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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Ian Appleby on Melbourne 03 9615 7085, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
June 1998	30 September 1998
September 1998	23 December 1998



FIRST ISSUE

This is the first issue of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) quarterly corrective services publication. This publication presents monthly information on persons in custody, and the statistics are derived from information collected by the ABS from administrative records held by corrective services agencies in each State and Territory. Details are provided for each State and Territory, together with numbers and imprisonment rates by type of custody (i.e. open or secure prison custody or periodic detention). Information is also presented on prisoner numbers by legal status (sentenced or unsentenced) and by sentence type, for all prisoners and for Indigenous prisoners, together with the number of sentenced receptions into custody and the number of federal prisoners.

The ABS has been producing quarterly prisoner statistics since 1995, based on a methodology established by the Australian Institute of Criminology. These statistics were released as reports to the Corrective Services Minister's Council. Following a review of this collection in 1997, the scope of the collection was expanded from January 1998 to include all persons in custody in Australia. Thus, periodic detainees in New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are now included, as are persons in Work Outreach Camps (WORC) and Community Custody Centres (CCC) in Queensland (Qld). The collection also now includes a greater range of data items in relation to the total prisoner population and the Indigenous prisoner population.

The statistics in this publication are sourced from this expanded collection. As the increase in the scope of the collection marked a break in the previously produced quarterly prisoner statistical series, most series in this publication commence from January 1998, with the exception of series in table 1. This table covers periods from January 1997 and has been compiled from data obtained in the old and new collections, together with data on the numbers of persons in WORCs and CCCs in Qld in 1997. While the other series shown in this issue cover only three months and one quarter, they will be progressively extended in future issues up to a maximum of fifteen months and five quarters.

The ABS is continuing work on the development of corrective service statistics, particularly in relation to community based corrections statistics and information on the flows of persons through the corrective service system. It is intended that, in future, some statistical series will be analysed for seasonal variation, and that trend analysis will also be undertaken.

The valuable contribution of the Board of Management and the Advisory Group of the National Corrective Services Statistics Unit (NCSSU) to the production of this publication is acknowledged.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

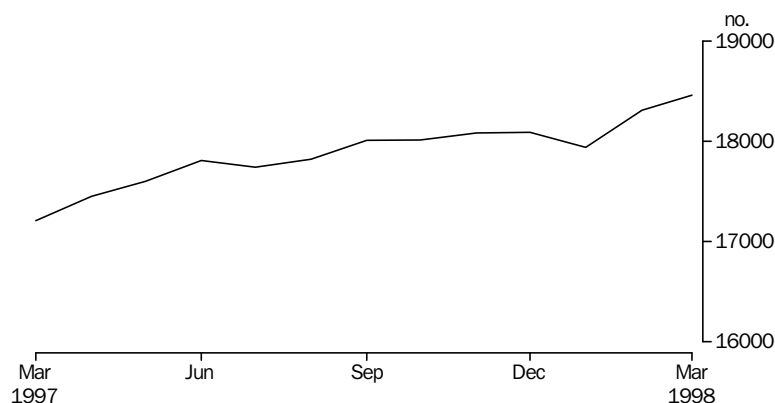
NUMBER OF PRISONERS

In the March quarter 1998, the average number of prisoners in Australia was 18,235, an increase of 173 (1.0%) on the December quarter 1997. Qld and Victoria (Vic.) were the major contributors to this increase, rising by 202 (4.5%) and 37 (1.4%) respectively. The daily average number of prisoners recorded in all other States and Territories remained steady or fell from the December quarter 1997.

About one-third (6,280) of all prisoners in March quarter 1998 were in NSW. Qld accounted for another 25.8%, with an average of 4,709 prisoners. Vic. and Western Australia (WA) contributed 2,688 (14.7%) and 2,239 (12.3%) respectively.

The average number of prisoners in Australia increased by 1,146 (6.7%) over the year from March quarter 1997. Qld and Vic. accounted for nearly all of this increase, with smaller increases in WA, Tasmania (Tas.), and the Northern Territory (NT) mostly offset by decreases in NSW, South Australia (SA) and the ACT (including ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons).

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, Australia



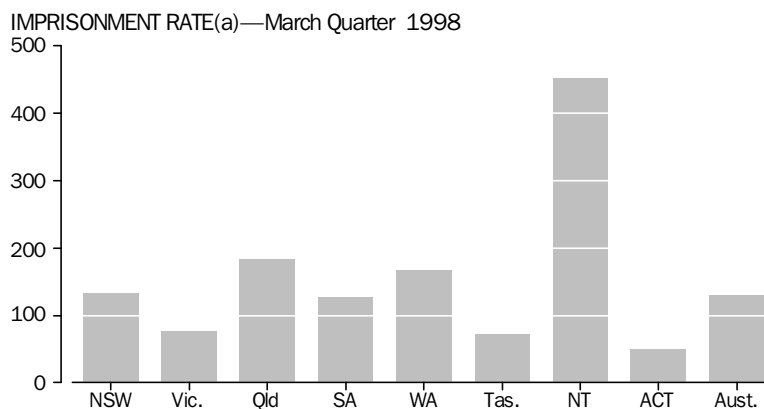
RATES PER 100,000 ADULTS

Nationally, the daily average imprisonment rate was 130.2 per 100,000 adult population during the March quarter 1998 compared to 129.0 in the December quarter 1997, and 122.8 in the March quarter 1997. The NT had the highest rate of 452.9 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, substantially greater than the next highest, Qld and WA with rates of 183.1 and 168.2 prisoners per 100,000 adult population respectively.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

RATES PER 100,000 ADULTS *continued*

From the December quarter 1997 to the March quarter 1998, the rate increased slightly, by 0.9%. The greatest increase was in Qld (4.5%), whereas the NT rate decreased by 3.4 % over that period.



(a) Rate per 100,000 adult population

SEX

Of the average number of prisoners in Australia during the March quarter 1998, 17,268 (94.7%) were males and 967 (5.3%) were females. The proportion of prisoners who were female ranged from 7.5% in the ACT (including ACT in NSW) and 6.7% in WA, to 3.2% in Tas. All female prisoners in SA, Tas., the NT and the ACT were held in secure prison custody.

TYPE OF CUSTODY

There was an average of 13,020 prisoners (71.4%) in secure prison custody in Australia during the March quarter 1998, with the remaining 5,216 prisoners (28.6%) held in open prison custody. The highest proportion of prisoners held in secure prisons was recorded in Vic. (88.2%), followed by SA (86.6%). The State or Territory with the lowest proportion of prisoners in secure prison custody was NSW, with 54.2%.

LEGAL STATUS AND SENTENCE TYPE

On 1 March 1998, there were 18,425 prisoners in Australia. Of these, 15,661 (85.0%) had a legal status of sentenced, and 2,764 (15.0%) were unsentenced (remanded in custody). The ACT, including ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons, had the highest proportion of unsentenced persons in prison custody (21.5%), followed by SA (18.8%), NSW (17.2%) and Vic. (16.6%). Qld and the NT recorded the lowest proportions of unsentenced persons in prison custody (10.9% and 12.0% respectively). It should be noted that these latter two jurisdictions had the highest imprisonment rates at the beginning of March, with 187.7 and 456.3 persons in prison custody per 100,000 adult population respectively.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

SENTENCED RECEPTIONS

Information on sentenced receptions is not currently available for NSW. Of the other States and Territories, Qld recorded the highest number of sentenced receptions during the March quarter 1998 with 3,143, followed by 902 in SA and 694 in WA. The highest sentenced reception rates were recorded in the NT, followed by Qld (323.0 and 122.2 persons per 100,000 adult population respectively). Their rates were substantially higher than those for the other jurisdictions, particularly Vic. where there were 16.3 sentenced receptions per 100,000 adult population.

INDIGENOUS PRISONERS

Information on Indigenous prisoners is not currently available for NSW. Of the other States and Territories, on 1 March 1998 the highest number of Indigenous persons in prison custody was recorded in Qld (1,104), followed by WA (766) and the NT (455). The highest proportion of the persons in prison custody who were Indigenous was recorded in the NT, where 75.1% of all prisoners were Indigenous, followed by WA (34.0%) and Qld (22.9%). The highest rates of Indigenous imprisonment were recorded in WA (2,517.3 Indigenous persons per 100,000 adult Indigenous population), Qld (1,906.6), SA (1,651.1) and the NT (1,523.3). The highest ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment was also recorded in WA, which had an Indigenous rate of imprisonment 22.1 times the non-Indigenous rate.

PERIODIC DETENTION

In addition to persons in full-time prison custody, there was an average of 1,509 persons in NSW and 77 persons in the ACT during the March quarter 1998 held in periodic detention.

FEDERAL PRISONERS

On 1 March 1998, there were 507 federal prisoners in Australia, of whom more than half (50.9%) were sentenced in NSW courts.

1

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY(a)

Period	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(c)	ACT(d)	Aust.
AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER										
Year—										
1997	6 330	2 566	4 169	1 473	2 234	259	593	118	37	17 661
Quarter—										
1997										
March quarter	6 298	2 422	3 837	1 489	2 187	257	562	115	38	17 089
June quarter	6 375	2 543	4 077	1 496	2 258	259	574	120	40	17 622
September quarter	6 342	2 645	4 245	1 482	2 235	261	613	116	35	17 857
December quarter	6 306	2 651	4 507	1 426	2 254	260	622	119	35	18 062
1998										
March quarter	6 280	2 688	4 709	1 428	2 239	260	601	116	30	18 235
Month—										
1997										
January	6 267	2 410	3 792	1 472	2 135	247	564	116	33	16 920
February	6 300	2 419	3 846	1 529	2 187	263	559	115	40	17 143
March	6 326	2 436	3 874	1 471	2 239	262	562	114	40	17 210
April	6 366	2 455	4 013	1 505	2 247	257	571	115	41	17 455
May	6 357	2 545	4 071	1 493	2 260	258	575	126	41	17 600
June	6 404	2 629	4 147	1 490	2 266	261	577	120	37	17 811
July	6 308	2 654	4 182	1 471	2 233	257	604	111	36	17 744
August	6 333	2 639	4 224	1 494	2 230	258	607	118	36	17 821
September	6 385	2 643	4 332	1 480	2 244	267	629	119	32	18 012
October	6 329	2 657	4 415	1 452	2 235	263	626	114	40	18 018
November	6 291	2 648	4 524	1 423	2 277	257	622	120	38	18 081
December	6 298	2 649	4 584	1 403	2 250	258	619	124	28	18 089
1998										
January	6 268	2 640	4 533	1 403	2 215	249	609	110	24	17 942
February	6 298	2 702	4 740	1 434	2 239	263	603	117	34	18 313
March	6 277	2 722	4 856	1 447	2 262	270	593	120	33	18 459

(a) Includes WORCs and CCCs in Qld—see Explanatory Note 8.

(b) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(c) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (b) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(d) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

1

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY(a) *continued*

Period	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(c)	ACT(d)	Aust.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION										
Year—										
1997	134.6	72.6	162.6	131.2	168.4	73.0	449.1	50.4	11.8	126.1
Quarter—										
1997										
March quarter	134.4	68.8	150.6	132.9	166.0	72.5	428.9	49.2	16.1	122.8
June quarter	135.7	72.0	159.3	133.3	170.5	72.9	436.7	51.5	17.0	126.3
September quarter	134.5	74.7	165.0	131.8	167.9	73.6	461.7	49.6	14.8	127.5
December quarter	133.7	74.8	175.2	126.8	169.3	73.3	468.7	51.1	15.1	129.0
1998										
March quarter	133.2	75.9	183.1	127.0	168.2	73.5	452.9	49.5	13.0	130.2
Month—										
1997										
January	133.7	68.4	148.8	131.3	162.0	69.6	430.3	49.6	14.2	121.6
February	134.4	68.7	150.9	136.4	165.9	74.3	426.7	49.2	17.0	123.2
March	135.0	69.2	152.0	131.2	169.9	73.8	429.4	48.8	17.1	123.7
April	135.5	69.5	156.8	134.1	169.7	72.4	434.1	49.2	17.6	125.1
May	135.3	72.1	159.1	133.0	170.6	72.7	437.1	53.9	17.6	126.1
June	136.3	74.5	162.1	132.7	171.1	73.6	438.8	51.3	15.8	127.6
July	133.8	74.9	162.6	130.8	167.7	72.6	454.6	47.5	15.2	126.7
August	134.3	74.5	164.2	132.9	167.5	72.9	456.9	50.5	15.4	127.2
September	135.4	74.6	168.4	131.6	168.5	75.3	473.9	50.9	13.8	128.6
October	134.2	75.0	171.6	129.1	167.9	74.3	471.7	48.8	17.0	128.6
November	133.4	74.7	175.9	126.5	171.1	72.5	468.6	51.4	16.3	129.1
December	133.6	74.8	178.2	124.8	169.0	72.8	465.8	53.1	12.1	129.1
1998										
January	132.9	74.5	176.2	124.8	166.4	70.2	458.7	47.1	10.4	128.1
February	133.6	76.3	184.3	127.5	168.2	74.2	453.9	50.1	14.6	130.7
March	133.1	76.8	188.8	128.7	169.9	76.1	446.2	51.4	14.1	131.8

(a) Includes WORCs and CCCs in Qld—see Explanatory Note 8.

(b) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(c) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (b) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(d) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

2

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Sex and Type of Prison Custody

Prison custody and sex	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(b)	ACT(c)	Aust.
AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER										
Males										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	3 210	2 208	3 517	1 130	1 389	162	488	33	20	12 123
February	3 223	2 277	3 619	1 162	1 408	178	477	32	31	12 374
March	3 219	2 276	3 718	1 170	1 400	178	449	36	28	12 438
March quarter	3 217	2 253	3 618	1 154	1 399	172	471	34	26	12 310
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	2 754	290	795	191	679	78	94	70	..	4 881
February	2 774	277	856	190	681	78	99	78	..	4 956
March	2 762	303	871	194	708	83	116	78	..	5 038
March quarter	2 763	290	840	192	690	80	103	75	..	4 958
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	5 964	2 498	4 312	1 321	2 069	240	581	103	20	17 004
February	5 997	2 554	4 475	1 352	2 089	256	576	110	31	17 330
March	5 981	2 579	4 589	1 364	2 109	261	565	114	28	17 476
March quarter	5 980	2 543	4 458	1 346	2 089	252	574	109	26	17 268
Females										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	191	114	183	82	92	9	28	—	4	703
February	188	121	194	82	90	8	27	—	3	712
March	190	116	196	83	89	8	28	—	5	715
March quarter	190	117	191	82	90	8	28	—	4	710
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	113	28	38	—	55	—	—	7	..	234
February	113	27	71	—	60	—	—	7	..	271
March	106	27	71	—	64	—	—	6	..	268
March quarter	111	27	60	—	60	—	—	7	..	257
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	304	142	221	82	147	9	28	7	4	937
February	301	148	265	82	150	8	27	7	3	983
March	296	143	267	83	153	8	28	6	5	983
March quarter	300	144	251	82	150	8	28	7	4	967

(a) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(c) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

2

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Sex and Type of Prison Custody *continued*

<i>Prison custody and sex</i>	<i>NSW(a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT in NSW(b)</i>	<i>ACT(c)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER										
Persons										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	3 401	2 322	3 700	1 212	1 481	171	516	33	24	12 826
February	3 411	2 398	3 813	1 244	1 498	185	503	32	34	13 086
March	3 409	2 392	3 914	1 253	1 489	187	476	36	33	13 153
<i>March quarter</i>	<i>3 407</i>	<i>2 370</i>	<i>3 809</i>	<i>1 236</i>	<i>1 489</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>13 020</i>
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	2 867	318	833	191	735	78	94	77	..	5 115
February	2 887	304	927	190	741	78	99	85	..	5 227
March	2 868	330	942	194	772	83	116	84	..	5 306
<i>March quarter</i>	<i>2 874</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>5 216</i>
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	6 268	2 640	4 533	1 403	2 215	249	609	110	24	17 942
February	6 298	2 702	4 740	1 434	2 239	263	603	117	34	18 313
March	6 277	2 722	4 856	1 447	2 262	270	593	120	33	18 459
March quarter	6 280	2 688	4 709	1 428	2 239	260	601	116	30	18 235

(a) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(c) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

2

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Sex and Type of Prison Custody *continued*

<i>Prison custody and sex</i>	<i>NSW(a)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT in NSW(b)</i>	<i>ACT(c)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION										
Males										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	138.6	127.6	275.2	205.6	209.1	93.4	689.1	28.7	17.4	175.8
February	139.1	131.6	283.2	211.4	211.9	102.8	673.5	27.9	26.8	179.4
March	138.9	131.5	291.0	212.8	210.7	103.1	634.0	31.3	24.4	180.3
<i>March quarter</i>	138.9	130.2	283.1	209.9	210.5	99.7	665.3	29.3	22.7	178.5
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	118.9	16.8	62.2	34.7	102.3	45.2	132.4	60.9	..	70.8
February	119.7	16.0	67.0	34.6	102.5	45.0	140.5	67.9	..	71.8
March	119.2	17.5	68.2	35.3	106.6	48.1	164.3	67.9	..	73.0
<i>March quarter</i>	119.3	16.8	65.8	34.9	103.8	46.1	145.9	65.5	..	71.9
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	257.4	144.4	337.5	240.3	311.3	138.6	821.4	89.6	17.4	246.5
February	258.9	147.6	350.2	246.0	314.5	147.8	814.1	95.7	26.8	251.2
March	258.2	149.0	359.1	248.1	317.4	151.2	798.3	99.2	24.4	253.4
<i>March quarter</i>	258.1	147.0	348.9	244.8	314.4	145.8	811.2	94.8	22.7	250.3
Females										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	8.0	6.3	14.1	14.3	13.8	5.0	45.1	—	3.5	9.9
February	7.8	6.7	15.0	14.3	13.4	4.1	43.2	—	2.9	10.0
March	7.9	6.4	15.1	14.4	13.4	4.5	44.6	—	4.1	10.1
<i>March quarter</i>	7.9	6.4	14.7	14.3	13.5	4.6	44.3	—	3.5	10.0
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	4.7	1.5	2.9	—	8.3	—	—	5.9	..	3.3
February	4.7	1.5	5.5	—	9.0	—	—	5.9	..	3.8
March	4.4	1.5	5.5	—	9.6	—	—	5.1	..	3.8
<i>March quarter</i>	4.6	1.5	4.6	—	9.0	—	—	5.6	..	3.6
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	12.7	7.8	17.1	14.3	22.0	5.0	45.1	5.9	3.5	13.2
February	12.5	8.2	20.5	14.3	22.5	4.1	43.2	5.9	2.9	13.8
March	12.3	7.9	20.6	14.4	23.0	4.5	44.6	5.1	4.1	13.8
<i>March quarter</i>	12.5	8.0	19.4	14.3	22.5	4.6	44.3	5.6	3.5	13.6

(a) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(c) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

2

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Sex and Type of Prison Custody *continued*

<i>Prison custody and sex</i>	<i>NSW(a)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT in NSW(b)</i>	<i>ACT(c)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION										
Persons										
Secure prison custody										
1998										
January	72.1	65.5	143.8	107.8	111.2	48.2	388.2	14.1	10.4	91.6
February	72.3	67.7	148.2	110.6	112.5	52.2	379.0	13.7	14.6	93.4
March	72.3	67.5	152.2	111.4	111.9	52.6	358.6	15.4	14.1	93.9
<i>March quarter</i>	72.2	66.9	148.1	109.9	111.8	51.0	375.1	14.4	13.0	92.9
Open prison custody										
1998										
January	60.8	9.0	32.4	17.0	55.2	22.0	70.5	33.0	..	36.5
February	61.2	8.6	36.0	16.9	55.7	22.0	74.9	36.4	..	37.3
March	60.8	9.3	36.6	17.3	58.0	23.5	87.5	35.9	..	37.9
<i>March quarter</i>	60.9	9.0	35.0	17.0	56.3	22.5	77.7	35.0	..	37.2
Total prison custody										
1998										
January	132.9	74.5	176.2	124.8	166.4	70.2	458.7	47.1	10.4	128.1
February	133.6	76.3	184.3	127.5	168.2	74.2	453.9	50.1	14.6	130.7
March	133.1	76.8	188.8	128.7	169.9	76.1	446.2	51.4	14.1	131.8
March quarter	133.2	75.9	183.1	127.0	168.2	73.5	452.9	49.5	13.0	130.2

(a) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a single count taken on a specific day of the month and are not an average of the daily prisoner population for that month. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(c) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

3

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Legal Status and Sentence Type

Legal status and sentence type	NSW(a)	Vic.(b)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(c)	ACT(d)	Aust.
NUMBER ON FIRST DAY OF MONTH										
Unsented										
1998										
January	1 005	440	447	235	261	30	79	..	20	2 517
February	1 050	480	447	261	295	29	85	..	32	2 679
March	1 081	451	525	272	295	35	73	..	32	2 764
March quarter(e)	1 045	457	473	256	284	31	79	..	28	2 653
Sented										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	4	n.a.	138	59	22	—	17	1	..	n.a.
February	—	n.a.	166	75	25	3	20	1	..	n.a.
March	2	n.a.	168	42	26	3	12	1	..	n.a.
March quarter(e)	2	n.a.	157	59	24	2	16	1	..	n.a.
Other sented										
1998										
January	5 248	n.a.	3 999	1 084	1 933	219	508	123	..	n.a.
February	5 237	n.a.	4 129	1 067	1 910	222	511	76	..	n.a.
March	5 184	n.a.	4 134	1 136	1 929	232	521	116	..	n.a.
March quarter(e)	5 223	n.a.	4 087	1 096	1 924	224	513	105	..	n.a.
Total sented										
1998										
January	5 252	2 210	4 137	1 143	1 955	219	525	124	..	15 441
February	5 237	2 186	4 295	1 142	1 935	225	531	77	..	15 551
March	5 186	2 272	4 302	1 178	1 955	235	533	117	..	15 661
March quarter(e)	5 225	2 223	4 245	1 154	1 948	226	530	106	..	15 551
Total										
1998										
January	6 257	2 650	4 584	1 378	2 216	249	604	124	20	17 958
February	6 287	2 666	4 742	1 403	2 230	254	616	77	32	18 230
March	6 267	2 723	4 827	1 450	2 250	270	606	117	32	18 425
March quarter(e)	6 270.3	2 680	4 718	1 410	2 232	258	609	106	28	18 204

(a) Persons sented to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) Numbers of sented prisoners by type of sentence for Vic. are unavailable for this publication—see Explanatory Note 10.

(c) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(d) Refers to unsented persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

(e) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

3

PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Legal Status and Sentence Type *continued*

<i>Legal status and sentence type</i>	<i>NSW(a)</i>	<i>Vic.(b)</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT in NSW(c)</i>	<i>ACT(d)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION										
Unsentenced										
1998										
January	21.3	12.4	17.4	20.9	19.6	8.5	59.5	..	8.6	18.0
February	22.3	13.5	17.4	23.2	22.2	8.2	64.0	..	13.7	19.1
March	22.9	12.7	20.4	24.2	22.2	9.9	55.0	..	13.7	19.7
<i>March quarter(e)</i>	22.2	12.9	18.4	22.8	21.3	8.8	59.5	..	12.0	18.9
Sentenced										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	0.1	n.a.	5.4	5.2	1.7	—	12.8	0.4	..	n.a.
February	—	n.a.	6.5	6.7	1.9	0.8	15.1	0.4	..	n.a.
March	—	n.a.	6.5	3.7	2.0	0.8	9.0	0.4	..	n.a.
<i>March quarter(e)</i>	—	n.a.	6.1	5.2	1.8	0.6	12.3	0.4	..	n.a.
Other sentenced										
1998										
January	111.3	n.a.	155.5	96.4	145.2	61.8	382.5	52.6	..	n.a.
February	111.1	n.a.	160.5	94.9	143.5	62.6	384.8	32.5	..	n.a.
March	109.9	n.a.	160.7	101.0	144.9	65.5	392.3	49.6	..	n.a.
<i>March quarter(e)</i>	110.8	n.a.	158.9	97.4	144.5	63.3	386.5	44.9	..	n.a.
Total sentenced										
1998										
January	111.4	62.4	160.8	101.6	146.9	61.8	395.3	53.1	..	110.2
February	111.1	61.7	167.0	101.6	145.4	63.5	399.8	33.0	..	111.0
March	110.0	64.1	167.2	104.8	146.9	66.3	401.3	50.1	..	111.8
<i>March quarter(e)</i>	110.8	62.7	165.0	102.7	146.4	63.9	398.8	45.4	..	111.0
Total										
1998										
January	132.7	74.8	178.2	122.5	166.5	70.3	454.8	53.1	8.6	128.2
February	133.3	75.2	184.3	124.8	167.5	71.7	463.8	33.0	13.7	130.1
March	132.9	76.9	187.7	128.9	169.0	76.2	456.3	50.1	13.7	131.5
March quarter(d)	133.0	75.6	183.4	125.4	167.7	72.7	458.3	45.4	12.0	130.0

(a) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons and are included in the NSW figures.

(b) Numbers of sentenced prisoners by type of sentence for Vic. are unavailable for this publication—see Explanatory Note 10.

(c) The ACT in NSW figures refer to the persons described in (a) above. The figures are a subset of the NSW figures and are NOT included in the totals for Australia.

(d) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

(e) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

4

SENTENCED RECEPTIONS INTO PRISON CUSTODY, By Type of Sentence

Sentence type	NSW(a)	Vic.(b)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(c)	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	n.a.	4	288	155	40	12	74	1	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	3	303	140	32	13	58	—	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	2	237	159	37	11	58	—	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	9	828	454	109	36	190	1	..	n.a.
Other sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	149	627	123	172	36	94	6	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	195	793	165	191	45	68	21	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	223	895	160	222	33	77	15	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	567	2 315	448	585	114	239	42	..	n.a.
Total sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	153	915	278	212	48	168	7	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	198	1 096	305	223	58	126	21	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	225	1 132	319	259	44	135	15	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	576	3 143	902	694	150	429	43	..	n.a.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	n.a.	0.1	11.2	13.8	3.0	3.4	55.7	0.4	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	0.1	11.8	12.4	2.4	3.7	43.7	—	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	0.1	9.2	14.1	2.8	3.1	43.7	—	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	0.3	32.2	40.4	8.2	10.2	143.1	0.4	..	n.a.
Other sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	4.2	24.4	10.9	12.9	10.2	70.8	2.6	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	5.5	30.8	14.7	14.3	12.7	51.2	9.0	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	6.3	34.8	14.2	16.7	9.3	58.0	6.4	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	16.0	90.0	39.8	43.9	32.2	180.0	18.0	..	n.a.
Total sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	4.3	35.6	24.7	15.9	13.5	126.5	3.0	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	5.6	42.6	27.1	16.8	16.4	94.9	9.0	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	6.4	44.0	28.4	19.5	12.4	101.7	6.4	..	n.a.
March quarter	n.a.	16.3	122.2	80.2	52.1	42.3	323.0	18.4	..	n.a.

(a) Numbers of sentenced receptions for NSW are unavailable for this publication—see Explanatory Note 10.

(b) Persons reclassified from unsentenced to sentenced status during the month are not included in the reception figures for Vic. Information on sentenced receptions for Vic. is therefore not comparable with information for other States and Territories.

(c) Persons sentenced to full-time custody in the ACT are held in NSW prisons—see Explanatory Note 14.

5

INDIGENOUS PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Sex(a)(b)

Sex	NSW(c)	Vic.(c)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(d)	ACT(e)	Aust.
NUMBER ON FIRST DAY OF MONTH										
Males										
1998										
January	n.a.	123	952	216	666	24	417	2	7	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	983	187	696	23	417	2	5	n.a.
March	n.a.	134	1 028	191	694	26	432	2	4	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	988	198	685	24	422	2	5	n.a.
Females										
1998										
January	n.a.	8	64	18	71	2	15	—	—	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	70	10	73	1	18	—	—	n.a.
March	n.a.	7	76	9	72	1	23	—	—	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	70	12	72	1	19	—	—	n.a.
Persons										
1998										
January	n.a.	131	1 016	234	737	26	432	2	7	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 053	197	769	24	435	2	5	n.a.
March	n.a.	141	1 104	200	766	27	455	2	4	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 058	210	757	26	441	2	5	n.a.
RATE PER 100,000 ADULT INDIGENOUS POPULATION										
Males										
1998										
January	n.a.	1 951.1	3 438.8	3 719.0	4 526.9	594.9	2 883.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	3 550.8	3 219.7	4 730.8	570.2	2 883.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	2 125.6	3 713.3	3 288.6	4 717.2	644.5	2 986.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	3 567.6	3 409.1	4 658.3	603.2	2 917.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
Females										
1998										
January	n.a.	119.2	211.8	285.5	451.7	n.p.	97.4	—	—	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	231.6	158.6	464.5	n.p.	116.8	—	—	n.a.
March	n.a.	104.3	251.5	142.7	458.1	n.p.	149.3	—	—	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	231.6	195.6	458.1	n.p.	121.2	—	—	n.a.
Persons										
1998										
January	n.a.	1 006.5	1 754.6	1 931.8	2 422.0	312.0	1 446.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 818.5	1 626.4	2 527.2	288.0	1 456.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	1 083.4	1 906.6	1 651.1	2 517.3	324.0	1 523.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 826.6	1 736.4	2 488.8	308.0	1 475.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.

- (a) Some rates and ratios in this table have not been published—see Explanatory Note 22.
- (b) Persons in custody are asked their Indigenous status during reception into custody—see Explanatory Notes 11 to 13.
- (c) Numbers of Indigenous persons for NSW, and numbers of Indigenous persons for Vic. in February, are unavailable—see Explanatory Note 10.
- (d) The ACT in NSW figures refer to ACT sentenced prisoners held in NSW prisons—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (e) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (f) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

Sex	NSW(c)	Vic.(c)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(d)	ACT(e)	Aust.
RATIO OF INDIGENOUS TO NON-INDIGENOUS RATES OF IMPRISONMENT										
Males										
1998										
January	n.a.	14.1	12.7	18.6	20.9	4.6	10.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	12.7	15.5	22.2	4.3	9.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	15.1	13.2	15.2	21.8	4.6	11.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	12.9	16.4	21.6	4.5	10.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
Females										
1998										
January	n.a.	15.7	14.0	29.0	40.3	n.p.	3.5	—	—	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	14.9	12.4	39.3	n.p.	5.0	—	—	n.a.
March	n.a.	12.8	15.5	11.0	38.7	n.p.	9.4	—	—	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	14.8	17.4	39.4	n.p.	6.1	—	—	n.a.
Persons										
1998										
January	n.a.	14.1	12.4	18.8	21.3	4.8	8.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	12.4	15.0	22.5	4.3	8.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	14.8	12.9	14.7	22.1	4.6	10.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	12.6	16.2	22.0	4.6	9.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.

- (a) Some rates and ratios in this table have not been published—see Explanatory Note 22.
- (b) Persons in custody are asked their Indigenous status during reception into custody—see Explanatory Notes 11 to 13.
- (c) Numbers of Indigenous persons for NSW, and numbers of Indigenous persons for Vic. in February, are unavailable—see Explanatory Note 10.
- (d) The ACT in NSW figures refer to ACT sentenced prisoners held in NSW prisons—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (e) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (f) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

6

INDIGENOUS PERSONS IN PRISON CUSTODY, By Legal Status and Sentence Type(a)(b)

Legal status and sentence type	NSW(c)	Vic.(c)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(d)	ACT(e)	Aust.
NUMBER ON FIRST DAY OF MONTH										
Unsentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	22	79	63	81	1	37	..	7	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	79	46	110	3	39	..	5	n.a.
March	n.a.	28	102	44	89	4	55	..	4	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	87	51	93	3	44	..	5	n.a.
Sentenced										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	n.a.	n.a.	36	16	10	—	14	—	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	59	16	13	—	13	—	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	n.a.	44	12	14	—	9	—	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	46	15	12	—	12	—	..	n.a.
Other sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	n.a.	901	155	646	25	381	2	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	915	135	646	21	383	2	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	n.a.	958	144	663	23	391	2	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	925	145	652	23	385	2	..	n.a.
Total sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	109	937	171	656	25	395	2	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	974	151	659	21	396	2	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	113	1 002	156	677	23	400	2	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	971	159	664	23	397	2	..	n.a.
Total										
1998										
January	n.a.	131	1 016	234	737	26	432	2	7	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 053	197	769	24	435	2	5	n.a.
March	n.a.	141	1 104	200	766	27	455	2	4	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 058	210	757	26	441	2	5	n.a.

(a) Some rates in this table have not been published—see Explanatory Note 22.

(b) Persons in custody are asked their Indigenous status during reception into custody—see Explanatory Notes 11 to 13.

(c) Numbers of Indigenous persons for NSW, and numbers of Indigenous persons for Vic. in February, are unavailable—see Explanatory Note 10.

(d) The ACT in NSW figures refer to ACT sentenced prisoners held in NSW prisons—see Explanatory Note 14.

(e) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.

(f) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

Legal status and sentence type	NSW(c)	Vic.(c)	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT in NSW(d)	ACT(e)	Aust.
RATES PER 100,000 ADULT INDIGENOUS POPULATION										
Unsentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	169.0	136.4	520.1	266.2	12.0	123.9	..	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	136.4	379.8	361.5	36.0	130.6	..	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	215.1	176.2	363.3	292.5	48.0	184.1	..	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	149.7	421.0	306.7	32.0	146.2	..	n.p.	n.a.
Sentenced										
Fine default only										
1998										
January	n.a.	n.a.	62.2	132.1	32.9	—	46.9	—	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	101.9	132.1	42.7	—	43.5	—	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	n.a.	76.0	99.1	46.0	—	30.1	—	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	80.0	121.1	40.5	—	40.2	—	..	n.a.
Other sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	n.a.	1 556.0	1 279.6	2 123.0	300.0	1 275.6	n.p.	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 580.2	1 114.5	2 123.0	252.0	1 282.3	n.p.	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	n.a.	1 654.5	1 188.8	2 178.8	276.0	1 309.1	n.p.	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 596.9	1 194.3	2 141.6	276.0	1 289.0	n.p.	..	n.a.
Total sentenced										
1998										
January	n.a.	837.5	1 618.2	1 411.7	2 155.8	300.0	1 322.4	n.p.	..	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 682.1	1 246.6	2 165.7	252.0	1 325.8	n.p.	..	n.a.
March	n.a.	868.2	1 730.5	1 287.9	2 224.9	276.0	1 339.2	n.p.	..	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 676.9	1 315.4	2 182.1	276.0	1 329.1	n.p.	..	n.a.
Total										
1998										
January	n.a.	1 006.5	1 754.6	1 931.8	2 422.0	312.0	1 446.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
February	n.a.	n.a.	1 818.5	1 626.4	2 527.2	288.0	1 456.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March	n.a.	1 083.4	1 906.6	1 651.1	2 517.3	324.0	1 523.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.
March quarter(f)	n.a.	n.a.	1 826.6	1 736.4	2 488.9	308.0	1 475.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.a.

- (a) Some rates in this table have not been published—see Explanatory Note 22.
- (b) Persons in custody are asked their Indigenous status during reception into custody—see Explanatory Notes 11 to 13.
- (c) Numbers of Indigenous persons for NSW, and numbers of Indigenous persons for Vic. in February, are unavailable—see Explanatory Note 10.
- (d) The ACT in NSW figures refer to ACT sentenced prisoners held in NSW prisons—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (e) Refers to unsentenced persons in prison custody—see Explanatory Note 14.
- (f) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated on a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

7

PERSONS IN PERIODIC DETENTION(a)

Sex NSW ACT Aust.

AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER

Males

1998

January	1 392	70	1 462
February	1 376	75	1 451
March	1 374	74	1 448
<i>March quarter</i>	1 381	73	1 454

Females

1998

January	128	5	133
February	125	4	129
March	130	4	134
<i>March quarter</i>	128	4	132

Persons

1998

January	1 520	75	1 595
February	1 501	79	1 580
March	1 504	78	1 582
March quarter	1 509	77	1 586

RATE PER 100,000 ADULT POPULATION

Males

1998

January	60.1	61.1	21.1
February	59.4	65.3	21.0
March	59.3	64.2	20.9
<i>March quarter</i>	59.6	63.5	21.1

Females

1998

January	5.3	4.2	1.9
February	5.2	3.4	1.8
March	5.4	3.4	1.9
<i>March quarter</i>	5.3	3.7	1.9

Persons

1998

January	32.2	32.2	11.4
February	31.8	33.8	11.2
March	31.9	33.3	11.3
March quarter	32.0	33.1	11.3

(a) See Glossary for definition of Periodic Detention. During March quarter 1998 this was a type of custody used only in NSW and the ACT.

NUMBER ON FIRST DAY OF MONTH.....

Sex	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Males									
1998									
January	238	57	70	22	53	3	11	3	457
February	237	54	61	25	57	3	12	4	453
March	231	53	76	22	57	3	13	4	459
<i>March quarter(b)</i>	235	55	69	23	56	3	12	4	456
Females									
1998									
January	23	5	12	2	8	1	—	1	52
February	22	5	8	2	9	1	—	1	48
March	22	4	9	3	9	—	—	1	48
<i>March quarter(b)</i>	22	5	10	2	9	1	—	1	49
Persons									
1998									
January	261	62	82	24	61	4	11	4	509
February	259	59	69	27	66	4	12	5	501
March	253	57	85	25	66	3	13	5	507
March quarter(b)	258	59	79	25	64	4	12	5	506

(a) See glossary for definition of federal sentenced prisoner. 'ACT-NSW' in other tables refers to prisoners held in NSW and sentenced in the ACT. This table shows prisoners by the State or Territory in which they were sentenced, not where they were held in custody, so 'ACT-NSW' is not shown here.

(b) Figures for the quarter for first day of the month counts are calculated as a simple average—see Explanatory Note 5.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents monthly and quarterly statistical series on persons held in adult corrective services custody in Australia. It contains data on the number of persons in prison custody by their legal status and sentence type, the number of sentenced persons received into prison each month, the number of Indigenous persons in prison custody by their legal status and sentence type, and the number of federal prisoners each month.

2 Statistics presented in this publication are compiled in three ways:

- Average daily prisoner population: Counts taken on each day of the month are summed and divided by the number of days in that month to determine the average daily prisoner population for that month. The average daily periodic detainee population is a count of persons on periodic detention on each day a centre is open, divided by the number of days a centre is open.
- Sentenced prisoner reception figures: Counts are taken of the number of receptions where a prisoner is received as a sentenced prisoner plus the number of changes of legal status from unsentenced to sentenced.
- First day of the month prisoner population: Counts of prisoner populations, taken on or near the first day of the month (see Explanatory Note 4).

3 Statistics in this publication are derived from administrative systems maintained by State and Territory corrective services agencies. Although national standards and classifications are used in the compilation of these statistics, some discrepancies remain between the States and Territories. These are due to legislative and procedural differences between jurisdictions. As part of its development strategy, the ABS is working with corrective services agencies to minimise the effect of these differences.

REFERENCE PERIOD/DATE

4 For the average daily prisoner population and the sentenced prisoner receptions counts, the reference period is the complete reference month. For all other information in the publication, the reference date is the first day of the month. However, not all States and Territories report strictly according to this 'first day of the month' rule:

- The WA and Vic. prison population and ACT prisoners in NSW prisons are counted as at midnight on the last day of the month. In these cases the figures provided are taken to represent the prison population at the beginning of the following month to align with practices in other States and Territories.
- The NSW prison population is counted on the first Sunday of the month.

5 Calculation of figures for the entire quarter varies depending on the counting unit and method of counting prisoners:

- Average daily figures: Quarterly figures are calculated by weighting the average according to the number of days in each month.
- First day of the month: Quarterly figures are simple averages, i.e. the figures for each month are added and the total is divided by three.
- Sentenced receptions: Quarterly figures are totals of each month.

SCOPE

6 The scope of the statistics in this publication includes all persons remanded or sentenced to adult custodial corrective services agencies in each State and Territory in Australia.

7 In all States and Territories except NSW, SA and WA, persons remanded or sentenced to adult custody are aged 17 years and over. Persons under 17 years are treated as juveniles in most Australian courts and are not remanded or sentenced to custody in adult prisons, other than in exceptional circumstances. However, in NSW, SA and WA 'adult' refers to persons aged 18 years and over.

8 The statistics include persons in WORCs and CCCs in Qld. In Table 1 these persons have been counted on a first day of the month basis from January to December 1997. However the figures in the rest of the table, and the rest of persons in prison custody in Qld, were counted on a daily average basis.

DATA SOURCE

9 Statistics in this publication are derived from information collected by the ABS from administrative records held by corrective services agencies within each State and Territory. Statistics on federal prisoners are derived from records kept by the Criminal Law Division of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

10 Statistics marked 'n.a.' in tables 3, 4, 5 and 6 are not available for inclusion in this publication. NSW Department of Corrective Services recently purchased a new computer system, and will undertake programming work to enable provision of counts of sentenced receptions and Indigenous persons in custody at some stage in the future. Staff in the Vic. Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner are currently updating their computer system to enable counting of sentenced persons in custody by whether fine default only or other sentenced. The Vic. computer system was modified to produce counts of Indigenous persons in February 1998, enabling the numbers for the first day of March to be provided. The January figures were counted manually.

INDIGENOUS IDENTIFICATION

11 In all States and Territories persons are asked whether they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders during entry into custody. It is uncommon for corrective services agencies to collect Indigenous status information from sources other than the person's own identification.

12 Some persons in custody are recorded as of unknown Indigenous status on corrective services agencies' information systems, but unknown Indigenous status has not been provided for this collection. It is intended that unknown Indigenous status will be collected from these systems in future.

13 Table 5 shows the ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous rates of imprisonment. To derive these figures the rates per 100,000 adult non-Indigenous population were calculated as if all those persons not identified as Indigenous are non-Indigenous.

ACT PRISONERS

14 The ACT has a detention centre for unsentenced prisoners and a periodic detention centre, but does not have a facility to hold persons sentenced to full-time custody. Persons sentenced to full-time custody in ACT criminal courts are held in NSW prisons. To provide greater understanding of the number of prisoners attributed to the ACT while presenting an accurate picture of the NSW prisoner population, statistics relating to ACT prisoners in NSW prisons are presented as a subset of the NSW figures.

RATES AND RATIOS

15 Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner numbers across States and Territories. Prisoner rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population, which is in accord with international and State and Territory practice.

16 For the purpose of this publication the population figures used in the calculation of rates are for persons aged 17 years and over for all States and Territories except NSW, SA and WA where the population used is persons aged 18 and over (see Explanatory Note 6).

17 Rates for the Indigenous adult population in this publication are based on estimates for 30 June 1996 (refer *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (Cat. no. 3230.0)) These estimates are in turn based on the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

18 In the next issue of this publication, rates for the Indigenous adult population will be based on revised projections for 30 June 1998. These projections are expected to become available in July 1998 (refer *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (Cat. no. 3231.0)). Two series of these projections will be published, the higher of which will take into account an apparent increasing propensity for people to identify themselves as Indigenous. The next issue will address this in more detail.

19 Rates for the total prisoner population are calculated using the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for each of the States and Territories (refer ABS *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia* (Cat. no. 3201.0)). As the population changes over time the denominator used for the calculation of rates will vary, depending on the reference period. The following shows the reference periods and the related ERP data for this issue:

<i>Reference Period</i>	<i>ERP Data</i>
January to March 1997	March quarter 1997
April to June 1997	June quarter 1997
July 1997 to March 1998	September quarter 1997

20 The ratio of imprisonment rates of Indigenous persons to non-Indigenous persons is calculated by dividing the Indigenous imprisonment rate for each period and State or Territory by the corresponding non-Indigenous imprisonment rate.

21 The ratio indicates the extent to which the imprisonment rates of Indigenous persons exceed the imprisonment rates of non-Indigenous persons. A ratio of 20:1 indicates that, for the given State or Territory, the imprisonment rate of Indigenous persons per 100,000 adult population is 20 times that of the imprisonment rate of non-Indigenous persons.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RATES AND RATIOS *continued*

22 In some instances Indigenous rates and ratios have not been published. Where this occurs, the cell concerned contains the symbol 'n.p.'. This happens where, firstly, the number of persons in custody is less than 10, and secondly, where the population on which the rate is calculated is less than 5000. This has been done because such rates and ratios vary widely from month to month with small variations in numbers of persons. They therefore give an inaccurate reflection of the relative involvement of Indigenous persons in custody.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CCC	Community Custody Centre
ERP	Estimated resident population
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not published
NCSSU	National Corrective Services Statistics Unit
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
SA	South Australia
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WORC	Work Outreach Camp
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

Where figures have been rounded discrepancies may occur between the sum of component items and the total.

GLOSSARY

Custody	Confinement in a place intended primarily for the purpose of confining prisoners, such as a prison, prison farm, Periodic Detention Centre or CCC.
Federal sentenced prisoner	Persons charged and sentenced under a Commonwealth statute. For the purposes of this publication federal sentenced prisoners are those persons who are recognised by the Criminal Law Division of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department as having been charged and sentenced under a Commonwealth statute. Federal sentenced prisoners are counted by the State or Territory in which they were sentenced, not where they were held in custody.
Fine default only	A sentence type indicating that, at the time, the prisoner is serving a sentence for default of a fine and nothing else.
Indigenous prisoner	A prisoner who identifies as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
Legal status	The legal status of an offender reflects the warrant(s) or court order(s) which provide the legal basis for the detention in custody of the offender.
Open prison custody	A custodial regime for managing prisoners which does not require them to be confined by a secure perimeter physical barrier, irrespective of whether a physical barrier exists.
Other sentenced	A sentence type indicating that, at the time, a person is serving a sentence other than, or in addition to, a fine default sentence.
Periodic detention	A type of custody where a sentenced prisoner is required to be held in custody for two consecutive days in a one-week period.
Prison custody	A type of custody where a prisoner is required to be held in custody on a full-time basis.
Prisoner	A person held in custody. For the purposes of this collection, prisoners are those whose confinement is the responsibility of a corrective services agency.
Secure prison custody	A custodial regime for managing prisoners that requires them to be confined by a secure physical barrier.
Sentenced	A legal status indicating that a person has received a custodial order from a court in response to a conviction for a criminal offence.
Sentenced prisoner reception	<p>Includes persons who enter prison from the community, having received a sentence of imprisonment as an outcome of a court proceeding. It also includes persons who are sentenced to prison while in custody on remand (i.e. change status from a remand to a sentenced prisoner). Sentenced prisoners in custody who receive a further sentence of imprisonment are not counted as sentenced receptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A <i>fine default only</i> reception is a sentenced reception where a person enters custody as a result of defaulting on the payment of a fine.▪ An <i>other sentenced reception</i> is a sentenced reception (including changes of status from unsentenced to sentenced) for anything other than a fine default only reception. <p>Note that Vic. reception figures do not include prisoners who change status from unsentenced to sentenced in the period.</p>
Unsentenced	A legal status indicating that a person is confined to custody while awaiting the outcome of their trial. Some sentenced prisoners are also remanded in custody, i.e. are unsentenced, in relation to other offences pending a court hearing. In such cases, these prisoners are counted as sentenced.

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