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
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