

Correctional Officer

Average salary: \$70,252+

Career trend: strong growth

Job description

Correctional Officers play a vital role in making Australia a safer place to live. You'll use your understanding of human nature and commitment to others to secure offenders and assist in their rehabilitation so they can return home with a greater willingness to contribute positively.

What Correctional Officers do

Without Correctional Officers, the criminal justice system would not fulfil its mission to keep communities safe, reduce re-offending and give offenders the best to re-integrate back into society.

Correctional Officers are responsible for the security, supervision, training, and rehabilitation of people committed to prison. They provide structure, discipline and meaning to prisoner's lives, including motivating prisoners to do what's best for themselves and others within a safe and healthy environment.

Depending on the security level of the prison, Correctional Officers may transport inmates, induct prisoners, support vocational training, provide informal counselling, supervise recreation, or work in the visit section, guiding visitors through proper protocols.

Correctional Officers also ensure that prisoners are fed, medications administered, health and hygiene attended to, and stronger inmates don't victimise weaker inmates. Correctional Officers conduct regular patrols, searches and security-related activities.

You'll like this job if...

You're empathetic and non-judgmental. You have excellent negotiation, verbal reasoning and conflict management skills. You're confident. You're thorough and precise. You're a problem solver. You're comfortable following the rules. You're an active listener. You work with integrity. You take initiative, ownership and accountability. You're resilient.



Will I get a job?

- Strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 2,600 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 27,100.

What will I earn?

- \$1,351–\$1,650 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Correctional Officers
- Custodial Officer

A day in the life...

Work as a Correctional Officers may involve these tasks:

- observe the conduct and behaviour of prisoners to prevent disturbances and escapes
- inspect and maintain the security of locks, window bars, grilles, doors, and gates
- supervise prisoners during work assignments, recreational periods, sporting activities, and meals
- assist with the implementation of education, rehabilitation and other programs organised for prisoners
- search prisoners and cells for weapons, drugs and other contraband items
- patrol assigned areas and report breaches of rules, unsatisfactory attitudes and prisoner adjustment problems
- requisition prisoners' clothing, toiletries, reading material, and other allowable items
- supervise prisoners in transit between courts, prisons and other facilities.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

Certificate III in Correctional Practice (CSC30115)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 98.9%*

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Main employing industries

- Public administration and safety

Other jobs you may like...

- Fire and emergency worker
- Safety inspector

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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