



SHINE for Kids

The Reintegration Puzzle

**Strengthening child-parent relationships inside
prison – does this make a difference**

Gloria Larman – SHINE for Kids



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- **What happens to children of prisoners when their parent is imprisoned?**
- **How do children maintain their relationship with their imprisoned parent?**
- **Preparing children and imprisoned parent to return home.**
- **Supporting families – what do they tell us.**



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The Journey of a family







WINDSOR CHILD & FAMILY CENTRE





Sliverwarter inn
Centre



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How Many Children and Young People?



Child Visitors: 2004-2007

A child is <18 years

No: Visits by children to centres

424 664

Child visitors registered on OIMS

71 833

Visits by children by Relationship

Visiting a parent

51%

Visiting a friend/other

17%

Visiting a sibling

12%

Visiting a grandparent

2.5%

Visits by Children by Age

% aged < 5 years

20613 (29%)

% aged 6-10 years

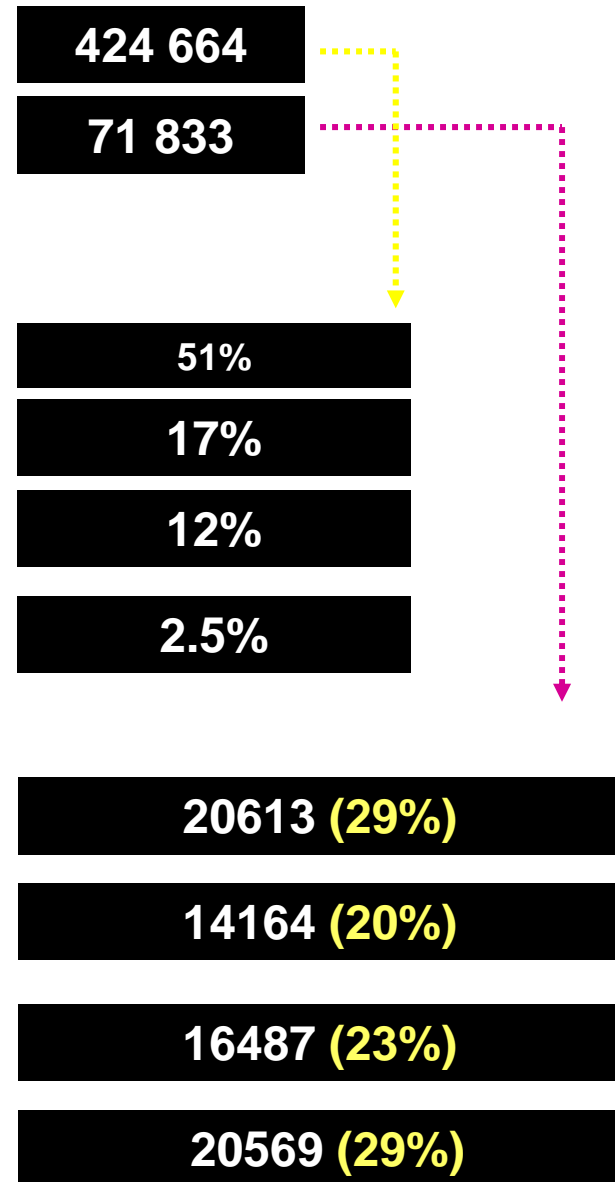
14164 (20%)

% aged 11-15 years

16487 (23%)

% aged 16-17 years

20569 (29%)





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“Studies show that children who have an incarcerated parent are five to six times more likely than their peers to someday be incarcerated themselves.”

Katz, 1998



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- 14,519 children in NSW affected by parental imprisonment in 2001
- 60,122 children in NSW who had ever been affected by parental imprisonment in 2001





It's the Kids that do the time

Volunteer stories from
The Children of Prisoners Support Group







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How does SHINE for Kids Help?

Working one on one with children and young people. Providing children and young people with alternatives to their situation. Through -

- Counseling & support
- Mentoring
- Educational/social financial assistance



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Working with children and young people in groups, reducing their isolation.

- Support groups in their local community
- Groups run in Schools
- School holiday activities
- Day trips



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Enabling children and young people to remain connected with their imprisoned parent.

- Child/Parent Activity Days held within correctional centres
- Transporting children/young people to visit their imprisoned parent
- All day visits program within Correctional Centres
- Video Conferencing Visits particularly for children and families in remote areas



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Enabling families to get through the prison experience.

- Counseling and support, before, during and after imprisonment
- Building on their parenting strengths to keep children and young people safe
- Advocacy for families to negotiate the systems they have to get through.



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Advocacy and Policy Work

- Works with Department of Corrective Services to improve visiting facilities for children and families
- Provides expert advise to Government Departments on the issues that face children and families of prisoners
- Raise awareness within the community regarding the plight of children of prisoners and the consequences for the community if children do not receive support



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CONTACT DETAILS

(02) 9714 3000

Working together to encourage positive outcomes
for children, young people and their families.

Support – Hope – Inspire – Nurture – Empower

Dear Kerry

I received my first SHINE facilitated visit with my son Joshua today. I am writing to express my gratitude and admiration for the services you provide.

As you know doubt understand imprisonment of a parent is very hard on all concerned. In so many ways the children of prisoners are punished for the crime committed by the parent. As an inmate awaiting sentencing, I mostly feel a sense of battling against the insurmountable odds in my attempts to maintain hope for some sort of decent future for myself and my family.

One day just blurs into the next and nothing ever seems to get better. Today, that changed.

The regular contact with my son that you have provided is the first event since this ordeal began, that has given me a renewed sense of not being alone with everything.

The forces lined up against someone who has stepped outside the boundaries of the law are formidable. We live in a climate of increasing hostility and antipathy towards those deemed criminals.

What SHINE did for me and Joshua today was a wonderful thing. We are no longer so alone with our battle to stay together as some sort of family unit.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I always 'even the score'. Before all this happened, I was a very successful businessman. God willing, one day I will be in a favourable position again. When that happens, I will never, ever forget what Shine has done for us.

Many thanks to Jodie (transport worker). Her dedication and inherent aptitude for the work was immediately apparent. I detected no attitude of "charity" or judgement whatsoever and was immediately comfortable with her presence. This allowed me to focus exclusively on the very special time with my son.

With all sincerity, John



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Thank You

