

### **Submission 13. Tammy Simmonds**

Both at Albany Regional Prison and Pardelup Prison Farm our TWES program is one of the most successful and the main reasons is the delivery model that ourselves and our reintegration provider deliver. The main difference is we know the program, PIVOT is our contracted reintegration provider who were already familiar with working in the prison system prior to winning the TWES contract. So from my point of view our intake rate and continued work with TWES prisoners is of high participation.

Group information sessions I feel don't work as successful as the individual approach that we offer – it is a one-on-one session by where prisoners build a relationship with their case worker over a multitude of meetings – this develops an understanding of what those individual needs.

Easier Access to medical records I feel need to be easier as it is always a struggle to gain this from the medical units, and this is often key knowledge needed on how a case worker will interact and support a TWES participant.

Job Active Providers - Job active providers don't know their full responsibility to participate in the TWES program and this needs to be explained and if necessary, training provided. They don't provide the aftercare that's needed to offenders upon release. I feel they just "tick a number" and done and dusted.

I think to close the gap we need to develop culturally competent programs to assist with TWES – some ideas I have thought about are:

Pre -Release employment training – work closely with vocational and educational services to offer tailor made programs for Indigenous prisoners.

Work Release Programs – we currently do this as through our Prisoner Employment Program (PEP) -this is a very successful program, which allows offenders to gain job experience and skills before their release – however this is only in Minimum prisons. something we can't accommodate in maximum security prisons -where in ARP's case we have a huge percentage of Indigenous offenders.

In addition, I feel that in general in prison support services need to be increased - some examples are:

Personalized Counselling: Provide individualized counselling to help prisoners address emotional, psychological, and behavioural challenges that may hinder their successful reintegration.

Skill Development: Offer increased vocational training and educational programs that focus on building practical skills for employment in various sectors.

Mentorship Programs: Establish mentorship programs connecting Indigenous inmates with successful Indigenous community members who can provide guidance and support.

In conclusion to all I have mentioned I think that to improve TWES and any future programs it always needs to be a culturally sensitive approach, and all associated with the TWES program fully understand the importance of the program. By doing this we can contribute to successful reintegration for these offenders back into the community and help with the well-being of the Indigenous community.