

WEEK-END DETENTION

The system of week-end detention commenced in New South Wales in February this year. Certain prisoners now are able to serve their sentences from Friday to Sunday, and to continue with their ordinary work during the week, living their normal lives in their own homes

They report to the Officer in Charge of the Periodic Detention Centre at 7.00 p.m. on a Friday, are issued with working clothes and allocated a room, comfortably furnished, in a building which hovers between a barracks and a motel. Their week-end commences with a counselling session and talk with social workers, and they are then allocated to their various duties, in the way of gardening and improvement of the detention centre. The premises are outside the Long Bay gaol security wall. The sentences imposed will be for not less than three nor more than twelve months.

The object of periodic detention is to enable remediable and first offenders to remain in employment and pay towards the upkeep of their families, and to keep them away from the recidivist type of prisoner. It also reduces the cost of keeping a prisoner, from \$3,000 per annum for full-time custody to \$150 per annum for periodic detention.

To commence, only the Supreme Court or Sydney Quarter Sessions Judges will impose the week-end sentences, but as more accommodation is available the scheme will be extended to other courts.

PASSES FOR OFFICIAL VISITORS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday, 14th May, 1971, saw another advance in New South Wales' prison visitation programme when the Commissioner of Corrective Services, Mr. W. R. McGeechan, issued the first seventeen passes for official visitors. The passes, which include an embossed coloured photograph of the visitor, will facilitate the identification of visitors and allow for the expansion of the scheme to wider areas of the institutions already visited.

Mr. McGeechan, in presenting the passes, commended the scheme and said he was pleased with the way it had developed.

The visitation programme, centered mainly on the hospital section of the Long Bay Prison Complex, has since its inception in February, 1970, involved over fifty citizens, including many students from Macquarie and Sydney Universities.
