

MEDIA RELEASE

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Prisoners on inside display artwork on outside

Fremantle Prison is showcasing artworks by current Western Australian inmates in its new exhibition *From the Inside 2010 – WA Prisoner Art*.

This exciting exhibition features contemporary artworks produced by Western Australian prisoners with a strong representation of Aboriginal art.

Department of Corrective Services new Acting Arts Coordinator Abdul Abdullah, who will launch the exhibition, said participation in prison arts activities and music programs, was an important way for prisoners to access culture.

“For prisoners, getting involved in culture and arts inside can help build their self-esteem, which is a vital ingredient in the rehabilitation process,” Mr Abdullah said.

“Many indigenous participants were involved in this exhibition which indicates a powerful cultural engagement with country and community that transcends prison walls.

“My aim is to improve the quality of prison arts education and develop opportunities to showcase prisoners’ creative endeavours so it’s rewarding for me to be involved in this exhibition.”

Additionally, the exhibition will feature a CD compilation of prisoner recordings. The songs were recorded in prisons around WA by Fremantle musician and producer David Hyams as part of a series of songwriting and recording workshops.

The *Songs from the Inside* CD will be sold through the Fremantle Prison Gift Shop with all profits donated to Outcare – a specialist non-government crime prevention organisation providing rehabilitative and supportive services for offenders, ex-offenders and their families.

“The art on display is available for purchase and I encourage visitors to support this worthwhile initiative,” Mr Abdullah said.

From the Inside 2010 – WA Prisoner Art exhibition is a joint initiative between the Department of Corrective Services and the Fremantle Prison and will run from 28 May to 25 July.

The Prison Gallery, located in the Gatehouse of Fremantle Prison is open to the public from 9am to 5pm daily. Admission to the gallery is free.

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Interview and photo opportunities with Abdul Abdullah available

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