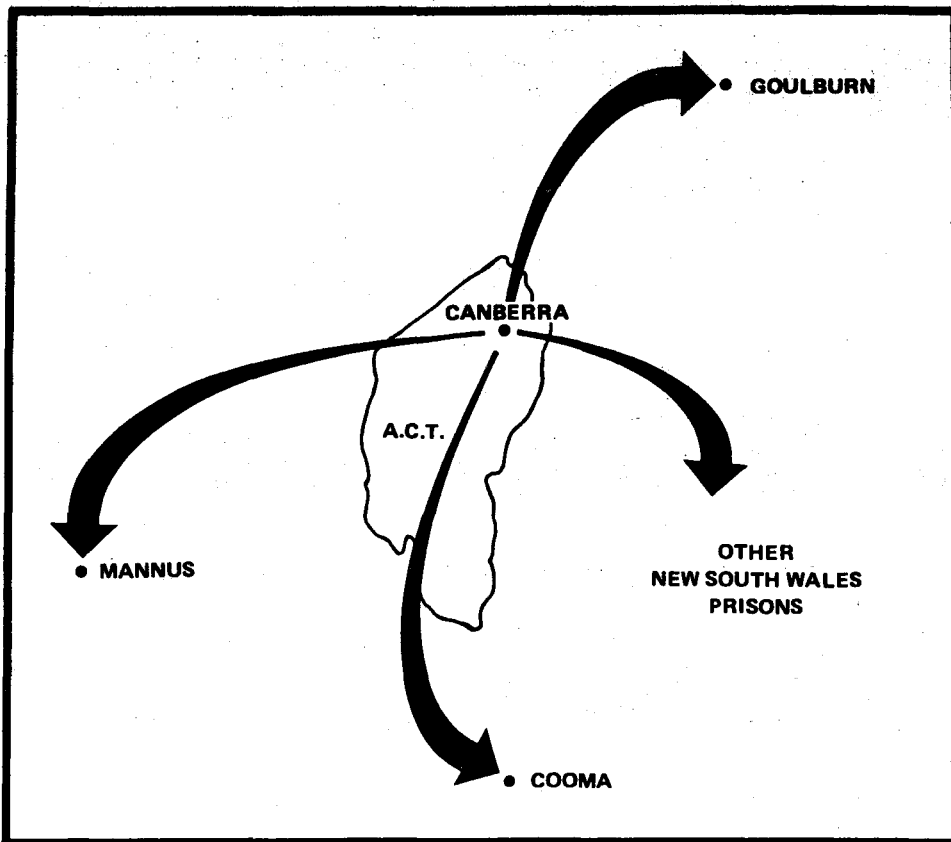
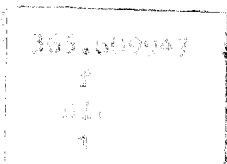


A Research Report

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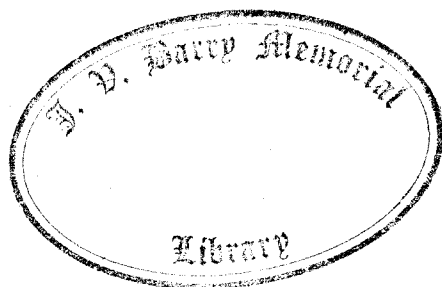
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A SURVEY OF A.C.T. PRISONERS IN N.S.W. PRISONS

David Biles*
and
Geoff Cuddihy**

* Deputy Director, Australian Institute of Criminology,
Canberra, A.C.T.

** Consultant, former Chief Probation and Parole Officer, Victoria



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The approval of Mr Vern Dalton, Chairman of the N.S.W. Corrective Services Commission, for this survey to be undertaken is gratefully acknowledged. Mr Dalton appointed his Chief Research Officer, Mr Don Porritt, to act as liaison officer to the project. Mr Porritt's assistance was invaluable in facilitating access to the prisoners. Thanks are also due to the superintendents of the prisons covered by this survey who showed every courtesy and co-operation to the Institute.

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The typing and some of the statistical work in this report was undertaken by Mrs Marjorie Johnson, the secretary to the principal author.

Ultimately, of most importance to the study, was the co-operation and interest of the prisoners and their family members who agreed to be interviewed. Their thoughtful views form the basis of this study and to all of those unnamed people we offer our warmest appreciation.

D.B. and G.C.

SUMMARY

The Australian Capital Territory has the lowest per capita use of imprisonment of all Australian jurisdictions. Unconvicted detainees are held at the Belconnen Remand Centre while sentenced prisoners are held in N.S.W. prisons. Over the past seven years, at any time there were between 30 and 50 persons serving prison sentences in N.S.W. following conviction and sentence by the courts of the A.C.T. This survey aimed to interview as many as possible of these prisoners and their family members in Canberra to ascertain whether or not they experienced particular difficulties in relation to family ties and welfare support. A total of 34 prisoners were interviewed in eight different N.S.W. prisons, and, with the permission of the prisoners, interviews were also conducted with 16 family members.

The prisoners, who included one female, were predominantly young and unmarried. Their offences ranged from murder to driving offences, with the most common being robbery, burglary or larceny. The majority of the prisoners expected to be released in less than one year from the time of the interviews and exactly half of them expected to be released in less than six months.

The interviews with the prisoners revealed that fewer than 40 per cent of them received visits monthly or more frequently. Only a very small proportion received visits each week. Wives and girlfriends seemed more likely to visit weekly or fortnightly than other visitors. Over half of the prisoners said that the problems of cost and distance limited the frequency of visits. Contact between prisoners and their families was more frequently maintained by letters or telephone than it was by visits.

Almost half of the prisoners indicated their preferred location within the N.S.W. prison system as being Goulburn or Mannus, with many mentioning ease of visiting or the minimum security as the reason for their preference. Every one of the prisoners, however, supported the suggestion that there should be a prison in the A.C.T., with nearly all giving as their principal reason the ease of visiting and maintaining contact with families.

The clear majority of the prisoners indicated that they were coping satisfactorily with being in prison, and they mentioned a wide range of spare time activities in which they were engaged. The majority were also engaged in constructive work within the prisons. Most of them expressed negative views on the Belconnen Remand Centre, with the lack of activities and confined space being criticised most frequently.

The members of the prisoners' families who were interviewed expressed considerable concern about the costs and time required for visiting their relatives in prison. None of them had received assistance with the costs of visiting. They almost unanimously supported the idea of a prison in the A.C.T., saying that this would facilitate the maintenance of family ties and preparation for release. The family members generally indicated that they had experienced some stress in coping with the situation and made a number of constructive suggestions for change.

While its limitations are acknowledged, the report of this small survey has reviewed the statistical trends in the use of imprisonment in the A.C.T., described the characteristics of the A.C.T. prisoners and presented their personal views on a number of issues as well as the views of their families. This information should be of assistance to the Review of Welfare Services and Policies in the A.C.T.

1. INTRODUCTION

This project was conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology for the Review of Welfare Services and Policies in the A.C.T. chaired by Professor Tony Vinson.

There is no prison for convicted offenders in the Australian Capital Territory. Because of this, persons sentenced to periods of imprisonment by the A.C.T. courts are required to serve their sentences in prisons in New South Wales. The Federal Attorney-General's Department maintains a register of A.C.T. prisoners and the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services is reimbursed for the costs of maintaining these additional prisoners.

The acceptability of this arrangement of 'modern transportation' has been the subject of intermittent public discussion in Canberra for many years, but this discussion has increased in intensity during 1984. Strong opinions have been expressed in favour of the A.C.T. having its own prison,¹ but equally strong opposition to this proposal has also been expressed. This study may be seen as a contribution to that debate in that it provides reasonably reliable data on the attitudes of A.C.T. prisoners and their families to this question, but it must be stressed that this project is not to be seen as an attempt to answer the question of whether or not the A.C.T. should have its own prison. The resolution of that issue would require a considerably broader inquiry than has been attempted here.

In correspondence between the Institute and the A.C.T. Review it was agreed that the aims of the project were

to assess the opportunities available to A.C.T. prisoners in N.S.W. prisons to maintain contact with family and friends by visiting, correspondence, telephone and other means.

to assess any disadvantages they believe they experience in maintaining significant relationships because of their transfer from the A.C.T.

1. See Harding, R.W., Administration of Criminal Justice in the A.C.T., Seminar Proceedings No. 2, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 1984

to assess difficulties they experience in engaging the support and intervention of welfare staff, and any other related matters.

Planning for the project envisaged that the methods to be used would consist of interviewing A.C.T. prisoners with their consent in New South Wales prisons and, with the permission of the prisoners, interviewing their immediate families or friends in Canberra, again with their consent. It was also envisaged that data from the national prison census of 1983 and other sources would be used to describe the characteristics of A.C.T. prisoners. For a number of reasons outlined below it was not possible to implement these plans completely, but, on the positive side, the data gathering aspects of the project were completed in significantly less time than had been provided for in the project budget.

Before the interviewing stage of the project it was obviously necessary for an accurate list of A.C.T. prisoners together with their locations to be compiled. The starting point was the list of A.C.T. offenders in prison as at 1 June 1984, which comprised 47 males and one female. This list was forwarded to the N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services with a request that it be returned with the actual prisons in which each prisoner was then held being marked. This was done for 46 of the names on the list, with no information being available in relation to the remaining two names. At the same time the accuracy of the list was verified against photocopies of the A.C.T. prisoners register supplied by the Attorney-General's Department.

Also at the same time formal approval was obtained from the Chairman of the Corrective Services Commission of New South Wales for the project to be undertaken and explanatory letters were forwarded to the superintendents of the relevant prisons. The actual interviews were conducted over the period 30 July to 7 August 1984. It was found that in this relatively brief intervening period, 16 of the prisoners had been released and one had escaped. Of the remaining 29 names, two could not be located and two more declined to be interviewed. Thus the total was reduced to 25 prisoners but this was supplemented by a further nine prisoners, one of whom declined to be interviewed, who were identified as A.C.T. prisoners by the

superintendents. (Subsequent inquiries, however, have led to the suggestion that two of these, even though A.C.T. residents, may not have been sentenced by A.C.T. courts.) A total of 33 interviews with prisoners was therefore completed. One further interview was conducted on behalf of the Institute by the welfare officer attached to the Grafton Prison in the north of the State.

The prisons in which these 34 interviews were conducted were:

Bathurst	- 2
Cessnock	- 1
Cooma	- 5
Goulburn	- 12
Grafton	- 1
Long Bay	- 2
Mannus	- 10
Norma Parker Centre	- 1
	—
	34
	—

Even though less than the complete coverage that was sought, in view of the constant turnover and movement of prisoners, this was considered to be an acceptable result.

Problems of a similar nature were experienced in relation to the interviews with relevant members of prisoners' families. Of the 34 prisoners who were interviewed, 18 indicated their approval for members of their families to be questioned. Of these one could not be contacted and one other declined to participate. Thus a total of 16 interviews were actually conducted with family members.

One further difficulty with the planned methodology arose in connection with the proposed use of the results of the 1983 national prison census to describe the characteristics of A.C.T. prisoners. That census did not distinguish between jurisdiction of imprisonment and jurisdiction of sentence (an omission that has been corrected for the 1984 census, but from which results were not available at the time of writing). The only method of identifying A.C.T. prisoners in the 1983 census data was to use the local government area of residence as the key indicator. For this to be accurate two assumptions must be made: that only A.C.T. residents were sentenced by A.C.T. courts and that no A.C.T. residents were sentenced by New South Wales courts.

These assumptions were quickly shown to be false when an analysis of the data revealed 56 A.C.T. residents in N.S.W. prisons compared with 45 A.C.T. prisoners in N.S.W. prisons as shown by Australian Prison Trends at that time. In view of this discrepancy this line of inquiry was not pursued and the description of A.C.T. prisoners was based on the more limited data contained in the register of A.C.T. prisoners.

Another possible source of error that has caused the researchers some concern is the recognition of the existence of A.C.T. offenders who serve sentences solely in lieu of fines. While none of those prisoners interviewed fell into this category informal evidence obtained in the conduct of this survey strongly suggested that there were a number of A.C.T. offenders who from time to time 'cut out' fines by serving relatively short prison terms. As far as could be established there is no mechanism whereby the names of these persons could be included in the register of A.C.T. prisoners, much less the number of persons that may be involved.

2. STATISTICAL TRENDS

The Australian Capital Territory has the lowest per capita use of adult incarceration of all Australian jurisdictions. The most recently available figures from Australian Prison Trends No. 99 indicate that for the month of August 1984 there was a daily average of 58 persons in detention for the jurisdiction. This total comprised 56 males and two females, of whom 44, including one female, were serving sentences in N.S.W. prisons. Thus, for that month, there was a daily average of 14 unconvicted detainees in the Belconnen Remand Centre.

The total of 58 A.C.T. prisoners or detainees yielded an imprisonment rate (prisoners per 100,000 population) of 24.3 which compared with a national rate of 60.8 for the same period. The table below shows the basic data and imprisonment rates for all Australian jurisdictions for August 1984.

Table 1: Australian Imprisonment Data, August 1984

	Daily Average Prisoners			General Population* (in thousands)	Imprisonment Rates
	Males	Females	Total		
N.S.W.	2987	153	3140	5729	54.8
VIC.	1876	66	1942	4012	48.8
QLD	1825	39	1864	2518	74.0
W.A.	1426	72	1498	1379	108.6
S.A.	592	23	615	1351	45.5
TAS.	241	7	248	435	57.0
N.T.	230	13	243	136	178.7
A.C.T.	56	2	58	239	24.3
AUST.	9233	375	9608	15799	60.8

* Projected Population end of August 1984 derived from Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly (Catalogue No., 3101.0)

Even though the A.C.T. clearly has the lowest imprisonment rate in Australia, the use of remand in custody in this jurisdiction is by no means the lowest, even though it is lower than the national level. The key statistic here is the remand rate (remandees per 100,000 of the

population) and at 1 August 1984 this rate was 6.7 for the A.C.T. compared with 8.0 nationally. Full details for 1 August 1984 are given below.

Table 2: Australian Remand Data, 1 August 1984

	<u>Total Prisoners</u>	<u>Prisoners on Remand</u>	<u>Percentage of Remandees</u>	<u>Remand Rate</u>
N.S.W.	3009	635	21.1	11.1
VIC.	1949	172	8.8	4.3
QLD	1868	129	6.9	5.1
W.A.	1540	124	8.1	9.0
S.A.	613	134	21.9	9.9
TAS.	236	12	5.1	2.8
N.T.	247	47	19.0	34.6
A.C.T.	56	16	28.6	6.7
<hr/>				
AUST.	9518	1269	13.3	8.0
<hr/>				

From this table it can be seen that the remand rates of Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland were all lower than that of the A.C.T. on that date.

Over the longer term the A.C.T. imprisonment rate has remained relatively stable, but there has been a marked increase in the A.C.T. remand rate over the past two years. The following table shows the total numbers of prisoners, imprisonment rates, total remandees and remand rates for both the A.C.T. and Australia as a whole each month over the period November 1977 to August 1984. (These data are taken from Australian Prison Trends, a monthly bulletin compiled and published by the Australian Institute of Criminology.) It should be noted that the imprisonment data are based on daily averages for each month, while the remand data are taken from the figures applying to the first day of each month.

Table 3: Imprisonment and Remand, A.C.T. and Australia,
November 1977 to August 1984

	A.C.T.				Australia			
	Total Prisoners	Imprisonment Rate	Total Remandees	Remand Rate	Total Prisoners	Imprisonment Rate	Total Remandees	Remand Rate
<u>1977</u>								
Nov.	41	19.3	12	5.6	8911	63.2	867	6.2
Dec.	44	20.9	8	3.8	8718	61.6	882	6.2
<u>1978</u>								
Jan.	48	22.8	11	5.2	8820	62.3	784	5.5
Feb.	48	22.8	8	3.8	8999	63.6	1004	7.1
Mar.	57	26.6	14	6.5	9282	65.3	1089	7.7
Apr.	49	22.9	13	6.1	9218	64.9	1108	7.8
May	50	23.4	14	6.5	9256	65.1	986	6.9
June	44	20.5	7	3.3	9333	65.5	1075	7.5
July	45	20.9	10	4.7	9481	66.5	1085	7.6
Aug.	46	21.4	11	5.1	9499	66.6	1115	7.8
Sept.	42	19.4	9	4.1	9548	66.8	1078	7.5
Oct.	44	20.3	7	3.2	9583	67.0	1036	7.2
Nov.	44	20.3	10	4.6	9695	67.8	1097	7.7
Dec.	39	17.8	18	8.2	9549	66.6	1000	7.0
<u>1979</u>								
Jan.	35	16.0	6	2.7	9473	66.6	957	6.7
Feb.	31	14.2	14	6.4	9795	68.3	1162	8.1
Mar.	35	15.8	8	3.6	9920	69.0	1158	8.1
Apr.	42	19.0	9	4.1	9944	69.1	1196	8.3
May	46	20.8	18	8.1	9927	69.0	1135	7.9
June	48	21.5	12	5.4	10 024	69.5	1038	7.2
July	51	22.9	11	4.9	10 092	70.0	1072	7.4
Aug.	47	21.1	12	5.4	9993	69.3	1093	7.6
Sept.	42	18.8	11	4.9	9897	68.5	1091	7.5
Oct.	43	19.2	7	3.1	9915	68.6	1065	7.4
Nov.	54	24.1	7	3.1	9846	68.1	997	6.9
Dec.	55	24.3	6	2.7	9646	66.5	875	6.0
<u>1980</u>								
Jan.	61	27.0	5	2.2	9577	66.0	1008	6.9
Feb.	58	25.7	6	2.7	9779	67.4	1045	7.2
Mar.	52	23.0	7	3.1	9938	68.5	1100	7.6
Apr.	57	25.0	7	3.1	9996	68.6	1006	6.9
May	57	25.0	10	4.4	9986	68.6	1108	7.6
June	60	26.1	14	6.1	9828	67.3	977	6.7
July	54	23.5	12	5.2	9865	67.5	979	6.7
Aug.	51	22.2	6	2.6	9732	66.6	936	6.4
Sept.	54	23.2	5	2.1	9624	65.7	956	6.5
Oct.	53	22.7	9	3.9	9500	64.8	953	6.5
Nov.	54	23.2	3	1.3	9587	65.4	830	5.7
Dec.	55	24.1	5	2.2	9542	64.8	940	6.4
<u>1981</u>								
Jan.	49	21.5	7	3.1	9401	63.9	879	6.0
Feb.	47	20.6	5	2.2	9677	65.8	1000	6.8
Mar.	46	20.0	4	1.7	9806	66.4	1068	7.2
Apr.	51	22.2	9	3.9	9929	67.2	1074	7.3
May	54	23.5	10	4.3	10 034	67.9	1090	7.4
June	52	22.5	9	3.9	9880	66.7	1129	7.6
July	48	20.8	7	3.0	9807	66.2	1073	7.2
Aug.	47	20.3	8	3.5	9663	65.2	1050	7.1
Sept.	46	19.7	6	2.6	9652	64.8	1037	7.0
Oct.	48	20.5	6	2.6	9712	65.2	1068	7.2
Nov.	47	20.1	6	2.6	9806	65.9	1078	7.2
Dec.	46	19.5	10	4.2	9679	64.7	1113	7.4
<u>1982</u>								
Jan.	45	19.1	5	2.1	9528	63.7	1055	7.1
Feb.	46	19.5	6	2.5	9696	64.8	1252	8.4
Mar.	48	20.2	7	2.9	9878	65.8	1191	7.9
Apr.	48	20.2	10	4.2	9852	65.6	1249	8.3
May	42	17.6	5	2.1	9785	65.2	1234	8.2

	<u>A.C.T.</u>				<u>Australia</u>			
	<u>Total Prisoners</u>	<u>Imprisonment Rate</u>	<u>Total Remandees</u>	<u>Remand Rate</u>	<u>Total Prisoners</u>	<u>Imprisonment Rate</u>	<u>Total Remandees</u>	<u>Remand Rate</u>
<u>1982 (cont'd)</u>								
June	43	18.7	7	3.0	9698	64.0	1201	7.9
July	40	17.4	6	2.6	9593	63.3	1153	7.6
Aug.	38	16.5	8	3.5	9651	63.7	1184	7.8
Sept.	44	18.4	12	5.0	9715	64.1	1235	8.2
Oct.	53	22.2	14	5.9	9783	64.6	1250	8.2
Nov.	47	19.7	15	6.3	9874	65.2	1323	8.7
Dec.	47	19.7	9	3.8	9883	65.2	1338	8.8
<u>1983</u>								
Jan.	50	21.8	11	4.8	9729	63.9	1259	8.3
Feb.	52	22.6	14	6.1	9807	64.0	1404	9.1
Mar.	54	23.4	10	4.3	10 029	65.4	1270	8.3
Apr.	54	23.4	7	3.0	9988	65.0	1255	8.2
May	59	25.4	14	6.0	9918	64.4	1297	8.4
June	62	26.7	15	6.5	9944	64.5	1306	8.5
July	63	27.0	18	7.8	9999	64.7	1253	8.1
Aug.	73	31.3	22	9.4	10 039	64.9	1275	8.3
Sept.	60	25.8	11	4.7	10 064	64.9	1240	8.0
Oct.	63	26.9	11	4.7	10 170	65.5	1356	8.7
Nov.	59	25.2	11	4.7	10 266	66.0	1290	8.3
Dec.	62	26.4	9	3.8	10 056	64.5	1170	7.5
<u>1984</u>								
Jan.	54	22.9	10	4.2	9953	63.8	1076	6.9
Feb.	64	27.1	18	7.6	9888	63.2	1275	8.2
Mar.	53	22.4	12	5.1	9584	61.2	1189	7.6
Apr.	56	23.6	12	5.1	9773	62.3	1304	8.3
May	68	28.6	19	8.0	9603	61.1	1245	7.9
June	63	26.5	24	10.1	9491	60.3	1242	7.9
July	61	25.5	16	6.7	9398	59.6	1211	7.7
Aug.	58	24.3	16	6.7	9608	60.8	1269	8.0

From this table it can be seen that on some occasions over this 7-year period the A.C.T. remand rate has exceeded the national remand rate, but for the whole period the A.C.T. imprisonment rate (sentenced prisoners plus unconvicted detainees per 100,000 population) has remained very significantly lower than the national rate.

In order to focus more sharply on the actual numbers of A.C.T. prisoners over this period the annual averages have been calculated and are shown in the following table:

Table 4: Annual Average A.C.T. Sentenced Prisoners and Remandees

	<u>Remandees</u>	<u>Sentenced Prisoners</u>	<u>Total</u>
1977*	10.0	32.5	42.5
1978	11.0	35.3	46.3
1979	10.1	34.1	44.1
1980	7.4	48.1	55.5
1981	7.3	41.1	48.4
1982	8.7	36.4	45.1
1983	12.8	46.5	59.3
1984*	15.9	43.7	59.6

* incomplete year

This table shows a fluctuating picture with a peak for sentenced prisoners in New South Wales prisons occurring in 1980 and the numbers of remandees reaching a peak in 1983 and 1984. There is a slight but uneven tendency towards increase in the total numbers, but this is largely accounted for by the increasing numbers of remandees in recent years. If the data in Tables 3 and 4 are to be used as a basis for the prediction of future trends, two observations may be cautiously made. First, it would seem that the A.C.T. already has insufficient accommodation for remandees, and second, it seems unlikely that accommodation needs for sentenced prisoners will exceed 50 in the immediate future. Predictions based on small numbers are particularly hazardous as it would only need a small increase in crime and a slight change in sentencing practices for the numbers to increase significantly. Furthermore, the continuing increase in the general population of the A.C.T. needs to be taken into account. In the light of these considerations a tentative estimate of the need for adult custodial accommodation in the A.C.T. over the next five to 10 years would be 100 places, 75 of which would be for sentenced prisoners and 25 for remandees. This estimate should allow sufficient flexibility to provide for short-term fluctuations.

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF A.C.T. PRISONERS

As indicated in the introduction it was intended to construct a profile of A.C.T. prisoners from the data collected for the 1983 national prison census, but this was found not to be possible for the reasons given earlier. An alternative approach was to use the results of the 1984 census but at the time of writing these results were not available, nor were likely to be in the near future. Hence, as a less than completely satisfactory option, the following data have been compiled from the information recorded on the register of A.C.T. prisoners and from information gathered during the interviews.

As indicated elsewhere, all except one of the 34 prisoners who were interviewed were male. Their age distribution is as follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
18 - 20 years	6	17.6
21 - 25 years	10	29.4
26 - 30 years	5	14.7
31 - 35 years	5	14.7
36 - 40 years	6	17.6
Over 40 years	2	5.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	34	99.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The average age of the prisoners was 28.3 years, which is very slightly lower than the average found in the 1982 and 1983 national prison censuses.

As might be expected for a relatively young group, the majority of the prisoners, 18 out of 34, were not married. Of the remainder, four described themselves as married, seven as separated and two as divorced. The remaining three indicated that they were living in de facto relationships.

An analysis of the country or State of birth of the prisoners revealed that 22 were born in Australia (with 11 being born in New South Wales and five in the A.C.T.) while 10 were born in countries overseas. For two prisoners the country or State of birth was not

recorded. The proportion of A.C.T. prisoners born overseas seems to be rather larger than the proportion revealed in the national prison censuses, which is just under 20 per cent. There would seem to be no particular significance in this difference.

The most serious offence for which each of the prisoners was convicted were analysed with the following result:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Murder (inc. attempt)	4	11.8
Robbery	6	17.6
Rape	2	5.9
Assault	1	2.9
Burglary (inc. B & E)	6	17.6
Larceny	6	17.6
Arson	1	2.9
Drugs	2	5.9
Driving, licence suspended	2	5.9
Driving, alcohol	2	5.9
Fraud, forgery	1	2.9
Breach of parole	1	2.9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	34	99.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is of some interest to note that the proportion of A.C.T. prisoners convicted of offences against the person is somewhat lower than the proportion found nationally but the proportions sentenced for robbery and driving offences are slightly higher. It should also be noted that 22 of these 34 prisoners were serving sentences for more than one offence.

Possibly of more interest for planning purposes is the anticipated time that each of the prisoners had yet to serve at the date of the interviews. Some degree of uncertainty must be recognised for these data as anticipated release dates are of course dependent upon the decisions of the parole board and the gaining of remission. Nevertheless, on the basis of the information provided exactly 17 out of 34, or 50 per cent, of the prisoners expected to be released in less than six months. A further seven expected to be released in from six to 12 months and five had release dates which were more than 12 months in the future. For three prisoners insufficient information was available and two were

serving life sentences and therefore could not confidently predict when they may be released on licence.

From this brief analysis it is clear that the majority of A.C.T. prisoners are male, relatively young, unlikely to be married, have been convicted of relatively serious offences, but are unlikely to have particularly long periods to serve at any time.

4. ATTITUDES OF A.C.T. PRISONERS

The attitudes of the A.C.T. prisoners, the central part of this report, were ascertained by face to face interviews conducted by Mr Cuddihy. (In one case the interview was undertaken by a welfare officer in a remote prison.) An interview schedule, reproduced as Appendix A, was used in all cases, but every effort was made to conduct the interviews in a conversational style and thus reduce the probability of obtaining responses that were seen by the prisoners as socially acceptable and hence unreliable. Most interviews lasted from 30 to 40 minutes.

At the beginning of each interview it was explained that this was an independent research project being undertaken by the Institute for the A.C.T. Welfare Review and that participation was entirely voluntary. An assurance of confidentiality was also given. In addition to the three prisoners mentioned in the Introduction who declined to participate, one of the 34 prisoners who were interviewed agreed to answer only some of the questions. The overall participation rate by prisoners who were contacted was therefore between 89 and 92 per cent.

The interview schedule sets out in detail the scope of the topics discussed in the interview. It was deliberately designed to avoid stilted and unnatural questions, with for most topics the actual wording being left to the interviewer. Nevertheless, the sequence of topics set out in this schedule was followed in the interviews and this pattern will also be followed in presenting the responses of the prisoners. (Complete answers to questions of particular interest are reproduced in Appendix C.)

Visiting

The frequency of visits received by the prisoners and the relationship to the prisoners of the visitors may be summarised as follows:

	<u>Wife*</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Girlfriend</u>	<u>Friends</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Weekly	3		1		4	12.1
Fortnightly	4		1		5	15.2
Monthly		4			4	12.1
2 monthly		2	1	1	4	12.1
Occasionally		4	1	3	8	24.2
Too early/ no pattern	1	3			4	12.1
Nil					4	12.1
					<hr/> 33	<hr/> 99.9
					<hr/>	<hr/>

* includes de facto

From this it can be seen that a clear minority of the prisoners, fewer than 40 per cent, received visits on a monthly basis or more frequently. Even though the numbers are small, it also seems clear that wives and girlfriends are more likely to visit weekly or fortnightly than are visitors classified as family or friends.

When questioned on the factors that limited the frequency of visits the matters of cost and distance were mentioned most often by the prisoners. Cost and distance were given as relevant factors, either together or separately, by 18 of the 33 prisoners. Three prisoners said that their visitors were dependent upon friends for transport, while five others suggested that their potential visitors had limited or no interest. Only one prisoner suggested that the emotional impact of visiting was a limiting factor. Full responses to this question are given on pages 35-37.

Correspondence

The frequency of letters received and sent by the prisoners was found to be as follows:

	<u>IN</u>		<u>OUT</u>	
		<u>Per cent</u>		<u>Per cent</u>
Daily	2	6.0	4	12.1
2 + per week	10	30.3	18	54.5
Weekly	5	15.2	-	
Less than weekly	6	18.2	-	
Rarely	6	18.2	6	18.2
Never	4	12.1	5	15.2
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 100.0	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 100.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These results suggest that contact with family and friends is more frequent by correspondence than it is by visiting. Over half of the prisoners reported that they received letters at least once a week. There is also a suggestion in these figures that the prisoners wrote more letters than they received.

In discussion with the prisoners about any limitations on correspondence no particular problems were revealed. It was reported that the N.S.W. authorities pay for up to six letters per week and in special circumstances even more will be paid for. None of the prisoners mentioned financial difficulties as far as incoming mail was concerned. Those who did not write letters gave personal reasons as the explanation. (The question of whether or not some of the prisoners may have been hampered by limited writing skills was not raised in the interviews.) Also, those who received frequent visits tended to use less correspondence.

Telephone contact

The prisoners were asked about the numbers of telephone calls they received or initiated, either at their own expense or by reverse charges. Little or no evidence of prisoners receiving telephone calls was obtained, but outgoing calls were found to be very common. The details of frequency of telephone contact are as follows:

	<u>Reverse charge</u>	<u>At own cost</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
More than weekly	7	-	7	21.2
One per week	13	2	15	45.4
Occasionally	3	2	5	15.2
None	-	-	6	18.2
			<u>33</u>	<u>100.0</u>

From these data it would seem that telephone contact with families or friends is even more frequent than either letter writing or visits, with two-thirds of the prisoners making telephone calls at least once a week.

When asked about limitations on the use of the telephone 13 prisoners said that there were no financial limitations, but five indicated that they would like to make more than one call a week but that this could

become a financial burden for their families. Two prisoners said that they were limited in their use of the telephone because the time allowed for making calls was restricted, while two others had no telephone at home. Three others expressed the view that the limit of one call per week in their particular prison should be eased. In general, however, the impression was gained that the telephone contact system was working satisfactorily.

Preferred location

All prisoners interviewed were asked to express their personal preference for placement in the N.S.W. prison system and this was compared with their current location. In order to avoid the identification of individual prisoners only those prisons with reasonable numbers of A.C.T. prisoners are shown in the following responses:

<u>Preferred location</u>	<u>Present location</u>				Total
	Mannus	Cooma	Goulburn	Other	
Mannus	7		2	1	10
Cooma		1			1
Goulburn		1	5		6
Other			2	3	5
No preference	3	3	2	3	11
Total	10	5	11	7	33

These responses indicate that for nearly 40 per cent of the prisoners their preferred location was where they were. This principally applied to Mannus and Goulburn. A further one-third of the prisoners expressed no preference. For those who did express preferences, ease of visiting was mentioned as the reason in five cases and in a further five a preference was expressed for open or minimum security. Two prisoners based their preferences on the availability of prison workshops. Full responses to this question are reproduced on pages 38-39.

The prisoners were then asked if they were not normally resident in the A.C.T. where they would have preferred to serve their sentences. As expected this question was found to be not applicable to the vast majority of interviewees who were A.C.T. residents. Two prisoners, however, were

Queanbeyan residents and one other would have preferred to serve his sentence in Victoria.

Views on a prison in the A.C.T.

When asked for their views on the desirability or otherwise of a prison being established in the A.C.T. the prisoners gave more detailed responses than they gave to any other question. The full responses are set out in pages 40-42. The responses were overwhelmingly in the affirmative with many prisoners giving more than one reason for their point of view. For this reason the numbers of responses outlined below are greater than the number of prisoners who were interviewed.

The most frequently mentioned reason for supporting an A.C.T. prison was the ease of visiting and maintaining contact with families. Thirty-one of the 34 prisoners mentioned this. The second most common reason, mentioned by eight prisoners, was that information about the parole or release dates would be easier to obtain. Cheaper telephone calls were mentioned by six prisoners and four suggested that government costs would be reduced. Three prisoners said that an A.C.T. prison would make it possible for work release and day leave programs to be provided, a further two said that the size of the A.C.T. population was sufficient to justify its own prison.

The only qualifications to full support for an A.C.T. prison came from two prisoners who said that a maximum security institution would not be acceptable to the Canberra community even though a minimum security institution would be acceptable. Another prisoner expressed the view that he would not support an A.C.T. prison if it were run on the same lines as the Belconnen Remand Centre.

Some of the more constructive individual comments were to the effect that it was desirable while in prison to establish contact with the welfare or parole officer to whom one would have to report after release. Others referred to more modern conditions, 'less hassles from maniacs', and to the fact that it was simply not fair if one was not able to serve a prison sentence in one's own jurisdiction. One prisoner described it as

'stupid' to send people to Goulburn to serve short sentences for unpaid fines relating to minor offences.

Overall, these responses indicate that at least one section of the A.C.T. community, albeit a section that is temporarily removed, is unanimously in favour of the establishment of a prison of one type or another within the Territory.

Moves in N.S.W. prison system

In order to obtain an indication of the extent to which A.C.T. prisoners are moved between institutions in the N.S.W. prison system the interviewees were asked how many moves they had experienced.

All had started at Goulburn and five had not been in any other N.S.W. prisons. A further 14 had moved on, mainly to Mannus or Cooma, and thus were regarded as having had two moves. Six prisoners had had three moves, while two each had had four and five moves. A further two prisoners had experienced seven moves and one had been moved 10 times. For one the response was simply recorded as 'many'.

It can be seen from these responses that the clear majority of A.C.T. prisoners serve their sentences in the local triangle of Goulburn, Mannus and Cooma, with only a small minority being transferred to more distant locations. It is understood, however, that all prisoners sentenced to 12 months or more are routinely transferred to Long Bay for classification.

Coping with system and fellow prisoners

In answer to the question of how they were coping with the prison system nearly all of the interviewees responded with 'okay' or 'no problems'. One said his coping was 'fair average' and some others added qualifications relating to particular institutions or stages in their sentences. Only four of the prisoners had been the subject of disciplinary charges, one of them being charged twice. It was the latter who described his coping as 'fair average'. Two of the others who were

charged indicated that their offences were 'abusing an officer' and 'sleeping in'.

With regard to coping with fellow prisoners a similar pattern of responses was obtained. The overwhelming majority said that they had no problems, but there were some exceptions. One prisoner claimed that he had had his watch stolen and that he had been beaten up by other prisoners. Another objected to the fact that as a minor offender he had to mix with hardened criminals. On a positive note, another claimed that he was coping satisfactorily because he was with 'other guys from the A.C.T.'. Full responses to this question are given in pages 43-44.

Spare time activities

The interview question that sought details of sport, hobbies and educational activities that the prisoners pursued in their spare time produced a wide range of responses. Full details are given in pages 45-46, but in summary it seems that nearly all of the A.C.T. prisoners make full and constructive use of their leisure time. Only four prisoners had little to say on this topic and two of these had very recently arrived in prison.

Courses being studied by the prisoners included: English, water colour and glass painting, bible studies, motor mechanics, small business management, mathematics, show card and ticket writing, diesel engineering, business administration, creative writing, cost accounting, electrical wiring, welding, and typing. Sports and hobbies mentioned by the prisoners included: table tennis, billiards, darts, music, weightlifting, chess, running, carpet bowls, tennis, soccer, basketball, squash, handball, touch football, indoor cricket, reading, Scrabble, pottery, copperwork and leatherwork.

These responses would seem to contradict the public perception of prisoners doing little or nothing with their time.

Work in prison

Responses to the question about the prisoners' work, set out in pages 47-48, were almost as varied as they were with regard to spare time activities. While five of the prisoners described their jobs as cleaners or sweepers, and a further three worked in kitchens, the majority were employed in various trades or workshops. These included: engineering, tailoring, painting, building, picture binding, and farm work. One of the prisoners was engaged in full-time studies, and two others had clerical work. The prisoner who could not be interviewed because he had escaped had in fact been undertaking studies outside the prison.

Prisoners' views on Belconnen Remand Centre

The majority of the prisoners who had spent any time at the remand centre were critical of the cramped facilities and of the administration, but a sizeable minority had positive views and compared the centre favourably with prison. With some exceptions those who had spent more than a few weeks on remand were more critical of the lack of sport, hobbies and work opportunities. Short-stay remandees were generally less critical. Full responses to this question are reproduced in pages 49-50.

Previous prison experience

Eleven of the 33 prisoners who responded to this question in the interview had had no prior experience of imprisonment. (Interestingly, this group generally had more favourable views of the remand centre.) For the majority, who technically could be referred to as recidivists, most had served sentences previously in New South Wales, but seven of them had served sentences in other States.

Parole and conditional release

Parole or conditional release was not applicable to three of the prisoners and a further three expressed no views on this subject. Of those who were eligible and who expressed their views, 16 were supportive of

parole, five expressed conditional or qualified support, and six were highly critical (see pages 51-52). Several of those supporting the parole system argued that it was a good restraining influence and that it provided an incentive to avoid further offending. Among those opposed to the parole system some expressed the view that it represented a 'downgrading of character', that sentences served inside should be enough, and that community service would be more acceptable than the supervision of a parole officer.

Several prisoners were unsure about whether or not they would be granted parole, and some expressed confusion about the effects of the recent changes in N.S.W. remission rules. Perhaps surprisingly, only one prisoner referred to difficulties arising from distance from the A.C.T. Parole Board and the fact that it only meets once per fortnight, but, as noted earlier, eight prisoners mentioned better access to information about parole or release dates among their reasons for supporting the establishment of a prison in the A.C.T.

Returning to former job

Only seven of the prisoners were sure that they could and would return to their former employer after release. A further 14 said that they would return to similar work but most of these did not anticipate difficulties in obtaining suitable employment. The remaining prisoners were either unsure of their future plans or expected to be on unemployment or sickness benefit. One will continue to receive workers' compensation. Full responses to this question are set out in pages 53-54.

Health, alcohol and drugs

The majority of the prisoners reported having no health problems, but four referred to back ailments, and one each referred to asthma, stomach ulcers and heart problems. With regard to alcohol consumption, 13 of the prisoners admitted that they either were or had been at some time problem or heavy drinkers. A further nine prisoners admitted that they either were or had been drug users.

Returning to family and A.C.T.

Nineteen of the 33 prisoners who responded to this question indicated that they planned to return to their families after release, and 22 indicated that they planned to live in the A.C.T. or Queanbeyan. Eight expressed clear plans for living interstate.

Anticipated difficulties after release

In this part of the interview the prisoners were asked if they expected to face any personal or financial difficulties after their release. Responses to this very subjective and personal question varied between confident assurance that all would be well to vague hopes of assistance and grim forebodings of continued problems. No detailed analysis of these responses, which are set out in pages 55-57, has been attempted.

Perceptions of how their families coped

Responses to this question were generally insightful in their recognition of the fact that family members experienced difficulties in coping with the imprisonment of a spouse or relative. Just over two-thirds of the prisoners, 23 out of 34, referred to some form or other of personal problems being experienced by family members. A further three mentioned both personal and financial problems, and one more stressed only the financial aspects of his family coping during his absence. Only six of the prisoners expressed the view that their families were having no difficulties, this opinion being generally based on the fact that they had been in prison previously and therefore their families were not concerned. Full details of these responses are given in pages 58-59.

The next section of this report will examine this question from the point of view of the family members themselves.

5. THE VIEWS OF PRISONERS' FAMILIES

As indicated earlier, 16 interviews were conducted with members of the families of the prisoners. The relationship of these people to the prisoners was: two wives, eight parents, three siblings, two girlfriends and one other friend. As with the prisoner interviews, a questionnaire schedule was drawn up for this purpose. A copy of this is reproduced as Appendix B.

The interviews with family members were conducted either in the Institute or in the person's home, after contact had been made either by letter or telephone. Each interview lasted from 30 to 40 minutes and in nearly all cases the family members seemed keen to express their views.

As the number of family members who were interviewed is relatively small, care must be taken not to generalise too far and assume that they are representative of all prisoners' families. It is highly likely, for example, that those prisoners who were not agreeable to their relatives being contacted did not have such close family ties as those who did agree. In some cases, however, disinclination to have family members interviewed was motivated by the desire not to cause any further distress or embarrassment.

Topics discussed in the interviews will be reported here in the order that they appear in the questionnaire schedule.

Visiting

As expected, the family members who were interviewed seemed to be those with closer ties to the prisoners. This is shown by the frequency of their visits. Of the 16 family members, four visited weekly, three fortnightly, two monthly, two each four to six weeks, three every second month and only two had not made any visits.

When asked if they would visit more frequently if there were a prison in the A.C.T., five indicated that they would visit as often

as allowed, eight said that they would visit at least weekly and three others said that they would increase the frequency of their visits but did not say precisely how often that would be. The difference between these two sets of responses suggests that there is a significant disincentive to making visits under the existing arrangements.

The family members were then asked what problems, if any, they experienced with regard to visiting. Many of them mentioned more than one problem. The cost of travel was mentioned 11 times, more often than any other aspect of visiting. The next most often mentioned problem was the time and distance of travel. This was mentioned 10 times. The cost of overnight accommodation was mentioned four times and incidental costs were mentioned twice. Other problems mentioned once or twice by the family members were: inconvenient visiting times, the need to obtain child care, dependence on friends for transport, work hours limiting visits, dependence on or problems associated with public transport, sporting commitments, poor visiting facilities, the lack of certainty that the prisoner would be available, difficulties resulting from ill health or age and creating further disharmony in the family. Only two of the interviewees indicated that the visits did not cause any financial hardship. Full responses to this question are set out in pages 60-61.

In the light of the above responses it is surprising that none of the 16 family members had received financial assistance with the costs associated with visiting.

Contact by correspondence and telephone

None of the interviewees expressed any dissatisfaction with the arrangements for sending or receiving letters. All felt that this type of contact was working satisfactorily.

When asked if they would like the number of telephone calls to be increased 10 of the interviewees answered in the affirmative, two in the negative and three referred to the extra expense that might be incurred. For one respondent there was no phone in the house, and this person expressed the view that she should be permitted to initiate calls from a public telephone box or from the phone in the house of a friend.

When asked what changes, if any, they would like in the telephone contact system one interviewee suggested that the six minutes allowed per week was too restrictive and one other suggested that prisoners should be allowed to make one free call per week. Two others suggested that they should be allowed to telephone the prison to leave messages and be assured that they would be delivered. Two further interviewees argued that they should be permitted to telephone the prisoner directly.

A number of the interviewees gave personal accounts of anxiety caused by not being allowed to leave messages with prisoners, particularly when it became necessary for them to cancel planned visits due to sickness or transport difficulties. Some of them also expressed a desire to be able to inform their relatives in prison of their safe return home after a visit.

Views on a prison in the A.C.T.

The members of the prisoners' families who were interviewed were almost as supportive of the establishment of a prison in the A.C.T. as were the prisoners themselves. (See pages 64-65.) Twelve were unreservedly in favour of the suggestion while two others expressed support with some reservations. Only one of the interviewees was opposed to the suggestion, while one other expressed no clear opinion due to language difficulties.

The factors or arguments mentioned in support of the establishment of an A.C.T. prison included: reduced travelling and telephone expenses, easier access, improved personal ties, better segregation and the suggestion that the personal needs of the prisoners would be more readily met. The point was also made that a local prison would facilitate visits by a much wider range of friends and relatives. It was also argued that an A.C.T. prison would make provision for work release and that the difference in remission scales between N.S.W. and the A.C.T. would be avoided. Furthermore, it was argued that the problem of sending minor offenders, including fine defaulters, to New South Wales would be avoided.

One of the interviewees argued that a halfway house or pre-release hostel should be established in Canberra before serious consideration was given to a local prison. Another argued that a local drug rehabilitation

centre, run on very strict lines in accordance with the decisions made by the courts, should have a higher priority than a prison.

Coping with the situation

At this point in the interviews family members were asked how they were coping with the situation of having a relative in prison. A number of personal and individualistic replies were received. Some made general comments such as family pressures having increased, while others referred to their children misbehaving, embarrassment, personal strain, lack of support at home, etc. Overall, the impression was gained that at a personal level the families of prisoners found the situation quite stressful, as well might be expected.

As far as financial coping was concerned the family members who were interviewed seemed to fall into three roughly equal groups. The first group referred to considerable financial difficulty (including falling behind with payments, etc.), the second group were experiencing some degree of financial difficulty while the third group said that they had no problems in that regard. For those experiencing financial difficulties, several references were again made to the costs of visiting and telephone contact.

As far as the children in these families were concerned, this question did not apply to the majority of interviewees, but where it did there were three references to the children getting out of control, truanting from school and causing problems at home. Also in this part of the interviews a number of the family members referred to particular personal difficulties that they had experienced.

Future plans

When asked if they anticipated any particular difficulties when their relatives were released the interviewees again provided a wide range of responses, as set out in page 66. Most commonly, in seven cases reference was made to difficulties in obtaining employment while four of them suggested that it would be unwise for the ex-prisoner to return to or

remain in the A.C.T. Other single references were made to the individual being 'offside' with the police, the adjustment problems after being in an institution and the need to avoid alcohol, drugs and former associates. One of the interviewees referred to the lack of professional support to enable the ex-prisoner to reintegrate with the broader society. Only one of the family members anticipated no difficulties.

When asked about their immediate plans for the release of the prisoners only two of the families seemed to have very clear ideas. In one case arrangements had been made for the person to resume his former job and the family was totally supportive and accepting. In the second case the plans involved selling the family house in Canberra and moving away to enable the ex-prisoner to make a fresh start. Other references were made to providing such assistance and support as was required but without specific details being given. Fourteen of the 16 family members who were interviewed indicated that they planned to remain in the A.C.T., one was uncertain on this point and one had definite plans to move elsewhere.

Families' views on Belconnen Remand Centre

Nine of the family members had visited their relatives while detained in the Belconnen Remand Centre, while six had not and in the remaining case it was impossible to establish this fact due to language difficulties. Of the nine family members who had had direct contact with the remand centre the majority expressed favourable impressions. Reference was made to the officers being helpful and obliging and the fact that visits and telephone calls were very easy to make. On the other hand, some of the family members reflected the views of the detainees suggesting that the facility was too small, that more activities were needed to reduce boredom and that there was insufficient provision made for personal privacy.

Other views

At the conclusion of each interview the family member was asked if he or she had any other comments or suggestions to make. Again a reason-

ably wide range of opinions were expressed. Reference was made to the need for more information and advice being available to families before and after sentence, particularly with regard to likely parole or release dates. It was also suggested that there was a need for more after-care assistance to prisoners and for a community service order scheme and for a weekend leave program. It was further suggested that prisoners needed more professional help while they were in prison and that in some cases prison officers needed improved training in public relations. Overall, it must be said that the general tenor of the remarks made by the relatives of the prisoners were constructive and helpful, but it is recognised that even more helpful responses would have been obtained if more time had been available for the conduct of this survey.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The information given in the preceding sections of this report may be seen as drawing a picture of A.C.T. prisoners who are similar in many respects to prisoners sentenced in other Australian jurisdictions. While relatively small in number, A.C.T. prisoners are predominantly young, male and very few will actually spend more than 12 months in prison. There may be relatively fewer A.C.T. prisoners convicted of property or social nuisance offences than in other jurisdictions as the philosophy of 'last resort' is strictly followed by the A.C.T. courts. The major difference, however, between A.C.T. prisoners and all other Australian prisoners is that all of them are transferred to serve their sentences in another jurisdiction.

This form of 'modern transportation' has been widely criticised on the ground that it creates difficulties for the prisoners and their families in maintaining adequate contact. The evidence contained in this report provides support to that criticism. It has been shown that while reasonably satisfactory contact by correspondence and telephone has been maintained in most cases, there is widespread dissatisfaction with the costs and time involved in face-to-face visiting. It seems fair to assume that visits have much greater personal significance for both prisoners and family members than does contact by telephone or letter.

It is recognised that prisoners and their families in other jurisdictions may well experience difficulties with visits (and it has not been possible in this study to make comparisons with other jurisdictions in this regard) but A.C.T. prisoners are the only group for whom there is no possibility of serving their sentences close to home. In other jurisdictions, proximity to relatives is always one of the factors taken into account in determining placement in institutions, even though of course it is by no means the only factor. It must be acknowledged that the majority of A.C.T. prisoners seem to be transferred no further than to either Goulburn, Cooma or Mannus, but none of these institutions could be described as conveniently located for visitors from Canberra. It must also be pointed out that some of the A.C.T. prisoners are held at much more distant locations.

A disturbing aspect of the results of this survey is the fact that none of the family members who were interviewed had received financial assistance with the costs associated with visits to prison. All were specifically questioned on this point, and many had mentioned the financial strain caused by visiting relatives in prison. Our inquiries with the Welfare Branch of the Department of Territories and Local Government confirmed that such assistance was available. In view of this, it seems reasonable to conclude that there is need for this information to be more systematically circulated to the families of all A.C.T. prisoners.

This study has revealed unanimous support from A.C.T. prisoners, and nearly unanimous support from their families, for the establishment of a prison in the A.C.T. The major arguments presented for this proposition may be summarised as providing for closer family ties, assisting with post-release adjustment and cheaper costs. On the latter issue this study has not examined the comparative costs of a local prison with the present arrangement. It is noted, however, that the Federal budget for 1984-85 included \$1.5 million to pay for the present arrangement. If one assumes a daily average of 50 A.C.T. prisoners in New South Wales prisons, which is somewhat higher than the current figures, this means that each A.C.T. prisoner is costing the Federal Government \$30,000 per year.

The survey revealed mixed feelings about the Belconnen Remand Centre, with inadequate recreational opportunities being frequently cited as a source of dissatisfaction. By comparison, the A.C.T. prisoners serving sentences in N.S.W. prisons were found to be involved in an extremely wide range of educational, recreational and sporting activities. If a prison is to be established in the A.C.T. it is clear that high priority will need to be given to this aspect of institutional management. It would be regrettable if in the future a modern prison were established in the A.C.T. and it did not provide a range of activities for prisoners at least as broad as that provided in N.S.W. prisons.

One minor but puzzling aspect of this study has been the suggestion from a number of sources that some A.C.T. offenders who were fined by the courts and failed to pay their fines were required to serve prison terms in default. It must be emphasised that none of the A.C.T. prisoners interviewed in this survey fell into that category and therefore we have no direct knowledge of this practice. Our inquiries with the Canberra Clerk

of Courts suggested that there may be as many as 10 fine defaulters a year who are imprisoned, but it was pointed out that terms of up to three days can be served in police lock-ups. Our inquiries with the Federal Attorney-General's Department on this subject revealed that such prisoners in N.S.W. institutions would not be included in the register of A.C.T. prisoners, as they had not been formally sentenced to prison. Furthermore, it seemed unlikely that there is any mechanism for reimbursing the N.S.W. Department of Corrective Services for A.C.T. fine defaulters in N.S.W. prisons.

To the extent that there are, or have been, any A.C.T. fine defaulters in N.S.W. prisons, we would simply echo the views expressed by a number of prisoners. Such a practice is financially counter-productive. We accept that these numbers are probably very small, and we also accept that there must be appropriate proceedings for dealing with wilful non-payment of fines, but to send fine defaulters to prison at considerable cost, whoever pays, is to expose the system to ridicule.

This small research project has not attempted to answer all of the possible questions about A.C.T. prisoners in N.S.W. prisons. Issues such as the interstate transfer of prisoners, the availability of day leave, work release, and unemployment benefits to ex-prisoners have not been explored in detail. We have been informed that former A.C.T. prisoners are eligible to apply for secondary benefits, as are all other A.C.T. citizens, to meet emergency needs. This would seem to be equivalent to the statutory funds available to the parole services in some other jurisdictions to provide clothing and tools of trade needed after release from prison. In Canberra there is also an active civil rehabilitation committee which provides assistance and advice to ex-prisoners.

Whether or not there are sufficient numbers of probation and parole officers in the A.C.T. to provide pre and post-release counselling and supervision is another question that has not been explored in this study. Many of the prisoners, however, indicated that they felt cut off from the A.C.T. Parole Board and its officers. To minimise this feeling it may be advisable for consideration to be given to an A.C.T. parole officer making regular visits to A.C.T. prisoners, at least in Goulburn, Mannus and Cooma,

in order to assist with preparation for release. This would of course be only an interim measure until an A.C.T. institution were established.

The most recently available information on the use of probation and parole in the A.C.T. for July 1984, Australian Community Corrections Data No. 71, indicates that at that time there were 165 persons under probation supervision and 40 persons under parole supervision in the A.C.T. (As with imprisonment these figures produce lower probation and parole rates than apply nationally.) These figures, even though low when compared with other jurisdictions, would seem to be high enough to justify a specialised and separate probation and parole service in the A.C.T. This question, however, was not examined closely in this study.

The most obvious difference between the A.C.T. and all other Australian jurisdictions, as revealed by Australian Community Corrections Data No. 71, is the absence of a community service order or attendance centre program in the Territory. Over 4000 offenders elsewhere in Australia are undergoing this form of penalty in lieu of imprisonment. It is understood that the A.C.T. is soon to establish its own program of this type.

This survey has shown that the present arrangement of sending A.C.T. prisoners to N.S.W. prisons causes significant hardship to both the prisoners and their families. That is one of the many factors to be considered when a decision is taken on whether or not to establish a local custodial institution.

SURVEY OF A.C.T. PRISONERS

NAME:

AGE: SEX: MARITAL STATUS:

COUNTRY/PLACE OF BIRTH: NATURALISED (if applicable):

SENTENCE/S:

LOCATION:

ANTICIPATED RELEASE DATE:

ANY FURTHER CHARGES PENDING:

VISITS BY FREQUENCY: BY WHOM:

LIMITATIONS (EG, FINANCE, LOCATION):

LETTERS IN:

OUT: ANY LIMITATIONS:

TELEPHONE CONTACT IN:

OUT: ANY LIMITATIONS:

PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR LOCATION IN N.S.W.:

REASON:

IF NOT NORMALLY RESIDENT IN A.C.T. WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED TO SERVE SENTENCE:

IF A PRISON WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN A.C.T., YOUR VIEWS:

HOW MANY MOVES IN N.S.W.:

HOW COPING WITH PRISON (eg, disciplinary charges):

HOW COPING WITH FELLOW PRISONERS:

ANY SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES (eg, sport, hobbies, education):

YOUR JOB IN PRISON:

WAS SITUATION EASIER AT A.C.T. REMAND CENTRE (if applicable):

HAVE YOU BEEN IN PRISON BEFORE: IF SO, WHERE:

ANY CONDITIONS AFTER RELEASE (eg, parole):

IF CONDITIONAL RELEASE HOW VIEWED:

CAN YOU RETURN TO YOUR FORMER JOB:

ANY HEALTH OR OTHER LIMITATIONS:

ANY ALCOHOL OR DRUG PROBLEMS:

RETURNING TO "FAMILY":

ANY ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES, PERSONAL/FINANCIAL:

HOW HAS FAMILY COPED:

WILL YOU REMAIN IN A.C.T. AFTER RELEASE:

ARE YOU AGREEABLE TO ME CONTACTING YOUR "FAMILY":

IF SO, NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER:

SURVEY OF A.C.T. PRISONERS

FAMILY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of respondent: _____ Relationship: _____
with _____

Would you visit more frequently if there were a prison in the A.C.T.? _____

How frequently do you visit now? _____

What are the more important problems re visiting under the existing
arrangements? _____

Do you receive travel assistance? _____

If you correspond, how often? _____

Would you like frequency of this increased? _____

What are present limitations in writing, if any? _____

Do you have telephone contact and if so how often? _____

Would you like this increased and if so, what limits this at present? _____

As this contact is in connection with the feasibility of establishing a
prison in the A.C.T. have you any thoughts/views regarding this? _____

If you consider it appropriate to reply

(a) What are your major concerns coping with this situation? _____

(b) How are you managing financially? _____

(c) Are there any particular difficulties? _____

(d) If applicable how are children coping? _____

(e) Do you anticipate any particular difficulties when _____ is
released? _____

(f) What are your immediate plans when he/she is released? _____

(g) Do you plan to remain in the A.C.T. _____

Did you visit the Remand Centre and if so how did you feel about it? _____

Do you have any other comments/suggestions? _____

DETAILED RESPONSES FROM PRISONERS

NOTE: The sequence of these responses has been randomised in order to prevent the identification of individual prisoners. Only the more significant responses have been reproduced in detail.

VISITS

1. Wife and daughter usually accompanied by friends. Fortnightly initially but wife dependent on friends for transport. None for four weeks. Claims no financial limitations. Location Mannus.
2. Wife and three children. Just about every weekend. Financial burden - Sickness Benefits only also wife's health poor, two crushed discs. Location Cooma.
3. 21-year-old son visited 14 days ago (after finding out where he was). Separated 1979. Wife won't visit or allow younger children to visit. No suggestion of economic restrictions. Location Cooma.
4. While at Goulburn fortnightly, at Bathurst 2-monthly. Mother, brothers and sisters and two mates. Mother pensioner and cannot drive, reliant on others, finds it difficult. Location Goulburn.
5. Mainly fiancée, 2-3 weekly, difficult financially. Re parents, does not get on with mother. Parents both work and father coaches on weekends. This stops young brothers from visiting. Location Mannus.
6. Wife weekly, cost \$80-\$100 per visit. Is a financial burden. Location Mannus.
7. Brother 1-2 per month. Difficult as he works, also finds a bit costly. Location Goulburn.
8. Wife and young child 2-3 weekly. Costs a factor and young babe (7 months) does not handle trip well. Location Goulburn.
9. Relatives and friends, 1 per month. Would visit weekly if closer to A.C.T. Distance rather than cost. Location Bathurst.
10. Friend, now in Sydney but used to be in A.C.T., fortnightly. Mother, 82, now in Brisbane, occasional visit. Bad emotional effect. Cost not really a factor as mother's visits are in conjunction with occasional visits to A.C.T. Location Long Bay.
11. Girlfriend bi-monthly, cost and distance rule out more frequent visits. Location Mannus.
12. Friends make occasional visits. Costs or distance not a factor in visits. Location Goulburn.

13. No visits, no reasons for this advanced. Said economics not involved. Location Goulburn. Later established with mother that he had specifically asked her not to visit.
14. Has had one visit only by a friend. Claims that location and distance has prevented more. Location Goulburn.
15. By mother of 70 years, monthly. Completely dependent on friends. Does not consider friends would be concerned re cost. Location Goulburn.
16. 2-3 monthly by friend. Apparently no financial problems. Location Goulburn.
17. Did not participate except to make brief comment on question of prison for A.C.T. Location Goulburn.
18. None at present location. While at Long Bay mates and friends from Newcastle visited monthly. Distance too great now, also cost. Children visited him while at Remand Centre. Location Bathurst.
19. Monthly, when he gets day leave, by parents and 4-year-old daughter. His wish as conversation too limited in prison itself. Mother does not like entering prison. Costs apparently not a factor. Location Cooma.
20. De facto wife, fortnightly. Was weekly until she lost job, now on U.B. and cannot afford. Even fortnightly difficult. Location Mannus.
21. Nil visits. Parents in New Zealand. Brother and sister in A.C.T. but distance precludes visiting, not cost. Location Cessnock.
22. Monthly when day leave granted, by mother and three sisters. Finance a real factor and he has stipulated monthly. Prior to present location 3-monthly and this was very hard. Location Cooma.
23. Nil visits, family in Queensland. In A.C.T. only two months prior to arrest. Family does not seem to be interested. Location Mannus.
24. Practically nil. Very occasionally by friend from A.C.T. Husband, from whom she is separated brought children once. They are all in Melbourne at present. Older children (19, 18 & 16 years) cannot afford. Distance precludes friend. Location Norma Parker, Parramatta.
25. No visits yet (recently sentenced). A few relatives in Sydney who may visit. Hopes to go to Mannus and parents and brothers all in A.C.T. will visit. No financial problems. Location Long Bay.
26. No visits yet, short sentence. Difficulty with distance. Expects one visit before release. Location Cooma.
27. De facto wife every weekend, parents fortnightly. Extreme financial difficulties for both. Claims de facto wife spends \$100 on each visit.

28. Periodic by girlfriend from A.C.T. Has some money in his property and has sent some of this to assist her. She cannot afford on her own. Location Mannus.
29. No visit to date, expects one within 7 days from parents (recently sentenced). Distance restrictive but no financial difficulties. Location Mannus.
30. De facto wife and parents try to visit fortnightly. Costs and distance a hardship for all. Location Mannus.
31. Mother from Sydney, once only so far. Recently sentenced. For mother distance and cost a difficulty. Father in A.C.T. may visit later, distance and cost would not restrict. Location Goulburn.
32. Girlfriend weekly. Has brought his children. Is dependent on transport. He was not sure about cost factor. Location Goulburn.
33. Parents, 3 per year. Their decision. No financial hardship.
Note: Has been in custody almost continuously since 1977 and present sentence substantial. Location Goulburn.

PREFERENCE FOR LOCATION IN N.S.W., REASON, PLUS ACTUAL LOCATION

1. No preferences. Did not know anything about system. Location Mannus.
2. Cooma. Conditions better than Goulburn. Location Cooma.
3. No preference. Location Cooma.
4. Mannus. Farmwork available and visits easier. Location Goulburn.
5. Mannus. More open and type of work available. Location Mannus.
6. No preference. Location Mannus.
7. Goulburn. Closest to A.C.T. Location Goulburn.
8. No preference. Location Goulburn.
9. No preference. Location Bathurst.
10. No preference. Location Long Bay.
11. Mannus. Closest camp to A.C.T. Location Mannus.
12. Sent to Goulburn first and chose to remain there. Location Goulburn.
13. Goulburn. Toolmaker by trade and engineering workshop there. Location Goulburn.
14. Long Bay. Closest to Sydney. Location Long Bay.
15. Long Bay. Carpenter's shop available. Too full. Location Goulburn.
16. Goulburn. Easier visiting. Location Goulburn.
17. No response except to question on prison for A.C.T. Location Goulburn.
18. Maitland. Not granted as for intractables. Choice of Goulburn or Bathurst. Location Bathurst.
19. No preference. Location Cooma.
20. Mannus. Had heard good reports. Location Mannus.
21. Cessnock. Had heard good reports. Location Cessnock.
22. No preference. Happy to go where sent. Location Cooma.
23. No preference. Location Mannus
24. Given no choice. Sent straight to Mulawa. Location Norma Parker

25. Mannus. Ease of visiting. Likes outdoor work. Location Long Bay.
26. Goulburn originally then chose Cooma where he thought a friend was. Location Cooma.
27. Mannus. Was told it was good. Location Mannus.
28. Mannus. Mainly on advice received at Goulburn. Location Mannus.
29. Mannus. Easier to do sentence. Location Mannus.
30. Mannus. Minimum security, easier, better than being locked up 16-19 hours per day. Location Mannus.
31. Mannus, but changed to Goulburn, closer to Sydney and A.C.T. Location Goulburn.
32. No preference. Location Goulburn.
33. Goulburn. No particular reason. Location Goulburn.
34. Berrima. Access to metropolitan area. Location Goulburn.

REASON FOR A.C.T. PRISON

1. Good, visits easier, less hassles, lack of segregation in N.S.W. from maniacs.
2. Not in favour of a maximum security prison but would like to see minimum security. Not much good going from Mannus to a maximum security in A.C.T., especially for short sentences. Would enable improved contact with family, also easier contact by phone.
3. Good thing as would be closer to relatives. To serve sentence in N.S.W. means can be sent anywhere.
4. In favour. Easier visiting, cheaper phone calls and travel much cheaper.
5. Yes. An A.C.T. prison would be better than those in N.S.W. Even though he is not from A.C.T. feels that others should have the advantage of easier visits, etc.
6. Good idea. Up to month or so ago differing remission system. Not fair that you cannot serve your sentence in your own State. Family separation too hard to handle. Husband from whom she is separated has their five children in Melbourne but he travels to Yass periodically. If prison in A.C.T. could visit without children from Yass.
7. Good for easier contact with family and lessening of tension for both prisoner and family.
8. Good idea if minimum security. Would not like to see maximum security and would be unacceptable to A.C.T. residents. Visits much easier.
9. Good idea. Financial advantage. Stupidity of sending people to Goulburn for short sentences and for unpaid fines, etc. Is an added cost to government. In N.S.W. persons with minor offences mixed with hardened crims.
10. Definitely needed. If a prison not built will have to do something about alcohol and drug-related crimes. Also short-term sentences (up to one year) should be served in A.C.T. An A.C.T. prison would enable family ties to be kept more easily. Would also enable work release for up to three months.
11. Yes. Easier for visits. Plenty of land in A.C.T. on which to build. Short-term prisoners should have advantage of easier visits. Ex-wife may have brought daughter to visit if in A.C.T. but not this distance (Mannus).
12. Good idea for visits and contact reasons on a more regular basis. Would expect some remissions as are available to N.S.W. prisoners. Cost of visits and phone calls much reduced.

13. Yes, for ease of visits by relatives. If having welfare contact likely to see person who will continue with you after release. No joy in being shipped all over N.S.W. and being separated from mates. Would like to be able to call in outstanding warrants and be dealt with by A.C.T. If gaol to be built must have a choice as in N.S.W.
14. No real views but would make visiting easier.
15. Wants one. A.C.T. prisoners had to try and stick together. Easier visiting and fact of being in A.C.T. itself advantageous.
16. Feels that prisoner population would be of a sub-standard level.
17. Good idea. Family can visit more easily. Would avoid hassles re obtaining release date, etc. At present communication from prison to Sydney then A.C.T. and return by same way.
18. Should have one. Easier on family for visits. Would avoid confusion re parole, etc. At present no direct contact from parole people in A.C.T.
19. Better for A.C.T. people. Easier visiting. If had been in an A.C.T. prison would have let friend know.
20. Excellent idea. Closer for family. Should be in home State.
21. No minus points at all, especially as far as prisoners concerned. Visits and phone calls more readily available. Same applies to relatives.
22. Badly wanted. Family reasons and personal, particularly for contact visits. Improved communication with Parole Board. At present takes too long for decisions, hold-ups all along the way.
23. Very good idea. Cost A.C.T. government \$150 per week to send here. More A.C.T. prisoners than N.S.W. at Goulburn. Easier for both government and relatives.
24. Yes, definitely. Whole system of N.S.W. and A.C.T. Parole Boards too complicated. Better for visits. Could go for work release. Day leave not available.
25. Good idea. Easier for family and friends to visit, particularly children would find it much easier. Much better for family and friends as well. Also would have better access to Parole Board for decisions, reasons, etc.
26. Yes. Visits easier and would be closer to relocation when released. Expensive to keep A.C.T. prisoners in N.S.W. A.C.T. population justifies a prison. A prison farm would be a good idea - could be self reliant.
27. Definitely. Legal aspects of remission, parole etc. could be more readily clarified. Visits and telephone contact much easier. Would save Department money.

28. Yes, but does not make much difference as Goulburn not far from A.C.T. As far as others are concerned their families would be closer.
29. Good idea. Closer to friends and family. Conditions would be better and more modern. Hopes that a gym would be included.
30. To everyone's benefit. An A.C.T. prisoner has extreme difficulty in finding out anything in N.S.W. Letters to A-G and Parole Board elicit nothing positive. Need more opportunity for contact to enable question and problems to be resolved. Claims unable to obtain free dentures in N.S.W. because sentence not long enough, but N.S.W. prisoners can. A.C.T. prisoners second-class citizens. If prison built in A.C.T. should cover both sexes. Should have opportunity of work release to enable prisoner to be released with more than half a dole cheque.
31. If run like the Remand Centre no way. Okay if run differently. Would make for easier visiting.
32. Should be one. Ease of visits, phone calls local, cheaper. Could find out more about parole. At present Goulburn, Sydney and A.C.T. and return by same way. At present burdening N.S.W. gaols - overcrowding. For A.C.T. prisoners to try and find out anything disillusionment is only result.
33. Good, easier visits. Better to do your time close to where you live.
34. Yes. Being an A.C.T. prisoner in N.S.W. system you miss out on a lot. If sent to N.S.W. should be treated as an N.S.W. prisoner. If normally a resident in A.C.T. essential that you have contact with family. Goulburn not bad as far as distance is concerned provided private transport available.

COPING WITH SYSTEM

<u>How coping with System</u>	<u>How coping with fellow prisoners</u>
1. Work good, no charges	Quite well
2. Okay, no charges	Okay
3. Some initially, lack of contact with A.C.T. release dates etc. created uncertainty and tension	Okay
4. Okay, no charges	Okay
5. Doesn't like, no charges	Virtually sticks to himself as far as possible. Has had no trouble
6. Good, no charges	Okay
7. Did not participate except for question on A.C.T. prison	
8. Okay earlier stages, conditions changed, different type of prisoner. Drug addicts particularly hard to cope with. Many are informers to curry favour, particularly to gain remission. No charges. Bathurst easy to handle compared with others.	
9. Okay, charged once - abused officer	Okay, no problems
10. Pretty well. Charged once when he got another prisoner to make a telephone call for him when wife did not arrive	Good
11. Pretty easily, nil charges	Pretty well
12. Fair average, two charges	Pretty good
13. Good, one charge - sleeping in	Pretty good
14. Okay up to one month ago when parole hassles started, no charges	Okay but does not relate well to younger prisoners
15. Okay but anxious to move, no charges	Does not know anyone yet, no hassles to date
16. Okay now, had problems in Goulburn, no charges	Okay now but watch stolen and beaten up at Goulburn
17. Pretty good, no charges	Okay but as a minor offender objects to being mixed with hardened crims
18. No problems or charges	Within the system okay
19. Coping okay, nil charges	Okay, no hassles

How coping with System

20. Okay, no charges. Easier to do time at Mannus than at Goulburn
21. No real problems, no charges
22. No problems or charges
23. Good, nil charges
24. Nil charges
25. Very well, no problems or charges
26. No problems, nil charges
27. No trouble or charges
28. Up and down, no charges
29. No problems, no charges
30. Very good, no charges
31. Okay, no charges
32. Take it as it comes, no charges
33. Okay, no problems or charges
34. No problems, no charges

How coping with fellow prisoners

- Okay, no problems at Mannus. Lot different to Goulburn where hassles and tension were considerable
- Pretty well. Is with a few guys from A.C.T.
- No problems
- Good
- Fairly well
- No problems, tries to be friendly with all
- No problems
- Okay
- Majority pretty good, problems with some
- Okay, easy way to do prison
- Okay
- Some all right, some shifty
- Okay
- Good
- No problems

SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES

1. Indoor cricket, squash, copper and leatherwork, stained glass, motor mechanics and typing course.
2. Weightlifting and football.
3. Basketball and small business management.
4. Weightlifting and running.
5. Weightlifting, basketball, touch football, tried education but tossed in.
6. Basketball, football and glass painting.
7. Knitting, activities officer not very active, sports gear mostly locked up.
8. Too early, not much to do except walk around yards.
9. English classes. Not enough room in guitar class. Has no radio or TV.
10. Nil at Goulburn. At Mannus glass painting, some football, table tennis, weights.
11. Nil except squash one hour per week. Feels activities not encouraged.
12. Basketball, planning to commence maths and English courses and possibly welding.
13. Basic English, squash, basketball and tennis.
14. Showcard and ticket writing, cards.
15. Nil
16. Squash and tennis.
17. Reading, chess, scrabble.
18. Darts and music.
19. TV
20. Running. Motor mechanics course, chess.
21. Weightlifting and listening to music.
22. Carpet bowls, but spends most of spare time in kitchen.
23. Diesel course, art, English, maths, small business management, showcard and ticket writing, weightlifting.
24. Diesel engineering and mechanics courses by correspondence.
25. Table tennis, running, weightligting, soccer (while at Long Bay) pool clerk of works (building industry) and English courses.

26. Is treasurer and vice-president and coordinator of six projects. Conducts a small business management course. Planning to run a computer course. Undertaking courses in business administration (W.A. TAFE), post graduate in cost accounting (NSW TAFE), small business and creative writing.
27. Electrical wiring by correspondence, basketball, glass and canvas painting.
28. Weightlifting, arts course.
29. Touch football, cricket, squash, handball.
30. Running, tennis, weightlifting.
31. Not yet. Thinking about English classes.
32. Art classes, general welding practice by correspondence, pottery.
33. No response except for question on prison.

JOB IN PRISON

1. Carpenter
2. Transport store
3. Full time studies
4. Clerk, central store
5. Bush gang
6. Storeman
7. Officers Mess
8. Garbage collection
9. Carpenter
10. Cleaner and sweeper
11. Did not respond except to question on A.C.T. prison
12. Activities clerk and clerk in main office
13. Sweeper
14. Laundry
15. Nil, only 2-3 weeks before release, no incentive to work
16. Farmer
17. Bush gang
18. Omitted to ask
19. Filing clerk
20. Sweeper
21. Builder's assistant
22. Cleaner
23. Stockman
24. Bush gang, formerly kitchen
25. Carpenters shop
26. Kitchen
27. Sweeper

28. Gold blocker, printing and bookbinding shop
29. Engineering shop, welding and machine milling, toolmaker by trade
30. Maintenance painter
31. Tailors shop, no prior experience
32. At Goulburn, carpenters shop. At Bathurst, motor mechanics
33. Builder, has undertaken considerable work at Mannus
34. Butcher and cook

WAS IT EASIER IN A.C.T. REMAND CENTRE (if applicable)

1. Nine months in 1979. Not bad, too confined, no room to move.
2. Two months. If place run by competent people would be okay. Certain remandees unstable.
3. Six months. Terrible, treated like kids. Too small, should be pulled down.
4. Five months. Terrible, too small. Nothing to occupy day. Pool, table tennis and darts very limited. No grass, cement yard or sit in TV room. Petty rules, shower rules inflexible. Can't earn any money, cannot buy cigs. No choice in tobacco issue although two brands available. Can't call them cells. Not allowed jug or toaster. No posters on wall. While remandee supposed to be innocent until proved otherwise more privileges in prison. In his case wife on remand at same time could not converse, nor could he obtain permission to visit until he appealed to Ombudsman. No exercise, meals always cold.
5. Did not participate except for question on A.C.T. prison.
6. 15 months. Not designed to hold anyone that long. Okay for 2-3 weeks. Time he served on remand not recognised by judge who considered the Centre as one of best in Australia. Too confined, all concrete. Would have preferred to be remanded to Goulburn, lack of sufficient work and no meaningful work. Did repair a few toys. At one stage of his period there only two on remand. No sun, no place to exercise, no way of getting frustrations out. Visits good, all day every day. No limits on phone calls both ways. A plus for people being able to phone in.
7. Five months. A lot easier than prison.
8. Not applicable.
9. Six months. Very cramped.
10. Too much concrete, caged in, wire over top. No open spaces, better at Cooma.
11. Not applicable, but placed in city lockup before sentenced.
12. Three weeks. Had no complaints. When extradited from Adelaide to A.C.T. not accepted at Remand Centre because already sentenced. Placed in cells at Civic for 10 days then Belconnen 10 days. Only the clothes she had on when extradited. Civic cells cold and damp. Given nothing, no radio, watch etc. Only female in custody. Out 10 minutes per day for shower. Could not get drink of water.
13. Conditions pretty good although Centre small and packed. Only 2-3 rooms into which you may walk. No grass. Okay for a few weeks but not longer. Officers pretty good and can get closer to them and talk, unlike situation here (Goulburn).
14. Did not like, too small and was beaten up there by other inmates.

15. Not applicable.
16. Thoroughly disgusted. Too small. When a person on remand, is most apprehensive. No chance to get rid of aggressions. Absolute murder.
17. Not applicable.
18. Not applicable.
19. System pretty good. Too small and after a time one becomes very edgy. However, compared with other places pretty civilised.
20. Very childish and petty. Turfed out of contact visit for hugging girlfriend after waiting 2-1/2 weeks for one.
21. Good place and easy for visits.
22. Okay. Conditions fair, just and not over-restrictive.
23. Two days only. Well organised, clean, good meals.
24. Two-three weeks. Easier on family. Good conditions.
25. Fourteen days. Children able to visit.
26. Building okay. Not run decently. Treated like kids. Officers inconsistent and unpredictable. Like to stuff you around.
27. Ten weeks. Good, no hassles, easy going, lacked authority, boring, visits daily also telephone contact.
28. Not applicable.
29. Good.
30. Should be bulldozed. Too small. Not designed for more than two weeks. No sport - can't even go for a run. Sup. childish, screws playing games with prisoners probably because they are bored. Can't get away from other prisoners which tends to depress one. Visits too short. No grass. No allowance for purchases.
31. Can't complain, pretty good, visits 2-3 times per day every day. Close to lawyer. Easy to phone counsel, relatives, etc.
32. There eight weeks. Very nice.
33. There 10 months. Too small, no rules, food not good, no sport.
34. Okay in small doses. Too confined. Sick of everything after a couple of weeks.

CONDITIONAL RELEASE, HOW VIEWED

1. Quite accepting of any conditions.
2. Yes, parole. On parole two years in A.C.T. Minor irritant. Good restraining influence.
3. Yes, parole. Good idea, tends to restrain.
4. Not applicable.
5. Yes, parole. Good. Should be given to everyone. More incentive to stay clear of further offending.
6. Yes, parole. Good if he can get it but feels he will be denied.
7. Yes, parole. Lets one out earlier. Not keen on being told what to do.
8. Yes, parole. Wants it and has no worries regarding it.
9. Did not respond except to question on prison in A.C.T.
10. Yes, parole. In favour, a good thing. Something to work for.
11. Yes, parole. Has rejected it, too many conditions.
12. Yes, parole. Has an open mind. Has heard both sides. Will wait and see.
13. Yes, parole. Not keen. Does not know if he can see out three years. Reporting conditions too difficult. Has not had parole before and not sure of strictness.
14. Yes, parole. But release date comes up before eligible for parole? Not impressed with parole, reporting, etc. Garbage.
15. Yes, parole. Would take it but as he has nowhere to go does not expect it to be granted.
16. Yes, parole. Has been recommended by parole officer in N.S.W. who knows her case and her. Sent to A.C.T. - they want more reports. If a N.S.W. prisoner she would be out. A.C.T. Board only sits once per fortnight. Her papers arrived at A.C.T. 10 days late.
17. Yes, parole. Good if sincere about going straight. Hope to get it, back inside if anything wrong.
18. On release has to front court for remand to a drug rehabilitation centre. Feels okay about it and thinks it will help.
19. Not applicable.
20. In breach of parole. Total waste of time. Believes in straight sentences. Would accept one day per week, community service for three months instead of parole.

21. Yes, parole. Does not like and may reject. Can't cope with the hassle of trying to pick company and where to live.
22. Good behaviour bond. A bit steep but as no supervision an advantage.
23. Says probation to follow release. Does not know much about it. Not keen on answering to his situation all the time.
24. Good behaviour bond to follow release but further charges yet to be faced. Conditional release great as it lets you out.
25. Not clear if he is eligible for parole. Also serving both A.C.T. and N.S.W. sentences. Has been on parole and does not know how he feels about it.
26. Possible licence (Life). Okay if conditions fair, just and not over-restrictive.
27. Yes, parole. No worries. Does not care how long. Just wants to be with family. Parole keeps people in line.
28. Has applied for A.T.C. licence. If granted will be quite happy and will not be worried about conditions.
29. Not applicable.
30. Parole. Should be changed to new probation scheme. Parole breaches not dealt with by court. Probation is. Otherwise parole okay as released early.
31. Offered no views.
32. Not in favour. Downgrading of character. Sentence served inside should be enough.
33. Has never been on parole. Good idea.
34. Has rejected parole. Mainly because job as interstate truck driver. Difficult to find time to see parole officer.

CAN YOU RETURN TO FORMER JOB?

1. Yes. Bricklayer.
2. No. Back injury two years ago and now unfit to work.
3. Unemployed when arrested. Hopes to take up commercial art or diesel mechanic work and later establish own business.
4. Yes. Interstate truck driving.
5. Was a self-employed carpenter and joiner. Expects no trouble in finding work.
6. No.
7. Probably but depends on when released. With GMH roof tilers.
8. Unemployed when sentenced. No plans.
9. Self-employed motor mechanic and will re-commence on release.
10. Travels around a fair bit but confident he can obtain work.
11. No. Has been a foreman carpenter and does not anticipate problems.
12. Boilermaker by trade, can resume, but not old job.
13. Did not respond to questionnaire except for question on A.C.T. prison.
14. No. Going to Melbourne on release. Will work with brother. Is transport driver and a jockey. Hopes to resume driving later.
15. No.
16. Not sure. Was in a government job. Can work with an uncle as a motor mechanic, also roof tiler.
17. No. Was assistant chef, Canberra College of Advanced Education. Thinks he can obtain similar work.
18. Does not know. Was with a travelling show for 12 months.
19. Did not have a job in A.C.T.
20. Is a trained dietician and expects to be able to obtain a position, probably Melbourne.
21. No, but a fabrication welder by trade and says no trouble in obtaining a position.
22. No.
23. Yes. Painter by trade.

24. No. A waiter by trade and does not anticipate any problems.
25. No, but will seek stock or plant operator work.
26. No. Future prospects/plans uncertain.
27. On U.B. when sentenced. May have a possibility of apprentice interior decorator in Sydney.
28. No.
29. Has never worked. (In boys homes and prison since 1977).
30. Possibly (Note Life sentence)
31. Yes, as a fitter and turner.
32. Was a self-employed painter. Does not anticipate any difficulties unless he has to look after wife (spinal trouble).
33. On S/Bs at time of sentence. Back injury. Has a claim for worker's compensation still to be settled. Was a builders labourer.
34. Part-time work only when sentenced. Expects to be able to obtain labouring work when released.

ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES PERSONAL/FINANCIAL

1. Claims nil of either but seems to be relying on friends in Sydney and admits to having been a heavy drinker. Note parents in Victoria.
2. Says nil. Can readily obtain employment as a carpenter. Mother is aged pensioner living in a one-bedroom flat. He is married but separated - three children. Admits to having had an alcohol problem.
3. Says nil. Boilermaker by trade so will probably readily obtain employment. Has two children of a former liaison, ? maintenance. Says no alcohol since 1982, some 12 months before sentence. Note sentenced for possession and use drugs.
4. Only answered question on A.C.T. prison.
5. Finance yes but brother will assist financially and with work (Melbourne). Divorced - two children, ? maintenance. Admits to having had a considerable alcohol problem.
6. Parents in A.C.T. will assist. No immediate employment plans. An alcohol problem. Sentence led to divorce and access to daughter to be resolved.
7. Not sure if he can return to government job. If not with uncle as a motor mechanic. Can also undertake roof tiling. Nil alcohol or drugs. De facto wife and parents supportive.
8. Assistant chef work probably available. Brother and sister in A.C.T. supportive. Does not use alcohol or drugs.
9. Financial but family will support. Limited employment skills. Admits to heavy drinking.
10. Financial and accommodation and employment. Unemployed in A.C.T. No particular work skills. Claims no alcohol or drug problem. Parents in Queensland.
11. No savings. Separated from husband who now has their five children with him in Melbourne. Will attempt reconciliation (after seven years). Qualified dietician but has a heart condition. No alcohol or drug problem.
12. None whatsoever, parents and siblings fully support. Fabrication welder by trade and feels will readily get job. Heroin user but confident can avoid.
13. Keeping off drugs (10 years on heroin). Has no financial resources and no employment skills. Not returning to family, accommodation problems.
14. Was living de facto and personal relationships to be sorted out. Car repossessed and will have a number of bills including hire purchase to sort out. Painter by trade and can return to old job. No drugs and social drinker only.

15. Has some finance available and has worked as a waiter since 1969. Parents in S.A. supportive as is girlfriend. Admits to being a 'periodic alcoholic'.
16. No finance, parents will help initially. Experienced plant operator and stockman. Has had an alcohol problem for years.
17. No job arranged and no savings. The strain of his conviction and incarceration have created strains between himself and de facto and may take some sorting out. Claims a reformed heroin user for three months.
18. Financial. On U.B. when sentenced. Has vague plans for a job as an interior decorator in Sydney. Suggests family support but they are in A.C.T. Uses dope occasionally also alcohol but claims no problems here.
19. No resources and no plans (further charges pending). Separated from wife and three children. Plans to go to Queensland on release. Heavy drinker and uses drugs.
20. Now 21, has been in custody almost continuously since 14 years of age. Serving fairly substantial sentences and further serious charges to face in A.C.T. Has never worked and parents would appear to have lost interest. Major problems ahead.
21. Nil.
22. Nil of either. Wife has good job and relationship extremely good.
23. No personal but wife's health poor. Will have considerable debts to overcome.
24. Would like to regain wife but most unlikely. Anticipates difficulty in seeing children. Claims no particular financial difficulties. Alcohol could be a problem.
25. Mother accepting him back but a pensioner and he will have financial difficulty.
26. Claims none of either. Can readily obtain work as a bricklayer.
27. Said nil and apparently older children have enabled financial problems to be reduced, although confident has had a drink problem.
28. Does not anticipate any. Family supportive. Has had a drink problem.
29. Will have problems with both accommodation and finance on release. Has wife and young child. Drug problem prior to being sentenced.
30. Financially no but is separated from wife and wants custody of children and anticipates considerable difficulties. Claims no alcohol problems.
31. Financial and employment but no personal problems.

32. Finance reasonably okay. Prior to sentence lived with girlfriend's parents. Now considerable friction and she has moved away from family.
33. Mainly financial but thinks friends will help. No particular personal problems.
34. Financial. While has a trade, will have difficulty in again becoming self-employed. No personal problems but will need to be careful re alcohol and drugs.

HOW HAS FAMILY COPEd?

1. Father has taken it pretty hard and visits have not been possible but will accept him back. Does not get on with mother who is divorced. Considering going to Canada later.
2. Very difficult and has been complicated by their handicapped child. Also wife has to undergo surgery soon. Financially a lot to catch up on.
3. Parents have accepted he claims but only brother has visited although mother has been sick. Parents live at Duntroon.
4. Wife has 7-months-old baby which would have been born about the time of his sentence. Considerable financial problems and possibly a few personal problems to be sorted out.
5. Relatives have found distress. Wife and two children from whom he has been separated for two years have not been involved.
6. Claims well but had earlier stated a bad emotional effect on 82-year-old mother in Queensland. In spite of mother's age etc. planning to live in Sydney with friend.
7. No apparent family ties, but girlfriend's parents have not accepted and there is now friction between her and her parents - left home etc.
8. No apparent family ties and plans after release revolve around friends in A.C.T.
9. Claims have been worried but have accepted. In prison once before.
10. Mother has taken very hard but he has been in prison twice before. However he does not appear to have any close family ties.
11. Mother has coped badly and has not accepted his guilt. She is a migrant of 70 years of age, separated from her husband with practically no English. Prisoner is separated from wife and three children and apparently no contact.
12. He claims parents pretty upset. They are in Sydney and have not visited although there is regular correspondence. Plans to remain in A.C.T. with friends.
13. Did not participate in interview except for prison in A.C.T.
14. Wife did not cope and divorced him after offences. Brother in Melbourne has accepted.
15. Parents have found it difficult, particularly in the earlier stages. Former de facto who has his 4-year-old daughter does not appear to have accepted.
16. Parents have found it very difficult and de facto wife particularly so.

17. Parents and siblings most unhappy at first (in New Zealand except one brother and sister in A.C.T.). Accepting and supportive now.
18. Mother and six siblings found it hard to accept, particularly mother but remain supportive.
19. Claims family, who are in Queensland, have coped, but no personal contact and very limited letter contact. Only one phone contact.
20. Has been extremely difficult for the five children who are now with husband from whom separated for seven years.
21. Father has coped okay but mother hasn't. However both are accepting and he returns to them on release.
22. Claims mother has taken badly but has been in prison twice previously and also spent few months in a mental hospital. Returning to friends.
23. Both parents and de facto have found it difficult and not yet clear if de facto has accepted although both she and parents visit.
24. Father has accepted in spite of several prior sentences of imprisonment, not clear regarding mother. Girlfriend has coped very well.
25. Has had a number of prior prison terms and parents take it badly but according to him have grown accustomed to it. Remain supportive.
26. Strain of sentence nearly caused his de facto wife to leave him but tensions are now much reduced. Parents have apparently accepted.
27. Parents separated, neither impressed but according to him have remained supportive. No clear plans re joining either.
28. Separated from wife and two children. Girlfriend supportive. Mother has taken badly. Previously in prison once, 10 years ago.
29. Says family coping after seven years. Their visits average three per year. More likely they have lost interest. Further serious charges pending and unlikely to be released for some time yet.
30. Very well.
31. Has been difficult, but financially coped as wife has a good job.
32. Coping, but only just. Bills etc. very hard to meet and will have a lot to make up.
33. Contact with separated wife varies with her moods and this dictates whether or not he sees children. His offence, assault wife. Marital problems will be difficult to sort out.
34. Not very well but mother and siblings will accept him back. Have been quite supportive.

DETAILED RESPONSES OF FAMILY MEMBERS

NOTE: The sequence of these responses has been randomised in order to prevent the identification of individual prisoners. Only the more significant responses have been reproduced in detail.

VISITS

<u>How often do you visit N.S.W.?</u>	<u>Would you visit more frequently if a prison in A.C.T.?</u>
1. Weekly	Definitely, as much as allowed
2. Could not be located at address and phone number given. (Separated)	
3. Bi-monthly. Partly distance but mainly de facto wife who is in conflict with his son.	Yes, at least weekly
4. Would not have anything to do with survey, now divorced	
5. Monthly	Yes, weekly or whatever allowed
6. Weekly	Yes, daily if possible
7. Fortnightly	Yes, every opportunity allowed
8. Nil, as requested by son	Yes, definitely
9. Weekly, at weekends	Yes
10. Approximately every five weeks	Yes, weekly
11. Monthly	Yes
12. Tries to visit every weekend	Yes, as much as possible
13. Bi-monthly or less, depending on location. His two younger brothers only visit when he is at Belconnen Remand Centre. Difficulties can arise when travelling long distances, e.g. Long Bay where limit is one visit per week, to arrive and find someone else has visited.	Yes, weekly
14. 4-6 weekly	Yes, weekly
15. Fortnightly	Yes, weekly
16. Bi-monthly	Yes, weekly

How often do you visit N.S.W.?

Would you visit more frequently
if a prison in A.C.T.?

17. Monthly at Goulburn, Long Bay & Cooma.
Nil since at Cessnock

Yes, weekly at least

18. Fortnightly

As often as allowed. Visited
Belconnon Remand Centre daily

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH VISITING UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Partly distance and partly result of his de facto wife's conflict with son. If prison in A.C.T. could visit without creating conflict. No financial hardship.
2. Declined to participate - divorced.
3. Father involved in sport and this restricts visits although to visit Mannus is easier than when at Long Bay. Mannus has advantage of all-day visits at weekends. Letters did not always get through at Long Bay. Three hours travel to Long Bay for one hour visit. Visiting is a bit of a financial strain.
4. Works on a roster basis and this restricts. Costs not a major factor but petrol is \$30 per visit.
5. Transport, both distance and cost. Even though pensioner rate applies fares still very costly. Long waits in some places for transport, also inconvenience and lack of shelter on very hot or rainy and cold days.
6. Getting there. Has to rely on friends for transport and meet costs of petrol.
7. Unemployed at present and finding it extremely expensive to visit. Now shares cost of travel with friend and with overnight accommodation costs her \$60 per visit.
8. Distance and can't always visit on Saturdays. \$15 for petrol on each trip, expensive. Time involved in visits is inconvenient.
9. Could not afford costs of any visits. Is a pensioner and separated from husband. Dependent completely on friends for the limited visiting she does.
10. Expense and travelling because of back injury. Approximately \$40 for petrol. When day leave granted books a flat for self and children (overnight and this costs an extra \$80).
11. Visiting conditions in some places very poor, particularly remand section at Long Bay. Difficulties can arise when after travelling distance find that the visit for that week has already been used by someone else.
12. Distance and cost, \$90 for each visit. Cannot afford to stay overnight so leaves at 5.00 a.m. Long day, extra cost for food and other incidentals.
13. Overnight accommodation was a difficulty until befriended by a local. Length of travel time and cost of transport (\$30 per visit). Also additional car repair costs have been required.
14. Finding the time because of distance involved. Nil financial.

15. No certainty prisoner will be at a particular prison. After visiting Long Bay and waiting for 1-1/2 hours was advised that transferred to another prison.
16. Inability to visit more frequently, also whole family (parents and two sons) cannot visit. Cannot give adequate family reassurance and moral support. Cannot send things of a personal nature although this offset by being able to send cash.
17. \$50 petrol for each trip. Children at home and has to arrange for their care as they find trip and actual visit boring. Overnight accommodation \$15 plus cost of cigarettes and incidentals to husband.
18. Could not be located at address or phone number given.

THOUGHTS/VIEWS ON ESTABLISHING A PRISON IN A.C.T.

1. Pretty good idea. Easier for relatives etc. to visit both in costs and increase in number of visits. Easier all round.
2. Badly needed because of number sentenced here. Would soon recoup costs very quickly by saving what is paid to N.S.W. Easier accessibility and transport available. Saving in transport and telephone charges. Should ensure officers are able to create a good public relations image. There would also be savings in the costs of transporting prisoners.
3. Total agreement. Ease of visits and prisoner closer to home. Easier and cheaper to telephone.
4. Good idea. Worthwhile if along the lines of Mannus. Goulburn type of prison, no.
5. Would like to see established. Would improve family ties. Some people sent to N.S.W. for misdemeanours. A.C.T. at present size, warrants a prison. Would expect an A.C.T. prison to have more modern facilities and more likely to treat prisoners as human beings. Nothing against a prison here provided security also taken into account.
6. No views obtained as result of considerable language barrier. But on basis of other limited information obtained the answer would be yes, particularly as present visiting is severely limited.
7. Yes. More convenient for family, particularly those worse off than herself and those without transport. A.C.T. has everything else, why not a prison. A prison farm type particularly desirable.
8. Local prison desirable, enables better contact. However in some respects being sent to the N.S.W. system would scatter prisoners and prevent A.C.T. prisoners being concentrated in one facility. Before building a prison establish a halfway house to enable prisoners to be eased back into the community.
9. Good idea. Not able to get bereavement leave because A.C.T. interstate. Any travel beyond 100 miles really out of the question and strain of travel considerable.
10. Depends on the type of institution proposed. If like Goulburn would they have the choice of Mannus type of prison which is good, particularly as far as visiting conditions are concerned. Cheaper visiting and phone costs. At least in N.S.W. have a variety of choices where to serve sentences.
11. The social welfare of the population would be in doubt because of escapes and perceived threats in society's eye and he agrees. Would be aesthetically offensive and would not be good for the A.C.T. However courts in A.C.T. have little or no say in what happens in N.S.W. system, e.g. sentenced on drug charges. Long history of heroin addiction. Psychiatric problems occur in prison and sent to Morrisset. There five weeks and walks out. Six weeks later turns up in A.C.T. Arrested and sentenced again. Should be a mandatory system

imposed by court to keep in drug centre for a prescribed time and this could be better enforced in A.C.T.

12. Would like to see a prison in A.C.T. Very disconcerting to be placed in Long Bay. In N.S.W. away from moral support which would be available if in A.C.T. Distance for contact reduced. A smaller system in A.C.T. would allow for better segregation. Would enable work release to be used and other rehabilitation programs to be undertaken. Existing situation a training ground for further law breaking. Friends would visit more readily.
13. All for it. Not only because son now in prison but has felt it necessary for some years. Being in N.S.W. creates considerable difficulties in visiting. When son in a Boys Home at Kurri Kurri, N.S.W. two changes of train and overnight stay. If in A.C.T. regular visiting possible and increased family and moral support. It would be essential to provide schooling and work activities.
14. Good idea - all for it. Should definitely have something for drink/drivers. Shocking to have to serve fines at Goulburn. Also A.C.T. prisoners do not receive the same remissions as N.S.W. prisoners. Expense of visiting has precluded friends who would have visited if in A.C.T.
15. Could not be located.
16. Visiting Goulburn a bad issue. If in A.C.T. will be mixing with a better type of prisoner. Would hope segregation would be improved. Personal needs more readily met and personal support more readily available.
17. Did not participate.
18. Good thing for A.C.T. Some worries about mixing with types. Closer for contact. Expenses for travelling reduced. Telephone charges much less. At present it appears that A.C.T. prisoners treated differently to those from N.S.W.

ANY DIFFICULTIES ANTICIPATED WHEN PRISONER IS RELEASED?

1. Declined to participate.
2. While a bed will be available for son, feels that if he returns to A.C.T. will not be able to avoid former friends and will be in trouble again.
3. Will provide accommodation but obtaining a job will be difficult.
4. Employment will be difficult and police complicate by telling employer of record. Son has previously been forced out of A.C.T. by police.
5. Employment. Although qualified tradesman Union wants eight years of arrears in dues before he can work.
6. Her parents may not be willing to re-accept, and employment.
7. A big boy now but needs pushing. The obtaining of a steady job will be main concern as lack of work will create problems. Will be able to return home to settle down but will be anxious to move to own flat.
8. No comment, language barrier.
9. No.
10. Loads, including obtaining a job and boredom. Has been in almost continuous custody for seven years and has never worked outside. Still has to face further charges which are over two years old and this in itself is destructive.
11. Avoiding alcohol and former company.
12. Employment okay but has reservations about him remaining in A.C.T.
13. In terms of him blending back into society, very poor. Welfare officer system hopeless through lack of money and officers. While plenty of family support in past this is waning because not achieving anything. The social mechanisms to reintegrate are lacking. If authorities were fair dinkum would ensure proper support for person released and to family who could possibly do more.
14. Employment but feels that if he remains in A.C.T. will be in further trouble.
15. Heroin used for four years and parents plan to leave A.C.T. to get son away from friends. Has had good work history so do not anticipate problem in this area.
16. Does not anticipate any particular difficulties.
17. Could not be located.
18. Cannot accept him at home because of de facto wife and son would not wish to return home. Job and financial support will be required but he will assist as much as possible.