

## Australia

### Jailbreak

Australia's first prison radio program, Jailbreak, launched locally on Sydney's 2SER 107.3 FM community radio as a 30-minute weekly program one spring evening in November 1997.

Jailbreak's aim and target audience at that time was support for families and communities of people in custody. Today's listener and participant-profile trajectory has evolved significantly since that initial landmark broadcast.

Jailbreak is supported by the New South Wales (NSW) Health Department and aims to provide support to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, as part of the state's strategy to minimise the spread of blood borne viruses and promote healthy lifestyles among people in prison. The Jailbreak Health Project (JHP) is funded to produce 90-minutes of weekly music and storytelling, including three minutes of health information. The programming is presented by and targets people in custody and their families.

Jailbreak broadcasts locally on Redfern's (Indigenous) community radio Koori Radio 93.7 FM and nationally and on Australia's digital Community Radio Network to remote, regional and metropolitan community radio stations of local correctional centres.

The JHP is one of many great projects of NSW's Community Restorative Centre (CRC), an independent community-based NGO supporting people exiting custody and their families. CRC's governance and evidence-based, trauma-informed care framework ensures the delivery of quality prison radio production, therapeutic listening and participant engagement.

As a CRC project, Jailbreak successfully navigates the challenges of prison barriers – physical, political and bureaucratic – to reach and engage vulnerable, isolated people through radio.

The radio project partners with many creative NSW and interstate First Nation cultural, correctional, prison radio, health and musical initiatives and aspires to a future prison dedicated community radio station, modelling the Prison Radio Association's UK-based station, National Prison Radio.



Jailbreak exists because:

- Australia's prison-impacted communities have a disproportionately high incidence of complex social, physical and mental health care needs;
- Australia's First Nations Peoples experience far worse health outcomes than their non-Indigenous counterparts and are the most incarcerated people in the world;
- Radio is an outstanding medium that transcends prison barriers and reaches isolated and vulnerable people; and
- Jailbreak delivers and facilitates life-saving, harm-reduction health promotion strategies.



In one year :

- Jailbreak broadcasts around 570 weekly 30 mins- 60 mins community radio programmes nationally and locally;
- Podcasts and streams around 400 programmes every week
- Produces 172 variations and extended specials (e.g. International Women's Day, NAIDOC, Christmas Day)
- Delivers approximately 1,300 culturally appropriate blood borne virus and sexual health harm minimisation messages
- Engages 2,000 – 3,000 people impacted by incarceration, in and out of custody - 1,000 - 1,500 identify as First Nation Peoples
- Visits people in one to two prisons each week covering 11 NSW correctional centres