

# Breaking Free.

A local church-based mentoring program for ex-offenders.



*"I went to Chapel and heard the Easter story – about how Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' closest friends, was a prostitute, but he told her that her faith had saved her. It broke my heart as my partner is living that lifestyle while I am in prison. I couldn't stop thinking about it – I'm sure God was calling me". Aaron\**

*"I can tell Aaron is absolutely committed to change and wants to come on to Baptist Care SA's "Breaking Free" post release support program. He now has a Bible and we continue to meet. I'm in awe of the Holy Spirit and how He orchestrated things in such an amazing way"*

Richard Hawke, Chaplain, Adelaide Remand Centre.

**The Baptist Care SA 'Breaking Free' program seeks to offer local churches the opportunity to engage with men and women who have spent time in prison and are wanting to move forward with their lives.**

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, we reached out to the churches across the city to form worship teams to help run our chapel services. Six churches have come on board, allowing the services to continue with a dynamic team of musicians as well as pastors and elders who can help lead discussions. This has been an absolute blessing and we thank everyone who has volunteered to be a part of this outreach ministry.

If you would like to be involved, please contact **Richard Hawke**  
M: **0400 108 924** or E: **rhawke@baptistcaresa.org.au**



130 Rose Terrace  
Wayville SA 5034  
T 08 8273 7100  
[baptistcaresa.org.au](http://baptistcaresa.org.au)

# Building Kingdom Communities.



1. At June 2020, there were 41,060 prisoners in Australian prisons: 37,905 males and 3,695 females;<sup>1</sup>

**Pray for those who are imprisoned, that they might find the love, support and faith they need to reorientate their lives.**

2. The four most common offences were;

- acts intended to cause injury;
- illicit drug offences);
- theft; and
- unlawful entry with intent.<sup>2</sup>

**Pray for the victims of crime and their families, that they might find healing.**

3. The median age for male prisoners was 35 years and for females was 34 years.<sup>3</sup> People aged 25-29 years have the highest imprisonment rate followed by people aged 30-44 years.<sup>4</sup>

**Pray for the chaplains and other staff who work with prisoners.**

4. People over-represented in the prison population include: people living with mental health conditions, people using illicit drugs, people with lower formal education, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.<sup>5</sup>

**Pray for each of these over-represented groups, and particularly for our society to address the systemic issues that make people in these groups more likely to be imprisoned.**

5. Overall in Australia 44.8% of prisoners released during 2014-15 returned to prison within two years.<sup>6</sup> "Finding suitable stable accommodation is a major concern for prisoners about to be released back into the community, especially for those with no family support. Prisoners also recognise that where and with whom they live immediately after release from prison will affect their likelihood of engaging in drug and alcohol misuse, and criminal activities."<sup>7</sup>

**Pray for those who are leaving prison to find a pathway that leads them away from reoffending.**

---

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Prisoners in Australia 2020'; [abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice](https://abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice)

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Prisoners in Australia 2020'; [abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice](https://abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice)

3. ABS

4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 'The health of Australian prisoners 2015', Australian Government, Canberra, 2015, p.15. viewed 26 May 2018, <<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/prisoners/health-of-australias-prisoners-2015/contents/table-of-contents>>

5. AIHW, p.2,12,20.

6. Sentencing Advisory Council, 'Released prisoners returning to prison', Victorian State Government, 2018, viewed 26 May 2018, <<https://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/statistics/sentencing-statistics/released-prisoners-returning-to-prison>>

7. AIHW, p. 29.