

Facility: Fulham Correctional Centre  
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## Building bonds between hospital and prison

Kellie Scott

IT might have started out as a joke between man and wife but when CGHS food services assistant Linda Munnings told her husband that she wanted some benches for the hospital courtyard, he delivered.

Husband Phil works at Fulham Correctional Centre, where prisoners are undertaking Certificate II studies in Woodwork Furnishings as part of their rehabilitation.

Through an Education in the Workplace scheme prisoners learn how to read and work from plans, use tools, follow measurements, communicate with one another and other skills essential to making them job ready.

Fulham prison is in contact with business owners who are willing to hire someone with a criminal record, finding out what skills they require in an employee, so that prisoners have industry contacts and can find work when they are released.

Fulham's industry manager Ian Riley said the prisoners responded better to on the job training than they would be inside a classroom.

As part of their training the class of eight prisoners built six picnic tables to CGHS specifications, donating them to the hospital.

"It's more than just a donation, it's a link, and

a partnership, and it is something that we can be confident that we're helping a wide range of the community," Mr Riley said.

CGHS chief executive officer Frank Evans said that the donation saved the hospital thousands of dollars.

He said that CGHS was looking to replace the plastic outdoor furniture which often blew away in the wind.

The timber benches have been so popular with patients, visitors and staff that the hospital has commissioned prisoners to make two more.

Fulham chief executive officer Troy Ittensohn said that programs like this helped prisoners achieve reparation.

He said it let the prisoners, and the community, know that they are of worth, giving them confidence that, on release, people would employ them.

Mr Evans said CGHS had a good relationship with Fulham, often allowing prisoners to

undertake placement at the hospital.

Fulham has sent out painting crews to various CGHS buildings and a qualified carpenter has repaired the hospital decking.

Mr Ittensohn said that there was an ongoing relationship between Fulham and over the past 10 years it had only strengthened, because of such programs.



Seated at one of the picnic tables made and donated by prisoners at Fulham are GEO Industry manager Ian Riley with, Fulham Correctional Services chief executive Troy Ittensohn, CGHS food services assistant Linda Munnings, food services manager David Askew and CGHS chief executive Frank Evans.  
Photo: Kellie Scott