

Facility: Fulham Correctional Centre
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How Fulham Correctional Centre created the hearse

ACCORDING to FCC industry manager Ian Riley the challenge for the prisoners and supervisors was to build the funeral hearse from the parts supplied, but they were given creative licence on the design and style.

The project involved prisoners from two work areas, engineering and woodwork. Once the design had been agreed the axles, chassis, springs and steering were engineered into place.

Three prisoners worked on this while gaining accredited qualifications in Certificate 2 Engineering delivered by Advance TAFE.

The frame then was transported to the woodwork department where the base was fitted, providing the foundation to build the body.

Step four involved building the body frame and step five cladding the frame. Next came the construction of the driver's seat, which also included more engineering input of ornate rails and then priming the hearse ready for painting.

More work was involved in painting out the back, upholstering the walls and ceiling, installing Teflon

slides and more ornate rails for the interior of the hearse followed by the painting the outside of the hearse and applying the finishing touches.

Mr Riley said in all there were six prisoners who worked on the woodwork sections of the hearse and though some had limited skills in this area most learnt as the project progressed. All gained accredited qualifications in Certificate 2 Cabinet Making and Furnishings.

"The whole project took about one year to complete but those who participated did so with enthusiasm and vigour to learn.

"This project highlights the skills that prisoners have and obtain while in prison.

"The finished product is testament to the commitment of our training staff, the education provider and the prisoners themselves to the rehabilitation outcomes that correctional centres aim for," he said.

"Prisoners gain work skills, self-esteem and a sense of achievement whilst providing positive evidence to prospective employers in their quest for employment opportunities on release."



The body work and drivers seat were created on top of the suspension and chassis.