

# CREATING RESTORATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS WITHIN A CUSTODIAL SETTING: ESTABLISHING A TEMPLATE FOR THE FUTURE

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This research remains in its embryonic stage as it attempts to produce a universal template for designing and implementing a wholly restorative justice and environmentally sustainable prison regime, shaped by restorative values and sustainable practices. The project will raise awareness through sustainable educational and transformational programmes, transforming the culture among residents, workers and visitors throughout the penal estate. These interconnected and interdependent values and practices remain mostly unexplored, suggesting a need for an increase in scientific literature across disciplines, communities and borders. Expected outcomes include a greater understanding of responsibility taking, procedural fairness and harm reduction within a sustainable prison — restoring prisoners, their environment and communities.

Human activity has brought harm to other human beings, different species as well as the planet. The project engages participants at the forefront of restoration of all harm done to people, place and planet.<sup>1</sup>

There are many articles that examine restorative processes in prisons, restorative justice used for environmental crimes and environmental issues being explored in a prison setting. There are low security work camps and prison farms that practice sustainability and there is a very good example of sustainability within Tihar Jail, New Delhi, India, where food security and healthy living are practiced in terms of ecological sustainability. However there are no papers, seminars or books that explore the development of a fully environmentally sustainable secure prison that combines harm reduction with restorative justice practice and philosophy. The authors believe that these go hand in hand as sustaining harmony and peaceful community living helps to reduce crime and fractured relationships. Further, reducing the carbon footprint can be viewed as taking responsibility for the environment, one's family and the community and enhancing awareness and concern for others, in this way leading to reflections on the self and the self's impact on others.

This project has begun to examine the current structure and the capacity of Acacia Prison and Wandoo Reintegration Unit in Western Australia to respond to criminal activity and environmental sustainability through diverse needs with unique responses, including sustainable programs and environment. The project is situated within Curtin University, with support from Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP) the Australian Sustainable Development Institute and the Office of Research and Development. It is coordinated across schools so as to initiate related projects through associated networks and partnerships. The project relies upon a multi-disciplinary and culturally aware team to record the processes of organizational change necessary to adapt a punitive prison regime into a therapeutic and environmentally sustainable estate, built upon the foundations and values of restorative justice and sustainability.

The project's uniqueness will inform and design the Universal Template<sup>2</sup> that will assist other jurisdictions to replicate these practices within their own estates, cognizant of their difference and cultural diversity. As such the project will aim for the positive transformation of offenders, reparation

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<sup>1</sup>Steels. B., Presentation, Asian Criminological Society, Mumbai 2013.

to people and communities harmed by crime and environmentally sustainable practices that reduce the impact of the prison in terms of its carbon footprint and impact upon its local environment. The template will be informed by evidence gathered through action-based and participatory research and should be useful as a tool to answer questions relating to design, implementation, process and outcomes. An interdisciplinary team as well as the voices of those held in custody and the people responsible for their safety and security will inform the template. It will record progress with sustainable, rehabilitative and restorative practices, seeking data from people harmed by crime; families of offenders and victims of crime. The template will therefore be informed by measuring restorative and environmentally sustainable practices and the levels desired and expected by management, residents and community.

## II. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Underpinning the project's restorative values will be Braithwaite's standards that assist with evaluating degrees of restorativeness. Restorative Justice is defined by Cormier<sup>3</sup> as:

An approach to justice that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime while holding the offender responsible for his or her actions, by providing an opportunity for the parties directly affected by a crime — victim [s], offender and community — to identify and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime, and seek a resolution that affords healing, reparation and reintegration, and prevents future harm.

The conceptual framework for the wholly restorative justice sector of the project cites practitioners and academics<sup>4</sup> all of whom have provided insights into the work done by prison authorities to introduce limited restorative practices into several prisons in England, Wales and Scotland. However, restorative practices within prisons are a relatively recent phenomenon and since 2000 the entire Belgian prison system has undergone substantial cultural change to a system based on restorative principles.<sup>5</sup> Restorative justice counsellors were employed in all thirty Belgian prisons in order to oversee the establishment of restorative practices to all aspects of the prison regime.<sup>6</sup> However, according to Aertsen,<sup>7</sup> specialist restorative justice trainers and practitioners have been absorbed into senior management positions leaving a doubt as to the sustainability of the Belgian restorative practices. The values and practices underpinning the research project will counter regimes that maintain a continuum of punitive policies. However, sustainability is key if the programs are to be effective within the ever-changing prisoner and staff populations and their dynamic human relationships flowing through the prison's environment. In addition to the restorative prison projects, therapeutic communities have been established in several prisons in England and Wales. HMP Grendon, housing around 200 high security prisoners, is undoubtedly the best known of these. Liebmann<sup>8</sup> notes that within HMP Grendon: "The programme is based on therapeutic community principles, where a dedicated multidisciplinary team of staff works together with prisoners, in an atmosphere where attitudes and expressions that would not normally be tolerated in prison are accepted and used to give feedback to prisoners."

The innovative restorative regimes will be based on the concept of re-integrative rather than stigmatic shaming, essentially shaming the act rather than the actor whilst providing a values and skill-set to enhance day to day relationships with others as well as the personal and shared environment. Thus, sustainable restorative justice could be said to be a process that involves active participation of all people; those harmed by crime; those who can learn to take responsibility for the harm they

<sup>2</sup>This Universal Template is expected to become part of international guidelines and standards for developing and maintaining restorative and environmentally sustainable practices within prisons. It may have usefulness for other institutions, organisations and small communities as they attempt to build harmonious relationships between diverse people, places and the natural environment.

<sup>3</sup>Cormier 2002.

<sup>4</sup>Newell 2001; Stern 2005; Coyle 2001 and Liebmann 2007.

<sup>5</sup>Aertsen, Daems & Roberts: 2006.

<sup>6</sup>Newell 2001.

<sup>7</sup>Discussions with Aertsen held at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in 2012.

<sup>8</sup>Liebmann 2007:247.

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have caused; and those who can provide support. This enables direct and indirect reparation and restitution to both primary and secondary victims and a real commitment to personal reflection and transformation. In an innovative move, all residents and workers in the custodial settings will learn about and practice restorative justice and will be in part responsible to assist with facilitating encounters and teaching theoretical constructs. In this way participants will learn about restorative processes and outcomes, be encouraged to teach others and provide a set of skills to others, both inside and outside of prison. Residents will be encouraged to apply for paid positions within the prison as assistants, consultants and practitioners and be an integral part of the research team. This fits with Curtin University's mission<sup>9</sup> "to change minds, lives and the world through leadership, innovation and excellence in teaching and research".

Research<sup>10</sup> suggests that prisons do not reduce criminal activity but, conversely, are themselves criminogenic in nature. Australia-wide, recidivism rates remain consistently high and rehabilitation programs, where they exist, have limited success rates and are frequently unsustainable by economic policies. Currently, the few restorative justice programs that do occur in Australian prisons are ad hoc and dependent on the passion of individual managers and staff, as well as their community based voluntary organisations and hence they become unsustainable. The restorative prison setting, according to Coyle<sup>11</sup> would "present prisoners with a series of duties, challenges and learning opportunities". A key factor in a restorative prison is an environment of safety and positive values for prisoners and prison staff. There is no doubt that many obstacles have to be overcome in the cultural change towards restorative practices. Newell<sup>12</sup> contends that the tension between restorative processes and traditional prison modes are still troublesome, maintaining that "restorative justice requires respect, the assuming of responsibility and the freedom to solve problems by those involved in the conflict". The challenge goes to the Curtin team to create fair, just and sustainable processes with positive and sustainable values. To date, environmental sustainability plans and activities remain unrewarded by risk adverse governance. Monitors fail to ensure the sustainability of quality rehabilitative programs, as noted by Western Australia's Prisoners' Release Board<sup>13</sup>, "A further area of concern is the limited provision of rehabilitation and training programmes for prisoners and parolees". This limited provision requires further investigation as it hampers participants throughout the estate as well as victims and community members; thus placing safety and rehabilitation in isolation to security needs. This study will engage all aspects of rehabilitation as the resident's progress from convict to citizen.

Restorative encounters held with offenders to discuss their release and rehabilitation plans are ideally held among friends and family. Using Sykes and Matza's<sup>14</sup> neutralization theory during these encounters, facilitators are able to challenge a denial of responsibility, denial of injury, denial of victim, condemnation of the condemners and note an appeal to higher loyalties. If not exposed, these notions will continue to deflect blame onto others rather than allow a space for offenders to take responsibility for their actions. This is crucial to the project for as the Youth Justice Board<sup>15</sup> has identified, young offenders with strong family ties are six times less likely to re-offend. Furthermore, research<sup>16</sup> indicates that family support helps offenders to reintegrate into communities and avoid criminal behaviour. This research will explore family encounters<sup>17</sup> that include the notion of re-integrative shaming.<sup>18</sup> These encounters enable the focal person to reflect on their relationship with their family and the harm brought to the family by harming other people. This study will explore if a genuine concern for others can be enhanced through engagement and concern for a positive, sustainable environment; one that leads to positive community engagement.

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<sup>9</sup>Mission; Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

<sup>10</sup> Carlen 1994, 2002; Pratt 1997; Steels 2006; Stern 1998:11; Goulding 2007:4.

<sup>11</sup> Coyle 2001.

<sup>12</sup> Newell 2001.

<sup>13</sup> Prisoners Review Board Annual Report 2012: 6.

[http://www.prisonersreviewboard.wa.gov.au/\\_files/PRB\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2012.pdf](http://www.prisonersreviewboard.wa.gov.au/_files/PRB_Annual_Report_2012.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Sykes and Matza's (1957: 664-670).

<sup>15</sup> Youth Justice Board, UK 2003:07.

<sup>16</sup> Stockdale 2008; Renshaw 2007.

<sup>17</sup> Steels and Goulding call these encounters 'the first circle'.

<sup>18</sup> Braithwaite 1999.

### III. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

It is becoming increasingly clear that community engagement and support is crucial to gaining environmental outcomes. The active engagement of the community's energy, knowledge, and intelligence is now a vital ingredient in the success of many different types of sustainability programs. (NSW heritage and Environment 2013)<sup>19</sup>

When associated with aspects of a sustainable environment the restorative actions outlined above are able to place awareness of self and others, by residents and staff at an unexpected level of knowledge and empathy. This study places the Curtin research at the leading edge of effective restorative and environmentally sustainable prisons and associated projects. It will shed light on the interconnectivity and build into the universal template not only the aims to be achieved, but also how to make the journey effective and efficient. Prisons currently offer little that is positive to society in terms of reducing criminal activity, reducing further victimisation and making communities safe. In addition, their economic and social costs are high. To date their impact on the environment has held little interest in criminology or by environmentalists, or indeed government departments. Sustainable penal estates have waited too long to be explored and this project will inform other jurisdictions through the development of the universal template action-based research and experimental projects, journal articles, papers, presentations and seminars.

A unique network of Curtin scientists and practitioners has begun to build up the project's sustainability credentials with a collective responsibility to reduce the combined estates' carbon footprint. The vision is also to enhance the opportunity of residents to actively participate in constructive roles as research assistants, facilitators and practitioners within the custodial environment and within their communities upon release. It is a combination of sustainable skills acquisition, competency training and empowerment for all participants including staff. The study has already started to encourage further examination of food production, security and transport; investigate the use of clean, sustainable and efficient energy production; research innovative storage, use and reuse of water; and seek alternative and innovative energy efficient practices. It will also seek to examine the estate's ability to contribute to other environmentally sustainable practices including species protection of flora and fauna; including breeding and re-stocking national parks and wildlife sanctuaries; growing and nurturing plants for prison and commercial use; supplying produce for zoological and farming enterprises (aquaculture, agriculture and horticulture) and supporting local environmental interest groups. These credentials will provide the platform for further awareness training and education among residents, who will be well placed as skilled citizens. Together these values place the emphasis on responsibility for self, others and living environments.

Prisons are workplaces as well as places for secure custody. They also provide an ever-growing population of workers. A sustainable workplace is defined by Sustainability at Work<sup>20</sup> as bringing about the following benefits to the organisation's workplace; environmental, human resources and employee engagement, financial and brand and reputation. In terms of this research project all aspects will be thoroughly explored, evaluated and documented. Sustainable Prison Projects (SPP) exist for small groups of prisoners in very few jurisdictions. Among the more well-known is a work camp at Cedar Creek<sup>21</sup>, where nearly 60 inmates live and work in the low security forest work camp. They hold a variety of jobs on the sustainability project; composting material, looking after bees, collecting rainwater and they run a scientific research project on endangered species. The state's Deputy Director of Prisons, Dan Pacholke<sup>22</sup> says that any prison system will tell you that idleness is a bad thing, "if we don't have stuff for them to do, then we're just going to hire more security staff. . . . It's environmental economics, we're expensive places to operate. I could sell the [project] on cost containment alone: solid waste, energy, food costs".

India too has an excellent environmental awareness and sustainability section at Tihar Jail, Delhi.

<sup>19</sup> <<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/index.htm>>.

<sup>20</sup> <<http://www.sustainabilityatwork.com.au/public/images/benefit.jpg>> retrieved Thursday July 11, 2013.

<sup>21</sup> Cedar Creek, Washington State Department of Corrections and The Evergreen State College facility joint project.

<sup>22</sup> <<http://blogs.evergreen.edu/sustainableprisons/files/2013/01/SPP-EssentialComponents-1-10-13.pdf>>.

Tihar houses more than 14,000 prisoners (almost half of Australia's entire prison population). Over the past two years, the Prison Director has introduced a greening and environmentally sustainable prison regime. The prison grounds cover over 200 hectares in the middle of New Delhi and yet inside the prison boasts an environmentally positive ambience with trees, shrubs and herb, fruit and vegetable gardens. The authorities have introduced several animal and bird species including cows, pigeons and geese, although the food served in the prison is entirely vegetarian. The Director explains that caring for the animals has had a calming effect on the prisoners and staff and that, overall, there have only been positive outcomes.

#### **IV. CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY AND AWARENESS**

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and staff as well as students and staff across Curtin the research project will bring about significant sharing of ideas and a greater depth of understanding of the spiritual and cultural significance and interconnectedness of people, place, country and environment. Cultural significance and sustainability will be studied throughout the project as a central part of the overall concern for the 40 per cent of the resident population that identify themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. This group of residents will inform the template's cultural sensitivity and sustainability notes as well as provide input into regeneration and sustainable production of local food, seeds, species and plants.

Aboriginal residents and support staff will ensure cultural awareness is presented and respected across the template design and along with selected non-Aboriginal residents assist with as much as they are able to with the project and research team. This is a crucial aspect of the project. The study will at all times engage and empower residents within a learning environment as well as helping them to increase their knowledge of restorative practices and environmental sustainability. This will entail peer-to-peer and lateral training across roles as well as top to bottom and bottom-up training in concepts, terminology and practice, fitting as it does with Braithwaite's (2002) notion of transformation of the current justice system. For residents at each site, this study will involve them in researching and gaining knowledge of ideas suitable for their current circumstance as well as for their own family and community upon release.

#### **V. SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION IN CREATING AND COMBINING RESTORATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES**

This piece of research is highly significant as it presents the opportunity for a paradigmatic shift in the way that the total prison environment is viewed and managed. This, in turn impacts upon other human service institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes as well as smaller rural and remote communities where relationships with others and the environment are crucial in terms of sustainability and capacity building. Indeed, the research proper aims to address several important issues found within prisons across jurisdictions; the high re-victimisation and recidivism rates, the awareness of harm done to others and the interconnection between prison, community and their impact on the environment. The above could have a direct impact on small communities and rural towns that could benefit from the return of ex-prisoners who are fully skilled in both restorative justice and environmental sustainability. This directly links the penal estate's creative and innovative activities to community needs and local benefits. It enhances the opportunity for ex-prisoners to make the journey from convict to citizen, an area of special interest throughout the research. Furthermore, the research calls upon all residents and workers within the penal estate to work towards common goals and shared ambitions with regard to lowering conflict and crime, reducing victimisation and harm to the environment. It links up notions of food insecurity, safer communities and ecologically sound management of both prison and community space.

The current partnership with Serco developed through the Curtin University researchers' involvement with them over the past eight years. Management is innovative and want to use restorative justice processes within a wholly sustainable environment throughout their combined estates, including transport and court services, placing the vision and practices within their organisational goals. Custodial settings that run on restorative and sustainable practices have the potential to;

- Be innovative by promoting an awareness of the impact of criminal activity on victims and all others harmed, including family and associates, through direct encounters between victims and offenders, including notions of responsibility taking, apology and reparation
- Promote environmental sustainability as a learning tool, skilling all participants and creating greater awareness of the interconnectedness of harm to self, others and the planet
- Establish meaningful and sustainable workplace activities for prisoners where a proportion of their time is spent working for the benefit of others, particularly victims
- Incorporate restorative principles into all dispute, grievance and disciplinary procedures throughout the prison and Serco's other sites
- Initiate good relationships with local communities to illustrate the need for prisoners to be reconciled with society and environment

It is anticipated that this study will advance the criminological and sustainable environmental knowledge base at Curtin. The authors view this as a win-win situation for Curtin researchers and campus, Serco, prisoners, victims and the environment. In taking this research out into other jurisdictions, the idea of the international template becomes a major focus, a point of connection between Curtin University's researchers and other interested parties worldwide.

## **VI. SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION FOR CURTIN AND OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN THE REGION**

This research allows for the expansion of innovative and creative research within two major fields that intersect through the new penal estate and created for future living. It also addresses Curtin's Strategic Plan<sup>23</sup> "where Leadership matters". It will focus on people and culture across the campus as it brings together research teams, graduates, teachers and students across a broad spectrum of interests. The project will develop into an inspiring and innovative collective of energetic Curtin people. Indeed, under the heading of research this ticks all of the boxes. It already has iconic names with Aertsen (KUL Leuven) Belgium; Braithwaite (ANU); Shapland (Sheffield) UK; Lalli and Subramarian (India) Wong and Chang (CityU) Hong Kong as well as Newman and team at CUSP. Within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests it has strong credentials across Australian campuses as well as leadership within Curtin. The research is a life-changer for individuals, families and communities here in Western Australia, across the nation and internationally. It is high impact applied research and development across disciplines.

The teaching and learning credentials of the project will lead to an expanded source of students and graduates as residents within the custodial estates along with their counterparts on campus engage in the various projects on a demanding learning curve. As for "engagement and impact" this project is best described as a dynamic organism for the region. It will bring challenges to many assumptions about crime, living environments, sustainability and Indigenous interests whilst meeting the needs of diverse communities across country and borders. It has already gained interest through Steels' and Goulding's work as Directors of the Asia Pacific Forum for Restorative Justice and partnerships built up over several years. This collaboration of international networks already links Curtin with many other academic sites across the Asia Pacific as well as Europe. It gives Curtin and its partners a leading edge in two fields as criminology and sustainability meet to reduce harm to people across the world. This project is about researching socially just and sustainable living that embraces positive change, and meets Curtin's mission and that of our neighbours in many ways. For Curtin, Serco and other partners, this research project will identify and examine each aspect of sustainability. Crucially it will include sustainable prison programs as well as harmony building and relationships central to restorative practices. These will build up part of the "template" and will include noting the engagement with community groups, how assistance is given to primary and secondary victims and how innovation and cultural challenges could be understood and transferred through the template, to other

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<sup>23</sup> Curtin's Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

prisons, locally and internationally. It will also inform the future design of sustainable and harmonious communities.

## VII. COUNTERING GROWTH IN THE PENAL ESTATE

It remains a major concern that there is continuous growth in prison populations. On average prison populations in Australia have grown by 5 per cent each year over the past two decades.<sup>24</sup> Such growth in prison populations and costs are unsustainable and unjustifiable as imprisonment remains an ineffective tool for reducing crime. However, crime rates have fluctuated over this period, showing both increases and declines. Garland<sup>25</sup> contends that, "...today's world of crime control and criminal justice was not brought into being by rising crime rates.... It was created instead by a series of adaptive responses to the cultural and criminological conditions of late modernity". Thus, the effectiveness of imprisonment is questionable as prisons are often the embodiment of secrecy, invisibility, exclusion and lack of accountability:

These factors encourage, rather than discourage, coercion brutality and violence amongst prisoners and prison staff. One of the consequences of this is that imprisonment....does not prepare inmates for productive and pro-social living in the wider community<sup>26</sup>

The argument here is that imprisoning more people for longer periods of time does not make communities safer or victims at less risk of further victimisation. Furthermore, the economic and social costs of imprisonment are unsustainable<sup>27</sup> as is the impact on the environment. Ever-increasing imprisonment rates result in escalating economic and social costs but present few real benefits to communities. Austin et al<sup>28</sup> highlight these facts:

This high rate of recidivism is, in part, a result of a range of policies that increase surveillance over people released from prison, impose obstacles to their re-entry into society, and eliminate support systems that ease their transition from prison to the streets. Prison policy has exacerbated the festering national problem of social and racial inequality.

Austin et al<sup>29</sup> call for reform in rehabilitation and especially the focus on the other that causes non-Caucasians to be arrested and jailed at higher rates than their Caucasian peers, a factor that is reflected throughout Australian and similar jurisdictions. Johnstone and Van Ness<sup>30</sup> have argued that "...prisons are authoritarian and hierarchical, controlling virtually all aspects of the lives of prisoners, making it difficult for them to exercise responsibility. Yet, responsibility is a key value of restorative justice". However to date little attention is given to the sustainability of programs, where due process of engaging with a pre-release program is often delayed. Any interconnectivity between harm of self, harm to others and harm to place and planet remains unnoticed and disconnected within the criminal justice system. This research begins to join the dots together.

Lessons learned from Belgium's Restorative Prison experiment and research include the importance of sustaining programs and practices throughout an ever changing group of residents and high turnover of staff. This study will help to identify ways in which prisons can maintain restorative, fair and just practices over time whilst creating inbuilt sustainability across the various social roles and actors (prisoners/residents; staff/management; visitors; service providers). Sustaining corporate knowledge will present a challenge where the cost of maintaining the total penal estate frequently fails to acknowledge the environmental and social costs against a broad spectrum of performance indicators. The authors therefore argue that the above should inform policies and practices as well as presenting a viable, positive alternative in terms of reduced social and economic costs to governments and their communities. Curtin and its partners across the region have a vision for restorative processes

<sup>24</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology 2007.

<sup>25</sup> Garland 2001:193.

<sup>26</sup> Goulding, Hall and Steels 2008:232.

<sup>27</sup> Austin et al.: 2007:1.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Johnstone and Van Ness 2007.

becoming fundamental to all communications and activities within all residential units along with a unique interest in cultural and environmental sustainability. Serco has keen residents, staff and management who are engaged with Curtin in developing restorative and sustainable practices wherever possible. The custodial and transport facilities are at the forefront of reducing carbon footprints within the industry. In order to develop the universal template, this Curtin-based research has begun with an expansive platform that examines restorative, therapeutic and sustainable processes and outcomes including the:

- Degree of awareness of and reparation to victims and communities through work activities that assist individual victims or communities harmed by crime
- Journey from convict to citizen; what helps and what hinders
- Impact of encouraging prisoners to apologize in recognition of the harm caused to victims and families, their own families and local communities
- Restructuring of all grievance procedures to include alternative dispute resolution processes, family and community encounters, prisoner-to-prisoner disputes, prisoner to staff disputes and all prison staff grievances
- Encouragement given to prisoners to engage in therapeutic programs in the prison with support networks of family or peers
- Degree of participation of residents and workers learning about and actively participating in restorative justice and environmental sustainability practices
- Identifying and lowering Carbon footprint levels over research period
- Percentages of food use to production on site, as well as energy usage, production and reduction
- Level of stress and sick leave among staff, residents over term of research project

The project will also lead Curtin research teams in an exploration of:

- Health and well-being, including mental health and stress of all residents and staff
- Quality and safe work practices relating to total living and working environments
- Sustaining quality water supplies (renewable and reusable — fresh/grey, tanks, ponds)
- Energy production and storage, including new research for painted roof technologies, thermal and passive energy design and implementation
- Prison Industries; low and renewable energy use, and to provide evidence of effective practices for the broader community
- Food production and wastage: cottage-industry style production (bee keeping, jam and pickle making, preserves), on small and commercial scales
- Maintaining cultural and traditional language and activities, including sustainable use of country
- Media/arts studies linked to restorative and environmentally sustainable practices
- Rehabilitative activities including RJ, Restore, STP and others including family support

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- Meaningful support to Victims of crime and their various groups, and offers of participating in any aspect of the research and projects
- Designing sustainable prisons through collectives of science and technology
- Quality social practices throughout the estate that are restorative and that aim to build a culture of support within and outside of the prison
- Innovation and creativity across roles within penal estates
- Low carbon footprint surveillance technologies and systems

The above will be taken into account for their ability to encourage and support positive lifestyles cognizant of reducing harm across penal and community environments. Research shows that restorative justice processes can assist in reducing crime by up to 30 per cent when used in conjunction with therapeutic interventions.<sup>31</sup> Currently there is a lack of evidence to link restorative justice, harm-reducing programmes and environmental sustainability with an ability to reduce re-victimisation. However, this unique and innovative project positions Curtin and its partners to enquire of the pathways chosen by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people leaving the penal estate. It has the ability to highlight outcomes to all communities, but especially rural and remote locations where a disproportionate number of Indigenous people are arrested, imprisoned and released without gaining positive skills for their future. This applies to similar marginalised groups of people throughout the Asian region.

### **VIII. DATA COLLECTION**

Data will be continually collected through an analysis of current procedures and practices across all sectors of the prison estate. Measurements will be taken of all aspects<sup>32</sup> of the project and will form the baseline to identify organizational change, as well as sustainable activities and outcomes. Discussions and continual feedback will involve senior management, staff, visitors, focus groups and prisoners together with scientists, researchers and evaluators. This data will inform a benchmark of international standards within the universal template. Importantly, residents will participate and inform all parts of the research from its inception through to practice and where possible they will be employed by the prison to participate in sessions with the research teams on site and on the Curtin campus via Skype. Once international partnerships are formed these too will connect with prisons and other campuses.

### **IX. DISSEMINATION OF SIGNIFICANT AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH OUTCOMES**

Prison residents will present findings at local and international seminars using interactive technology, teleconferencing, and pre-recorded presentations. Our international networks suggest that the frequent dissemination of information through journal articles and presentations will attract further national and global interest. Journal papers have already been called for from China, India, Hong Kong, UK, Belgium and Japan. Team members have begun to brief the legal, criminal justice, victims of crime and environmental and sustainability sectors of government through regular seminars and project newsletters. Serco management, staff and official visitors will continue to highlight the work through their world-wide magazines, and other partnerships including Perth Zoo, Men of Trees, Department of Agriculture, and Corrective Services. Residents and staff will be encouraged and supported by researchers to disseminate information and research outcomes through local radio, international prisoner magazines and articles in Penal Reform International and the International Centre for Prison Studies, London. The World Congress of Victims of Crime will be invited to explore

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<sup>31</sup> Bonta, Jesseman, Ruge and Cormier 2006.

<sup>32</sup> To date this includes water and power and waste management, renewable energy, measuring carbon footprint, converting to electric equipment, recycling, introducing RJ in programs and grievance procedures, engagement with community partners, inclusion of victims of crime, providing community equipment and further reparation practices.

the project prior to their conference in Fremantle 2015.

## **X. PARTNER ORGANISATIONS — COMMITMENT AND COLLABORATION**

Serco is committed to this research and will assist with the transformation of its existing penal culture through the use of restorative and sustainable policies and practices. It is willing to assist with the development of the template for cultural change, recognizing its value within its own and other organisations. Serco's values are reflected in its Governing Principles that in turn fit within RJ and sustainability. It aims to foster an entrepreneurial culture by encouraging and generating new ideas and embracing change. It aims to positively contribute to the communities that it works with including victims of crime groups and individual beneficiaries, prisoners' families and networks and other participatory communities of interest. Its environmental aims include assisting prisoners to transform their lives into capable, confident citizens who can make a constructive contribution to their family and community.

It is through these practices that Acacia and its parent company Serco Asia Pacific strongly support this project. Curtin University and Serco Asia Pacific are in the process of completing a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the sustainability of the project and beyond. City University of Hong Kong and the Institute of Correctional Administration (India) are encouraging further research and development of alliances. Serco is also seeking support from Curtin to enhance its work through further research across its estate, raising conversations relating to its other work associated with hospitals and detention centres.

Another major partner in this and future research is the Asia Pacific Forum for Restorative Justice (APFRJ). Its patron, Professor John Braithwaite, is the world's foremost and acclaimed author of Restorative Justice and his support for such a regional body has been exceptional. Its international membership represents all regional nations and many academic institutions. The Directors of APFRJ are able to place Curtin at the leading edge of regional activity. This project fits within its goals and aspirations for a positive and participatory cultural shift within the field of criminology and social justice, including support for the integration of the region's Indigenous prisoner populations (including Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Afghanistan, China and India) to be active participants in the research.

## **XI. APPROACH AND DESIGN**

The project continues to use a multi-disciplinary approach to design, implement and evaluate the template for a restorative and environmentally sustainable penal estate and its support networks of transport and visitors services. The template will be flexible enough to be used across cultures and jurisdictions. In essence, the research is informed by the following concepts: theories of restorative prisons;<sup>33</sup> notion of re-integrative shaming;<sup>34</sup> fair & just processes,<sup>35</sup> and a theory of responsibility-taking.<sup>36</sup> The study also takes account of organizational cultural change<sup>37</sup> in concert with industry appropriate cultural change theory developed by Aertsen<sup>38</sup> specifically for the Belgian experience. The critical economical analysis of imprisonment will refer to Austin et al.<sup>39</sup> and the environmental sustainability will refer to Australian Standard (AS) ISO 14064 series, and International Standard ISO 14040 series as well as other protocols and reporting guidelines as outlined by the team through the support of its partner CUSP.

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<sup>33</sup> Newell 2001; Aertsen 2006.

<sup>34</sup> Braithwaite 1989.

<sup>35</sup> Tyler 2006.

<sup>36</sup> Sykes & Matza 1957.

<sup>37</sup> Scott et al., 2003.

<sup>38</sup> Aertsen 2006.

<sup>39</sup> Austin et al., 2007.

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**XII. 4 YEAR PROJECT DESIGN: TO DATE AND THROUGHOUT YEAR 1**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Support &amp; Collaboration</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Developing partnership	APRRJ/Serco	RJ development (past 8 years)
Developing RJ teams	CAS, ORD & APFRJ	Over past 18 months
Developing International team	Aertsen, Wong, Lalli, Shapland	Over past 18 months
Initiating interest in RJ grant	CAS & Serco	ARC Linkage application '13
Initiating interest in RJ grant	CAS & Serco	Preparing ARC Discovery 2014 (RJ)
Interest in sustainable prison	CAS/Serco facilities	Over past 9 months
Developing teams	CAS, ORD, Serco, APFRJ	Ongoing
Linking with CUSP	CAS & ORD	In progress
Visits to Serco facilities	CAS, CUSP, ORD	Over past 2 months
Symposium for RJ and a and Sustainability	ORD, CAS, CUSP, Serco	Invites extended to Researchers, academics, NGOs, contractors and networks
Develop further Research Teams and opportunities across disciplines.	Various faculties and schools, As well as other international collaborating	Initiate collaborative ARC and other Competitive grants, also Lottery West and philanthropic grants across health, social justice, Aboriginal and environmental sustainability interests
Establish community Consultation and research comm.	Community groups, NGOs And teams	Consultation with various groups And government sector, for members
Baseline Date collection	Across research teams	First stage of audit of penal estate
Ethics applications	Individual research teams	Timeline dependent on variables
Data collection	Teams	Audit of other Serco services
Begin RJ practice training	All residents and staff	Capture activity via multi media

*4 year project design: Years 2, 3*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Support &amp; Collaboration</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Develop, support and monitor ongoing projects	Across all disciplines ORD, CAS	Develop sustainable leadership within teams
Develop and build capacity for further research	Various faculties, schools and Partnerships. ORD	Retain Curtin's corporate knowledge of its footprints during this project
Publish and present	Asia Pacific, European and US/Canadian networks	Aim to have at least 2 papers from each area pa + 2 Books publications
Keynote presentations and Regional workshop	Environmental and Sustainable Institutions and communities	Produce academic book chapters, and papers from at least two international conferences
Hold 2 conferences at Curtin over three year period	APFRJ/WA Govt/Serco NGOs	One is already being considered for end of 2014 (RJ and Sust. Prisons)
Exchange HDR students And academics	Overseas Universities and Regional partners	Engage in overseas collaboration

4 year project design: Year 4

Activity	Support & Collaboration	Notes
Continue to build networks And interest in projects	Curtin, APFRJ, CUSP	Develop further ARC and other Competitive grants,
Develop a Centre of Excellence (Sustainable Communities)	Curtin and partners	Open a Centre by 2017
Develop a Learning and Research centre of RJ in prisons	Curtin, Serco and partners	Open a Centre by 2017

This project began life several years ago, and has already seen several papers produced following keynote addresses and presentations. The sustainability dimension has only been added over the past 12 months, following Steels' networking and development of projects within the partnerships built up around the APFRJ, CUSP and Serco Asia Pacific. The Office of Research and Development and CUSP have already contributed to much of the above, providing support and motivation. This research will lead and assist with the coordination of multi-disciplined teams entering the prisons to conduct research interconnected through this project, and to inform the template for other jurisdictions.

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