The Role of Education in a Recidivism Reduction Strategy

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What I'll cover ...

- Education and recidivism: what we know
- Planning for education in diverse prison populations
- Engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners
- USQ’s digital education projects in correctional centres
About us ...

- USQ has a strong social justice agenda
- Providing education into correctional centres for 25 years
- Tertiary Preparation Program (TPP) was designed for correctional education
- Biggest provider of Higher Education into correctional centres
- 300 TPP students and 150 undergraduate students
Unfunded PLEIADES
Stand Alone Moodle eReaders

HEPPP-funded
Paper to Pixels
USQ Processes

HEPPP-funded
Triple ‘E’ Project
eReaders
5 Correctional Centres

OLT-funded
From Access to Success
Stand Alone Moodle

HEPPP-funded ($4.3 million)
Making the Connection: Improving Access To Higher Education For Low Socio-Economic Status Students With ICT Limitations

Stand Alone Moodle and Tablets
13 Correctional Centres
... Talking about recidivism ...
It should be easy but it's not ...
Issues with 'recidivism'

No agreement on a definition
'Dead people don't reoffend'
Assumes no particular cohort is unfairly targeted
No one knows what recidivism measures
Doesn't measure incremental improvements
And so on and so on and so on ...
Vocational outcomes

- Prisoners are less likely to have finished high school, let alone year 12
- 2 to 5 times more likely to have mental illness
- Low literacy levels
- Stigma of a criminal record
- 6.3% unemployment (highest since 2002)
- 14.22% for 15 to 24 year-olds
Reducing recidivism is not just about getting a job
And back to recidivism ...
Education and recidivism

13% reduction in recidivism rates when participating in education - any education
But here?
In Western Australia ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative results: Years of release: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014</th>
<th>All Prisoners *All Subject Areas</th>
<th>Aboriginal Prisoners (only) *All Subject Areas</th>
<th>Female Prisoners (only) *All Subject Areas</th>
<th>All Prisoners Voc. education (only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 year avg. reduced % of return to prison by prisoners with 5 or more unit completions vs. those with 0</td>
<td>13.21%</td>
<td>12.17%</td>
<td>12.23%</td>
<td>14.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Take a moment
In any correctional centre
Why do we keep looking ...
A particular challenge

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration rates
- 3% of the population and 27% of the incarcerated population
- Overrepresented at every level of the criminal justice system
They're not all alike ...
Numerous language groups
Urban versus rural
Time since colonization
Spiritual connection to the land
Multiple layers of disadvantage
Significant cultural differences
Engaging with learning ...
Back to USQ ...

$6 million in projects over 5 years

Our vision:
We promise to partner with learners in the pursuit of their study objectives regardless of their background, location or stage in life.
Unfunded
PLEIADES

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eReaders

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13 Correctional Centres
We'd normally send them paper-based materials ... 

But universities are becoming increasingly online
Digital literacies
Any university's toolbox is the Learning Management System

USQ Study Desk (Moodle)
Making the Connection

Improving Access to Higher Education for Low Socio-Economic Status Students with ICT Limitations
What we're doing ...

USQ Offline Study Desk
Personal devices
Correctional centres
We're modifying courses and programs

Tertiary Preparation Program
Indigenous Higher Education Pathways Program
Diploma of Science
Diploma of Business Principles
Diploma of Community Welfare
Engaging with community ...
Paper to Pixels
All photos from Flickr ...

Wired by strakt7
Thank You by Nate Grigg
Not 365:63 - Fake rage by Hilde Skjølberg
Cat nap by Duncan Harris
Authorised Traffic Controller by Dushan Hanuska
.. and me behind the eight ball by Zacha
Brilliant Flag by Mark's Postcards from Beloit
Black swan by David Elliott
paws by Judy van der Velden
The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety. by Kate Ter Haar
"Dodged" A Bullet by John Spade
Aboriginal Flag painted on wall, Apperley St, Fitzroy North, Melbourne by David Jackson
the difference engine by Zach Stern
Despondent homeless - Street art in Newtown, Sydney by Neerav Bhatt
Illuminated Paper Blowing in the Wind by mymodernment
Handy Man by Ryan Hyde
Hope by moonty
Community ..... by Kamaljith K V
Thank you ...

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