

Correctional Officer

Also known as Custodial Officer, Prison Officer. Correctional Officers are responsible for the custody, care and supervision of offenders in prisons and correctional centres.

What you will do

- › observe the conduct, behaviour and activities of offenders to maintain control, discipline, duty of care and security
- › ensure that offenders are treated professionally, humanely, with courtesy and respect
- › maintain the safety and security of the environment by conducting regular searches, partols and inspections
- › assist in the risk and needs assessments of offenders and have input into their case and sentence management
- › provide counselling to offenders on matters affecting their welfare, security, behaviour and correctional routines
- › assist and encourage offenders with their individual development and rehabilitation and act as a role model
- › respond to emergency situations including offender conflicts, offender injury and medical crisis
- › prepare a variety of workplace documentation and reports
- › transport and escort offenders outside the correctional environment where required
- › interact closely and communicate directly with offenders and a range of staff and associated professionals

You need to be

- › sociable and enjoy working with people
- › honest with high personal integrity
- › a good communicator with strong interpersonal skills, including fairness, sensitivity and patience
- › assertive
- › self-disciplined
- › responsible with a mature attitude towards managing people
- › able to resolve conflict
- › physically fit and emotionally robust
- › able to stay calm in stressful situations

You will require

- › Australian citizenship or permanent residency
- › An Australian police clearance check
- › a drivers licence

This job generally requires no specific education for entry. Practical skills and life experience are often more important than level of education.

Improve your chances by

- » taking justice and social science subjects
- » learning about the industry
- » participating in community based volunteer programmes

What you will earn

Salaries vary between correctional organisations and generally range from \$32,000 to \$38,000 for an entry level Correctional Officer.

Long term possibilities

With further training and experience, a wide range of career opportunities are available within the custodial stream or the wider corrections and justice environments.