



Media Statement

23 November 2010

Insider Art 2010

Fremantle Prison is showcasing artworks by current Western Australian inmates in its new exhibition ***Insider Art 2010 – Recent work by WA Prisoners***. The exhibition is the result of a partnership between the Department of Corrective Services and Fremantle Prison, part of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

This exciting exhibition features contemporary artworks produced by prisoners from across the state, including Roebourne, Broome, Bunbury, Karnet, Hakea, Acacia and Casuarina and has a strong representation of Aboriginal art.

Acting Arts Coordinator Abdul Abdullah, who organises the exhibition, said “Prisoner art represents the intelligence, creativity, skill and cultural engagement of prisoners. These aspects are often not recognised, yet need to be nurtured in order to promote rehabilitation. The exhibition is also one of the more visible ways in which positive work done with and by prisoners can be showcased to the public.”

“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.”

The exhibition also features pieces created and crafted in the various prison industries workshops around the State. Currently, more than 1,600 prisoners around the State are enrolled in education and training courses in industries such as horticulture, hospitality, construction, metalwork and cabinet making.

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

Insider Art 2010 runs from 27 November 2010 to 30 January 2011 and is displayed in the Prison Gallery, located in the Gatehouse of Fremantle Prison, open to the public from 9am to 5pm daily. Admission to the gallery is free.

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