned.

Using the programme to give a "short, sharp, shock" was seriously questioned. The author related this to the use made by magistrates of remand in custody for precisely this purpose and noted that a British study had shown that significantly more offenders reoffend during a two year follow up period.

The author also maintained that as Parramatta Gaol was not typical of the State's gaols (one of the oldest, overcrowded, atmosphere of physical oppression) it was misleading to suggest to young offenders that they could be sent there when they were not likely to go there.

The other danger which was pointed out was the possible misuse of the personal information supplied to the PRG by each referral. They stated that there was not enough guarantee that the information (which amounts in some questions to admitting to an offence) would not be used against the referral.

In an article appearing in the journal for probation and parole officers, Nigel Stoneman² also questions the use of scare tactics as an appropriate deterrent method. He goes on to state that by describing the realities of gaol to young offenders, the programme implied two facts:

- (i) that prison staff were not in control of the prison system.
- (ii) that the programme was producing evidence to contradict a principle announced by the Royal Commission - 'offenders are sent to prison as punishment'. He maintained that the prison system should be different so as not to allow a programme such as this any deterrent value.

He raised the danger that young offenders could, after attending the programme, find prison a challenge, to prove their 'toughness'. Nigel Stoneman also questioned the capability of the prisoners at Parramatta Gaol to counsel other people, due to their inability to run their own lives successfully - "the often total failure recidivist prisoners have made of their own family and marital lives."³

He described the situation as the 'inadequate looking after the inadequate' and called this a "catastrophic intervention".

1. PRG Who's Deterring Who INPRINT Aug. 79 pages 1-3
2. Parramatta Gaol - Education Programme or Counter Productive Scare Tactics CAR News June '79.
3. Stoneman, Nigel. Parramatta Gaol - Education Programme or Counter-productive Scare Tactics. CAR News, June 1979, p.2.

The PRG, in reply to the criticisms, has emphasised the need for a careful assessment of offenders referred to the programme to ensure their suitability. Those likely to "grandstand", or to say "What's so bad about that" would, it is hoped, be screened out by such a procedure. Careful assessment and adequate follow up is also recommended in order to ensure that the referral is not traumatised or more anti-social as a result of the experience. The group also contend that the referral is never given the impression that he would go to Parramatta Gaol, and is in fact told that he is more likely to be sent elsewhere, such as to Goulburn Gaol.

Whilst it is acknowledged by the PRG that the referral only has their word that the questionnaire they complete is confidential, the group asserts that the information contained thereon is used only for the selection of appropriate counsellors for the referral and is not passed on to anyone outside the PRG. The questionnaire is returned to the referral at the end of the day.

The criticism by Mr. Stoneman of the use of scare tactics in an attempt to deter young offenders fails to acknowledge that the "Day-in-Gaol" programme is based upon a rational approach to educating the offender as to the realities of prison life. The programme's developers rejected the 'shock and terror' tactics of the Rahway project as a model for N.S.W., and chose instead to use 'non-authoritarian experience, factually and soberingly explained'. That the incidence of violence in the prison might suggest to the referrals that the prison officers are not in full control of the prison, is according to the PRG, a reflection of reality, and an indication that

"if a person is attacked, bashed, raped or any other indignity is committed upon him, this includes the loss of his family or friends or property as in many cases, then that person is in fact being punished whilst in gaol and this happens all too frequently regardless of what was announced by the Royal Commission..." 1.

In answer to the final criticism by Mr. Stoneman regarding the inability of the prisoners to counsel the referrals, the PRG members have acknowledged the failures in their own lives and have sought training in counselling and communication techniques to enable them to relate their experiences to the referrals - they do not offer advice.

Other officers of the Probation and Parole Service have also replied to Mr. Stoneman's criticisms expressing their support for the project. Officer-in-Charge at Newtown, Clive Parker, views the "Day-in-Gaol" programme as educational, and as a "viable alternative to imprisonment".

In addition, some criticisms of the programme have also been offered by the Department of Youth and Community Services (YACS) ³. YACS express doubts about the deterrent value of the programme, and see the programme as intimidatory and based upon fear of retribution. The Department have undertaken to reconsider the referral of juvenile offenders, if and when, a controlled evaluation demonstrates that the "Day-in-Gaol" scheme can positively contribute as a deterrent.

1. A member of the PRG in reply to criticisms by Nigel Stoneman
2. Parker, Clive. Parramatta Recidivist Group's Prison Enlightenment Programme, CAR News, August 1979.
3. W.C. Langshaw, Director, Department of Youth and Community Services, private communication.

Discussion

The "Day-in-Goal" Programme is attempting to deal with an incredibly complex interaction of attitudes, perceptions, deterrence and behaviour. Realistic expectations of the ability of the programme to provide a solution to the results of this interaction must be adopted. The programme is an attempt to induce changes in behaviour through changes in attitude and/or values. A complete attitude change cannot be expected to occur in a space of six hours, at the most the impetus for attitude change can be supplied. It is assumed that attitude change is a forerunner to behaviour change. To complete a change, a multitude of factors operating within a certain set of circumstances would have to exist. Each set of factors and circumstances is unique for each individual. The uniqueness of each individual's response to any programme designed to implement change is universal. However, as participant's in the programme are likely to be subject to a larger number of uncontrolled variables, mainly external environmental factors, (as well as internal personal variables) the problem described above is particularly relevant to any assessment of the effects of this programme.

Studies on attitude change have shown that the credibility of the source has a bearing on the direction of the change.

" - more attitude change was produced by a persuasive message if the message were attributed to high-credibility sources than if it were attributed to low-credibility sources."¹ (Hovland & Weiss 1951)

The perception of each referral of the credibility of the group may vary, however it has been assumed that the PRG is a high-credibility source in the referrals' eyes, with a resultant possible increase in attitude change. The credibility of the group members rests on their non-alignment with the "system" and in experiences similar to that of the referrals.

At the same time however, the main aim of the programme is that of deterrence. The "threat of further punishment to the already punished" is used. As Zimring & Hawkins point out the results obtained² from the use of this approach are questionable. Briefly, the three possible reactions were

1. Anxiety about future punishment may be either increased or decreased.
2. Familiarity may diminish the effectiveness of threats which derive their potency from a fear of the unknown.
3. The actual threatened behaviour may acquire a higher or lower value in the referrals' eyes.

The task of the PRG members is to convince the referral that the certain result of his actions will be apprehension and punishment, and to educate the referral as to the realities of prison.

A fourth reaction could result:

4. That the referral would be genuinely deterred from his present behaviour.

A further criticism made in a prison magazine³ was that the programme could cause psychological harm to the offender and more anti-social behaviour. It is useful to discuss these criticisms in the light of the information at present available.

1. Zimbardo, P & Ebbesen, E. Influencing Attitudes and Behaviour Massachusetts 1970 p. 27
2. Zimring, F. E. and Hawkins, G. J. op. cit p.227, 228, 229
3. INPRINT. op.cit p. 1 & 3

1. Anxiety about future punishment.

For those referrals who did not view themselves as 'criminals', anxiety about future punishment increased and the programme did have a deterrent effect (see Case 1, Case 3, Case 4, Case 6, Case 7). Referrals who had developed what could be described as a 'criminal self image' or who continued to live in the same environment as before, said that their anxiety about future punishment either decreased or remained the same. They were more likely to say that the effects wore off after a short period of time, that they learnt very little that was different from what their friends had told them and that they returned to the same environment from which they came. However as one boy said, "Knowing what to expect doesn't help when you are actually in there."

2. Familiarity with future punishment.

It has been argued that this effect, whereby, the fear of the unknown, adds to the potency of a particular punishment as a deterrent, is a large component of the value of the deterrent effect of prison. Exposing the referrals to the prison system and banishing this ignorance, may have led to a lessening of the fear of going to prison and hence decreased the value of its deterrent effect.

For the most cases this has probably occurred (it is still difficult to assess this) although in varying degrees. For those referrals (Case 2, Case 5, Case 8, Case 9) who were already familiar with prison (through friends' experiences) this effect was less pronounced. In two cases (Case 1, Case 4) familiarity with the nature of prison life added to the deterrent value of that particular punishment. For the remainder of the referrals, knowledge of prison has probably lessened their fear of the unknown but has not necessarily reduced their desire not to go to prison.

3. Perceptions of the value of the threatened behaviour.

Assessing whether the punished behaviour has acquired a higher or lower value in the referrals' eyes, is difficult at the present time. In two cases (Case 1 and Case 3) it was clear that the behaviour had acquired a lower value, both referrals dissociating themselves from past associates and behaviour. In the remainder of cases, no definite conclusions can be drawn. This would be one of the aims of a long term evaluation.

4. Genuine Deterrence?

Obviously only tentative conclusions can be reached on this question. The old adage "only time will tell" is particularly relevant here. This study only allows the following conclusion to be made:

"That the programme has had some positive short term effects, in combination with other environmental factors, on a majority of the referrals."

The programme can not be the sole cause of reformation, it must operate in conjunction with other factors. Realistic expectations of the programme cannot be emphasized too strongly.

5. Possible Psychological Harm.

The potential for some psychological distress is evident in this programme and points to the necessity for a careful selection process and safeguards built into the programme. If this occurs, potential harm can be minimised. A number of the referrals had experienced boys institutions - such a careful prior assessment of their ability to handle these institutions was certainly not made. Compared to what these boys may experience in the future - the programme must be viewed as trying to prevent a very traumatising experience of prison as a legitimate prisoner.

In two cases there was a possibility of some trauma (Case 4 and Case 6), but as has been previously mentioned, follow up supports prevented this.

A number of the recommendations arise from this point" At the present time, a magistrate may refer to the programme without a prior assessment being made and with no provision for support after the offender has attended the programme. This increases the potential for sending a person through a programme who is not a suitable candidate in terms of emotional stability. Trauma could result in this type of case. In order to eliminate this situation it is recommended that the magistrate be required to have the offender assessed by the prison psychologist or probation and parole officer or district officer etc. and that follow up be provided by this person (Recommendation No.vi).

This raises the question of the role of the prison psychologist (Recommendation No.iii). The results of the study suggest that the psychologist should be responsible for the psychological safety of each referral through the programme. This surely should involve pre and post programme assessment. Although pre programme assessment would not be required by some referrals referred by probation officers or district officers, the prison psychologist should be available to fulfil this function when appropriate. Post programme assessment should be conducted immediately after attendance at the programme (even if only a brief interview) to handle immediate problems, and questions, assess needs and refer where appropriate. The psychologist should be able to provide feedback to PGR members as a result of this interview.

The feedback service for PRG members provided by the Nth. Parr.Prob.& Parole Service may not necessarily benefit the referrals. Although the importance of accurate feedback is certainly not denied, a better assessment could be provided by the prison psychologist.

If due to workloads, the prison psychologist cannot fulfil these functions, then the appointment of a professional person (perhaps on a voluntary basis) must be examined. It must also be noted that feedback would also be provided to PRG members through the evaluator (see Rc.iii).

General Conclusion

The value of the "Day in Gaol" programme cannot be adequately assessed by a short term evaluation such as the one at hand. The findings of this study need to be considered with due regard to the limitations on sample size and the short follow up period utilized in this study. Any conclusions drawn must therefore be tentative.

Whilst the re-offence rate for referrals to the programme appears to be favourable, at least in the short term and particularly with regard to the "high risk" nature of the sample of referrals, a longer term controlled evaluation is necessary if firm conclusions are to be drawn. The interviews with the referrals provide evidence of a mixed response to the programme. Whilst some referrals expressed an increased determination not to re-offend, and reported having made an effort to change their lifestyles, others did not. It is difficult to determine whether any such reported changes are attributable to the "Day-in-Gaol" programme itself. For some referrals the experience of a day in gaol was part of an ongoing programme of supervision and counselling by the Probation and Parole Service, for other referrals there was no real preparation for, or follow up to the "Day-in-Gaol" programme. In addition to the variations within the sample, there are many other uncontrolled factors which could be influencing the subsequent attitudes and/or behaviour of the referrals.

However, having acknowledged the above limitations, it is still possible to conclude that there is no apparent evidence that the "Day-in-Gaol" programme should not continue. Since the programme represents one of a few non-punitive sentencing alternatives available to the courts, and in many cases represents the last step before imprisonment for offenders, it should continue to operate whilst no evidence exists to indicate that it may have a detrimental effect upon referrals.

The continuance of the programme, with some minor changes in the referral and follow up procedures is thus supported by this evaluation. The consensus of the referrers is that the age for referral to the programme should be lowered; this is supported by statistics on juvenile crime. Whilst 16 years is recommended as a more acceptable age limit, future evaluations of the programme should consider the referring of younger offenders, as is proposed by the PRG, and by a number of the referrers. Lowering of the age to 16 years would extend the power of referral to Special Magistrates in the Children's Court and officers of the Department of Youth and Community Services.

A careful selection process, already in existence, would not be jeopardised by an increase in the number of potential referrers. Lowering the referral age to 16 years would also allow the Parramatta Recidivist Group to work with the group they see as being most in need of their programme. This in turn would allow an evaluation of the programme with regard to different "types" of referrals.

Future evaluations of the Prison Enlightenment Programme should perhaps also consider the effects which participation in the programme may have upon the 'rehabilitation' of the prisoners themselves. The programme may derive further justification from a demonstration that the PRG members were responding favourably as a result of their own involvement in the programme.

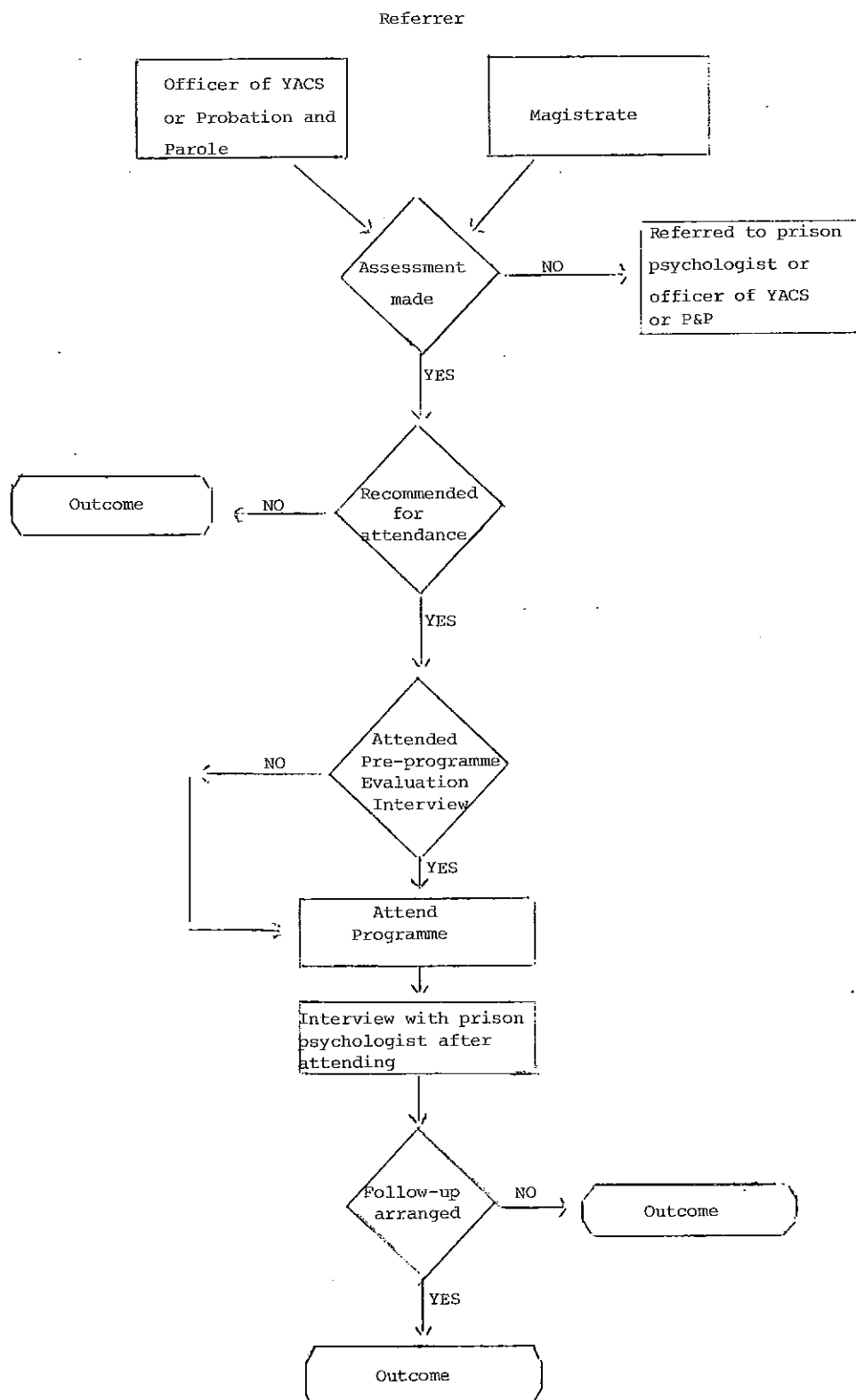
A tentative plan for future evaluation

The purpose of this outline is not to provide a definitive structure for a future evaluation but to make some proposals in the hope of stimulating discussion so as to formulate the best possible plan.

- Aim - The aims of any evaluation must be to assess:
- (i) attitude change and
 - (ii) behavioural change in the referrals,
 - (iii) the operation of the programme, internally and externally,
 - (iv) the implications of the programme, (in an ethical sense) for the prevention of crime.

Table 9

FLOWCHART OF THE PROPOSED REFERRAL PROCESS



Method - An independent evaluator would be appointed to conduct the following evaluation:

- (i) Pre-programme interview (including attitude tests) with referrals. Arrangements to be made for an interview to be held 1 week after attendance at the programme. For the referrals this would be voluntary (or possibly paid for participating).
- (ii) Conduct post programme interviews at the following time intervals:
 - 1 week
 - 6 months

Interview family where possible and other persons who may be working with the family.
- (iii) Check the Criminal Records Office for each referral at six monthly and yearly intervals.

The use of a control group is essential here. The group would be chosen by matching individuals, possibly according to the following criteria:

- . Age.
- . Date of offence.
- . Type of offence.
- . Previous convictions.
- . Type of referrer.
- . Type of court.
- . Court order.
- . Area of residence.
- . Employment status.
- . Occupation/trade.
- . General family background.

If the number of referrals through the programme is large, then a sample may be taken.

The control group would be subject to the same evaluation process as the experimental group.

The evaluation would ideally be conducted over a yearly period. The success of the evaluation is partially dependent upon a close co-operation with the prison psychologist (if applicable) who arranges a time for the initial interview and interviews the referral immediately after attendance at the programme.

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APPENDICES1. TABLE 1 TYPE OF OFFENCE BY NUMBER OF REFERRALS CONVICTED IN ALL PREVIOUS OFFENCES.

<u>TYPE OF OFFENCE</u>	<u>NO. OF REFERRALS CONVICTED IN ALL PREVIOUS OFFENCES.</u>
PROPERTY	
B.E.S.	13
Stealing (Neg.)	14
Steal Motor Vehicle	9
Receiving	4
Mal. Injury to Property	1
Fraud	3
Robbery with Assault	2
AGAINST THE PERSON	
Minor Assault (Unspec).	1
Assault	4
Rape	1
Indecent Assault female	2
Carnal Knowledge	1
Exposure of person	1
DRIVING	
P.C.A.	3
Dangerous driving	1
Drive without licence	6
Registration and insurance	3
Other driving	1
OTHER	
Trespassing	1
Using drug	1
Selling drug	1
Firearms	2

CHILD WELFARE

Uncontrollable	2
Absconding	1

2. TABLE 2 TIME SINCE ATTENDANCE BY NUMBER OF REFERRALS AT TIME OF INTERVIEW.

<u>TIME/MONTHS</u>	<u>NO. OF REFERRALS</u>
3½	1
4	2
4½	1
5	1
5½	2
6	3
6½	1
7	1
8	2
10	1
10½	1
11	2
12	1
14	1
18	1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REFERRERS TO THE DAY-IN-GOAL PROGRAM

1. How did you find out about the program ?

Please tick the appropriate reason(s).

Personal involvement ☐
Information from work colleagues ☐
A conference or seminar ☐
Newspapers, TV etc. ☐
Other ☐
.....

2. How did the referral come to your attention ?

Referred from the police to court ☐
Referred from court ☐
Self referral ☐
Referred by another person (Specify, ☐)

3. What special characteristics of the referral made him suitable for the program?

Age ☐
Mental attitude ☐
Past criminal history ☐
Emotional condition ☐
Family factors ☐
Social background ☐
Other (Specify.....) ☐

4. What general characteristics would make a person suitable for the program ?

Please specify.
.....
.....
.....

5. Was follow-up assistance provided for the referral - from you or other individuals or agencies ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Did you consider it adequate ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What was the nature of the follow-up assistance ?

(a) Skills involved.....
(b) Frequency of contact.....

6. Did you discuss the program with the referral after he had been through it ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What was his reaction/opinion to each of the various stages ?

(a) Imprisonment in the circle.....
(b) Prison life.....
(c) The enlightenment session

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REFERRERS TO THE DAY-IN-CAOL PROGRAM, CONTINUED.

7. How would you assess the effectiveness of the program on this person ?

(a) in the short term

.....
.....
.....

(b) in the long term

.....
.....
.....

THE PROGRAM

1. Would you like to see the present age restriction of 18 years lowered ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Why ?.....

2. Should attendance at the program be voluntary or enforced ?

.....
.....

3. Who else should have the power to refer to the program ?

.....
.....

4. Are you aware of the structure of the program ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is there anything that you would like changed or added to the program as it exists now ?

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Would you consider referring others to the program ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, for what reasons ?

.....
.....

4.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REFERRALS

- (1) Had you thought about going to prison before you attended the program?
- (2) What did you think prison would be like?
- (3) Had you been in any other institutions? (Probe)
- (4) Did you think you would be able to cope in prison?
If yes, how? If no, why?
- (5) About the time before you attended the programme, how were you filling in your time? (work, friends, interests etc.)
- (6) How did you come to get in trouble with the law?
- (7) What were you told about the programme before you attended? Who told you?
- (8) Did you think this programme would assist you at court or with your probation officer? In any other way?
- (9) What do you think are the aims of the programme?

I am now going to show you some photographs of the Day-in-Gaol Programme. After each group of photos please circle the words that best describe what you were thinking or feeling.

After photos.

- (10) Looking back over the whole day can you tell me which part or parts of the programme you got more out of?
- (11) Was the programme discussed with you after you attended?
Who with?
- (12) Would you have liked to talk about it more than you did?
- (13) Whom did you tell about the programme? If you told your friends, what did they think? What did your family think.

Additional Questions for Re-offenders.

- (14) Did you remember the Programme when you contemplated this offence?
- (15) Do you ever think about the programme now?
If yes, what things do you think about?

GROUP 1

Uneasy

Scared

Curious

Angry

Cool, not worried

Accepting of whatever happens

Aggressive

Humiliated

Other.....

GROUP 2

Bored

Stupid

Lonely

Watched

Glad to be occupied

Thinking- could I do this for years

Angry

Doing something worthwhile

Caged

Other.....

GROUP 3

Scared

Overwhelmed

Alone

Wanting to get out of the cell

The emptiness

The peace and quiet

Bored

Other.....

GROUP 4

Hungry

Not hungry

Bored

Depressed (gloomy)

Alone

The bare room

The end of the day, getting out of prison

The past

The future

Other.....

GROUP 5

Scared

Interested

Tongue-tied

Shocked

Curious

Confused

Lectured

Overwhelmed

Disgusted

Not interested

Prison isn't really this bad

Other.....

GROUP 6

Thoughtful

Relieved

Shocked

Impressed

Just a dream

Not how I thought it would be

Just how I thought it would be

This won't happen to me

This could happen to me

Other.....

APPENDIX 5.

REPORTS ON THE INTERVIEWS.

CASE 1.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 19 YEARS

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: THIS WAS THE FIRST CONVICTION

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: NONE.

REFERRED BY: PROBATION AND PAROLE.

Lifestyle Prior to Attendance.

At the time of the committal of the offence leading to attendance at the programme, Case 1 was working. After work he was mixing with a group of boys who were unemployed and who, according to the father, used Case 1 because he had some money and he had a car. The offences were committed in the company of this particular group. It was a social norm of the area that Case 1 lived in, that most kids "went in".

Case 1 had held a job for a couple of years, and his parents seemed genuinely concerned about their son's behaviour. They were also worried that a younger son could start in this sort of behaviour. The parents seemed capable of providing support to their son.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

When questioned about prison Case 1 stated that he had never thought that he could end up in prison as a result of getting into trouble and consequently didn't know how he would cope in prison. His main ideas about prison are described as "bars and people walking around".

Knowledge of Programme.

Case 1 and his parents were informed by the probation officer of the details of the programme. Case 1 was also told that the choice whether to go or not was his. He did not feel that going through the programme would assist him at court because:

"the choice was his - he didn't have to go".

Thus Case 1 did not seem aware of any bargaining power attendance at the programme he might have. Both parents supported their son's decision and were fully informed about the programme.

Answering the question - 'What do you think are the aims of the programme?' Case 1 replied: "Just to make you realise what you have done and where you can end up."

Experience of the Programme.

Case 1 said that during the whole day he was thinking about his past mistakes and how he didn't want to go to gaol - he didn't want any part of it. Reactions to the six parts of the programme were as follows:

- (1) Case 1 felt uneasy, scared, curious and accepting of whatever happens. He was not humiliated by the reception process (expected stripping) as he had been warned by the Probation Officer. He also maintained that he didn't see the Superintendent and he wasn't fingerprinted.

(2) Here Case 1 felt bored, stupid, lonely, watched and angry at having to do prison work. His approach was, to do "what he was told".

(3) The Circle - Case 1 felt alone, wanting to get out of the cell, bored but also safe. He noted the emptiness of the cell. During this time Case 1 thought about his past mistakes.

(4) Lunchtime - Case 1 felt bored, depressed, alone and thought about getting out at the end of the day, the past and the future.

(5) Sessions with the PRG. During this time, Case 1 was a little scared, but interested. He said that he sat and listened. Sometimes he was confused when the PRG used prison jargon.

(6) End of the day - Case 1 felt thoughtful, relieved.

He decided that "This won't happen to me" after being through. Case 1 also mentioned that he didn't see the psychologist at the end of the day - he seemed a little disappointed over this.

The part of the programme which most impressed Case 1 was the time spent in the Circle.

FOLLOW UP - Immediately after the programme he had a discussion with his probation officer which he felt was good, but enough.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS:

Case 1 didn't tell any of his friends about the programme although he discussed it with his family. The whole family does not like anyone else to know of their son's involvement in crime. However, both parents said they were very "glad and thankful" that he went through the programme.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 1 maintained that he had completely disassociated himself from his past group of friends. His father agreed with this, stating that now he has a girlfriend with whom he spends a lot of time. Both parents stated that the programme had definitely "made an impression on him".

CASE 2.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 18 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, THREE CHILDRENS COURT AND TWO IN PETTY SESSIONS, STEALING AND ASSAULT.

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: YES, HAD SPENT THREE PERIODS IN INSTITUTIONS (TALLIMBA & MT. PENANG).

REFERRED BY: STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

At the time Case 2 committed the offence leading to attendance at the programme he was working. He had a group of friends, most of whom were known to the police and who had been in trouble before. He committed the offence in the company of one other friend,

because, "he had no money at the time". This area in which Case 2 lived was an outer western suburb, which had a large amount of unemployment, no leisure facilities and without a car, was quite isolated. Case 2's parents seemed unable to understand their son's behaviour; the mother maintained he needed "Psychiatric" treatment which seemed to enable her to detach herself from responsibility for him.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 2 acknowledged that he could end up in prison if he continued the way he had been going. However, he didn't think he would be able to cope if he did go inside. Friends who had been "in" had already told him much about prison life, especially the violence and the rape. He maintained that they had not big-noted being in prison.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 2 was ordered by the court to attend the programme which he attended on his own. The magistrate told him very little about the programme. He felt that he was "really in trouble with the court" if he didn't attend the programme. Thus he was well aware of the position he was in and the importance of the programme.

However, when he reoffended, the same magistrate didn't remember he had been on the programme. This seemed to make the whole process a farce. Case 2 thought that the aims of the programme were:

"Help you keep out of trouble, tell you what gaol is like".

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 2's reaction to different parts of the programme was as follows:

(1) Case 2 felt both scared and curious about entering the gaol. He found the whole induction process easier to handle because he had been in institutions. Thus he was accepting of whatever happened. The whole process was bearable because he knew he was going to get out.

(2) While doing the prison work Case 2 was bored but was not otherwise worried by the work.

(3) The Circle - While in the Circle Case 2 stated that he thought about the other things he could be doing and wanted to get out of the cell because it was so small. He did not consider the events that led him to be in gaol.

(4) Lunchtime - During this period Case 2 went to sleep!

(5) Session with the PRG - The PRG talked about various aspects of prison life. Case 2 felt that they were not exaggerating. What impressed him the most was the words of a lifer in the group, when he said that he wished he had had such a chance when he was Case 2's age.

(6) Upon leaving Case 2 was both relieved and thoughtful but felt that the whole experience "could happen to him".

The part of the programme by which he was most impressed, was the imprisonment in the circle, where he said he did some thinking.

FOLLOW UP - Case 2 did not discuss the programme with any "official" person. He did discuss it a little with his mother and friends. He said that he didn't see any need for any further discussion.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 2 talked to his mother about the programme. He also told some of his mates who "didn't say much about it" - they were not impressed by his 'attendance'. It seems that attending the programme did not cultivate any uplifting of his status.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 2 stated that he thought the effects of the programme lasted about two weeks. He still mixed with the same group of boys and felt that he didn't learn much because his friends had already told him about gaol. He has committed a subsequent offence, which occurred because of a dispute with his neighbour. He described it as an impulsive action. He gave no thought to the programme during this time.

CASE 3.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 23 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, THREE IN PETTY SESSIONS, STEALING, (2) AND FALSE PRETENCES.

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: NONE.

REFERRED BY: STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Case 3 was working on a building site at the time of the offence. The incident arose when he felt he had been underpaid. To compensate for the money he stole some equipment. All the offences had occurred when he was on his own although he did say that, in retrospect, the group of friends he had at the time, encouraged his behaviour. His parents agreed with this.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 3 said that he hadn't thought of ever going to prison and had few ideas of what prison would be like. However, he felt that he would not be able to cope in prison.

KNOWLEDGE OF PROGRAMME.

Case 3 was informed by the magistrate about the programme. He was not told very much and went to the gaol under the impression he was going to stay overnight.

He said that the order was not enforced but he felt he "had" to go, as he was aware he had a 50/50 chance of going to gaol. He thought that by attending the programme he would have a better chance of not going to gaol. When asked what the aims of the programme were, he stated:

"To straighten me out - not to do the same thing again"

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) Case 3 was curious about the programme but accepting of whatever happened. The process of induction did not worry him, as he had been fingerprinted before. He decided before he went in that he would abide by the rules.

(2) Case 3 was one of the earliest referrals. He said that he had done no prison work, but had been shown around the prison.

(3) The Circle - It was in here that Case 3 did a lot of thinking - he thought how stupid he was to do something wrong and didn't like being locked up or the thought of being locked up for years.

(4) While in his cell having lunch, Case 3 maintained that he continued in the same vein of thought as when he was in the Circle.

(5) In the session with the PRG members, Case 3 said that he was both scared and shocked although he did not think the members were exaggerating. He felt that the group did try to scare him.

(6) Case 3 was relieved it was all over but pleased that he attended.

He found that the time spent in the cells had the most effect on him.

FOLLOW UP - There was no follow up provided.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 3 felt that his experience of the programme was personal and he didn't talk about it with anyone. His parents were not aware he attended until afterwards. Very few of his new friends knew of his involvement with the court.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 3 stated that he had disassociated himself from his previous friends. He seemed to be trying to 'blank out' his past experiences and didn't like discussing them.

CASE 4.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 46 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, THREE IN PETTY SESSIONS ALL INDECENT EXPOSURE.

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: NONE.

REFERRED BY: PROBATION AND PAROLE.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Case 4 described his life prior to committing the offence leading to convictions as "normal". He could offer no explanation for his behaviour, and was in fact upset by it. He held a responsible job, had a wife and family. Case 4 was also genuinely religious and this led to a further conflict between his beliefs and his behaviour. He had received counselling from a psychiatrist for four years prior to the offence but this had not provided a solution. He had begun to receive some help from his brother, who was also a minister of religion. None of his friends were aware of his personal problems - it seemed that there were two parts to his life.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 4 stated that the thought of going to prison was more an abstract feeling than a concrete reality. He said that it was in the back of his mind that he could go to prison. His knowledge of prison had been gained from films - he thought these were a bit melodramatic. Before he went through the programme he didn't know whether he would cope in prison or not. This was one attitude that has been changed.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 4 was well informed on the programme. He had already had another opportunity to go through a friend who was personally involved with the group, but had decided not to go. The second time his attendance was enforced, the probation officer recommended it to the court and his attendance was mentioned by the barrister in court at the time of sentencing. Case 4 said that he knew that the programme would help him personally, along with the idea that it could have an effect on the magistrate's decision. The aims of the programme were:

"To give a person a brief experience of prison life,
emphasize fact that one was 'incarcerated' in prison, it

was not a picnic, a country club, it was an inconvenience."

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) Case 4 was scared and humiliated by the whole induction process. The gates have an air of finality - they "let you know you're in". He was quite apprehensive and felt put down by having to call the prison officers Sir. He felt that the prison officers were not expecting an older man and consequently their treatment of him was 'inconsistent', perhaps more lenient.

(2) He was glad to be occupied by some work but here felt that he was not treated as if he was an 18 year old. Case 4 thought that the prison officers assumed that he was a grown man and could decide for himself.

(3) The Circle - During this time Case 4 was scared, felt alone and wanted to get out of the cell and wondered if he was being driven crazy. He also wondered what would happen if the warder didn't come back. Case 4 said that he was scared when there were other prisoners around.

(4) Lunchtime - Case 4 used this time to listen to prison life - the noise, look at the graffiti on the walls, to think whether the guards really spoke the truth. He also thought about getting out of gaol, the past and the future. Such thoughts as - Why would anyone want to come back? Why hadn't he learnt? That he was letting people down.

(5) During this session Case 4 was scared, interested and shocked. He found that the group was "very much to the point", especially with regard to the sexual abuse of prisoners and the rules of the gaol. He said that the group understated the reality in that they thought the emotions they would experience in gaol would be bad.

(6) Case 4 was relieved to leave the gaol. He also thought that prison was "not how I thought it would be". He now believed in the reality of prison. Case 4 had given a lot of thought to how prison should be - "Prison shouldn't be dehumanising but it shouldn't be a country club".

Case 4 felt that the time spent alone and then in talking with the PRG were the hardest parts of the programme. He thought that the group made some assumptions about his feelings that were not right. However, he said they talked about reality.

FOLLOW UP - Case 4 discussed the experience with his Probation Officer after a few days. He said he would have liked more counselling. (This is now being supplied by his brother.)

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 4 was deeply moved by the experience - he is a very sensitive man. The experience has increased his determination not to commit further offences and to obtain more intensive counselling. He also realised the reality of life in prison, for him, due to the nature of his offences. He also felt he would have difficulty in obeying either set of prison rules (guards or prisoners).

CASE 5.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 18 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, FOUR IN CHILDRENS' COURT -
ASSAULT, STEALING, RECEIVING, etc.,

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: YES, ONE PERIOD IN AN INSTITUTION.

REFERRED BY: PROBATION AND PAROLE.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Case 5 maintained that he was leading a normal life (swimming, football, etc.) prior to committing the offence leading to the programme. He maintained that it was not the influence of friends, as all his offences have been committed on his own. He described himself as quick-tempered and impulsive. Case 5's family did not seem very supportive although outwardly "respectable". He said he was still 'hassled' by the police as they used to do before he attended the programme.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

When questioned about prison, Case 5 stated that he had thought of going to prison "if he got caught". Having been in boys' institutions which he described as a "holiday house" he went on to say that he knew prison would be nothing like this. He also thought that he would not be able to cope in prison, especially if he saw someone he knew.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 5's probation officer informed him about the programme. However, he said he didn't know much and didn't want to go, however, he thought it may help him. He said it was a voluntary attendance, not enforced by a court order.

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) Case 5 felt very nervous about attending, also cynical, wondering what would happen next.

(2) While doing the work felt stupid, but at the same time glad to be occupied. It was at this stage that he saw another boy he knew, which made him feel better, more "at home".

(3) The Circle - During this time Case 5 was bored and went to sleep. He did do some thinking, mainly about how he didn't want to spend his life in prison.

(4) Lunchtime - In this time Case 5 did a lot more thinking. He said he started to think - could this really happen to me? He also thought that he didn't want to stay in there for years and thought about how he would get out.

(5) During the session with the PRG, Case 5 was scared and shocked by what the members were saying. He felt that perhaps prison wasn't really this bad.

(6) On leaving the gaol Case 5 was both thoughtful and relieved. He thought that prison was different from how he thought it would be and that it wouldn't happen to him. He said that he was "still

thinking about the experience".

Case 5 thought that the session with the PRG was most useful because he learnt things he would never hear about on the outside.

FOLLOW UP - Case 5 discussed the programme with his probation officer about a week later. He felt that this was sufficient.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 5 did not discuss the programme with his family or friends.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 5 maintained that the experience of the programme had changed him, along with help from his probation officer. He was adamant that he did not want to go to prison.

CASE 6.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 18½ YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, 10 CONVICTIONS IN CHILDRENS' COURTS.

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: YES, FOUR PERIODS (INCLUDING MT. PENANG AND DARUK).

REFERRED BY: PROBATION AND PAROLE.

N.B. There were severe communication problems with this boy.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Case 6 became involved with a group of boys, all unemployed - he was easily led because he was quite severely handicapped. Case 6 is deaf and has a severe speech defect which makes communication very difficult. Not being employed, Case 6 had a lot of time on his hands. He had refused to admit to himself that he was handicapped and that he needed special assistance. The mother of the boy was also deaf and a lot older than the son. Although quite accepting of her son's time spent in training schools, she said that if he went to prison, she would withdraw her support.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 6 had not thought about going to prison, but thought that it would be worse than a training school. The interviewer's skills were a bit lacking and I could not ascertain what he thought prison would be like or whether he would be able to cope in prison.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 6 was informed about the programme by his probation officer. His mother also approved him attending. However, it is evident that Case 6 did not completely understand what it was about as he could not tell me what he thought the programme could have done for him.

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) Case 6 said he was scared, because he didn't know what to expect when he went into the gaol.

(2) While doing the work he felt lonely and was thinking about whether he could do this work for years. During this time he also wanted to get out of the gaol.

(3) Circle - While in the circle Case 6 said he was scared and felt quite alone. He wanted to get out of the cell.

(4) Lunchtime - While locked up he said he wrote down some things about gaol and thought about what he had done, that one day he could end up there.

(5) PRG Session - Case 6 said that he understood the members of the group, but he still felt quite scared by the experience. He said they told him how bad the place was. Case 6 said he decided that he was: "Not going to get into no more trouble".

(6) Case 6 was very relieved to get out the gaol. He said he had decided that "this won't happen to me."

When asked which part of the programme had the most effect on him he just said that "all of it was bad, it was a terrible place."

FOLLOW UP - This was provided by the probation and parole officer who has a good relationship with Case 6. The probation officer was not only counselling Case 6 but trying to arrange assistance for his speech defects and some job training.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 6 discussed the programme with his mother but not his friends. His mother maintained that it had a strong effect on him, made him reconsider his decision.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 6 had previously refused assistance, but after attendance was prepared to try again. He said that he had stopped associating with his past group of friends. Case 6, however, was also feeling restless at home and wanted to move out.

COMMENT.

Case 6 was a particularly complicated one and the difficulty in communication made it harder to obtain accurate information. Attendance at the programme appears to have caused no psychological harm although while he was going through he was very scared. This is one case where it must be absolutely essential that the prison psychologist be present, as there is some potential harm if the boy was not properly supervised. The necessity for supervision afterwards is obvious. In this case Case 6 had a very supportive Probation and Parole Officer, which allowed him to assimilate the effects of the programme successfully.

CASE 7.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 16, NEARLY 17 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: THIS WAS HIS FIRST CONVICTION (BES)

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALISATION: NONE.

REFERRED BY: SPECIAL MAGISTRATE, CHILDRENS' COURT.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Prior to committing the offence leading to attendance at the programme, Case 7 said that he was quite bored. He was not working and most of his friends were still at school. He said that he was "always involved in whatever was going on". He maintained that he got involved because it showed how tough you were. Case 7 said he had been involved in a lot of petty crime before he finally got caught by the police. He blamed it on the fact that there was nothing to do where he lived, a lot of temptation, especially when he had no money.

Case 7's family had split up. He was living with his mother and tried living with his father but without success. He was not satisfied with either solution. He presented as a boy who was very confused, not knowing where he was going.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 7 said he was quite scared of going to prison he knew about some of the bad things that went on. The main time he thought about prison was when he got caught. He knew that the more chances he got the closer he got to gaol. Case 7 felt that he would not be able to cope if he was sent to prison.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 7 was first told of the programme by the magistrate in court. His father had written to the magistrate suggesting that his son attend the programme. The magistrate told Case 7 a little about the background and aims of the programme in court. Attendance was made part of the final order so the programme was not used as a bargaining tool. Case 7 said the aims of the programme were:

"to show what it is like inside the gaol,
to deter you from going in."

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) During the reception period Case 7 felt uneasy, curious and humiliated by the procedure. He was, however, accepting of whatever happened.

(2) Case 7 said he felt stupid doing the prison work.

(3) While in the Circle, Case 7 said he felt alone and bored, was conscious of the emptiness of the cell. He said his main desire was to get out.

(4) Lunchtime - While in this cell Case 7 said he was curious and did a lot of thinking about the future. He also thought about how he got in to gaol and if he could spend the rest of his life in and out of gaol.

(5) Case 7 said he was quite interested in what the PRG had to say but he thought to himself that he was already convinced. While he was in this session, he put himself in the shoes of a member and thought "that this could be me talking to a young boy".

(6) At the end of the day Case 7 said he was thoughtful. He did think that "it could happen to me". Case 7 seemed confused about his future and did not seem certain of his ability to stay out of trouble although in his mind he certainly wanted to.

The parts of the programme which affected him most were the circle and walking between different parts of the gaol, which he described as "more realistic".

FOLLOW UP - Case 7 had a very intensive discussion with his father after attending the programme. He felt he did not need any more than this.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 7 said he told his mates but they were not impressed and "didn't really listen". However, he would have liked his friend who was the co-offender to have gone through the programme, as he felt he would have benefited from it. Case 7 said that after a while the effects wear off and he did not feel so scared about going to prison, although he was equally convinced he will not reoffend. Case 7 was very uncertain about his future and needed a lot of guidance and support.

CASE 8.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 18 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, TWO CHILDRENS' COURT (STEALING).

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: NONE.

REFERRED BY PROBATION AND PAROLE.

*IS PRESENTLY IN GAOL.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Case 8 wasn't working at the time he committed the offence leading to attendance at the programme. He committed the offence on his own like his previous offences.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 8 said that he already knew of the bad aspects of prison because friends had told him about prison. He didn't think he would end up in gaol. Case 8 thought that he would find prison difficult and that he would have to go into protection.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 8 said he was reluctant to go on the programme, however, it was made part of the court order so he had to go. When asked what the aims of the programme were Case 8 said that the main aim was to "wake you up".

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

- (1) Case 8 said he felt angry at having to attend the programme and was worried when he first entered the gaol. What worried him the most was the other prisoners looking at him and calling out to him.
- (2) While working Case 8 said he felt stupid, watched and embarrassed. He also stated that he "felt like a criminal" especially when he saw the officers and their guns. Case 8 said he felt "low" and that he shouldn't be there at his age.
- (3) Circle - Case 8 said he felt like he was in a zoo and wanted to get out of the cell. During this time he said he tried to sleep, however, it was too uncomfortable.
- (4) Lunchtime - During this time Case 8 said he was bored and was starting to regret the things he had done.
- (5) Case 8 stated that he was shocked by some of what the prisoners told him (e.g. no privacy) however, on the whole he said he didn't learn much at all. He thought that "prison isn't really this bad" and that the group might have been exaggerating. Case 8 said that at the time he didn't think he would end up in gaol.
- (6) Although Case 8 was relieved the day was over he thought that it should be longer than eight hours as he could "laugh it off". He said that he was glad to try it because he knew the guard was there all the time.

FOLLOW UP

Case 8 discussed the programme with his probation officer.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 8 talked about the programme with his friends and also with his mother (who hadn't wanted him to go on the programme.)

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

As he was unemployed, Case 8 said that he had nothing to do after he went through the programme (as before), he was bored and had plenty of time. Case 8 reoffended and is now in gaol. He stated that the temptation to commit a further offence was there and, although he thought about the programme, it wasn't enough to stop him. He stated that after 3 or 4 months the effect started to wear off.

CASE 9.

AGE AT TIME OF ATTENDANCE: 18, NEARLY 19 YEARS.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: YES, ONE IN PETTY SESSIONS (possession of Drugs).

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONALIZATION: NONE

REFERRED BY: PROBATION AND PAROLE.

LIFESTYLE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

At the time of the committal of the offence leading to attendance at the programme, Case 9 was unemployed and was involved in the drug scene in the area in which he lived. He had little respect for the police, stating that they were crooked. Using the threat of violence, he maintained that he was set-up. He felt that using heroin was a crime, however, using other drugs wasn't. Thus he didn't feel his second appearance at court was justified.

KNOWLEDGE OF PRISON.

Case 9 thought he had had a 50/50 chance of going to prison. He knew from people he had known who had been in gaol that it was terrible and that he would "cop heaps". When asked if he thought he could cope in prison he said that he would provided he didn't bump into people he knew.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMME.

Case 9 was told about the programme the day before Court. He thought that a major result of attending could be a better deal at court, although he thought that he probably would not go to gaol this time. When asked what the aims of the programme were Case 9 said that they were:

"To give you a view of gaol and to change your mind".

EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME.

(1) While waiting at the door Case 9 felt uneasy, however, he said he was not worried and was accepting of what happened. He did not feel humiliated by the reception process. The prison officers had told him "Don't get smart, its not like a holiday its not going to be fun".

(2) Case 9 said he was bored doing prison work (he clearly remembered the details) and thought about doing it for years. He remembered being scared when he saw a prisoner he knew. One person did come up and speak to him and asked him how long he was in for - when Case 9 said 'a day', the prisoner couldn't believe it.

(3) Circle - during this time Case 9 said he was bored and went to sleep. He thought that it would be terrible if one was in the Circle a lot - he imagined that he would be because of his "friends".

(4) Lunchtime - Here Case 9 was bored and said he went to sleep - he said he thought how bad it would be to be in a cell all the time.

(5) In the session with the PRG Case 9 said he knew most of what he was told - he didn't learn anything new. What the members were saying didn't worry him because he thought he wouldn't go in.

(6) Case 9 said he was relieved to get out of gaol and thought that prison was just how he thought it would be. He said he decided that he would not be going back to prison - if he was lucky!

FOLLOW UP.

Case 9 discussed the programme with his probation officer. He felt that this was enough.

RELATING THE PROGRAMME TO OTHERS.

Case 9 talked about the programme with both family (his mother) and friends. His mother was shocked when initially told about it but glad he did it. Most of Case 9's friends already knew about gaol - he said, however, that they had not tried to build gaol up into a 'bravado' experience.

SELF REPORTED LIFESTYLE CHANGES.

Case 9 maintained that his attitudes and way of life had changed, however, he said the police were still "making things difficult for him". He was genuinely trying to get a job. He said he felt worse knowing people in gaol - knowing what to expect doesn't help when actually in there.