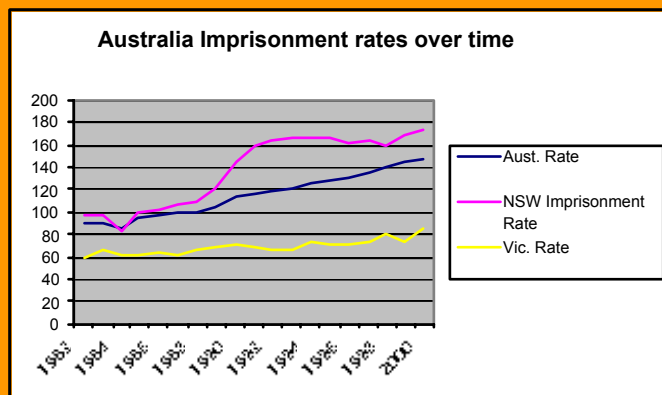


Trends in imprisonment NSW

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Scales of Justice Conference
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Increase in prisoner population NSW

- **On any one day ~7,800 f/t prisoners**
- **50% increase in last decade**
- **Importantly ~15,500 releases each year 80% under 12 month sentence**
- **50% increase in remand prisoners (~1/2 eventually released without custodial sentence)**
- **68% female increase (1995-2001)**
- **80% crime related to AOD**
- **Indigenous increase x3 in 2 decades**

Profile

- **Indigenous - 13/14% male; 23/25% female.**
- **60% did not complete year 10**
- **60% functionally illiterate or innumerate**
- **1/4 - 1/3rd have mental disturbance**
- **10% - 20% intellectual disability**
- **Significant % were state wards**
- **Most victims as well as perpetrators**
- **Geographically concentrated in most disadvantaged suburbs**

Social Factors

- **Inter-related**

- **Concentration of social problems**
- **Homelessness/poor/insecure housing**
- **Psychiatric & intellectual disability**
- **AOD**
- **Poor educational background**
- **Poor social skills/social isolation**
- **Poor / non-existent employment history**

Costs

- **Prison**

- **\$140-\$190 pd (\$50-70,000pa)**
- **Loss of housing, children, social ties.**
- **High recidivism**

- **Compared to**

- **\$9 pd community program (P&P)**
- **\$100 pd bail/diversion house - 24hr staffed & programs**
- **Low recidivism**

Policy inconsistencies

- **Diversion V more prisons**
- **Restrict short sentences V actual increase**
- **Throughcare V minimal resources**
- **Community care for those with mental health and intellectual disabilities V prison as default institution**
- **Inclusion V exclusion**

Political use of prisons

- **Contrary to original Labor policy principles**
- **Ultimate get tough on crime weapon**
- **Irresponsible appeal to fear & stereotype**
- **Lid on civil, rational and intelligent discussion**

Challenges to Government & Opposition

- **Stop perpetuating myths about what prison achieves**
- **Acknowledge social & financial unsustainability of current prison policies**
- **Discuss temperately & intelligently**
 - **the cost/outcomes of prison**
 - **Increase in Prisoner Population Inquiry recommendations**