

Australia

Beyond the Bars

Beyond the Bars is a project founded by 3CR Community Radio in Naarm / Melbourne, Australia. Its purpose is to give voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members within the Victorian prison system and to include them in the annual National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations.

The project is a series of live radio broadcasts featuring the voices, songs, poetry, opinions and conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison. Singer-songwriter, broadcaster and Mutti Mutti man Kutcha Edwards, and Aboriginal broadcaster and community advocate the late Gilla McGuinness helped found the program and drive its annual presentation.

A large number of First Nations broadcasters have contributed as broadcast presenters during the annual radio project. It began with a single live radio broadcast in 2002 from Port Phillip Prison, and since 2004, a Beyond the Bars highlights CD has been produced and audio made available online.



- Each year we broadcast from six Victorian prisons
- The broadcasts are annual and take place during NAIDOC Week in July
- The project delivers radio broadcast workshops for inmates prior to the live broadcasts
- Each year Beyond the Bars hears from about 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates from prisons across Victoria, Australia
- The Beyond the Bars workshops and broadcasts are presented by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcast team
- Beyond the Bars celebrates 20 years on the airwaves in 2021
- Indigenous Australians are the most incarcerated people in the world
- Audio and information from the project is available online at www.3cr.org.au/beyondthebars

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 3CR'S PRISON BROADCASTS BEYOND THE BARS

