

Prisoners in Australia jump by 4%

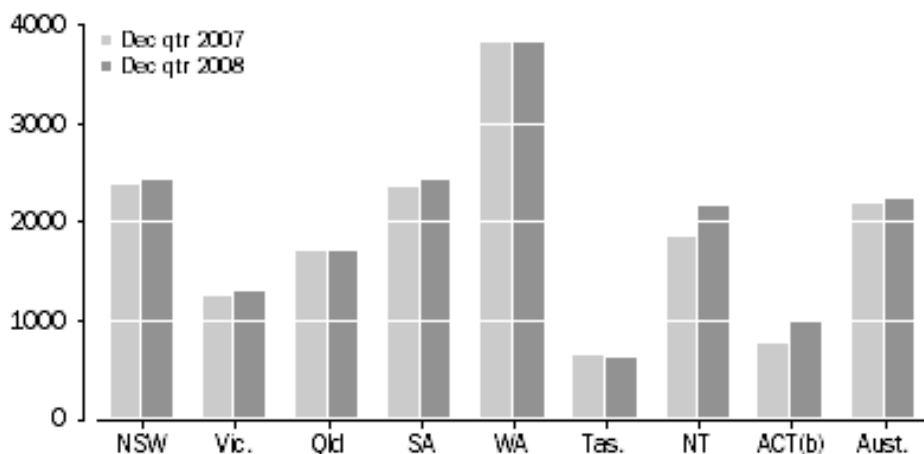
The number of prisoners in Australia jumped by 4% in 2008, to 83,171.

At year-end, there were 27,365 people in full-time custody and 55,806 in community-based corrections (the figures exclude people in periodic detention). Each category increased by 4%.

The average daily Indigenous imprisonment rate at the end of 2008 was 2,240 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, an increase of 3% on 2007.

WA continued to have the highest Indigenous imprisonment rate by far (3,811 Indigenous prisoners per 100,000 adult Indigenous population). NSW had a rate of 2,423 and South Australia 2,413. The lowest Indigenous imprisonment rate was in Tasmania (614), followed by the ACT (1,004).

Graph: Average Daily Indigenous imprisonment rate, by state and territory:



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult Indigenous population.

(b) Apparent variations in ACT rates may be as a result of small counts, see tables 6 and 7.

CLA asked WA Attorney-General in January 2009 to make a special effort to bring down the disgraceful Indigenous imprisonment rate from 42.3% of the total WA prison population to less than 40% by Australia Day 2010, but he has so far refused to bring in a program to do so.

See CLA letter: http://www.cla.asn.au/Article/09PorterWAIndigenous.pdf?zoom_highlight=wa+indigenous+imprisonment+rate#search=%22wa%20indigenous%20imprisonment%20rate%22

Information extracted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics series: 4512.0 - Corrective Services, Australia, Mar 2009; released at 11:30am AEST on 18 June 2009