# 8 Corrective services

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| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by a ‘8A’ prefix (for example, table 8A.1) and are available from the website https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ ongoing/report-on-government-services. |
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This chapter reports on the performance of corrective services, which include prison custody and a range of community corrections orders and programs for adult offenders[[1]](#footnote-1) (for example, parole and community work orders). Both public and privately operated correctional facilities are included; however, the scope of this chapter generally does not extend to:

1. youth justice (reported on in chapter 17, Youth justice services)
2. prisoners or alleged offenders held in forensic mental health facilities to receive psychiatric care (who are usually the responsibility of health departments)
3. prisoners held in police custody (reported on in chapter 6, Police services)

* people held in facilities such as immigration detention centres.

Further information on the Report on Government Services including other reported service areas, the glossary and list of abbreviations is available at https://www.pc.gov.au/ research/ongoing/report-on-government-services.

## 8.1 Profile of corrective services

### Service overview

The operation of corrective services is significantly influenced by, and in turn influences, other components of the criminal justice system such as police services and courts. The management of prisoners and of offenders serving community corrections orders is the core business of all corrective services agencies. However, the legislative frameworks governing and impacting on corrective services, for example sentencing acts, vary widely. The scope of the responsibilities of these agencies also varies, for example, functions administered by corrective services in one jurisdiction may be administered by a different justice sector agency in another, such as the management of prisoners held in court cells.

### Roles and responsibilities

Corrective services are the responsibility of State and Territory governments, which may deliver services directly, purchase them through contractual arrangements or operate a combination of both arrangements. All jurisdictions maintained government‑operated prison facilities during the reporting period while private prisons operated in five jurisdictions (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA and SA). No jurisdiction operated periodic detention in 2017-18, which was abolished as a sentencing option in NSW in 2010 and in the ACT in July 2016, although a small number of detainees with uncompleted orders had continued to be supervised during the previous reporting period.

Community corrections is responsible for administering a range of non‑custodial sanctions and also manages prisoners who are released into the community and continue to be subject to corrective services supervision. These services vary in the extent and nature of supervision, the conditions of the order (such as a community work component or a requirement to attend an offender program) and the level of restriction placed on the offender’s freedom of movement in the community (for example, home detention).

No single objective or set of characteristics is common to all jurisdictions’ community corrections services, other than that they generally provide a non‑custodial sentencing alternative or a post‑custodial mechanism for reintegrating prisoners into the community under continued supervision. In some jurisdictions, community corrections responsibility includes managing offenders on supervised bail orders. Table 8A.21 shows the range of sanctions involving corrective services that operated in each jurisdiction during the reporting period.

### Funding

Nationally in 2017-18, expenditure (net of revenues) on corrective services was $3.4 billion for prisons and $0.6 billion for community corrections[[2]](#footnote-2) (table 8A.1). Expenditure plus depreciation (matching expenditure reporting by other justice sector agencies) was $4.4 billion – a real increase of 7.8 per cent from 2016-17 (table 8A.2). Changes in expenditure need to be considered in the context of the growth in corrective services populations over time.

### Size and scope of sector

#### Prison custody

Corrective services operated 118 custodial facilities nationally at 30 June 2018, comprising 92 government‑operated prisons, 10 privately‑operated prisons, four transitional centres, and twelve 24‑hour court cell complexes (holding prisoners under the responsibility of corrective services in NSW) (table 8A.3).

On average, 41 867 people per day were held in Australian prisons during 2017‑18 (table 8A.4), of which 80.0 per cent were held in secure facilities. A daily average of 7851 prisoners (18.8 per cent of the prisoner population), were held in privately operated facilities during the year (table 8A.4). Nationally, females represented 8.3 per cent of the daily average prison population, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners represented 27.8 per cent of the daily average population.

In 2017-18, the national imprisonment rate was 216.8 per 100 000 people in the relevant adult population (figure 8.1). This represents an increase of 29.9 per cent since 2008‑09 (table 8A.5). The rate for males (404.3 per 100 000 males) was over 11 times the rate for females (35.2 per 100 000 females) (table 8A.5).

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| Figure 8.1 Imprisonment rates, total prisoners**a** |
| Figure 8.1 Imprisonment rates, total prisoners  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |
| a See table 8A.5 for detailed footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *Australian Demographic Statistics*, as at December of each year,  Cat. no. 3101.0; State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.5. |
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The national crude imprisonment rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 2465.9 in 2017‑18 compared with a rate of 158.8 for the non‑Indigenous population (table 8A.5). Comparisons of imprisonment rates should be made with care, especially for states and territories with relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Small changes in prisoner numbers can cause variations in rates that do not accurately represent either real trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has a younger age profile compared with the non‑Indigenous population, which contributes to higher crude imprisonment rates. After adjusting for differences in population age structures, the national age standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2017‑18 was 1948.5, compared with a corresponding rate of 168.0 for the non‑Indigenous population (figure 8.2). Therefore, after taking into account the effect of differences in the age profiles between the two populations, the national imprisonment rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is almost 12 times greater than for the non‑Indigenous population. Rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 16 times greater.

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| Figure 8.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rates, 2017‑18**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rates, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See table 8A.5 for detailed footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat. no. 3101.0; ABS (unpublished) *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Indigenous Australians* (series B), Cat. no. 3238.0; State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.5. |
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While imprisonment rates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, whether calculated on a crude or age standardised basis, are higher than those for the non‑Indigenous population, the majority of prisoners are non‑Indigenous. Ten-year trends in daily average numbers and rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous prisoners are reported in table 8A.6.

#### Community corrections

Nationally, on a daily average, there were 15.3 offenders for every one (full time equivalent) community corrections staff member in 2017-18 (table 8A.7).

Nationally, an average of 69 634 offenders per day were serving community corrections orders in 2017‑18 (table 8A.8), with females representing 19.5 per cent of the offender population (higher than the proportion in the prison population), and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders representing 20.9 per cent of the offender population (lower than the proportion in the prison population).

In 2017-18, the national crude community corrections rate was 360.6 per 100 000 relevant adult population. This is higher than the rate of 344.3 in 2008‑09 (figure 8.3). The rate for female offenders was 138.4 compared with 589.8 for male offenders (table 8A.5).

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| Figure 8.3 Community corrections rates, total offenders**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.3 Community corrections rates, total offenders  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See table 8A.5 for detailed footnotes and caveats.  *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *Australian Demographic Statistics*, as at December of each year, Cat. no. 3101.0; State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.5. |
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The national crude rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 3084.7 offenders per 100 000 relevant adult population, compared with 285.7 for the non‑Indigenous population (table 8A.5). After adjusting for differences in population age structures, the rate per 100 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in 2017‑18 was 2416.2, compared with a rate of 288.3 for the non‑Indigenous population (figure 8.4). Therefore, after taking into account the effect of differences in the age profiles between the two populations, the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community corrections rate is eight times greater than for the non-Indigenous population. Rates that do not take age profile differences into account are 11 times greater.

As with prisoners, comparisons should be made with care because small changes in offender numbers in jurisdictions with relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations can cause variations in rates that do not accurately represent either real trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. Ten year trends are reported in table 8A.9.

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| Figure 8.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non‑Indigenous age standardised community corrections rates, 2017‑18**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non Indigenous age standardised community corrections rates, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See table 8A.5 for detailed footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (unpublished) *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat. no. 3101.0; ABS (unpublished) *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Indigenous Australians* (series B), Cat. no. 3238.0; State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.5. |
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## 8.2 Framework of performance indicators

Corrective services performance is reported against objectives that are common to corrective services agencies in all jurisdictions (box 8.1).

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| Box 8.1 Objectives for corrective services |
| Corrective services aim to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of offenders and prisoners, commensurate with their needs and the risks they pose to the community, by providing:   * a safe, secure and humane custodial environment * appropriate management of community corrections orders * programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life.   Governments aim for corrective services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner. |
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The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of corrective services (figure 8.5). The framework shows which data are comparable in the 2019 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability, data completeness and information on data quality from a Report‑wide perspective. In addition to section 8.1, the Report’s statistical context chapter (chapter 2) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. Chapters 1 and 2 are available from the website at https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services.

Improvements to performance reporting for corrective services are ongoing and will include identifying indicators to fill gaps in reporting against key objectives, improving the comparability and completeness of data and reviewing proxy indicators to see if more direct measures can be developed.

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| Figure 8.5 Corrective services performance indicator framework |
| Figure 8.5 Corrective services performance indicator framework  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |
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## 8.3 Key performance indicator results

Jurisdictional differences in service delivery settings, geographic dispersal and prisoner/offender population profiles have an impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of correctional service systems.

The comparability of performance indicator results are shaded in indicator interpretation boxes, figures and chapter and attachment tables as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time. |
|  |  |  | Data are either not comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time or are not comparable across jurisdictions or both. |

The completeness of performance indicator results are shaded in indicator interpretation boxes, figures and chapter and attachment tables as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required data are available for all jurisdictions. |
|  |  |  | Data are incomplete for the current reporting period. At least some data were not available. |

### Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

### Equity

#### Access — Prisoner employment by Indigenous status

‘Prisoner employment by Indigenous status’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide programs and services in an equitable manner (box 8.2).

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| Box 8.2 Prisoner employment by Indigenous status |
| ‘Prisoner employment by Indigenous status’ is defined as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners employed as a percentage of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners eligible to work, compared with the percentage of employed non-Indigenous prisoners.  Prisoners who are eligible to work excludes those unable to participate in work programs because of full time education and/or training, ill health, age, relatively short period of imprisonment or other reason.  Similar proportions of employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous prisoners indicates equity of access to participate in work programs. These employment opportunities develop work skills and qualifications to assist in obtaining employment after release from custody.  This indicator should be interpreted with caution because of factors outside the control of corrective services, such as local economic conditions, which affect the capacity to attract commercially viable prison industries, particularly where prisons are remote from large population centres.  Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator. |
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### Effectiveness

#### Appropriateness — Offence-related programs

‘Offence-related programs’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life (box 8.3).

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| Box 8.3 Offence-related programs |
| ‘Offence-related programs’ measures the delivery of programs to prisoners and offenders by corrective services that target specific factors related to their risk of reoffending.  Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator. |
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#### Appropriateness — Education and training

‘Education and training’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life (box 8.4).

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| Box 8.4 Education and training |
| ‘Education and training’ is defined as the number of prisoners participating in one or more accredited education and training courses under the Australian Qualifications Framework, as a percentage of those eligible to participate (that is, excluding those unable to participate for reasons of ill health, relatively short period of imprisonment or other reason). These data do not include participation in non‑accredited education and training programs or a range of offence related programs that are provided in prisons, such as drug and alcohol programs, psychological programs, psychological counselling and personal development courses.  High or increasing education and training participation rates of prisoners are desirable. The rates reported for this indicator should be interpreted with caution as the indicator does not assess participation relative to individual prisoner needs, or measure successful program completion.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017‑18, 34.0 per cent of eligible prisoners participated in accredited education and training courses (figure 8.6). Vocational education and training courses had the highest participation levels (23.6 per cent), followed by pre‑certificate Level 1 courses (8.0 per cent), secondary school education (2.7 per cent) and higher education (1.8 per cent) (table 8A.10).

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| Figure 8.6 Percentage of eligible prisoners in education and training, 2017‑18**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.6 Percentage of eligible prisoners in education and training, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.4 and table 8A.10 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats.  *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.10. | | |
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#### Appropriateness — Employment

‘Employment’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing programs and services that address the causes of offending, maximise the chances of successful reintegration into the community, and encourage offenders to adopt a law abiding way of life (box 8.5).

| Box 8.5 Employment |
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| ‘Employment’ is defined as the number of prisoners employed as a percentage of those eligible to work (that is, excluding those unable to participate in work programs because of full time education and/or training, ill health, age, relatively short period of imprisonment or other reason).  High or increasing percentages of prisoners in employment are desirable, as addressing the limited vocational skills and poor employment history of some prisoners has been identified as a key contributor to decreasing the risk of re‑offending.  This indicator should be interpreted with caution because of factors outside the control of corrective services, such as local economic conditions, which affect the capacity to attract commercially viable prison industries, particularly where prisons are remote from large population centres.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017‑18, 80.5 per cent of the eligible prisoner population was employed (figure 8.7). Most prisoners were employed in service industries (47.8 per cent) or in commercial industries (32.0 per cent), with only a small percentage (0.7 per cent) on work release (table 8A.11).

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| Figure 8.7 Percentage of eligible prisoners employed, 2017‑18**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.7 Percentage of eligible prisoners employed, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.5 and table 8A.11 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats.  *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.11. | | |
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#### Appropriateness — Time out‑of‑cells

‘Time out‑of‑cells’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment (box 8.6).

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| Box 8.6 Time out‑of‑cells |
| ‘Time out‑of‑cells’ is defined as the average number of hours in a 24‑hour period that prisoners are not confined to their cells or units. The periods during which prisoners are not confined to their cells or units provides them with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that may include work, education and training, wellbeing, recreation and treatment programs, the opportunity to receive visits, and interacting with other prisoners and staff.  A relatively high or increasing average time out‑of‑cells per day is desirable. Prison systems with higher proportions of prisoners who need to be accommodated in more secure facilities because of the potentially greater risk that they pose to the community are more likely to report relatively lower time out‑of‑cells.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017‑18, the average number of hours of time out‑of‑cells per prisoner per day was 9.9 (figure 8.8). Average time out‑of‑cells was higher for prisoners in open custody (12.5 hours) than for those held in secure custody (9.0 hours).

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| Figure 8.8 Time out‑of‑cells (average hours per day), 2017‑18**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.8 Time out of cells (average hours per day), 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.6 and table 8A.12 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats.  *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.12. | | |
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#### Appropriateness — Community work

‘Community work’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide appropriate management of community corrections orders (box 8.7).

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| Box 8.7 Community work |
| ‘Community work’ is defined as the number of hours unpaid community work acquitted on eligible community corrections orders as a percentage of the total hours that were imposed on the orders, for orders that were discharged during the reference period.  Eligible orders are community corrections orders issued by a court with a condition that the offender perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work. These data do not include hours on orders that that were not issued directly by a court, e.g. community work orders made in default of payment of a fine. A discharged order refers to an order which has been finalised by corrective services due to being:   1. successfully completed (all requirements on the order were met) 2. revoked or breached (either due to a new charge being laid or other reasons).   Hours of community work are generally acquitted by undertaking the unpaid work but in some jurisdictions, hours may also be acquitted through participation in other approved programs or activities.  The percentage of hours completed can be affected by the general levels of compliance across all offenders required to do unpaid community work as a condition of their order. Community work may only be one component of an order alongside other requirements and non-compliance with the other requirements can result in a breach of the whole order and therefore affect an offender’s capacity to successfully complete the community work hours in full.  A high or increasing percentage of ordered hours acquitted is desirable.  Data are not yet available for reporting against this indicator. |
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#### Appropriateness — Prison utilisation

‘Prison utilisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment (box 8.8).

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| Box 8.8 Prison utilisation |
| ‘Prison utilisation’ reflects the extent to which prison design capacity meets demand for prison accommodation. It is defined as the annual daily average prisoner population as a percentage of the number of single occupancy cells and designated beds in shared occupancy cells provided for in the design capacity of the prisons.  It is generally accepted that prisons require spare capacity to cater for the transfer of prisoners, special‑purpose accommodation such as protection units, separate facilities for males and females and different security levels, and to manage short‑term fluctuations in prisoner numbers. Therefore percentages close to but not exceeding 100 per cent are desirable.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  not complete for the current reporting period. Data for 2017‑18 were not provided by NSW, Victoria or SA. |
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Nationally in 2017-18 (excluding NSW, Victoria and SA), prison utilisation was 115.6 per cent of prison design capacity. Prison utilisation was 94.7 per cent in open prisons and 119.8 per cent for secure facilities (figure 8.9).

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| Figure 8.9 Prison design capacity utilisation, 2017‑18**a, b** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are incomplete for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.9 Prison design capacity utilisation, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a Data were not provided by NSW, Victoria and SA. b See box 8.8 and table 8A.13 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.13. | | |
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#### Quality — Apparent unnatural deaths

‘Apparent unnatural deaths’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment (box 8.9).

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| Box 8.9 Apparent unnatural deaths |
| ‘Apparent unnatural deaths’ is defined as the number of deaths, divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (to give the rate per 100 prisoners), where the likely cause of death is suicide, drug overdose, accidental injury or homicide.  Zero, low or decreasing rates of apparent unnatural deaths are desirable. The rates for this indicator should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population can represent only a very small number of deaths.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017-18, the overall rate of deaths of prisoners from apparent unnatural causes was 0.04 per 100 prisoners (table 8A.14). The rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 0.02 and for non‑Indigenous prisoners was 0.05 (table 8.1).

| Table 8.1 Rate and number of prisoner deaths from apparent unnatural causes, by Indigenous status, 2017‑18**a** | | | |
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|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. | |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. | |
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| |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Deaths/100 prisoners |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 0.06 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 0.02 | | Non-Indigenous | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.03 | – | 0.04 | – | – | 0.36 | 0.05 | | Number of deaths |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | | Non-Indigenous | 7 | 5 | 2 | – | 1 | – | – | 1 | 16 | | | | |
| a See box 8.9 and tables 8A.14 and 8A.15 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. – Nil or rounded to zero. | | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.15. | | | |
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#### Quality — Assaults in custody

‘Assaults in custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing a safe, secure and humane custodial environment (box 8.10).

| Box 8.10 Assaults in custody |
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| ‘Assaults in custody’ is defined as the number of victims of acts of physical violence committed by a prisoner that resulted in physical injuries reported over the year, divided by the annual daily average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (to give the rate per 100 prisoners). Rates are reported for two measures:   * assaults against another prisoner by seriousness of impact * assaults against a member of staff by seriousness of impact.   ‘Assaults’ refer to acts of physical violence resulting in a physical injury but not requiring overnight hospitalisation or ongoing medical treatment. ‘Serious assaults’ refer to acts of physical violence resulting in injuries that require treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or ongoing medical treatment, as well as all sexual assaults.  Zero, low or decreasing rates of assaults in custody are desirable. The rates reported for this indicator should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger prisoner populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population may represent only a very small number of actual incidents.  Data reported for this measure are:  not comparable across jurisdictions due to different reporting practices and variation in service delivery arrangements for delivering prisoner health care, whereby not all jurisdictions have access to the medical information needed to accurately classify incidents into the assault categories used in this indicator. However, data are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Table 8.2 presents data on assault rates in 2017‑18. Australian averages have not been calculated as this indicator is not comparable across jurisdictions.

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| Table 8.2 Rate of prisoner assaults per 100 prisoners, 2017‑18**a** | | | | |
|  | |  | | Data are not comparable across jurisdictions. |
|  | |  | | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
|  |  | |  | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |  | |  | Prisoner on prisoner | | | | | | | | | | | Serious assaults | | 0.31 | 1.17 | 2.94 | 0.56 | 1.44 | 1.30 | 2.32 | 0.30 |  | | Assaults | | 24.90 | 17.15 | 8.52 | 3.97 | 5.99 | 12.88 | 16.02 | 4.49 |  | |  | Prisoner on staff | | | | | | | | | | | Serious assaults | | – | 0.10 | 0.07 | 0.10 | 0.03 | 0.33 | – | – |  | | Assaults | | 1.53 | 1.16 | 0.57 | 1.85 | 0.26 | 2.94 | 1.05 | 0.12 |  | | | | | |
| a See box 8.10 and table 8A.16 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. – Nil or rounded to zero. | | | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.16. | | | | |
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### Efficiency

#### Cost per prisoner/offender

‘Cost per prisoner/offender’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide corrective services in an efficient manner (box 8.11).

| Box 8.11 Cost per prisoner/offender |
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| ‘Cost per prisoner/offender’ is defined as the average daily cost of providing corrective services per prisoner and per offender, reported separately for net operating expenditure and for capital costs per prisoner and offender and for secure and open custody for prisoners.  A low or decreasing cost is desirable in achieving efficient resource management. Efficiency indicators are difficult to interpret in isolation and should be considered in conjunction with effectiveness indicators. A low cost per prisoner, for example, can reflect less emphasis on providing prisoner programs to address the risk of reoffending. |
| Factors that can affect the results for this indicator include: the composition of the prisoner population requiring different accommodation and/or management; the size and dispersion of the geographic area across which services are delivered; the potential (or lack of) for economies of scale; and, the impact of the wider criminal justice system policies and practices.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017‑18, recurrent expenditure per prisoner per day, comprising net operating expenditure and capital costs[[3]](#footnote-3), was $302 (figure 8.10).

Excluding capital costs, the real net operating expenditure was $223 per prisoner per day in 2017-18 compared with $220 in 2013‑14 (figure 8.11), and $23 per offender per day the same as in 2013‑14 (figure 8.12).

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| Figure 8.10 Recurrent expenditure per prisoner per day, 2017‑18**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.10 Recurrent expenditure per prisoner per day, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.11 and table 8A.17 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.17. | | |
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| Figure 8.11 Real net operating expenditure per prisoner per day  (2017‑18 dollars)**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.11 Real net operating expenditure per prisoner per day  (2017-18 dollars)   More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.11 and table 8A.18 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.18. | | |
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| Figure 8.12 Real net operating expenditure per offender per day  (2017‑18 dollars)**a** | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.12 Real net operating expenditure per offender per day  (2017-18 dollars)   More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a See box 8.11 and table 8A.18 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.18. | | |
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### Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (while outputs are the actual services delivered) (see chapter 1).

#### Completion of community orders

‘Completion of community orders’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of offenders (box 8.12).

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| Box 8.12 Completion of community orders |
| ‘Completion of community orders’ is defined as the percentage of community corrections orders completed during the year that were not breached for failure to meet the order requirements or because further offences were committed. Order requirements may involve restrictions on the offender’s liberty (as with home detention), a requirement to undertake community work or other specified activity (such as a drug or alcohol program), regularly attending a community corrections centre as part of supervision requirements, or other conditions.  High or increasing percentages of order completions are desirable. Completion rates should be interpreted with caution. The indicator is affected by differences in the overall risk profiles of offender populations, and risk assessment and breach procedure policies. High‑risk offenders subject to higher levels of supervision have a greater likelihood of being detected when conditions of orders are breached. High breach rates could therefore be interpreted as a positive outcome reflecting the effectiveness of more intensive offender management. Alternatively, a high completion rate can mean either high compliance or a failure to detect or act on breaches of compliance.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017‑18, 72.9 per cent of community corrections orders were completed. Completion rates were higher for females than males (74.5 and 72.5 per cent respectively) and higher for non-Indigenous than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders (75.5 and 64.9 per cent respectively). Completions by order type were highest for restricted movement orders (79.2 per cent), followed by reparation orders (75.2 per cent) and supervision orders (72.0 per cent) (figure 8.13).

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| Figure 8.13 Completion of community corrections orders, by type of order, 2017‑18a, b | | |
|  |  | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  |  | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 8.13 Completion of community corrections orders, by type of order, 2017-18  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | |
| a Data for restricted movement orders are not applicable to Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT, as these jurisdictions did not have this category of order during the reporting period. b See box 8.12 and table 8A.19 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.19. | | |
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#### Escapes

‘Escapes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to the protection and creation of safer communities through the effective management of prisoners (box 8.13).

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| Box 8.13 Escapes |
| ‘Escapes’ is defined as the number of escapes divided by the annual average prisoner population, multiplied by 100 (for a rate per 100 prisoners), and is reported separately for prisoners escaping from secure custody and from open custody.  Zero, low or decreasing rates are desirable. Escape rates should be interpreted with caution. A single incident in a jurisdiction with a relatively small prisoner population can significantly increase the rate in that jurisdiction, but would have only a minor impact in jurisdictions with larger populations. A relatively high rate in a jurisdiction with a small prisoner population can represent only a very small number of actual incidents.  Data reported for this measure are:  comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.  complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2017-18 data are available for all jurisdictions. |
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Nationally in 2017-18, the rate of escapes was 0.43 per 100 prisoners held in open custody and 0.03 per 100 prisoners held in secure custody (table 8.3).

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| Table 8.3 Rate and number of prisoner escapes, 2017‑18**a** | | | | |
|  | |  | | Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions. |
|  | |  | | Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. |
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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | | NT | Aust | | Escapes/100 prisoners | | | | | | | | | | | | Open | 0.11 | 1.10 | 1.05 | 0.10 | – | – | – | | 1.74 | 0.43 | | Secure | 0.07 | – | – | 0.02 | – | – | – | | 0.22 | 0.03 | | Number of escapes | | | | | | | | | | | | Open | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | – | – | – | 14 | | 36 | | Secure | 6 | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 2 | | 9 | | | | | |
| a See box 8.13 and table 8A.20. – Nil or rounded to zero. | | | | |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 8A.20. | | | | |
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## 8.4 Definitions of key terms

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| **24‑hour court cell** | Cells located in a court and/or police complex that are administered by corrective services. |
| **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** | People identifying themselves as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders if they are accepted as such by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community. |
| **Assault** | An act of physical violence committed by a prisoner that resulted in physical injuries. An assault is recorded where either:   * a charge is proved either by a jurisdictional correctional authority, a Governor’s hearing or a court of law, or * there is evidence that an assault took place because at least one of the following circumstances apply: * there is at least one apparently reliable witness to the assault, or the victim claims assault and there is no obvious reason to doubt this claim, or * a visible injury has occurred and there is sufficient circumstantial or other evidence to make an assault the most likely cause of the injury on the basis of the balance of probabilities.   The rate is based on a count of victims of assaults not incidents, that is, an assault by two prisoners on one other prisoner is counted as one assault, whereas a single incident in which one prisoner assaults two other prisoners is counted as two assaults. |
| **Apparent unnatural death** | The death of a person who is in corrective services custody (which includes deaths that occur within prisons, during transfer to or from prison, within a medical facility following transfer from prison, or in the custody of corrective services outside a custodial facility):   * whose death is caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries sustained, or by lack of proper care, while in such custody * who dies or is fatally injured in the process of prison officers attempting to detain that person * who dies or is fatally injured in the process of that person escaping or attempting to escape from prison custody * where there is sufficient evidence to suggest, subject to a Coroner’s finding, that the most likely cause of death is homicide, suicide, an accidental cause or a drug overdose. |
| **Capital costs** | Combined depreciation costs, the user cost of capital (calculated as 8 per cent of the value of government land and other assets), and debt servicing fees – financial lease payments incurred by governments as part of contracts for privately owned prisons or prisons built under Public‑Private Partnership arrangements, comparable to the user cost of capital for government owned facilities. |
| **Community corrections** | Community‑based management of court‑ordered sanctions, post‑prison orders and administrative arrangements and fine conversions for offenders, which principally involve one or more of the following requirements: supervision; program participation; or community work. |
| **Community work (offenders)** | Unpaid community work (hours) by offenders serving community corrections orders during the counting period. |
| **Escapes** | The escape of a prisoner under the direct supervision of corrective services officers or private providers under contract to corrective services, including escapes during transfer between prisons, during transfer to or from a medical facility, escapes that occurred from direct supervision by corrective services outside a prison, for example during escort to a funeral or medical appointment. |
| **Health expenditure** | Expenditure on primary, secondary and tertiary health services for prisoners incurred either directly by corrective services or indirectly by other departments, agencies or service providers on behalf of Corrective Services. |
| **Home detention** | A corrective services program requiring offenders to be subject to supervision and monitoring by an authorised corrective services officer while confined to their place of residence or a place other than a prison. |
| **Imprisonment rate** | The annual average number of prisoners per 100 000 population aged 17 years or over in those jurisdictions where persons are remanded or sentenced to adult custody at 17 years of age, or 18 years or over in those jurisdictions where the age for adult custody is 18 years old. |
| **Net operating expenditure per prisoner/offender** | The daily cost of managing a prisoner/offender, based on operating expenditure net of operating revenues (see definitions below) divided by (i) the number of days spent in prison or detention by the daily average prisoner population and the daily average periodic detention population on a 2/7th basis or (ii) the number of days spent under community corrections supervision by the daily average community corrections population respectively. |
| **Offender** | An adult person subject to a non-custodial order administered by corrective services, which includes bail orders if those orders are subject to supervision by community corrections. |
| **Open prison** | A custodial facility where the regime for managing prisoners does not require them to be confined by a secure perimeter physical barrier, irrespective of whether a physical barrier exists. |
| **Operating expenditure** | Expenditure of an ongoing nature incurred by government in the delivery of corrective services, including salaries and expenses in the nature of salary, other operating expenses incurred directly by corrective services, grants and subsidies to external organisations for the delivery of services, and expenses for corporate support functions allocated to corrective services by a broader central department or by a ‘shared services agency’, but excluding payroll tax and excluding prisoner health and transport/escort costs where able to be disaggregated by jurisdictions. Net operating expenditure also excludes operating revenues. |
| **Operating revenues** | Revenue from ordinary activities undertaken by corrective services, such as prison industries. |
| **Prison** | A legally proclaimed prison or remand centre for adult prisoners. |
| **Prisoner** | A person held in full time custody under the jurisdiction of an adult corrective services agency. This includes sentenced prisoners serving a term of imprisonment and unsentenced prisoners held on remand, in both public and privately operated prisons. |
| **Private prison** | A government or privately owned prison (see prison) managed under contract by a private sector organisation. |
| **Recurrent expenditure** | The combined total of net operating expenditure (i.e. operating expenditure excluding operating revenues) and capital costs (see previous definitions). |
| **Reparation order** | A subcategory of community‑based corrections orders with a community service bond/order or fine option that requires them to undertake unpaid work. |
| **Restricted movement order** | A subcategory of community‑based corrections orders that limits the person’s liberty to their place of residence unless authorised by corrective services to be absent for a specific purpose, for example, Home Detention Orders. |
| **Secure prison** | A custodial facility where the regime for managing prisoners requires them to be confined by a secure perimeter physical barrier. |
| **Supervision order** | A subcategory of community‑based corrections orders that includes a range of conditions other than those categorised as restricted movement or reparation. |
| **Transitional Centres** | Transitional Centres are residential facilities administered by corrective services where prisoners are prepared for release towards the end of their sentences. |
| **Transport and escort services** | Services used to transport prisoners between prisons or to/from external locations (for example, court), whether by corrective services officers or external contractors involved in escorting prisoners as part of the transport arrangements. |
| **User cost of capital** | The cost of funds which are tied up in government capital used to deliver services and identifies the opportunity cost of this capital (the return forgone by using the funds to deliver services rather than investing them elsewhere or using them to retire debt). User cost of capital is calculated by applying a nominal rate of 8 per cent to the value of government assets. |

## 8.5 References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

—— *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat. no. 3101.0, Canberra (various years, unpublished)

——*Experimental Estimates and Projections, Indigenous Australians* (series B), Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra (various years, unpublished)

1. Adult offenders in prison and community corrections are aged 18 years and over in all Australian states and territories with the exception of Queensland. In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* commenced in Queensland, increasing the age that a person can be charged as an adult from 17 to 18 years, bringing Queensland legislation in line with all other Australian jurisdictions. Transitional provisions mean that 17-year-olds are being gradually transferred from adult community corrections and prisons to youth justice supervision. For 2017-18, adult corrections data still includes 17-year-olds in Queensland, but the numbers involved are relatively small and will have a minimal impact on reported rates during this period. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This expenditure is net of operating revenues and excludes capital costs (depreciation, user cost of capital and debt service fees), payroll tax, and expenditure on transport/escort services and prisoner health. Some jurisdictions are unable to fully disaggregate transport costs and/or health expenditure from other prison operating costs. See table 8A.1 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Capital costs are comprised of depreciation costs, the user cost of capital (8 per cent of the value of government assets), and debt service fees – financial lease payments incurred by governments as part of contracts for privately owned prisons or prisons built under Public‑Private Partnership arrangements, comparable to the user cost of capital for government owned facilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)