

Sentencing Explained

NSW
Sentencing
Council

Talking sentencing in NSW



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](#) to find out more about how this works.

Prison

- (5) What is the process after a person is sentenced to prison? Start your answer from when the person leaves the courtroom.
- (6) Describe the classification process for a prisoner entering custody. This [factsheet on classification and placement](#) may help with your answer.
- (7) What happens at a prisoner's annual formal reassessment? Why is it helpful for the prisoner to have a positive review?
- (8) 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?
- (9) According to the [most recent NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research custody statistics](#), how many adult prisoners are in prison? What percentage are:

- a. Aboriginal?
- b. On remand? This means a prisoner who is being held in custody while waiting for their trial or custody.
- c. Female?

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

Prisoners' needs and programs to address these

- (10) According to Mr Severin, what kind of trauma may prisoners have experienced before entering the prison system?
- (11) What does Mr Severin mean by "gender-specific needs"?
- (12) How does the prison system cater for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- (13) Describe some of the programs that are available to inmates. This [factsheet on education programs](#) and this [factsheet on other programs](#) may help with your answer.
- (14) What are some of the services aimed at welfare available to inmates?

Parole and custodial supervision

- (15) When is an offender automatically given parole?
- (16) What are the different reports that Community Corrections prepare for an offender who might be eligible for parole?
- (17) Describe the assessment process for a prisoner before they are released on parole.
- (18) When might electronic monitoring be used for parole? How does it work?
- (19) Explain the role of Community Corrections in supervising these orders:
 - a. Intensive Corrections Order
 - b. Community Corrections Order
 - c. Conditional Release Order

In your answer, include a brief description of each order. This factsheet on [factsheet on community based orders](#) may help with your answer.

- (20) How are breaches of each of these orders dealt with?

Further resources and activities

- See the [Corrective Services NSW website](#) to find out more about what they do.
- Download [this factsheet on Community Corrections](#) to learn more about their role in the criminal justice process.



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