

Media Release

The Hon Enver Erdogan MP
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Youth Justice
Minister for Victim Support



Friday, 19 April 2024

PRISON PROGRAM KICKING GOALS TO REDUCE REOFFENDING

As part of the Allan Labor Government's investment in a modern and rehabilitative corrections system, Melbourne City Football Club (MCFC) has partnered with Corrections Victoria to deliver a soccer coaching program that gives people in prison the skills they need to break the cycle of reoffending.

Minister for Corrections Enver Erdogan this week joined MCFC to congratulate the graduates from the second round of the Twinning Project at the Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC).

Backed by a \$30,000 investment - the pilot program delivers interactive training that focuses on teamwork, leadership, respectful relationships and engagement to increase employment opportunities and reduce reoffending upon release.

The Twinning Project is an eight-week soccer coaching program being delivered to 16 participants at MRC by the charitable arm of the MCFC – City of Community.

The program is delivered by coaching staff, mentors and various guest speakers who come from a range of cultural and professional backgrounds, each bringing different lived experiences to their coaching and sessions.

Corrections Victoria provides people in prison with training, education, employment services, and community reintegration programs to ensure they have the best chance of leading safe and productive lives when they return to the community.

The Victorian recidivism rate of former prisoners returning to prison under sentence within two years has remained lower than the national rate for the last five years.

MCFC is owned by Manchester City Football Club, which founded the Twinning Project in the United Kingdom (UK). The Twinning Project is now delivered in over 70 prisons in the UK, the United States of America, Africa and now Australia.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Corrections Enver Erdogan

"The Melbourne City Football Club Coaching Program offers people in prison a crucial opportunity to develop important skills that they can use in the real world."

"Engaging in teamwork and leadership exercises means people can leave prison with skills that boost their job prospects, enrich their lives, and help reduce their risk of returning to prison."