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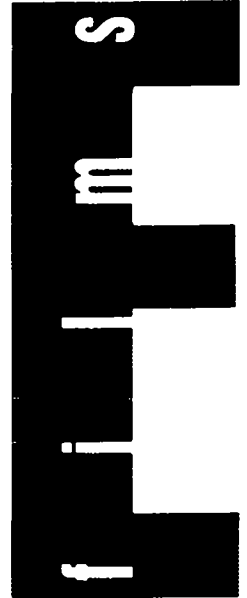
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**A research project for a
documentary film investigating
recidivism of NSW inmates
once they are released into the
community.**

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PHASE ONE - LITERATURE **SEARCH**

Summary Of The Literature Regarding Recidivism Rates

Recently correctional services across Australia have focused on the need to use community alternatives such as weekend detention, community based orders and fine default systems partly as a result of the negative side effects of imprisonment (or prisonisation). This can be described as increased dependence on the prison system together with a rebellious attitude towards authority. It is estimated that in Australia there are three times as many offenders undergoing some form of community correction as there are offenders in prison although the majority are serving very short sentences (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990). The offender population in NSW prisons has risen rapidly due to increased rates of reception and longer sentences associated with truth in sentencing. Between 1969 and 1975 there was a 32% increase in the prison population and between 1988 and 1992 a 43% increase as well as a 55% increase in the number of offenders under community supervision (Bates, 1992; Blake, 1988).

The statement of vision by the NSW Department of Corrective Services (1992) is to "return prisoners to the community as law abiding citizens" and its mission is to "protect the community by managing prisoners in an environment which is safe, secure, fair and humane and to actively encourage personal development through correctional programs". Relevant Corporate Objectives are to manage prisoners through the interactive prison management model (or Unit Management) and provide development programs designed to prepare prisoners to lead law abiding lives.

Recidivism as a concept in this documentary has been variously defined in Australian research. Koller and Gosden (1980) defined it as a person who has served at least three or more prison sentences while Broadhurst and Maller (1990) and Thompson (1990) as a conviction leading to reimprisonment. No correctional agency in Australia uses recidivism as a standard outcome measure (Broadhurst & Maller 1990) and its use as the only measure of effectiveness is considered inadequate. Measurable goals and objectives need to be developed as well as attention given to the stability of housing, education, money management, social relationships and employment (Robertson, 1988). Recidivism rates can be under-estimated because the follow-up periods vary within the sample and generally only those sentenced to prison are included.

According to the 1984 Census the majority of prisoners in NSW gaols are male (92%), aged 20 to 39 years (80%), Australian-born (78%), have English as their first language (81%), were living in Sydney previously (55%), and were paying rent (71%) (Gorta & Panaretos, 1990). Likewise, the average prisoner is described by Grant (1992) as male (95%), with an English-speaking background (84%) including 8% Aboriginals, aged 25-39 years (23%), either unmarried or previously married (67%), not completed secondary education (94%) and a few having little or no schooling (3%), unemployed at arrest (59%), receiving pensions (13%), admitted to having a substance abuse problem (74%), receiving some form of medical treatment (40%), a history of psychiatric hospitalisation (22%) and an intellectual or borderline intellectual disability (13%).

Therefore a prisoner in NSW is likely to be an unmarried, unemployed Australian-born male, 20-40 years of age with no formal educational qualifications and serving 2-5 years for theft of property or robbery from a

person. He also has a literacy problem, has disrupted family relationships, is having some form of medical treatment, has a history of substance abuse, is socially and economically disadvantaged, and has been in prison before (Grant, 1992; Noad, 1988).

Several studies of recidivism have been conducted in Australia using large samples. The validity of empirical tools to describe and predict recidivism has been questioned however. Broadhurst and Maller (1990) described recidivism rates of 16,381 prisoners released for the first time from West Australian prisons between 1975 and 1987. The rates of recidivism were 45% for males and 36% for females. The follow-up from release was up to 12 years which gives an accurate estimate of the probability of recidivism. Koller and Gosden (1980) compared 120 prisoners in Tasmania; 50% were recidivists and 50% one time offenders and hypothesised that the two groups would differ on demographic, criminal, delinquent and sociological variables.

Masuda, Cutler, Hein and Holmes (1978) believe that an escalation in recent life events may predispose maladaptive behaviour triggering criminal activity and so imprisonment. This was the only published study that considered the relationship between life changes and recidivism. Koller and Gosden (1981) replicated this study in a Tasmanian prison where they interviewed 34 recidivists and 40 one time offenders. They compared the results to two control groups of unemployed males and male clerks. They used the Recent Life Changes Questionnaire (Rahe, 1975) that covers health, work, home and family, personal, social and financial areas. On average, offenders had experienced 14 separate life changes as opposed to 12 for the unemployed and less than 9 for the clerks. Recidivists' also reported more marked accumulation of recent life changes as well as interpersonal conflicts in the six months prior to imprisonment. Koller and Gosden (1981) concluded that this

scale is predictive of imprisonment. However this form of study relies on the accuracy of recall.

Recidivism statistics can be used to compare the effectiveness of different prison programs, identify patterns of behaviour for people convicted of different offences, and as an assessment of risk to the community when an offender is released (Thompson, 1990).

Hypotheses Regarding Recidivists

The table in Appendix I is a summary of hypotheses that can be derived primarily from the Australian, and more specifically NSW, literature. At times, authors have found information that has contradicted the research of others (which is the nature of research). This information can be used to develop questionnaires in screening offenders through file searches, self-report and Department of Corrective Services views. It can also guide the type of questions the film may like to ask.

Recidivism appears to have stabilised or even decreased around 30% although the follow-up period of the study by Koller and Gosden (1981) was not quite long enough. Of the study in West Australia conducted by Broadhurst and Maller (1990) over two out of every five prisoners (three out of five for those under 20 years) return to prison; for females recidivism is lower with one out of three returning; factors such as age, pre-release programs, lack of warnings regarding behaviour in gaol, employment, cash assistance, education, length of sentence and parole reduce recidivism rates slightly; and recidivism rates vary across time indicating that it is dynamic and influenced by individual characteristics as well as changes in the law. Apart from pre-release programs which only 4% of offenders have had access to, recidivism rates are

affected by government policy regarding employment, cash on release, family support, education, supervised early release and so on.

Appendix II shows the charts of percentages for the recidivism rates as defined by Thompson (1990), the most serious offences for sentenced prisoners as defined by the NSW Department of Corrective Services Annual Report (1992-3) and the percentages for sentence lengths as defined by Grant (1992).

PHASE TWO - INMATE **INTERVIEWS**

The following vignettes are based on self-report and some verbal information supplied by prison officers.

The methodology was for each prison Superintendent to supply a list of inmates who were due for release towards the end of 1994. From there the inmate was requested to meet with the producer and psychologist while the script researcher spoke to the officers. The purpose of the documentary was outlined to the inmate who could then indicate whether s/he was willing to participate. The details on the Information Sheet were then verbally covered. The inmate would then agree to a further interview which gathered information regarding their present offence and sentence, previous offending history, family relationships and plans upon release. This was a brief overview and took 20-30 minutes.

From there the inmate was informed that suitable subjects would be chosen and would be again interviewed in front of a camera in January 1994 for a final selection. They were asked to consider whether they would like to take part in a documentary upon their release and to discuss the impact it would have with their friends and families.

The following number of inmates were contacted:

Gaol	Interviewed	Declined	Total
Parramatta	7	2	9
Emu Plains	8	3	11
Maiawa	10	6	16
Long Bay	0	All inmates	0
Total	25	11	36

Since at Phase One the inmates had not signed a consent-to-release-information sheet, searches of files had not occurred. Inmates will be identified by number only.¹

Parramatta Gaol

Male Inmate #1

This inmate is 25 years old and due for parole August 1994. He could not remember his past offences but said that his current offence was for arson. His first sentence was in 1978 at 18 years of age. The longest that he has remained in the community since has been 12 months. Other offences have included car thefts and assault. All of them have been drug- and alcohol-related offences. The inmate was placed in a boys' home at 13 or 14 years of age.

That the inmate had an intellectual disability was questioned and he was due to have a psychiatric assessment at Morriset. The officers stated that he was easily lead by others and had spent time in protection.

¹ Inmates who later took part in an on-camera interview have been identified as doing so and their video-taped interview has not been repeated in this document.

Male Inmate #2

The inmate is a 32 year old lebanese man with drug-related offences. His first sentence in 1989 was related to cannabis and his current sentence is related to heroin and cannabis. He has been addicted to heroin. The inmate was first sentenced to imprisonment in 1989 and released in 1990. He remained in the community for 18 months before being reincarcerated in 1992. He is due for release in December 1994. The inmate had been working at home as a fashion designer in leather. When released he intends to open a leather clothing shop and not reoffend. His defacto wife had passed away while he was in prison as the result of a heroin overdose. The inmate has a two year old and six month old child from this relationship as well as family living in Sydney.

His motivation in being part of the documentary is to try and dissuade people from commencing drug use. The officer described him as very cooperative within the gaol and that he considered himself to be "a cut above" the rest.

Male Inmate #3

This 24 year old inmate has a long criminal record commencing with stealing cars at the age of 13 years and a first sentence of 14 months in 1988 for stealing a car, drink driving and a high speed chase. According to the inmate, his offences have been 99% alcohol-related. He is a Fitter and Turner by trade and claimed that if he had not lost his job he would not have reoffended. He stated that he had been "on the run" since 1991.

The inmate claims not to have a good memory. The officer stated that he was a well known drug user within the prison, highly associated with his drug taking peers, and not a reliable individual. His motivation for doing the

documentary was to help others and let his girlfriend know that he is serious about not reoffending.

Male Inmate #4

The inmate is a 33 years old serving a first sentence of 12 months and is due for release in August 1994. His most recent offences were driving dangerously while disqualified without the owner's consent. His first contact with the law was in 1977 when he was caught driving a stolen car at the age of 17 years. Between 1977 and 1993 he has had several other charges.

The inmate moved to Sydney from Fiji in 1976 and his family now live in Australia. He has had a heroin habit for two and a half years which he has "kicked" and is currently on a methadone program. Previous drug use has also included alcohol, amphetamines and various pills. Prior to this incarceration, the inmate had been doing community work which he breached. He has been unemployed directly prior to his imprisonment but had worked for a local council for 12 months. He is newly married and a Christian.

When released his brother will attempt to get him a job on the council again. The inmate was able to express himself verbally very well but the officer described him as very demanding, manipulative, and untrustworthy.

Male Inmate #5

This inmate who is 30 years old is due for release in July 1994 and was incarcerated in November 1992. He had been released in January 1993 but remained in the community for only four days. His sentence was for possessing half a kilo of cocaine. The inmate has spent the past 14 years in prison and the shortest sentence has been two years. His first offence was an

armed hold-up at 17 years of age for which he received a prison sentence. He has a history of escape from custody.

This inmate participated in a previous documentary called "Dead Set". When released, he would like to work in his brother's hotel in Sydney. The inmate used to manage a hotel and also has work experience as a barman and concreter. He has a two year old child and his partner is finding it difficult to cope with his imprisonment. He sees them approximately once per month and he is expecting that when released, "everything will be OK".

The officer described him as "a bit of a character" who is pleasant to deal with and highly recommended for this project.

Male Inmate #6

This 50 year old inmate has been imprisoned since 1963 for various offences including those that are amphetamine and heroin-related as well as manslaughter in the 1970's. He has been released from prison in 1972, 1978, 1985 and 1989. Drug-related offences commenced in 1978. The inmate is also involved in a bikie gang. His first sentence of three months in 1963 was for stealing petrol. He is due for release in December 1994.

The inmate has been married three times with children from each marriage. He has a young family at present consisting of a seven month and three year old child and does not wish to miss out on their growing up. His motivation for doing the documentary is to help others. The inmate feels that the first six weeks of release is the most risky in terms of reoffending. He says that on release he does not have enough money and describes the situation as a merry-go-round. The inmate intends to collect his goods from his home and move to the bush in M. The Psychologist queries a paranoid disposition in that the

inmate said that he had camera surveillance around his house and did not go to hotels anymore because he knew that people were talking about him. Heavy amphetamine use on release would contribute to this. His files would hopefully provide more information. The officer described him as "an old style crim" who would be cooperative.

Male Inmate #7

This 32 year old is a boxer who has been imprisoned for stolen goods (a car full of electrical appliances that he claims he did not know he had). He has a juvenile record and received his first detention for a weekend at the age of 29 years for firearm offences. He was incarcerated again in February 1992 and released in December 1992. He reoffended in January 1993 and is due for unconditional release in April 1994. His latest sentence was for three years but he conducted his own appeal and it was reduced to 12 months. The inmate says he does not have a drug problem but that his offences are alcohol-related. He is a motor mechanic by trade as well as a boxer and has a current wife as well as five children from previous relationships. The only child he has contact with at present is a six year old whom he wishes to have custody of as a single parent when he moves back to L. in Sydney. He also wants to "track down" his other children.

Emu Plains

Male Inmate #8

The inmate is due for release in September 1996 but a review date in February 1994 may have him released although he considers this doubtful. He may receive day release and the documentary could include him doing this. His first offence was at 13 years of age and have always been drug- or assault-related.

Male Inmate #9

This aboriginal inmate who is 27 years old is due for release in January 1994 but did give us his adoptive parent's phone number where he could be contacted. His offences are drug-related. The longest period of time in the community has been 18 months and he first offended at 22 years. On release in 1990 he had met with his natural family in the bush and spent 18 months with them. On returning to Sydney to attend his brother's funeral he met his peer group again and reoffended. The inmate has no plans except to live with his adoptive parents. He has previously been on a community-based methadone program but this was terminated after he failed to attend three sessions.

Male Inmate #10

This 60 year old inmate has been offending since 1963 and his first offence was at 30 years of age. He has served six to seven sentences for burglary of country hotels and escaped once in 1978 for three months. His release date is October 1994 on parole although the inmate thinks that he should serve his whole sentence. On his last imprisonment, a family with four children commenced seeing him as volunteer visitors; they said he replaced their dead grandfather as he looks very much like him. On his release previously, he

lived with this family for eight months. They have offered to take him in again on release although they may be moving to Queensland. The inmate's family is deceased, his wife left him and he has not seen his 23 year old daughter since she was three years old.

The inmate was very articulate and wishes to write a book about his experiences. The officer described him as a nice, helpful person who is trustworthy and easy to get along with although a loner. He is seen to be a career criminal.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

Male Inmate #11

This inmate has been incarcerated four times and the longest period in the community has been two years. He was first charged at 16 years of age and at 18 years was sentenced to prison. His offences have been robbing jewellery stores, stealing cars and so on. He has no contact with his family as he does not get on with them. He has a two and four year old child.

The inmate has no plans on his release except that he will get a job. He was extremely suspicious and was not considered suitable for the documentary. The officer described him as a "rebel without a cause" who has a disregard of authority, does not want to change (being a "criminal with a capital "C") and uses standover tactics.

Male Inmate #12

This 32 year old inmate was first incarcerated at 17 years for car stealing and insurance fraud. He reported to have been through "recidivism programs"

and has been sentenced four times. The longest he has been in the community has been approximately two years. His offences have primarily armed robbery to support a heroin habit. The inmate has not taken part in any methadone programs. His first contact with the law was at 12 years of age when he discharged a firearm in the street and stealing cars. He has received a six month sentence in a boys home at 13 years for trespassing. He stated that he had been "verballed" by police in 1980-1. Currently, he is married with a four year old son and has another ten year old child in foster care. He has no contact with his mother or sisters but intends to work with his parents-in-law on release. He would like to complete drug and alcohol studies at TAFE (which his wife is currently studying) and become involved in assisting young offenders. He feels he would have no difficulty finding work as a labourer, janitor or driver. Previously he has left employment situations when he has received a better offer elsewhere.

This inmate queried whether he would be able to withdraw from the documentary at any time. He has also been known to attempt to sue Corrective Services. The officer described him as being very immature, manipulative, a "troublemaker" and untrustworthy.

Male Inmate #13

This inmate is to be released in November 1994 and is 29 years old. His first offence at 27 years was driving offences of driving while disqualified for which he received a four month sentence. He was then in the community for 12 months before being charged with break and enter. He has a juvenile history that commenced at 14 years with having pills at school. He has received a couple of Good Behaviour Bonds and community service work. He started offending at 21 years of age to support his heroin habit through break and enters. He has been on community-based methadone programs and cam

ceased methadone use while in gaol. He is a sheet metal worker, a profession he does not like, and had difficulty finding employment on his release last time. Most of his family live in Queensland but he has a sister in Sydney. His wife is also in gaol on drug-related offences and due for release soon. Their 15 month old son is with his wife's parents in Queensland. He wishes to remain in Sydney for six months on release and then move up to Queensland.

The officer described him as a quiet repeat offender with a wide circle of friends.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

Male Inmate #14

This inmate is being released on 12 months parole in April 1994 and is currently 39 years old. He will have served a two and a half year sentence. In 1972 at 18 years he had been charged and sentenced for car stealing and assault police. At 15 years he was placed on probation for shoplifting. He recalls that he has been imprisoned six times; three for driving while disqualified and more recently for break and enter and armed robbery in order to obtain money for drugs. The longest that he has been in the community is 22 months.

The inmate had been on a methadone program for two years commencing in April 1990 but was returned to court after a dirty urine sample. He had remained on methadone until June 1992 and then gradually reduced the dose and is now not taking it.

The inmate is married and his wife has three children from another relationship, he has a son in foster care from a previous relationship and he and his wife have a child. The children range from three to ten years of age. His wife visits him every three weeks but finds it extremely difficult to cope. The inmate's previous wife died after a heroin overdose and his current wife has also had difficulties with heroin.

He wishes to stay out of gaol on parole and find work. He has completed courses such as small motor maintenance, forklift license and a pre-release vocational course. He has previously been breached on work release programs. The inmate's mother does not know that he is in gaol at present. The officer described him as respectful and trustworthy.

Male Inmate #15

In November 1994 the inmate will be released on 14 months parole. His first charge resulted in weekend detention and community work for stealing a motorbike at 18 years of age. The inmate is currently 31 years old. In 1989 he was charged with manslaughter which also included a break and enter and police car charge in which his accomplice was killed while he was driving.

The inmate has a brother and two sisters. His father has died and his mother lives in Queensland. He plans to go to M.D. when released and live with his new girlfriend who has a child. He feels positive about being released and would like day leave. He felt the documentary would assist him in his application for parole and he has done charitable work for children in the past to facilitate this. The officer said that the inmate was quiet and not much was known about him.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

Mulawa Women's Prison

Female Inmate #1

At the age of 31 years the inmate has been sentenced to two years for armed robbery (threatening a shop keeper with a syringe). The circumstances were that she had stopped using heroin but after a work-related injury was prescribed benzodiazepines. This then resulted in a return to her heroin addiction. One other previous charge has been fraud when she stole a cheque from her father and was given a three year Good Behaviour Bond.

The inmate commenced heroin use at 20-21 years of age and her first charge was at 25 years. She had been clean for two years while on a community-based methadone program prior to her injury. Now she is on a methadone program while in gaol and is currently reducing the dose so she can go to Norma Parker prior to her release.

The inmate is a nursing sister but wishes to continue the business she commenced with her father cleaning apartments.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

Female Inmate #2

The inmate was released at the end of 1991 and remained in the community for one month before returning. She had maliciously injured by stabbing her husband and a sex worker. She was first imprisoned in 1983 and has returned four times since. The inmate, who is now 31 years old, first offended at 14

years. She has a history of false pretences, fraud, stealing and in the past two years heroin and cocaine-related offences.

In June 1993 the inmate came off methadone that she had been taking for 7.5 years. She had commenced in the community and continued in prison.

Whilst in gaol, the inmate had started computer studies but stopped because she could earn more as a machinist. On release, she would like a job or return to Technical School to complete computer studies. She also used to do delivery driving. However, she did seem somewhat confused about what she would do on release, and whether she could return to her Commission flat that she is currently being evicted from. She has a six year old child who has been moved between her ex-husband, foster care and with an aunt. Her child visits once a fortnight and she would like her to live with her when she is released. The child's father had overdosed in front of the child.

Female Inmate #3

At 38 years of age, the inmate is serving her third sentence. Her first contact with the law was at 25 years of age in 1980. Her offences have been heroin-related in the form of fraud. Last year she had been on a methadone program while in gaol but did not continue it on release. She is not currently on the program.

When released, she will return to her mother's house and then move with her 3 and 17 year old daughters up the coast in a Housing Commission flat that she has applied for. Her husband is currently serving a prison sentence up the coast. She would like work in places where she has worked previously, e.g. violent abuse refuges, home care and so on.

Female Inmate #4

This inmate who was 26 years of age was quietly spoken and appeared nervous and uncomfortable. She has been to gaol six times and was first sentenced in 1986 at 19 years of age. Her first charge was at 12 years for stealing cars. Her current offence is armed robbery with a male co-offender. The inmate is also a heroin addict and has been on community-based methadone programs.

The inmate has a three and nine year old child. Their father overdosed recently in gaol. She has completed Year 10 at school and does not wish to work on her release. She is not sure how she will survive and thinks she may live in share houses or a Housing Commission flat.

Female Inmate #5

The inmate commenced serving this sentence in February 1993 and is 25 years old. She stated that she had been in prison four times previously and was first imprisoned at 18 years of age. She has also had three charges resulting in weekend detention and a Good Behaviour Bond. The offences are heroin and cocaine-related and include stealing and fraud. She was on a community-based methadone program for 12 months and then came off it while in gaol in May 1993.

The inmate left school at 16 years of age and worked as a bank teller for two years.

The longest she has been in the community has been 12 months. On release this time she is planning to return to her parents but does not know what she will do from there. She says she has no friends and is just involved with her

family. She has two younger sisters who have not broken the law. The inmate would like to have a child.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

Female Inmate #6

This inmate has been imprisoned twice for armed robbery with male co-offenders. She served a two year sentence for the first offence and is now serving a second. According to her she had served a 3.5 year sentence in 1990 and then committed the second offence 20 days after her release. She also has 12 priors for fraud. The offences have been heroin-related and she is currently on a methadone program that she stated she would need to be on for the "rest of my life". She stated that she had been using heroin for nine years since she was 17 years old.

The inmate has a five year old child who is with her parents in C. The inmate's partner is dead. Prior to her offending she has held public service jobs after leaving a private school at Year 10.

The information given to us by this inmate appeared somewhat unreliable.

Female Inmate #7

The inmate is due for release in June 1994 and is 49 years old. She has been previously imprisoned in Thailand, Indonesia, Holland, New Zealand and the United States. Her offences are heroin-related and involve fraud, import and supply and so attracted Federal charges. The majority of offences overseas have been trafficking.

The inmate is Tahitian. She commenced using heroin at 13 years of age. She had run away from home after her parents had decided to withdraw her from school to work. She lived with a music teacher and continued her schooling. Her first sentence was at 28 years of age. She has been on both community- and prison-based methadone programs. Her longest sentence has been eight years in Australia and, on average, 6-9 month sentences.

On release the inmate would like to stay in Sydney with her defacto who works and could support her. In the last 12 months, four of her sisters have passed away.

Female Inmate #8

The inmate is due to be released in November 1994 and is currently 33 years old. She has a 12 month old baby and wishes to do detention at home to be with her baby. The inmate's husband, a former detective, currently looks after the child. She has been on a waiting list for a Housing Commission house for eight years.

The inmate has been on remand three times and her first sentence commenced in August 1993. She has been charged since 24 years of age and at 15 years appeared in the children's court for hocking a computer that had been stolen. Her offences have been primarily shoplifting goods such as leather jackets, computers, CD players, televisions, shirts, suits and so on. She would then sell the goods in clubs. The inmate justified shoplifting in the context of major stores "ripping off" the community anyway.

Her current offence was assault with intent to rob when she was alleged to have threatened another individual with a syringe. The inmate is currently appealing her sentence.

Previous work has been dealing Blackjack for four years, Disc Jockey for two years, waitressing and being a Women's Snooker Champion for two years.

The inmate is addicted to heroin and cocaine and has been on community- and prison-based methadone programs. She would like to go to Norma Parker and therefore has to wean herself from methadone.

The inmate stated that before the birth of her baby she did not care about her future. She also has a three year old son of whom she does not have custody and he lives with his father.

Female Inmate #9

The inmate is serving a two year sentence for robbery and immigration fraud. She is currently 26 years old and due for release in July 1994. In 1991 she had served a one month sentence. Previous charges (approximately eight times) have been stealing, possession and supply of cannabis. At the age of 14 years she had commenced using alcohol, cannabis, amphetamines and pills. She has been off methadone for 12 months and had met co-offenders at the community-based clinic.

When released she would like to return to live with her parents. She also has three sisters and a brother. She would like to get a job either as a storeworker or something different. She has been doing sewing and started HSC but was not sure that she would complete it.

Female Inmate #10

The inmate is now 37 years old and has been serving sentences since 1977. She has become a sculptor and almost finished a BA. She would like to complete a post graduate degree on release. The inmate was keen to be

involved in the documentary because she does not wish to return to gaol and feels it would advantage her in further studies. She is trying to alter her attitude and old habits.

The inmate came to Australia from England in 1975 and served her first sentence two years later. Her offences have involved shoplifting jewellery, furs and so on as well as supply of drugs to support a heroin habit. She was also involved in a heisting team and her husband was a "professional pickpocket". She described herself as "a crim first and then a junkie" in that she enjoyed breaking the law. She was last charged six weeks before completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Between her first and second sentence the inmate spent six years as a sex worker. She had injured her leg and could no longer work as a dancer.

The inmate anticipates problems upon her release and has been developing supports at the College where she wishes to continue her studies. She plans to return to B.B. to collect her belongings, will re-contact Narcotics Anonymous there, and then visit her mother in B. for Christmas. She expects to have a reasonable amount of money from her sculptures when she leaves. Prior to this she would like to go to Norma Parker and obtain work release. The inmate has a 17 year old step-daughter from a 10 year relationship that has since ceased.

This inmate also took part in an on-camera interview in January 1994.

PHASE THREE - INMATE VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Inmates were selected by the Producer and Psychologist for further interviewing planned for January 1994². Three inmates were interviewed and filmed at Emu Plains and three at Mulawa Women's Prison. Unfortunately we were unable to access Parramatta gaol at that time due to a security lock-down. In Phase Two we had approached the Prisoners' Committee at Long Bay Gaol to be told that no inmates were interested. We then directly approached the inmates due for release and all those approached (N=6) wished to be part of the documentary.

For this stage we had staff from the Public Relations Unit of the Department of Corrective Services accompany us and they read through the information sheet with the inmates to ensure that consent was given voluntarily. They also asked each inmate who was willing to continue, to sign a Consent and Release form for videotaping as well as one for access to client files.

The following inmates were interviewed and filmed at the same time.

MTC Long Bay Gaol

Male Inmate #16

This inmate received two years for a break and enter. He is 28 years old. He is due for total discharge in June 1995 and estimates that he has been incarcerated ten times previously, for example, armed robbery and driving

²The interviews were conducted using a Hi-8 non-broadcast video camera for research purposes only. This video research was funded by Emerald Films and the Hi-8 tapes are held at the Sydney office. VHS copies were used to assist in the writing of the documentary script.

while disqualified. He stated that he has a total of 46 offences. His first offence was stealing a milk truck when he was nine years old. He lived in Boys Homes for six years because of juvenile offending and that his mother was unable to care for him. He had a reputation amongst the police on the central coast where he grew up. His father had also served five years for manslaughter. His longest sentence has been four to five years. His most recent offence occurred after he had been to an hotel and was taking a shortcut across a yard and an off-duty policeman charged him. He is currently appealing his sentence. This inmate does not use drugs.

The inmate is married with three and five year old sons. When his children come and visit, his eldest son cries when they leave and his wife is not coping with his imprisonment. He does labouring work, collects rubbish from the tip (as his father had done) and buys cars and fixes them up. He also receives a Disability Allowance because he cannot read or write. He was in a Special Class until Form 3. He has done some educational classes while in prison but still has difficulty reading. He says that he "spins" when released from gaol but is determined this time to spend more time with his family. Previously he would "hang around" with the same crowd and only has one friend who does not break the law. His only friends are his wife and children. The rest of his family do not visit him.

Male Inmate #17

This inmate has a four year sentence for break and enter. He had previously been out on parole for seven months but breached it by leaving the State. He is now completing 20 months and will be released in July 1995. He has been sentenced twice previously being 21 years old at his first sentence and 18 years old on his first charge. His longest period of imprisonment has been three years and the longest period in the community has been ten months. The

inmate reported that he had had a cocaine habit of \$1000 daily which led to offending. His parole had entailed urine screens, telephone calls and home visits which is why he had left the State. The inmate's family is very supportive and he can work in his father's business when released. His girlfriend of ten months is pregnant. He acknowledges that he has to learn to be less impulsive.

Male Inmate #18

This is the first sentence in prison for armed robbery, assault and resist arrest and was a drug-related offence. This 24 year old has completed three years and is due for release in October 1994 and his parole finishes in January 1996. The inmate does not have a juvenile record and was first charged with armed robbery at 19 years of age. He has used marijuana, cocaine, heroin and amphetamines but is not on a methadone program. He has not used drugs for ten months and has been receiving counselling in order not to relapse.

The inmate has a three year old daughter but stated that the relationship with his wife is "not good". On release he expects to work as a deckhand on a fishing trawler; 16 hours a day, seven days a week. His former boss is very supportive and even attended the Supreme Court with him. The inmate's parents visit with his daughter nearly every weekend but he has no contact with his sister or two brothers. He wishes to sell his house and move to Queensland but it will depend upon the parole conditions.

Male Inmate #19

This 19 year old is incarcerated for a second offence for grand auto theft and a robbery. When a juvenile he had received a three year Good Behaviour Bond for stealing a car which he breached. He is due for release in March 1995 and parole will expire in 1997. The inmate stated that he was shocked

when he first came to gaol and it “turned him off crime”. His family comes to visit each weekend with his five brothers and sisters taking it in turns. He met a woman six months before he was incarcerated and still keeps in contact. He had completed school up to Year 10 but was expelled at 17 years of age for assaulting a teacher. He does painting and decorating within the prison and tries to complete courses. He had previously worked as a bricklayer.

Male Inmate #20

This is the fourth prison sentence for this 25 year old. His first offence was for stealing cars. He had previously breached his parole by not being at the state address and failing to report. He had been doing well but became involved in a fight with some mates and assaulted a person with a kitchen knife. He has a malicious wounding sentence running concurrently with parole. He was 18 years old when he first came to gaol. He has a juvenile history of stealing cars and driving dangerously without a licence for which he received a Good Behaviour Bond. The inmate began using alcohol at 15 years followed by marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines. Although he does not believe he has a drug or alcohol problem, urine samples are required when he is on parole.

His relationship with his girlfriend is not going well. She has two children. He would like to get married and have at least one more child. His father wishes him to take over his contract cleaning business and the inmate intends not to meet with his old friends upon release. When released previously he has been revengeful and committed further offences but now he would like to do other things with his life. He says that he will explain about prison to his children in the future so that they do not break the law.

Male Inmate #21

The inmate is completing a five and a half year sentence for armed robbery and is due for release in September 1995. He is 31 years old. He has previously committed two armed robberies and his first sentence was for break and enter. He has also been caught for supplying amphetamines and marijuana and malicious wounding through stabbing. His first offence at 17 years was evading a fare. His longest period in the community has been two years and he has at least 40 charges (e.g. assault police, resist arrest). Of his six siblings, three sisters and a brother have been to gaol. He says that a Psychologist Report has stated that he is at risk of becoming institutionalised.

The inmate describes a drug pattern commencing with alcohol (he attended AA meetings at 18 years of age) followed by marijuana, amphetamines and heroin. He has never been on a methadone program and although he craves heroin at times, he states he is clean. He receives drug and alcohol counselling at the prison. He would like to move to Silverwater for work release. He had gone there previously but then had a dirty urine sample. He would like to complete a technical course in landscape gardening.

DOCUMENTARY SCRIPT

Recidivism is defined by the correctional system as a conviction leading to re-imprisonment. That sterile and empty definition doesn't give any clue to the myriad of issues, emotions and thoughts that contribute to that re-imprisonment. Recidivism is easy to label but difficult to analyse and understand. There have been few studies and even fewer films looking at the merry-go-round that recidivism becomes in a person's life.

In the past five years, correctional services across Australia have focused on this issue which they see as being a result of the negative side effects of imprisonment. Increased dependence on the prison system together with a rebellious attitude toward authority and a number of social factors have led to a 43% increase in the prison population.

The statement of vision by the NSW Department of Corrective Services is to "return prisoners to the community as law abiding citizens" but this clearly does not happen to nearly half of those released. Questions about the increase in recidivism continue but are only occasionally raised within research circles. There has not been a long term study that follows the prisoners as they begin their new life in the community to track, subjectively, their journey out and then often enough, back into the prison.

The Film

Billy³ sits on the camp bed of his single cell and explains the contents of his “home”. Like most prisoners, he is only allowed to have six photographs in his cell at any one time. He shows us a photo of the daughter he hasn’t seen for 20 years. His cell is neat and ordered, like his prison life. His bowl, plate and blunt cutlery sit clean and sparkling on his scrubbed wooden table. He points out the toiletries arranged on the shelf above the basin which is wedged between the open seated toilet and his bed. “Standard issue - shaving stick, disposable razor and soap. You can only get a new razor when you hand the old one in,” he says. A loud alarm bell sounds throughout the prison. It is mustering time. Billy leaves for the mustering square. Four times a day, every day, for 16 years Billy has stood in the same spot in the mustering line to have his head counted.

This is life inside. When Billy leaves, he takes with him his photographs, his “civvies” and the few hundred dollars he might have saved from his \$16.80 a week prison job. It has been difficult to save as well as buy his weekly rations of milk, milo and coffee.

When asked, Billy says there’s nothing good about being in prison and yet it is hard to imagine Billy without the prison imposed discipline and order.

We will see Billy as he counts down the days to his release, packing his bag, saying his goodbyes. On the day he has mixed emotions as he is given his first dole cheque. He is excited about leaving and is looking forward to the brisk 20 minute walk to the train station (“I can walk as fast or slow as I like. And

³These documentary “characters” were drawn from real inmates. The names and some details (such as states of origin) have been altered to protect their identity. These changes do not affect the accuracy of information.

in any direction!”) but he is worried too. It’s close to Christmas, a time he finds notoriously difficult to cope with.

Billy has been in and out of prison over 30 years. He is one of four characters we will follow as they leave prison to re-enter the community as “rehabilitated” criminals.

During the first week of each person’s release, they must find accommodation, apply for unemployment benefits and seek work, and report to their parole officer. That’s the practical side.

There’s also the promise and challenge of renewing old relationships and the trepidation of seeking new ones. We watch as over the period of two months, our characters make their transition.

We’ll get to know them intimately, have privy to their financial situation, their relationships, and be able to observe their adjustment as they talk to us frankly about their feelings and opinions, their future and their progress in the world.

Then we’ll give them some breathing space and come back in a few months to pick up where we left off.

The Characters

The following people are working with us and are under consideration for the documentary:

BILLY, aged 63, is due for release late 1994. He first offended and was sentenced in 1964, aged 30, when he robbed a country hotel. Has committed the same crime over and over again for 30 years of which 16 have been spent in various NSW gaols. Billy is softly spoken and articulate about his life. He has a rounded middle aged appearance, his hair is greying and he slicks it back with Brylcream. He speaks repeatedly and fondly of the daughter and wife he lost contact with 20 years ago. There have been various de factos since.

"I worked hard until I was 30, and I'd never been near the police lock up. I'll be 63 when I get out this time, I want to settle down and get the pension. I want to write a book about my experiences of travelling around the country. I robbed country hotels because having worked in them I knew them. I know where they keep the money and I don't hurt anyone. I wouldn't rob from battlers, never private homes. In the city there are night watchmen, police, milkmen, taxi drivers...in the country, there's nobody around till morning...so it's easier."

"Each time I've got out there, everything I've had is gone." His first wife left him after he was first imprisoned, taking their 3-year-old daughter. Billy has tried to contact his daughter on several occasions but she has rejected him "she doesn't want a criminal father hanging around - she told me to get stuffed, I guess there's no point trying to see her now."

A gentle and paternal nature has helped Billy establish a very important connection with the outside world. "I have an adoptive family now, they've sponsored me like a de facto grandfather for their four kids - they even say I look like their dead grandfather - so I might live with them when I get out."

Billy has formed a de facto relationship each time he has been released. Each relationship has soured. He laughingly tells a joke, without malice about his last relationship. "Look, I had a de facto wife when I came in last time. But after a while she moved the Fijian boyfriend in. I didn't mind him taking my wife and sleeping in my bed but the bloody bloke started wearing my shirts!!"

JENNY (38) was born in England and is serving a sentence for drug dealing. Her previous offences, dating back 15 years include fraud, stealing and possession of drugs. Confident and articulate, Jenny has a well-worn life story to tell and revels being the centre of attention. She has worked the streets, "fleeced" wealthy male friends, run a shoplifting scam, cultivated drug crops and is six weeks short of completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She is now resident in minimum security with her own art studio where she sculpts. She sells her sculptures to prison officers and she estimates she will have several thousand dollars saved for her release.

"I went through a year of intense psychological change during my first sentence. The gaol was quite mad, there were no contact visits and no education. I didn't know what the hell I was doing here - I wasn't bad, I thought, I'm just an innocent girl.

"I've always been attracted to the element of danger in criminal life. Once the horror of being locked up for the first time left me, I decided to become a

criminal again. I saw it as life not giving me anything so I just had to take things myself. I'd lost my sense of value for myself.

"In those days I didn't have any real skills. I knew I was quite intelligent but I had no education. The least sentence I could get was for shoplifting so I set up a scheme with four young people working heists for me. I made really good money and it worked for a long time but money doesn't take away that void, that loneliness you feel.

"Before I left England I had a job in a factory. There were 3000 employees and they all wore pink overalls. It drove me mad. It cured me for life for ever wishing to want those normal things of a mortgage and job. Now I think those values are very valid! I always had money but not much else emotionally. I've missed out on the role of motherhood.

"When I get out I have to go and spend time with my mother. She's been very supportive and non judgemental. I think she would've liked a rebellious lifestyle herself. I don't know my father at all - we left him when I was three.

"I've tried to live a semi-normal life on the outside. I jumped bail once and went to live in Queensland and things went well until I was pinched for stealing meat for my dog - how stupid is that! I managed to convince the police I was someone else and it was quite alright for them to give me bail and then I fled back to Sydney. I was recognised at the racetrack one day and ended up doing six months in Bogga Road gaol. It was an insane place and I was kept in maximum the whole time.

"As my first husband used to say - and I agree emphatically with him - "everyone is entitled to be robbed". But I do have values. I can rob a bank but I can't dishonour someone.

“Being in gaol is a shattering experience. I thought I was handling it well until one day a young well dressed and well spoken solicitor came in to talk to me about one of my charges. She was like a goddess and smelt wonderful - you notice things like that when you’ve been cut off from everything. I remember looking at her and thinking I should at least feel on a par with this woman but I didn’t - I felt like some ugly, dirty little girl sitting there in front of her. I lost my spirit.

“Now I have a strong goal. I really do believe that I have it in me to be a good artist. It’s an all consuming passion. Things have happened to me in here - but I don’t get involved in the gaol. Half the time I don’t even know I’m in gaol!”

JOHN aged 30, had been married only six weeks when he came to gaol to serve a sentence for manslaughter in 1989. He comes from a family of 13 children. He is due for release in November 1994 with 14 months parole. His wife is also in gaol and they have since broken up. John believes he is reformed and finds it comfortable in gaol because he has a reasonable amount of prestige amongst the other inmates. As part of a prison committee he is allowed to accompany an officer to K-Mart to buy prizes for their monthly raffle. “It’s a spin-out going into the shopping centres. I go into the shops and a smile hits my face - WOW! I feel my heart beating and at first I can’t stop grinning! There’s food everywhere, and smells and people and...”

Despite his excitement at being outside, it is here that John starts to shake and panic, terrified he will lose the officer in the crowd.

“When I’m released, I’ve got nothing, no ID so I’m starting from scratch. “ John is wary of release. He finds the gaol routine a comfort. “Getting onto my feet will be hard. The routine here is so strong - breakfast muster, work muster, afternoon and tea muster and then bed. When I get out I’ll be wanting to get up to muster!

“What’s going to happen when I get out there, try do the right thing and nothing happens for me? It worries me. I’ve got no friends out there, they’re all in here. I’ll have a probation officer but I don’t think they’re that interested.

“If I think I’m losing it out there, I’ll come back in. I can always turn myself in Queensland, there’s a warrant up there for me.”

MARIO is 24 years old. This is his first offence - break and enter, assault and armed robbery - all drug related offences. Mario has been in gaol for five years and is due for release in October 1994. He is in a de facto relationship and has a three year old son (conceived during a prison visit) and owns a house in Wollongong. His employer has kept his job open for his return.

“It’s not something you can say: I’m not going to reoffend. You don’t know until you are out there and back in society. We’d be lying hypocrites if we said we wouldn’t do another crime. Some people have it really bad in gaol and wouldn’t want to be back.

“Since I was 15, I’ve been told that I’d end up in gaol and here I am. I don’t mind gaol but it’s something I mustn’t get used to. After a while it becomes home. Eventually your relationships become something of the past. It’s been

hard for my girlfriend without any support. Our relationship is pretty icy at the moment.

“My employer has been very supportive and got me bail. I still have my job as a deckhand on a fishing trawler. It’s something I love and enjoy so I’m lucky.

“I want to make a fresh start. I’ll have to be really choosy about who I associate with. It’s hard for everyone - my girlfriend could tell you about the other side. She’s been raped and the person who did it came to gaol but I couldn’t get to him. I’ve really thought about my past since being in here. I got moved around in schools a lot and I know I wouldn’t be here if I’d had a chance. “

ANN is 31 and this is her first sentence although she has been on good behaviour bonds before for falsifying cheques. A former nurse, she has been in gaol since November 1992 and is due for paroled release in November 1994. She was sentenced for armed robbery using a syringe as a weapon.

When she leaves prison she will join her father in a business he has established providing serviced apartments to tourists. Ann is extremely articulate, straight forward and sensible. She knows her previous drug addiction led to her crime and says she is working on her addiction to enable her to leave prison and not return.

“It was a massive shock coming in here. The cells are bare and sterile. It’s no wonder people think of suicide. It’s very difficult to explain the isolation but girls support each other really well in gaol.

“I was frightened that prison would change me. I’ve tried to remain positive and leave the negative things behind. I’ve learned a lot in here - communication skills, assertiveness, independence. I needed to be more assertive but not aggressive and it is so often aggressive in here.

“One of the first things I learned is that nothing is fair. It’s all about playing the game; it’s not balanced like it is on the outside. There’s a new language in here. You’ve got to learn it as fast as possible. If you know it, you have a better chance of getting what you need.

“I’ll have a support network set up outside - family, friends, for working, for my addiction and I will need to have that set in place before I get out.

“Within myself I believe that I won’t come back and I won’t commit another crime. Who would want to come back to this situation?! But it does feel like two steps forward, one step back at the moment.”

SUSAN is 25. Since her first offence at 17, the longest she has spent out of gaol is 4 months. All her crimes, ranging from stealing to break and enter, have been drug related. During her last sentence she was inexplicably left unattended near an open gate and so she walked out. Now she must serve the remainder of her time in maximum security. She is locked in her cell alone for more than 15 hours a day.

She enthuses about her parents whom she idolises. “I had the best upbringing. My parents were always there for me, they showed me love and affection. They’ve gone through a lot of heartbreak. I’ve disappeared at times. I think they’re relieved when I come to gaol because it means they don’t have to

identify my body at the morgue. They're here for me every weekend. They deserve better, they deserve me being straight.

"On the day of my release I'd like to go home and do normal things. I want to be there to make Dad a cup of coffee in the morning. He'd love that! My mum says that no matter what I do, she'll always love me. Even my dad's got soft. I used to be scared of him but now he cries and that makes me cry too.

"My mum has lost a lot of friends because of me being in gaol. Now she just tells people I'm living in Queensland. I really feel it's going to be different this time. I've said it a hundred times before, yeah yeah, I'm going to do it right but it was all talk. This time I feel I deserve to be straight

"I feel I deserve a break. I've done five years gaol straight and I'm getting older. I just think I should wake up and do it right this time. I'd love to work - but I need some education I suppose. I want to go to the swimming pool, go out with my sisters, do the normal things that I used to think were so boring.

"I reckon if you get a chance to look at the good life, maybe you'd appreciate it and stay out. You know, something normal like just getting up in the morning, going to work and coming home and making tea.

"I didn't really have friends on the outside. My sisters are my friends - they go out and play karate, go to the basketball and football so that's what I'll do and I'll meet people. I'm dying to meet a nice guy and get married and have children. I want a little me, something I can cherish, just for me.

"I've got my sights set high."

BRIAN 28 years old, in gaol for 2 years (his tenth time) for breaking and entering. Due for release in 1994. First offence was at 9 years old when he stole a milk truck; spent 6 years in boys' homes. Has been to court 48 times and his longest period out of gaol is 5 years.

"The police were always on my case last time I was outside. I've got a wife and two little kids, 3 and 5. They're not coping very well. I'll be on a disabilities pension when I get out because I can't read or write. I've done 16 years all up and I just want out.

"My father did time for manslaughter, and me mum put us kids in a home. I want something different for my kids. My dad and I used to go the tip all the time - that's how I got my first bicycle. I built it bit by bit from stuff at the tip. I've got my wife and two kids out there - not a de facto, I'm married. When my wife got pregnant, we got married four weeks later.

"Friends? My friends are my wife and kids. My father is my friend. None of my brothers or sisters come to visit me, I'm the black sheep of the family."

Style

The film will be character driven with a strong narrative. Using minimal or preferably no narration, the film will be carefully structured so that each person's experience contributes to an overview of what it is like to return to the world from prison. The shoot will be structured so time elapses between each intense bout of shooting. The audience will get a sense of life unfolding in a very short period of time.

We want to capture the smallness of each person's life in prison. The combination of elements e.g., the person, the photographs on the wall, the few possessions, will create a powerful statement about their world. The initial separate details...a library book in a drawer, a precious tin of Nescafe, the absence of things are all part of the unfolding of a story that moves from privation to abundance (mostly unobtainable) outside prison.

Market

See You On The Flipside" is a contemporary documentary about people as well as about issues. Its appeal to audiences will be in its ability to probe closely the lives of three people who ordinarily would be invisible in our community. Their appeal is that they are just ordinary people who have aspirations and needs - they want to be loved, to have someone to love, to have a job, a house, kids and security. But this mostly eludes them. Why?

This documentary would ideally be suited to the True Stories timeslot on the ABC - and it also has potential for sales to the UK, New Zealand and the USA. It also has a strong educational market.

APPENDIX I

ATTACHMENT: Summary of recidivism literature.

FACTORS		HYPOTHESES
Type of offence	1.	Recidivism rates are higher for sexual offences, robbery, property offences and offences against good order (Thompson, 1990).
	2.	Recidivism rates are greatest for offences related to alcohol and drink driving and least for more serious offences of rape, attempted murder and manslaughter (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).
	3.	Recidivism declines as the the seriousness of the offence increases (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).
	4.	Those convicted of sexual offences at an early age or robbery are re-imprisoned more often for violent offences (homocide, assault, sexual offence or robbery) than property offences (Thompson, 1990).
	5.	Those released after committing violent offences such as homocide or assault are less likely to commit a further violent crime (Thompson, 1990; Ward & Porritt, 1982).
	6.	If a person is not re-imprisoned over two years, then the type of the original offence is not related to the probability of being convicted of another offence (Thompson, 1990).
Gender	1.	Recidivism rates for males are 45% and for females 36% (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).
	2.	Of imprisoned offenders, 10% of males and 13% of females are disciplined for internal offences (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).

Age	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 	<p>Recidivists are younger when they are first convicted at 14 rather than 21 years of age (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>Young offenders under 20 years of age are more likely to return than those who first offend over 40 years (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>Young prisoners are more likely to be imprisoned for less serious offences such as traffic, good order and property offences while older offenders are more likely to be imprisoned for more serious offences of homicide, rape and sell narcotics (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990; Ward & Keller, 1982).</p> <p>Those under 20 years are more likely to re-offend within one year while those over 40 years are more likely to re-offend over two years later (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>Robbery, rape and drug offences peak at 25-29 years, murder at 30-34 years, and carnal knowledge, incest and indecent assault at 35-39 years (Ward & Keller, 1982).</p> <p>If the person is younger at arrest for robbery and sexual offences, the recidivism rate is greater (Thompson, 1990).</p> <p>The older the offender is at first offence, the greater the likelihood of success on parole (Ward & Keller, 1982).</p>
Families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<p>Recidivists come from larger families (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>Those who are single, separated or in a defacto relationship are more likely to re-offend than those who are married or divorced (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p>
Juvenile History	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<p>Recidivists have been through the children and adult courts more often (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>Recidivists are more likely to have been placed in child welfare homes (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p>

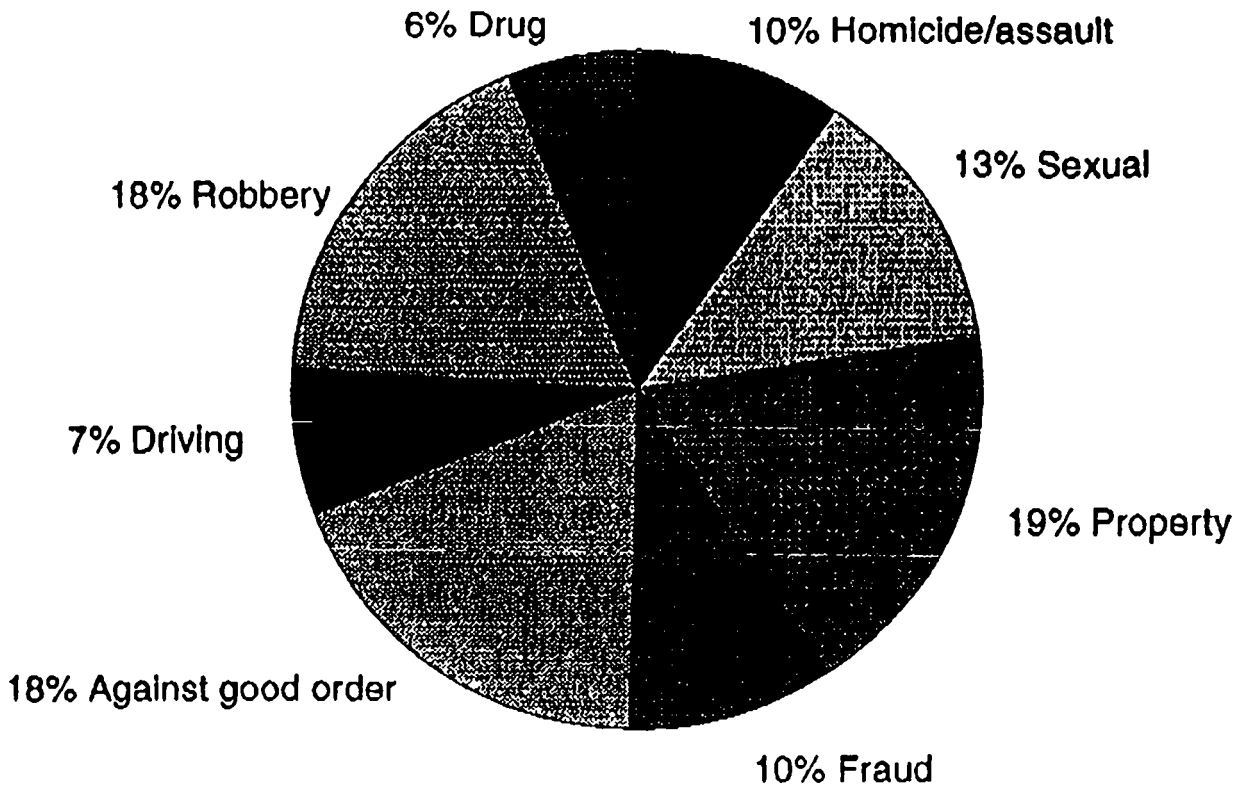
Behavioural/ Psychiatric History	1. 2. 3. 4.	<p>Recidivists are more likely to have a history of personality disturbance, aggression, inadequacy, poor family background, inability to learn from experience, immaturity and easily lead by peers (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>Recidivists are more likely to engage in physical and verbal abuse and suicide attempts while in prison (Koller & Goasden, 1980).</p> <p>Those who have had more difficulty within the prison environment i.e. more conduct notices, may be more likely to re-offend but such predictions are unwarranted from the data (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>Those who have previously escaped custody have higher recidivism rates (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p>
Imprisonment/ Sentence	1. 2. 3. 4.	<p>The average imprisonment is six times (Koller & Goasden, 1980).</p> <p>One-fifth of recidivists are imprisoned on their first offence (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>The longer the sentence, the less likely the person to re-offend (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>The type of prison environment or regime does not effect recidivism rates (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p>

Education and Employment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 	<p>Recidivists have had less schooling with only a small percentage having had attended the first three years of highschool (Gorta & Panaretos, 1990).</p> <p>Most recidivists are unemployed at the time of the offence.</p> <p>If prisoners work for more than six months in Industry rather than Services, they are more likely to get a job and more quickly (Gorta & Panaretos, 1990).</p> <p>Training in keeping a job once it is obtained is important (Gorta & Panaretos, 1990).</p> <p>Despite vocational training in prison, parolees are likely to continue in unskilled employment (Gorta & Panaretos, 1990).</p> <p>The majority of recidivists are in unskilled manual labour which is often short-lived and seasonal (Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p> <p>Those recidivists who have a job are less likely to re-offend (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990; Koller & Gosden, 1980).</p>
Work Release	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 	<p>Special leave and work release has had positive effects on recidivism (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990; Turnbull, Porritt, & Cooney, 1982).</p> <p>The opportunity to accrue savings, establish employment and build family relationships prior to release reduced recidivism (Newman & Lyons, 1988).</p> <p>The opportunity to accrue savings were not found to effect recidivism rates (Turnbull <i>et al.</i>, 1982).</p>
Release	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 	<p>Those released unconditionally are more likely to return than those released on parole (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>The majority of women released on parole re-offend (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).</p> <p>The shorter and more intense the supervision period, the more likely the person will re-offend (Gorta, 1982).</p>

Accommodation	1.	There is a slightly less probability of re-offending if a person has accommodation on release (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).
	2.	Those released with more than \$200 are less likely to re-offend (Broadhurst & Maller, 1990).
Drugs and Alcohol	1.	Drug users will relapse to drug use on release and re-offend (Hume & Gorta, 1989).
	2.	A heroin user will re-offend at the same rate whether they have completed a methadone treatment program within prison or not (Hume & Gorta, 1989).
	3.	Convictions and charges are more likely to entail crimes to obtain drugs rather than drug offences (Hume & Gorta, 1989).
	4.	Heroin users who are male, spend a shorter time on a community methadone program and have more prior convictions are more likely to re-offend (Hume & Gorta, 1989).

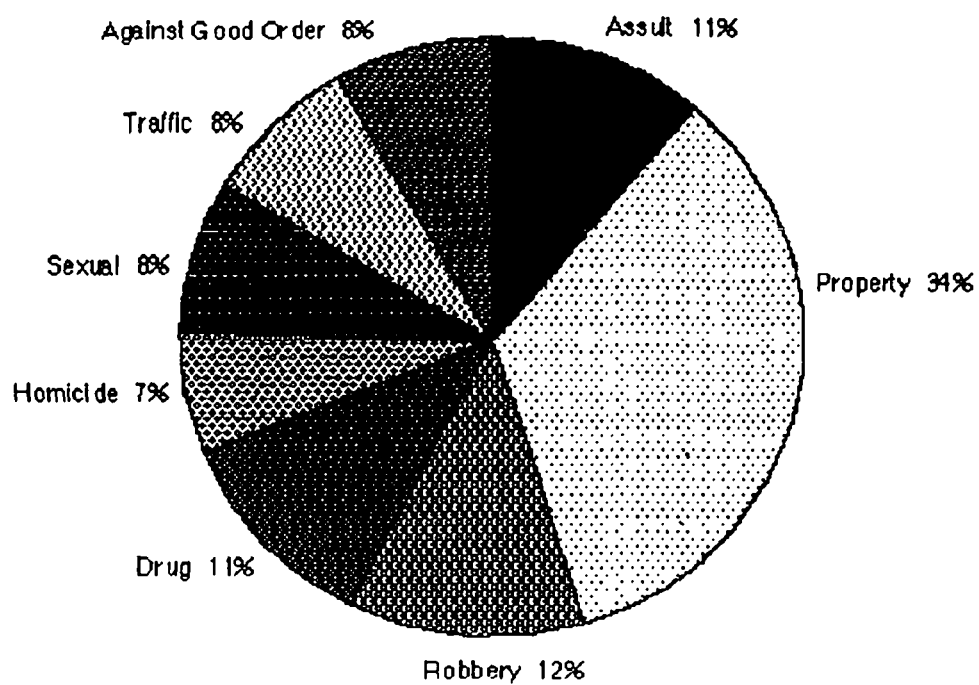
APPENDIX II

RECIDIVISM RATES (THOMPSON, 1990)



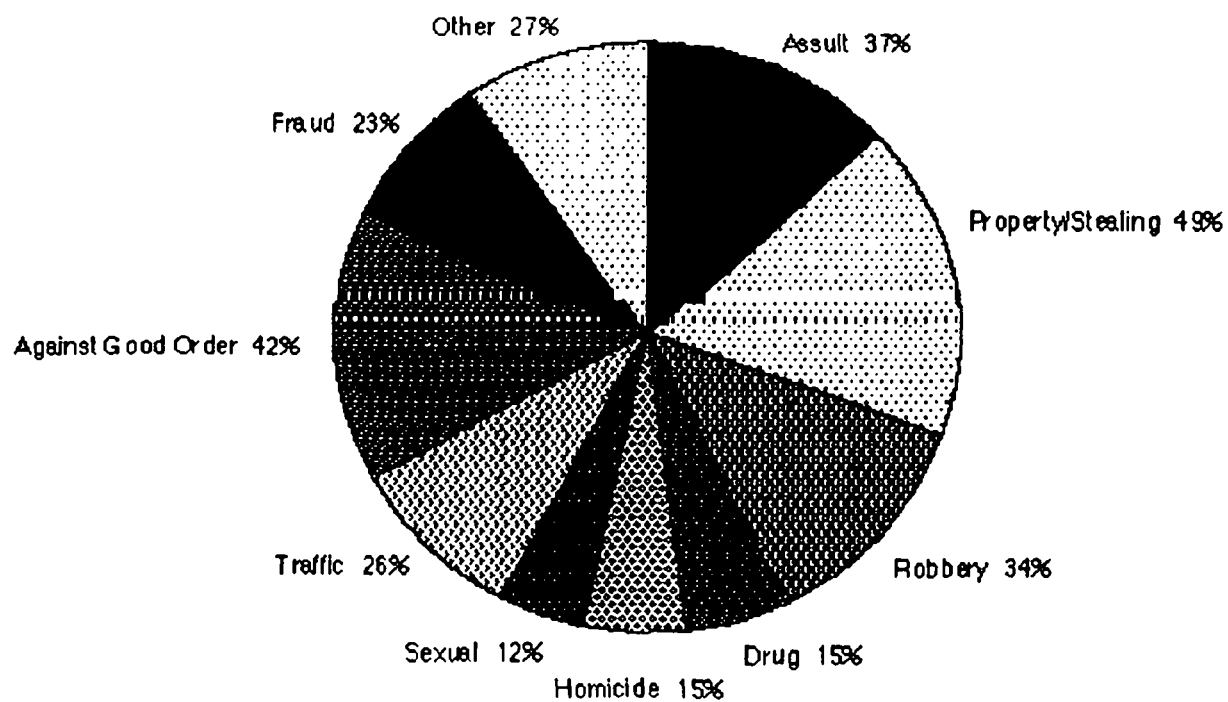
MOST SERIOUS OFFENCES FOR SENTENCED PRISONERS

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RECIDIVISM RATES

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SENTENCE LENGTHS (GRANT, 1992)

