Episode 14 Study Guide
Prison and community corrections with
Peter Severin, former Commissioner of Corrective Services

Background

1. What is Mr Severin’s background in Corrective Services?
2. What two main areas is the Commissioner of Corrective Services responsible for?
3. What is the role of the pre-sentence report service?
4. What are the Corrective Services Industries mentioned by Mr Severin? See [this factsheet on Corrective Services Industries](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/csi-fact-sheet.pdf) to find out more about how this works.

Prison

1. What is the process after a person is sentenced to prison? Start your answer from when the person leaves the courtroom.
2. Describe the classification process for a prisoner entering custody. This [factsheet on classification and placement](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/classification-fact-sheet.pdf) may help with your answer.
3. What happens at a prisoner’s annual formal reassessment? Why is it helpful for the prisoner to have a positive review?
4. How is daily prison life different for a prisoner classified as a maximum security inmate, compared to inmates classified as medium and minimum security inmates?
5. According to the [most recent NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research custody statistics](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_custody_stats/bocsar_custody_stats.aspx), how many adult prisoners are in prison? What percentage are:
	1. Aboriginal?
	2. On remand? This means a prisoner who is being held in custody while waiting for their trial or custody.
	3. Female?

How do these compare to the statistics referred to by Mr Severin as of March 2022?

Prisoners’ needs and programs to address these

1. According to Mr Severin, what kind of trauma may prisoners have experienced before entering the prison system?
2. What does Mr Severin mean by “gender-specific needs”?
3. How does the prison system cater for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
4. Describe some of the programs that are available to inmates. This [factsheet on education programs](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/education-fact-sheet.pdf) and this [factsheet on other programs](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/offender-programs-fact-sheet.pdf) may help with your answer.
5. What are some of the services aimed at welfare available to inmates?

Parole and custodial supervision

1. When is an offender automatically given parole?
2. What are the different reports that Community Corrections prepare for an offender who might be eligible for parole?
3. Describe the assessment process for a prisoner before they are released on parole.
4. When might electronic monitoring be used for parole? How does it work?
5. Explain the role of Community Corrections in supervising these orders:
	1. Intensive Corrections Order
	2. Community Corrections Order
	3. Conditional Release Order

In your answer, include a brief description of each order. This factsheet on [factsheet on community based orders](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/community-based-orders-fact-sheet.pdf) may help with your answer.

1. How are breaches of each of these orders dealt with?

Further resources and activities

* See the [Corrective Services NSW website](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/) to find out more about what they do.
* Download [this factsheet on Community Corrections](https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/corrective-services-nsw/community-corrections-fact-sheet.pdf) to learn more about their role in the criminal justice process.