

Prison Officer

Prison officers supervise and control the activities of inmates in prisons and other correctional institutions.

Job title examples



- Prison Officer
- Custodial Officer

Other jobs in this field of work

What prison officers do



- 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

Main employing industries



- Public administration and safety

Qualifications



The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Correctional Practice available as a traineeship or qualification

Certificate IV in Correctional Practice available as a traineeship or qualification

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay



- There are around 5,269 prison officers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.

Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):

- Prison officers: \$1,399
- All occupations: \$1,200

Related jobs



- Safety inspector
- Fire and emergency worker

To find out more about other jobs, visit the [Job Guides Homepage](#).

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014