

A matter of interest to many Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-Care Council members, particularly prison welfare officers, probation and parole officers and after-care workers, is the employment of prisoners' wives. Often a woman has not worked for some years and lacks confidence in her ability to take up work again.

The two following articles set out details of the assistance available through the Department of Labour and National Service and the (Commonwealth) Department of Social Service:

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SCHEME FOR WOMEN
RESTRICTED FROM EMPLOYMENT BY DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES
(Department of Labour and National Service)

The Purpose of the Scheme: To help women who have been prevented from working by domestic responsibilities to enter employment if they wish. It will enable women who are eligible to get short-term training of a kind that will qualify them for employment which is available locally. Domestic reasons which have prevented women from regular employment include home duties such as care of family or parent or relative or invalid husband.

Eligibility: Applicants may be single women over 21 and, without age qualification, married women, divorcees, widows and single mothers who -

have been unable for domestic reasons to accept employment; are not eligible for training under any other Government sponsored training scheme; have lived continuously in Australia for the last two years; have not been in regular employment during the last two years for more than 12 weeks at any one time or for more than 26 weeks altogether, have not been engaged in full time education for more than 26 weeks during the last two years.

Training available: Training may be approved for any occupation in which employment opportunities exist locally. Women may seek training for part-time or full-time employment as employees or self employed persons.

The type of training approved in each case will depend on whether employment opportunities exist in the particular occupation preferred, whether training can be arranged, and whether the applicant has the experience and aptitude to successfully complete the training.

Normally, training is not expected to exceed three months, but may be extended for as long as 12 months.

Forms of training: Full-time courses of study at educational or training institutions; part-time courses of study at educational or training institutions, correspondence courses; on-the-job training programmes with approved employers.

Financial Assistance. Financial assistance to the trainee depends on the form of training, as follows: COURSES AT EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS. Women attending approved full-time or part-time courses at an approved educational or training institution -

will have their tuition, examination and certificate fees paid by the Commonwealth; can claim a refund of fares to and from the place of training, can apply for a supply of essential books and training equipment to a maximum value of \$80.

Women attending full-time courses (20 hours or more weekly) can also claim an INCIDENTAL EXPENSES allowance of \$4 weekly. (Where it is necessary for the trainee to live away from her normal place of residence in order to attend a full-time training course at an approved educational institution, a contribution of \$5.00 weekly may be claimed towards extra living costs away from home)

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES: Women enrolled in approved correspondence courses -

will have their tuition, examination and certificate fees paid by the Commonwealth; can claim a refund of postage costs in submitting assignments to the correspondence school; can apply for a supply of essential books and equipment to a maximum value of \$80.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING: Women placed in an approved programme of on-the-job training will be paid the appropriate wage for the job by the employer during training.

Maintenance Allowance: Some women may qualify for a MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE during the training period. This allowance is available to those women who, but for their attendance at an approved course of full-time training at an educational or training institution under this Scheme, would be eligible to claim Unemployment Benefit. This allowance is \$10 weekly plus \$2.50 weekly for the first dependent child and \$3.50 for each additional dependent child, the whole being subject to a means test.

For further details of this training scheme please contact the Regional Director of the Department of Labour and National Service in your State

TRAINING SCHEME FOR WIDOW PENSIONERS
(Commonwealth Department of Social Services)

Purpose of the Training Scheme: The Commonwealth Government has introduced the scheme to help widow pensioners to acquire a vocational skill which will enable them to undertake gainful employment.

Eligibility: Widows eligible to enter the training scheme are those in receipt of Class A or Class B pensions:

Class A - A widow with one or more children in her care

Class B - A widow at least 50 years of age or a widow at least 45 years of age whose Class A pension ceases because she no longer has a child in her care.