



# Research Bulletin

**Escapes from NSW Gaols:  
What is the extent of the problem,  
who are the escapees and what  
danger do they represent for the  
community? 1<sup>st</sup> July 1983 - 30<sup>th</sup>  
June, 1989**

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# Research Bulletin

Department of Corrective Services

## **ESCAPES FROM N.S.W. GAOLS: WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM, WHO ARE THE ESCAPEES AND WHAT DANGER DO THEY REPRESENT FOR THE COMMUNITY?**

1ST JULY, 1983 — 30TH JUNE, 1989

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## SUMMARY

This paper seeks to place the risk posed by escapees in perspective by presenting information on escapees from N.S.W. gaols, based on a detailed record study of the 811 prisoners who escaped during the six year period, July 1983 to June 1989. The principal findings are presented below.

- Escapes from N.S.W. gaols are a relatively rare occurrence, with the average escape rate for the 1974-89 period being 4.3 escapes per every hundred prisoner years served.
  - There has been an overall decrease in both the number and rate of escapes in the last four years, with the most dramatic decrease occurring in 1988-89 following the revision in policy regarding classification of escapees instigated by the Minister for Corrective Services, the Hon. M. Yabsley.
  - The majority of escapes (68.4%) occurred from within minimum security institutions. A further 12.3% of escapes refer to prisoners who fail to return on time from an unescorted temporary absence from the gaol, such as day/weekend leave, attendance at technical college or university, etc.
  - A typical escapee from N.S.W. gaols during the period under review was male (95.4%), aged 24 years or younger (58.4%), and serving time for a property offence.
  - 50% were serving aggregate head sentences of 2 years or less and 50% had less than 157 days (5.2 months) to serve before their earliest date of release at the time of their escape.
  - The majority of escapees were classified as either 'C2' (73.2%) or 'C3' (17.4%), the lowest of the prisoner security classifications denoting the least risk to the public.
  - While the majority of escapees escaped alone (63.4%), a substantial proportion escaped in the company of one or more other prisoners (36.6%).
  - More than one-quarter (28.6%) of the escapees were recaptured on either the day they escaped or the following day. Half (50%) of the escapees were recaptured within 8 days of their escape.
  - Escapees tended to be younger, more likely to be serving sentences for property offences, more likely to be held in minimum security, more likely to have lower security classifications and less likely to be held on remand than prisoners in general.
  - While there are variations in patterns of escape or characteristics of escapees from year to year, there are no clear trends over time (other than the decrease in numbers and rates of escape).
  - There is no particular point in their sentence when escapees are more likely to escape.
- The characteristics of escapees determined in this study strongly suggest that reasons exist for escaping other than the presentation of the opportunity.
  - Prisoners who escaped within 60 days of their earliest date of release were found to differ from other escapees in that they were younger; were serving shorter aggregate sentences; had served less time; were less likely to have an offence "against the person" as their most serious offence and consequently were more likely to have a property offence as their most serious offence; and were more likely to escape in the company of one or more other prisoners.
  - Prisoners who escaped within 14 days of arriving at the gaol from which they escaped were found to differ from other escapees in that they were younger; were serving shorter aggregate sentences; had less time left to serve to their earliest release date; were closer to their last review of classification; included a slightly higher proportion of women; were less likely to have an offence against the person as their most serious offence and consequently were more likely to have a property offence as their most serious offence; and had served less time.
  - The majority of escapees (74.2%) were not convicted of committing any offences whilst at large. Of those who are convicted, offences committed whilst at large are most commonly property offences (74.9%) such as break, enter and steal or larceny of a motor vehicle.

## INTRODUCTION

Media attention to escapes has reached unprecedented levels in recent times. During March and April, 1989, some 87 articles relating to escapes appeared in the print media nationwide. By comparison, articles relating to AIDS in prisons numbered 18 in the same period (Duffy 1989).

In 1986, an escapee from Silverwater was convicted of murder as were two escapees from Cooma Gaol in 1988. Also in 1986, a prisoner walked out of the Central Industrial Prison at Long Bay disguised as a prison officer and is now, according to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald of 19 July, 1989, in custody in London facing 16 charges of robbery, others of attempted robbery, assaulting a policeman, possession of a starting pistol and murder. It would be surprising indeed if, given this type of information, the public of New South Wales was not concerned about escapees from Corrective Services custody. However, if one can attribute an element of good fortune to these episodes, it is that they prove to be the exception rather than the rule.

In response to the adverse publicity that such events generate, this study concentrates on presenting some facts about escapes from N.S.W. gaols during the period 1st July, 1983 to 30th June, 1989. Specifically, it focuses on questions such as:

- What is the extent of the problem?
- Who are the escapees?
- At what stage of their sentence do they escape?
- What danger do they represent? and
- What penalties are handed down by the Courts for escaping from lawful custody?

This paper is an update of that of Porritt (1982) who analysed information about escapes occurring up to June 1981.

## DATA COLLECTION

A detailed record study of the 811 escapees from N.S.W. gaols over a six year period commencing 1st July, 1983 and finishing 30th June, 1989; was prepared.

Wherever possible, the following information was collected on each escapee:

- Date of birth;
- Original offences (maximum of 3);
- Length of aggregate sentence being served at time of escape;
- Date sentence commenced;
- Date of last security classification prior to escape;
- Non-parole and Non-probation periods where set;
- Date of release to parole, probation or remission;
- Escape classification, whether from maximum, medium or minimum security institutions;
- Whether escapee escaped alone or in company;
- Most serious offence (if any) and number of offences committed whilst at large;
- Date of escape;
- Date of recapture;
- Sentence imposed for escape;
- Sentence imposed for any offences committed whilst at large;
- Whether the escapee was recaptured outside N.S.W., had subsequently died or been deported.

This involved the use of a wide range of Departmental records including: the Departmental Escapes Register, Prisoner Index records of prisoner movements, Classification files, individual prisoner files, schedules maintained on escapees by the Research and Statistics Division, Probation and Parole records, the computerised Offender Record system as well as information from the Computer Information Section of the N.S.W. Police Department.

## FINDINGS

### 1. EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

The total number of escapes, annual daily average prison population, and the rate of escapes per 100 prisoner years for the period 1974-75 to 1988-89 is shown in Table 1. This rate per 100 prisoner years is calculated by dividing the number of escapes in a year by the average number of prisoners held during the year and multiplying by 100. This escape measure has been adopted Australia-wide in order to provide a level for comparison as well as serving as an appropriate simple measure of the ratio of escapes in any given year to the actual prison population (those "at risk" of escaping). The number of escapes dating back to 1974-75, the first year reliable statistics on escapes were kept, is shown to place the six year period which is focussed on in this study in context.

From this table, it can be seen that both the actual number of escapes and the rate of escapes varies from year to year, with the highest number being 211 (or 5.7 escapes per 100 prisoner years served) occurring in 1979-80 and the lowest number 78 (or 1.7 escapes per 100 prisoner years served) occurring in 1988-89. There has been an overall decrease in both the number and rate of escapes in the last four years.

Escapes are a relatively rare occurrence in the prison calendar. Those who do escape, however, represent a small proportion of the average daily prison population, and a minute proportion of the estimated 14,000 prisoners who are received into and discharged from the N.S.W. prison system each year.

During the period 1983-1984 to 1988-1989, the majority of escapes (68.4%) occurred from within minimum security institutions. A further 12.3% of escapes refer to prisoners who fail to return on

time from an unescorted temporary absence from the gaol, such as day/weekend leave, attendance at technical college or university, or whilst working in the community on the Work Release Programme. Only a very small percentage (1.7%) of escapes are made from within maximum security institutions. (For more details, refer to Table A.1 in the Appendix.)

### 2. WHO ARE THE ESCAPEES?

The 811 escapes which form the basis for this study involved 801 individual prisoners, 10 of whom escaped twice during the six year period.

#### a) Profile of average escapee

A typical escapee from N.S.W. gaols during the period under study was a male (95.4%), aged 24 years or younger (58.4%), who was serving time for a property offence (60.7%) such as break, enter and steal (30.5%) or larceny of a motor vehicle (13.6%).

The majority of escapees had been serving a sentence (97.7%) rather than being held in custody on remand (2.3%). Of those who were sentenced:

- 50% were serving an aggregate head sentence of 2 years or less;
- 50% had served at least 119 days (almost 4 months) of their sentence before escaping;
- 50% had less than 157 days (5.2 months) to serve before their earliest date of release;
- 50% had spent at least 38 days at the gaol from which they escaped before escaping;
- 50% escaped 44 days or more after their most recent review of classification.

The majority of escapees (83.9%) had been held in a minimum security institution prior to their escape. This includes not only those who escaped from within a minimum security institution but also many of those who absconded

**TABLE 1: NUMBER AND RATE OF ESCAPES, 1974-75 TO 1988-89**

Financial Year	No. of Escapes	Daily average prison population	Rate of escapes per 100 prisoner years
1974-75	195	3397	5.7
1975-76	185	3688	5.0
1976-77	185	3662	5.1
1977-78	180	3657	4.9
1978-79	168	3895	4.3
1979-80	211	3717	5.7
1980-81	186	3446	5.4
1981-82	146	3612	4.0
1982-83	190	3577	5.3
1983-84	183	3589	5.1
1984-85	181	3550	5.1
1985-86	120	3941	3.0
1986-87	106	4063	2.6
1987-88	143	4238	3.4
1988-89	78	4504	1.7

while on either escorted or unescorted authorised absences away from the gaol. Where the escapee's security classification at the time of the escape was known, the majority were classified as either 'C2' (73.2%) or 'C3' (17.4%), the lowest of the prisoner security classifications denoting the least risk to the public.

While the majority of escapees escaped alone (63.4%), a substantial proportion escaped in the company of one or more other prisoners (36.6%).

Half (50%) of the escapees were recaptured within 8 days of their escape. The majority of escapees were not convicted of any offences whilst at large.

For further information refer to Tables A.2 to A.8 in the Appendix.

#### (b) Comparison between escapees and all N.S.W. prisoners

Escapees tend to be younger than prisoners in general. For example 29.6% of the escapees were 20 years or younger while 12.1% of all N.S.W. prisoners are this age. Similarly 58.4% of the escapees were 24 years or younger at the time of their escape compared to only 33.2% of all N.S.W. prisoners who are this age. In contrast, only 7.4% of escapees were 35 years or older, compared to 26.2% of the general prisoner population. (For further details refer to Table A.3 in the Appendix.)

Escapees seem to be more likely to be serving sentences for property offences and less likely to be serving sentences for offences against the person than prisoners in general (see Table A.4 in the Appendix). For example, the most serious original offence for 30.5% of escapees was break, enter and steal, compared to only 15.7% of the general prisoner population. In contrast 18.6% of the general prison population are serving sentences for murder, manslaughter or assault offences while this was true of only 6.6% of escapees.

Few prisoners escape whilst on remand (2.3%) whereas remand prisoners represent 15.5% of the general prison population.

Escapees (83.9%) are more likely to be held in minimum security institutions than are prisoners in general (approximately 25%). On the other hand, prisoners held in maximum or medium security institutions were under-represented amongst escapees. Similarly, escapees have lower security classifications than N.S.W. prisoners in general. Of those with known security classifications, 90.6% of escapees have C2 or C3 security classifications compared with 41.0% of all sentenced prisoners.

The proportion of women who escaped (4.6%) is consistent with the proportion of women held in N.S.W. prisons (approximately 5%).

#### (c) Trends over time

While there are variations in patterns of escape or characteristics of escapees from year to year, there are no clear trends over time (other than the decrease in numbers and rates of escapees in the past four years, which has been discussed earlier). For example, the percentage of women escapees has varied over the six year period ( $\chi^2_5 = 9.207, p < .005$ ) from 0.7% in 1987/88 up to 7.7% in 1984/85, however there is no clear tendency for the number of women escapees to increase or decrease with time (see Table A.2 in Appendix).

Another example of a characteristic which varies from year to year is the average aggregate head sentence ( $F_{5,776} = 4.87, p < .0002$ ). See Table A.9. Although during the years when most escapes took place, 1983 and 1984, the length of sentence exceeded the average 3 years 8 months for all escapees, it cannot be stated that heavier sentences are associated with more escapes. The most recent financial year saw the lowest number of escapes for the study and the highest average sentence length (4 years 7 months) for the six years under review.

Other characteristics of escapees which have varied over time include:

- average age ( $F_{5,805} = 3.48, p < .0041$ ), see Table A.3;
- average time served before escape ( $F_{5,805} = 3.48, p < .0041$ ), see Table A.9;
- average time remaining before earliest release date ( $F_{5,770} = 3.27, p < .0062$ ), see Table A.9;
- proportion of sentence served at time of escape ( $F_{5,775} = 2.33, p < .0411$ );
- proportion who escaped alone versus in the company of one or more other escapees ( $\chi^2_5 = 16.190, p < .005$ ), see Table A.7;
- proportion who commit an offence whilst at large ( $\chi^2_5 = 16.378, p < .005$ ), see Table A.8.

Characteristics of escapees which have not varied significantly over time include the average time spent at gaol from which they escaped ( $F_{5,751} = 1.68, p < .13$ ); average time since most recent review of classification ( $F_{5,636} = 1.54, p < .18$ ), see Table A.9; and broad category of offence for which imprisoned ( $\chi^2_{10} = 12.705, p > .1$ ), see Table A.10.

#### (d) Differences between male and female escapees

For the most part male and female escapees shared similar characteristics. The only differences, aside from numbers, were that female escapees (average stay 40.9 days) tended to escape more quickly after arrival at the gaol from which they escaped than did their male counterparts (average stay 74.0 days) ( $F_{1,755} = 2.94, p < .0866$ ) and that female escapees were less likely to commit any offences whilst at large.

Male and female escapees did not significantly differ in: the average head sentence that they were serving; average time between escape and most recent review of classification; average time served; average time remaining before earliest release date; broad category of original offence ("against the person", "against property", "other"); age or whether they escaped alone or in company.

**(e) Differences between escapees who breach different security levels**

As was stated earlier, the majority of escapes (68.4%) occurred from within minimum security institutions (refer to Table A.1). Escapees who breached different levels of security differed in a number of ways. Such differences are to be expected given that one of the levels of security is "Miroma" a centre used only for fine defaulters who would have, amongst other differences, been serving shorter sentences than the majority of other escapees. Profiles of the escapees who breached different security levels are given in Table A.11.

Those who escaped from within minimum security institutions (who were the majority of all escapees), from an area adjacent to a maximum or medium security institution or from an escorted work party away from the institution tended to be younger than other escapees ( $F_{13,768} = 11.10, p < .0001$ ). Those escaping from within maximum security (only 1.7% of all escapees) or from "other escorts" such as transfers to hospitals etc. (only 1.1% of all escapees) tended to be serving the longest aggregate sentences while those who escaped from Miroma or Periodic Detention Centres tended to serve the shortest aggregate sentences ( $F_{13,768} = 16.40, p < .0001$ ). Those who escaped from "other escorts" or did not return from unsupervised education programmes tended to have served more time than other escapees prior to their escape ( $F_{13,767} = 12.14, p < .0001$ ). Those who escaped from "other escorts" and from maximum security institutions tended to stay at their gaol longer before escaping ( $F_{13,743} = 14.75, p < .0001$ ), yet tended to have longer periods remaining to be served ( $F_{13,762} = 17.46, p < .0001$ ). Those who escaped from "other escorts" also tended to have had a longer period since their most recent classification review ( $F_{11,622} = 2.62, p < .0029$ ) and remain at large for a longer period ( $F_{13,740} = 2.07, p < .0139$ ).

It is of interest to note that prisoners who escaped from an area adjacent to a maximum or medium security institution, or from supervised work parties, had spent, on average, 12 weeks at the gaol from which they eventually escaped. By contrast, minimum security breaks from such gaols as Emu Plains, Silverwater or Glen Innes for example, took place after an average of just over 6 weeks at the prison. The figures would

appear to indicate that work parties away from the 'home' institution do not attract the immediate abuse that the extra liberty might provide. Even unsupervised prisoners on education programmes spent an average of nearly 6 months at the institution from which they escaped.

Such figures strongly suggest that reasons exist for escaping other than the presentation of the opportunity. Otherwise, prisoners at minimum security institutions would not wait the time that they do before escaping, nor would prisoners on work release return to their gaol and then escape, which has happened on occasions.

**3. AT WHAT STAGE OF THEIR SENTENCE DO PRISONERS ESCAPE?**

In general, prisoners commence their sentences in maximum security and, with time and good behaviour, work their way through medium security to minimum security institutions from which they are finally released. Some people think that prisoners may attempt to escape from the moment of incarceration. Others think that some more devious prisoners may appear to behave well so that they will be placed in a minimum security institution from which they can escape more easily. There are still other anecdotes of prisoners escaping close to the time they would otherwise be released. In order to ascertain how realistic these various propositions may be, this section examines at what stage of their sentence prisoners escape.

**(a) Description of proportion of sentence served, time served, time left to serve, time since classification and time at a specific gaol**

There is no particular point in their sentence when prisoners are more likely to escape. From an examination of the proportion of their sentence served prior to escape (refer to Table A.12 in the Appendix) it can be seen that while 7.3% of escapes occurred within the first ten per cent of their sentence, 10.4% of escapees had served more than eighty per cent of their sentence. More than one-third of escapees (37.9%) had served at least six months of their sentence and over three-quarters (81.4%) had less than twelve months left to serve. (See Table A.13.) While some prisoners escaped within the first week of arrival at the gaol from which they escaped (18.8%), others had spent more than six months (9.5%) at the gaol prior to their premature departure. (See Table A.14.)

However, there is no set pattern that indicates a particular stage of the sentence when a prisoner is most likely to escape, although some differences can be highlighted.



**(b) Features of prisoners who escaped within 60 days of release**

Discriminant analysis (a statistical technique) was used to determine differences between prisoners who escaped within 60 days of the end of their sentence (13.8% of all escapes) and prisoners who escaped earlier (86.2% of escapes). Ten factors were examined to see whether they differentiated between these two groups: sex; age at escape; whether most serious offence for which imprisoned was an offence against the person; whether their most serious offence was a property offence; whether their most serious offence was an "other" (not person or property) offence; aggregate sentence being served at the time of the escape; time served; time held at gaol from which escaped; time since most recent review of classification; and whether escaped alone or in company.

Those who escaped within 60 days of their earliest date of release were found to differ from other escapees in that they:

- were younger (23 years 7 months versus 25 years 5 months, on average);
- were serving shorter aggregate sentences (24 months versus 52 months, on average);
- had served less time (8.9 months versus 12.1 months, on average);
- were less likely to have an offence against the person as their most serious offence (10% versus 29%) and consequently were more likely to have a property offence as their most serious offence (76% versus 59%); and
- were more likely to escape in the company of one or more other prisoners (45% versus 36%).

Their gender, whether their most serious offence was an "other" offence, time held at gaol from which escaped, and the time since most recent classification were not related as to whether or not a prisoner escapes near the end of his or her sentence.

**(c) Features of prisoners who escape within 14 days of arrival at gaol of escape**

Discriminant analysis was also used to determine differences between prisoners who escaped within 14 days of arriving at a gaol (29.5%) and those who escaped later (70.5% of escapes). The following patterns emerged.

Those who escaped within 14 days of arriving at the gaol from which they escaped were found to differ from other escapees in that they:

- were younger (22 years 11 months versus 26 years 2 months, on average);
- were serving shorter aggregate sentences (30 months versus 56 months, on average);
- had less time left to serve to earliest release date (7.6 months versus 9.8 months, on average);

- were closer to their last review of classification (1.1 months versus 2.6 months, on average);
- included a slightly higher proportion of women (6.7% versus 3.5%);
- were less likely to have an offence against the person as their most serious offence (15% versus 31%) and consequently were more likely to have a property offence as their most serious offence (71% versus 57%);
- had served less time (4.6 months versus 14.7 months, on average).

Escaping soon after arriving at a gaol was not found to be related to escaping alone versus in the company of other prisoners nor having an "other" offence as the most serious offence.

In summary, it is interesting to note that both those who escaped within 60 days of the end of their sentence and those who escaped within 14 days of arriving at the gaol were younger, serving shorter aggregate sentences, had served less time, and were less likely to have an offence "against the person" as their most serious offence and consequently were more likely to have a property offence as their most serious offence when compared to escapees in general. They differed in that those who escaped within 60 days of their earliest date of release were more likely to escape in company than escapees in general, which was not the case for those who escaped within 14 days of arriving at the gaol from which they absconded.

**(d) Patterns in escape:**

More than one-third (36.6%) of prisoners who escaped, escaped in company of other prisoners. The 811 prisoners in this study escaped in a total of 647 escape episodes. The majority of the prisoners who escaped in the company of other prisoners, escaped in pairs (224 of 297 prisoners or 75.4%). There were fourteen occasions on which three prisoners escaped together, four occasions in which four prisoners escaped together and three occasions in which five prisoners escaped together during the six year period. All three of the occasions where five prisoners escaped together involved escapes from afforestation camps (two of these were from Glen Innes in December 1984 and May 1988, the other was from Mannus in November 1983).

Are some prisoners influenced by others who escape before them? Some people have postulated that 'copy cat' escapes occur after a prisoner has found out that another has escaped from the same institution. Empirically it is not possible to determine from information contained in records whether a person who escapes on a particular day has been influenced by someone escaping the previous day. However, it was of interest to note that during this six year period 42 prisoners (5.2% of the escapees) escaped the

day after another prisoner had escaped from the same institution. Hence while we are not able to answer the question of whether 'copy cat' escapes do occur we can say that, if they do occur, they do not account for the majority of escapes.

#### **4. WHAT DANGER DO ESCAPEES PRESENT TO THE COMMUNITY?**

The majority of escapees are recaptured fairly quickly. During the six year period examined in this study, more than one-quarter (28.6%) of the escapees were recaptured on either the day they escaped or the following day. Half of the escapees were recaptured within eight days. A smaller proportion (9.6%), however, remained at large for more than six months.

Furthermore, the vast majority of escapees are not subsequently convicted of committing any offences while they are at large. Of the 708 escapees in this study who had been before the courts by July, 1989, almost three-quarters (74.2%) had not been convicted of any offence whilst at large. It is of interest to note that at the time of data collection, none of the female escapees had been convicted of committing any offence whilst at large and prisoners categorised as higher security risks within the prison system (A and B category prisoners) were not any more likely to be convicted of offences whilst at large than were prisoners classified as lower security risks ( $\chi^2_1 = 3.087, p > .05$ ). The percentage who were not convicted of any offences varied among the years from a low of 65.7% in 1983/84 to a high of 85.0% in 1986/87.

Of obvious concern to the community and correctional administrators alike is the 25.8% of escapees who were convicted of offences committed during their time at liberty. Very few of the escapees were convicted of "offences against the person" or violent offences (5.5%). Most commonly, escapees were convicted of "offences against property" (19.4%), with the most common offences being break, enter and steal (9.3%) and larceny of a motor vehicle (8.2%). A very small number of escapees were convicted of "other offences" (0.9%) such as using or selling drugs, unlawful possession of a firearm, etc. It is of interest to note that prisoners categorised as higher security risks within the prison system (A and B category prisoners), where they commit offences whilst at large, do not differ from prisoners classified as lower security risks in the type of offences they commit.

Although relatively rare, the most common 'offence against the person' committed by escapees whilst at large was armed robbery (committed by 20 escapees or 2.8%). Of the 20 escapees convicted of armed robbery, 14 escaped during 1983/84, the first of the years

included in this study. Other offences against the person of which escapees were convicted (and the numbers of escapees convicted of each of the types of offence) were as follows: murder (3); malicious wounding (4); minor assault (2); assault of unspecified nature (1); abduction and kidnapping (1); incest (1); assault and rob (6) and conspiracy to rob (1).

It should be noted that the preceding discussion refers to the number of individual escapees receiving convictions. On some occasions a number of escapees are co-offenders and receive convictions for the one offence. For example, on 23rd August 1984, four prisoners escaped from Cessnock Corrective Centre. All four were subsequently convicted of stealing a motor vehicle, presumably to make good their escape, and two of the group obtained a second conviction for an additional offence of the same type. Between the four prisoners then, a total of six convictions were recorded for "steal motor vehicle" and these six convictions applied to the theft of two vehicles.

Discriminant analysis was used to determine differences between escapees who were convicted of offences committed whilst at large and escapees who did not have convictions for offences whilst at large. Twenty factors were examined to see whether they differentiated between these two groups: sex; age at escape; whether their most serious offence for which imprisoned was an offence against the person; whether their most serious offence was a property offence; whether their most serious offence was an "other" (not person or property) offence; whether they escaped alone or in the company of other prisoners; financial year in which the escape occurred; time between arrival at gaol and escape; time between most recent review of classification and escape; time served; time left to serve; time at large; whether they escaped from within a maximum security prison; whether they escaped from within a medium security institution; whether they escaped from an area adjacent to a maximum or medium security institution; whether they escaped from within a minimum security institution; whether they escaped from a supervised work party or sports or educational activity; whether they escaped from some other escort (e.g., to hospital); whether they absconded from unsupervised leave such as day/weekend leave or unsupervised education program; and whether they escaped from work release.

Those who recorded a conviction (or convictions) whilst at large were more likely to:

- be male (100% versus 93.3% for those with no convictions);
- have had longer time left to serve (10.2 months on average versus 8.4 months for those with no convictions);

- have escaped in the company of one or more other prisoners (43.4% versus 36.4% for those with no convictions);
- escaped from within a medium security institution (6.8% of those with convictions had escaped from within medium security versus 3.4% of those without convictions).

They were less likely to have escaped from an area adjacent to a maximum or medium security institution (0.6% of those with convictions had escaped from an area adjacent to a maximum or medium security institution versus 3.6% of those without convictions).

It is interesting to note that escapees who were convicted of offences whilst at large did **not** differ from those with no convictions in terms of: their age; whether their most serious offence for which they were imprisoned was an offence against the person; whether their most serious offence was a property offence; time between arrival at gaol and escape; and the time they had served.

For the minority of escapees who were convicted of an offence(s) whilst at large, a discriminant analysis was again used to determine which, if any, of the 20 factors examined in the previous analysis discriminate between those whose most serious offence at large was an offence against the person, those whose most serious offence at large was a property offence and those whose most serious offence whilst at large was an "other" (not person or property) offence.

Those who committed an offence against the person while at large were:

- more likely to have an offence against the person as the most serious offence for which they were originally imprisoned (47.2% versus 18.9% for those convicted of property offences while at large);
- less likely to have a property offence as the most serious offence for which they were originally imprisoned (36.1% versus 73.4% for those convicted of property offences while at large);
- more likely to have escaped during the first years of this study;
- more likely to have served a longer period prior to their escape (on average 2 years 3 months versus 8 months);
- more likely to have had longer left to serve at the time of their escape (on average 1 year 4 months versus 8 months)
- more likely to have absconded from unsupervised leave (13.9% versus 1.5%).

It must be remembered however, that only a minority of escapees (5.5%) were convicted of offences against the person whilst at large.

## 5. PENALTIES FOR ESCAPE

Under Section 34 of the Prisons Act 1952 (No. 9):

"Any person who, being a prisoner in lawful custody, escapes or attempts to escape from such custody shall be guilty of a felony and shall be liable to penal servitude for a term not exceeding seven years, to be served after the expiration of any term of imprisonment, penal servitude or detention to which the prisoner was subject at the time of his escape or attempt to escape".

At the conclusion of the study, the sentence imposed for 'escape lawful custody' was known in 702 of the 811 cases. The longest sentence handed down for the 'escape' offence was 4 years, accumulative to the time set for the original offence. Half of the escapees received an additional prison sentence of at least 9 months and the average prison sentence awarded for escape for these 702 escapees was 11.1 months. (For further information refer to Table A.15 in the Appendix.)

On average, the additional sentence given for escape was over half (0.54) the length of the original sentence being served by the escapee at the time of his/her escape. One in ten escapees (10.1%) received sentences for escape that were longer than their original sentence, and in two cases, the sentence for escape was six times longer than the original sentence.

The additional sentence for escape was, on average, more than three and a half times (3.52) the length of time the prisoner would have had left to serve at the time of escape, had he not escaped.

A discriminant analysis (a multivariate statistical technique) was conducted to determine factors associated with escapees being given "relatively short" (0-6 months) versus "relatively long" (19-48 months) sentences for escape. Cut off points for what was considered "relatively short" and "relatively long" were determined by examining the distribution of the penalties for escape. The discriminant analysis revealed that escapees who received longer sentences for escape tended to:

- have been serving longer original sentences (average of 75.8 months compared to 40.9 months for those receiving relatively short sentences for escape);
- were more likely to have committed an offence whilst at large (50% versus 17% for those receiving relatively short sentences for escape);
- have served a longer time prior to their escape (average of 530 days versus average 316 days for those receiving relatively short sentences for escape);

- have a longer time left to serve (average of 384 days versus 245 days);
- have spent a longer period in the gaol from which he/she escaped (average of 103 versus 64 days);
- have a longer period between most recent review of classification and escape (average of 106 days versus 61 days);
- be older (an average of 26.3 years versus 24.0 years);
- be more likely to be male (100% of these receiving relatively long sentence for escape were male compared to 94% of those receiving relatively short sentence for escape).
- The length of time that the escapee was at large and whether or not the prisoner escaped in company were not found to discriminate between those receiving different sentences for escape.

## DISCUSSION

Any idea that may still exist within the community that all escapees are "determined desperadoes", is ill-founded. Porritt (1982) estimated that "less than 2% of violent offences are the work of escapees" and there is little to suggest that this figure has changed. This, of course, does not negate or absolve the tragic circumstances for victims of violent crime perpetrated by escapees or any other member of the community. The report illustrates, however, that the threat posed to the community by escapees is not high, and that escapees do not represent a sizeable slice of the prison population.

The Nagle Royal Commission (Nagle, 1978) determined that the escape rate at that time was acceptable. Subsequent years have seen an overall decrease in the rate of escapes. The escape rate for the most recent financial year, 1988/89, is the lowest since reliable statistics on escapes have been kept. In 1988 the Minister of Corrective Services, the Hon. M. Yabsley, initiated a series of actions specifically aimed at reducing the escape rate. As part of these actions, the Prisons Regulations 1968 were amended so as to provide that any prisoner convicted of escaping or attempting to escape after the end of October 1988 was to be classified as a Category A or Category B prisoner. That is, they were unsuitable for classification as a Category C prisoner, which made them unsuitable for placement in a minimum security institution.

Given the low chance of remaining at large for long periods of time and the penalties imposed, it may seem surprising that prisoners take the risk of escaping at all. There can be little doubt that the reasons for escape are many and varied (cf. Gorta & Nguyen Da Huong, 1988). In the collection of statistics for the compilation of this

study, a number of Departmental sources were consulted for the purpose of obtaining such information as dates of security classification and the results of court action imposed for escaping. One such source was the prisoner's file that, in addition to providing some statistical information, also revealed other possible reasons for escaping. Having examined the files of some 150 escapees, it was impossible not to notice the number of requests for protection. Many of those requesting protection were young, often unable to write and existing within a framework of fear of bashings or sexual assaults. In this light escaping may be seen as the prisoner's way of dealing with a specific problem.

Escaping from custody is also another way of being transferred. Should a request for transfer be turned down, an escape will ensure movement to another gaol if they are recaptured. If "transfer" to a maximum security institution is preferable to remaining in a lower security prison, problems at the lower security institution must indeed be of a magnitude beyond the control of the prisoner.

Family problems, threats of assault, conflict with staff and frustration, are among many factors that are part of the day-to-day life for prisoners. Frustration at the failure to procure a lower security classification would also seem to be a contributing factor in some escapes. Some prisoners have been unable to obtain a work release security rating even after a number of reviews by the Classification Committee. It was not a part of the project to quantify such information, nevertheless, the indications seem to be of direct relevance to the problem of escapes in general.

It is noteworthy that fifteen of the escapees in the six year period have since died, two of whom escaped twice in the period under review.

Not all reports concerning escapees are negative. One escapee, according to an article in *The Newcastle Herald*, 3 May, 1986, had set up a business as a scrap merchant and considered his time at large as "the most stable period of his life".

Generally, prisoners who escape have few plans on how to remain at large and little prospect of doing so. To escape would therefore be a short term conflict or crisis resolution exercise without regard to future consequences. The consequences are not necessarily restricted to the escapee as pointed out by Judge Ducker in an article printed in the *Lismore 'Northern Star'* where he is quoted as saying that "Every person who escapes, where no great skill is required, in fact is helping create a situation which may ultimately reflect against other prisoners more than anyone else". He continued: "The public at large does not investigate these matters in detail and tends to lump all escapes in the same category. A prisoner generally conjures up

images of a fierce, formidable, dangerous person, but most prisoners are in jail for non-violent crimes". The results of this study serve to reinforce those observations.

Be that as it may, escapes from lawful custody are a fact of life and will continue to be so. This study has highlighted a few of the problem areas in relation to escapes and concentrated on who, when, where and what they do. Why prisoners escape is another area of study but the fact that people do escape from confinement is hardly surprising. The community may be better served by adopting an attitude, not of "how many", but "how few".

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The specific research contributions were as follows:

- project initiated, designed and supervised by Angela Gorta;
- data collection designed and conducted by Tony Sillavan;
- data analysed by Tony Sillavan, Angela Gorta and Simon Eyland;
- report written by Angela Gorta and Tony Sillavan;
- report typed by Sin-Lee Yeoh.

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## **APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL TABLES**

Table A.1:	Absconds and Escapes from New South Wales Corrective Services Custody, 1983/84 to 1988/89, Level of Security Breached
Table A.2:	Sex of Escapee by Year of Escape
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Table A.15:	Sentence for Escape

**Table A. 1: Escapes from New South Wales Corrective Services Custody, 1983/84 to 1988/89, Level of Security Breached**

Escaped From	Financial Year	1983 1984	1984 1985	1985 1986	1986 1987	1987 1988	1988 1989	1983 1989
Within Maximum Security Institution		3 1.6	3 1.7	3 2.5	2 1.9	2 1.4	1 1.3	14 1.7
Within Medium Security Institution		11 6.0	4 2.2	4 3.3	8 7.5	6 4.2	6 7.7	39 4.8
Within Minimum Security Institution		117 63.9	124 68.5	78 65.0	73 68.9	102 71.3	61 78.2	555 68.4
Area Adjacent to Maximum or Medium Security		1 0.5	11 6.1	2 1.7	0 0.0	5 3.5	0 0.0	19 2.3
Escorted Work Parties Away from Institution		9 4.9	5 2.8	9 7.5	4 3.8	12 8.4	6 7.7	45 5.5
Escorted Sports/Excursion Away from Institution		6 3.3	2 1.1	4 3.3	1 0.9	1 0.7	1 1.3	15 1.8
Escorted-Other (e.g. Transfers, Hospital, etc)		5 2.7	1 0.6	1 0.8	1 0.9	1 0.7	0 0.0	9 1.1
Day/Weekend Leave		6 3.3	9 5.0	3 2.5	4 3.8	1 0.7	0 0.0	23 2.8
Unsupervised Education Program		7 3.8	3 1.7	1 0.8	4 3.8	3 2.1	1 1.3	19 2.3
Work Release Program		10 5.5	14 7.7	10 8.3	7 6.6	6 4.2	1 1.3	48 5.9
Other Unescorted Authorised Absence		1 0.5	3 1.7	3 2.5	1 0.9	2 1.4	0 0.0	10 1.2
Prince Henry Hospital Annexe		5 2.7	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	0 0.0	5 0.6
Miroma		2 1.1	1 0.6	2 1.7	1 0.9	0 0.0	0 0.0	6 0.7
Periodic Detention Centre		0 0.0	1 0.6	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 1.4	1 1.3	4 0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>811</b>
Daily Average Population #		3589	3550	3941	4063	4238	4504	3981
Rate per 100 Man Years		5.1	5.1	3.0	2.6	3.4	1.7	3.5

# Including 2/7ths of the number in Periodic Detention, as detainees are in custody two days per week.



**TABLE A.2**

**Sex of Escapee by Year of Escape**

SEX	1983/84 No. %	1984/85 No. %	1985/86 No. %	1986/87 No. %	1987/88 No. %	1988/89 No. %	ALL No. %	% at 1988 Census
MALE	175 95.6	167 92.3	115 95.8	101 95.3	142 99.3	74 94.9	774 95.4	94.5
FEMALE	8 4.4	14 7.7	5 4.2	5 4.7	1 0.7	4 5.1	37 4.6	5.4
TOTAL	183	181	120	106	143	78	811	N/A

TABLE A.3

Age at Escape by Year of Escape

AGE (YEARS)	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL 1983 - 89	% by age prison pop. 1988 Census	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
17	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	1	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.4	0.1
18	13	7.1	17	9.4	8	6.7	9	8.5	12	8.4	6	7.7	65	8.0	2.4
19	26	14.2	12	6.6	10	8.3	16	15.1	19	13.3	11	14.1	94	11.6	4.9
20	14	7.7	15	8.3	10	8.3	15	14.2	18	12.6	6	7.7	78	9.6	4.7
21-22	22	12.0	26	14.4	17	14.2	16	15.1	28	19.6	10	12.8	119	14.7	10.4
23-24	24	13.1	21	11.6	21	17.5	14	13.2	24	16.8	10	12.8	114	14.1	10.7
25-29	46	25.1	52	28.7	35	29.2	20	18.9	24	16.8	18	23.1	195	24.0	23.2
30-34	19	10.4	25	13.8	12	10.0	6	5.7	14	9.8	7	9.0	83	10.2	17.5
35-39	6	3.3	5	2.8	5	4.2	5	4.7	1	0.7	6	7.7	28	3.5	10.9
40-44	5	2.7	5	2.8	0	0.0	4	3.8	1	0.7	2	2.6	17	2.1	6.6
45-49	4	2.2	3	1.7	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.6	10	1.2	3.9
50-54	2	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	4	0.5	2.5
55-59	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1.2
60+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.1
TOTAL	183	22.6	181	22.3	120	14.8	106	13.1	143	17.6	78	9.6	811	100.0	
Average age	26yrs 1mth		25yrs 11mths		25yrs 4mths		24yrs 3mths		23yrs 9mths		26yrs 1mth		25yrs 3mths		

TABLE A.4

**MOST SERIOUS OFFENCES PRIOR TO ESCAPE BY YEAR OF ESCAPE**

OFFENCES RELATING TO:	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL		% of Pris. Pop. 1988 Census
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER	6	3.3	3	1.7			2	1.9	1	0.7	1	1.3	13	1.6	9.3
ASSAULT MAJOR/MINOR ABDUCTION, KIDNAPPING, ARSON ETC	11	6.0	7	3.9	2	1.7	4	3.9	7	4.9	6	7.9	37	4.6	9.3
	0	0.0	2	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	3	0.4	
SEXUAL > 16YRS	3	1.6	1	0.6	3	2.5	1	1.0	2	1.4	2	2.6	12	1.5	4.3
SEXUAL WITH MINOR, CARNAL KNOWLEDGE	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	2	0.2	1.1
INDECENT ASSAULT/ PROSTITUTION	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	2	0.2	1.2
ROBBERY MAJOR/MINOR ASSAULT	35	19.2	35	19.6	22	18.3	16	15.5	11	7.7	12	15.8	131	16.3	15.5
EXTORTION, FRAUD, EMBEZZLEMENT	4	2.2	11	6.1	8	6.7	6	5.8	3	2.1	0	0.0	32	4.0	4.5
BREAK ENTER AND STEAL	60	33.0	60	33.5	26	21.7	27	26.2	50	35.2	22	28.9	245	30.5	15.7
LARCENY MOTOR VEHICLE	15	8.2	20	11.2	19	15.8	26	25.2	20	14.1	9	11.8	109	13.6	14.2
STEALING/RECEIVING	21	11.5	13	7.3	20	16.7	10	9.7	26	18.3	11	14.5	101	12.6	
ARSON/INJURY TO ANIMALS	1	0.5	2	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	2.6	6	0.7	
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	6	3.3	2	1.1	6	5.0	1	1.0	7	4.9	1	1.3	23	2.9	6.5
OFFENCES AGAINST ORDER INCLUDING B.O.P.	8	4.4	14	7.8	8	6.7	6	5.8	9	6.3	4	5.3	49	6.1	2.2
DRUG RELATED	11	6.0	9	5.0	3	2.5	4	3.9	3	2.1	3	3.9	33	4.1	14.9
FIREARMS, (OTHER)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7			1	0.7	1	1.3	4	0.5	1.1
TOTAL	182		179		120		103		142		76		802		100%

Table A.5:

## Security Classification of Gaol in which Escapee held by Year of Escape

GAOLS	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		1983-1989	
<b>MAXIMUM</b>	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Goulburn			4	2.2	2	1.7			2	1.4	1	1.3	9	1.1
C.I.P.					1	0.8							1	0.1
Special Care Unit							1	0.9					1	0.1
M.R.P.	6	3.3	2	1.1									8	1.0
M.R.C.							1	0.9					1	0.1
Parklea			2	1.1	1	0.8							3	0.4
Parramatta	2	1.1	2	1.1	1	0.8			2	1.4	1*	1.3	8	1.0
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>MEDIUM</b>														
Bathurst			5	2.8	1	0.8			4	2.8	2	2.6	12	1.5
Broken Hill	3	1.6	1	0.6			4	3.8	4	2.8	3	3.8	15	1.8
Cessnock	15	8.2	13	7.2	5	4.2	1	0.9	5	3.5	5	6.4	44	5.4
Cooma	2	1.1			2	1.7	3	2.8	3	2.1			10	1.2
Grafton							1	0.9			1	1.3	2	0.2
Mulawa	2	1.1			1	0.8							3	0.4
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>MINIMUM</b>														
Berrima	3	1.6	1	0.6	1	0.8	2	1.9			1	1.3	8	1.0
Emu Plains	29	15.8	33	18.2	23	19.2	37	34.9	41	28.7	19	24.4	182	22.4
Norma Parker	6	3.3	9	5.0	3	2.5	5	4.7	1	0.7	2	2.6	26	3.2
Silverwater	42	23.0	60	33.1	49	40.8	22	20.8	29	20.3	11	14.1	213	26.3
Goulburn X-Wing	6	3.3	8	4.4	5	4.2	3	2.8	3	2.1	3	3.8	28	3.5
Bathurst X-Wing	3	1.6	5	2.8	1	0.8					2	2.6	11	1.4
M.T.C.	10	5.5	14	7.7	6	5.0	6	5.7	12	8.4	8	10.3	56	6.9
Glen Innes	4	2.2	13	7.2	8	6.7	3	2.8	7	4.9	7	9.0	42	5.2
Mannus	22	12.0	2	1.1	5	4.2	7	6.6	14	9.8	2	2.6	52	6.4
Oberon	10	5.5	5	2.8	3	2.5	4	3.8	4	2.8	4	5.1	30	3.7
Kirkconnell	12	6.6					5	4.7	10	7.0	5	6.4	32	3.9
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>83.8</b>
<b>OTHERS</b>														
Other +	4	2.2											4	0.5
Malabar PDC			1	0.6					1	0.7			2	0.2
Tomago PDC									1	0.7	1	1.3	2	0.2
Miroma	2	1.1	1	0.6	2	1.7	1	0.9					6	0.7
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>		<b>181</b>		<b>120</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>143</b>		<b>78</b>		<b>811</b>	
Average Daily Pop.	3589		3550		3941		4063		4238		4504		3981(Aver.)	
Escape Rate	5.1		5.1		3.0		2.6		3.4		1.7		3.4 (Aver.)	

+ 1983/84, Four A2 classified prisoners escaped from prison van 3 were from Goulburn, 1 from Parramatta.

\* Parramatta Gaol became a medium security institution on 1 January 1988.

Table A.6

**Security classification of prisoner at time of escape by year of escape  
Financial Year**

Security Classification	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	TOTAL	%
A1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
A2	3	0	4	2	2	1	12	1.7
B	0	0	0	2	1	2	5	0.7
C1	12	17	6	3	1	10	49	7.0
C2	95	84	82	78	119	58	516	73.2
C3	29	39	19	17	14	5	123	17.4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Remand/trial	6	4	0	4	4	1	19	
P.D.C.	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	
Not known	38	36	9	0	0	0	83	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>811</b>	

Table A.7

**Escapes: Alone Or In The Company Of Other(s) By Year Of Escape**

TYPE	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ALONE	110	60.1	111	61.3	93	77.5	61	57.5	96	67.1	43	55.1	514	63.4
WITH OTHERS	73	39.9	70	38.7	27	22.5	45	42.5	47	32.9	35	44.9	297	36.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>		<b>181</b>		<b>120</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>143</b>		<b>78</b>		<b>811</b>	

TABLE A.8

## ESCAPEES CONVICTED OF OFFENCES WHILST AT LARGE BY YEAR OF ESCAPE

	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
NO OFFENCES PROVEN	111	65.7	127	76.0	91	79.8	85	85.0	87	70.7	22	66.7	523	74.1
SOME OFFENCES	58	34.3	40	24.0	23	20.2	15	15.0	36	29.3	11	33.3	183	25.9
TOTAL	169		167		114		100		123		33		706	100
CASES UNRESOLVED OR NOT KNOWN (INCLUDES NOT RECAPTURED)	14		14		6		6		20		45		105	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ESCAPEES	183		181		120		106		143		78		811	

N.B. This table as at 5/7/89.

**TABLE A.2**

**Sex of Escapee by Year of Escape**

SEX	1983/84 No. %	1984/85 No. %	1985/86 No. %	1986/87 No. %	1987/88 No. %	1988/89 No. %	ALL No. %	% at 1988 Census
MALE	175 95.6	167 92.3	115 95.8	101 95.3	142 99.3	74 94.9	774 95.4	94.5
FEMALE	8 4.4	14 7.7	5 4.2	5 4.7	1 0.7	4 5.1	37 4.6	5.4
TOTAL	183	181	120	106	143	78	811	N/A

TABLE A.3

Age at Escape by Year of Escape

AGE (YEARS)	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL 1983 - 89	% by age prison pop. 1988 Census	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
17	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	1	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.4	0.1
18	13	7.1	17	9.4	8	6.7	9	8.5	12	8.4	6	7.7	65	8.0	2.4
19	26	14.2	12	6.6	10	8.3	16	15.1	19	13.3	11	14.1	94	11.6	4.9
20	14	7.7	15	8.3	10	8.3	15	14.2	18	12.6	6	7.7	78	9.6	4.7
21-22	22	12.0	26	14.4	17	14.2	16	15.1	28	19.6	10	12.8	119	14.7	10.4
23-24	24	13.1	21	11.6	21	17.5	14	13.2	24	16.8	10	12.8	114	14.1	10.7
25-29	46	25.1	52	28.7	35	29.2	20	18.9	24	16.8	18	23.1	195	24.0	23.2
30-34	19	10.4	25	13.8	12	10.0	6	5.7	14	9.8	7	9.0	83	10.2	17.5
35-39	6	3.3	5	2.8	5	4.2	5	4.7	1	0.7	6	7.7	28	3.5	10.9
40-44	5	2.7	5	2.8	0	0.0	4	3.8	1	0.7	2	2.6	17	2.1	6.6
45-49	4	2.2	3	1.7	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.6	10	1.2	3.9
50-54	2	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	4	0.5	2.5
55-59	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1.2
60+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.1
TOTAL	183	22.6	181	22.3	120	14.8	106	13.1	143	17.6	78	9.6	811	100.0	
Average age	26yrs 1mth		25yrs 11mths		25yrs 4mths		24yrs 3mths		23yrs 9mths		26yrs 1mth		25yrs 3mths		



TABLE A.4

**MOST SERIOUS OFFENCES PRIOR TO ESCAPE BY YEAR OF ESCAPE**

OFFENCES RELATING TO:	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL		% of Pris. Pop. 1988 Census
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER	6	3.3	3	1.7			2	1.9	1	0.7	1	1.3	13	1.6	9.3
ASSAULT MAJOR/MINOR ABDUCTION, KIDNAPPING, ARSON ETC	11	6.0	7	3.9	2	1.7	4	3.9	7	4.9	6	7.9	37	4.6	9.3
	0	0.0	2	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	3	0.4	
SEXUAL > 16YRS	3	1.6	1	0.6	3	2.5	1	1.0	2	1.4	2	2.6	12	1.5	4.3
SEXUAL WITH MINOR, CARNAL KNOWLEDGE	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	2	0.2	1.1
INDECENT ASSAULT/ PROSTITUTION	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	2	0.2	1.2
ROBBERY MAJOR/MINOR ASSAULT	35	19.2	35	19.6	22	18.3	16	15.5	11	7.7	12	15.8	131	16.3	15.5
EXTORTION, FRAUD, EMBEZZLEMENT	4	2.2	11	6.1	8	6.7	6	5.8	3	2.1	0	0.0	32	4.0	4.5
BREAK ENTER AND STEAL	60	33.0	60	33.5	26	21.7	27	26.2	50	35.2	22	28.9	245	30.5	15.7
LARCENY MOTOR VEHICLE	15	8.2	20	11.2	19	15.8	26	25.2	20	14.1	9	11.8	109	13.6	14.2
STEALING/RECEIVING	21	11.5	13	7.3	20	16.7	10	9.7	26	18.3	11	14.5	101	12.6	
ARSON/INJURY TO ANIMALS	1	0.5	2	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	2.6	6	0.7	
TRAFFIC OFFENCES	6	3.3	2	1.1	6	5.0	1	1.0	7	4.9	1	1.3	23	2.9	6.5
OFFENCES AGAINST ORDER INCLUDING B.O.P.	8	4.4	14	7.8	8	6.7	6	5.8	9	6.3	4	5.3	49	6.1	2.2
DRUG RELATED	11	6.0	9	5.0	3	2.5	4	3.9	3	2.1	3	3.9	33	4.1	14.9
FIREARMS, (OTHER)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7			1	0.7	1	1.3	4	0.5	1.1
TOTAL	182		179		120		103		142		76		802		100%

Table A.6

**Security classification of prisoner at time of escape by year of escape  
Financial Year**

Security Classification	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	TOTAL	%
A1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
A2	3	0	4	2	2	1	12	1.7
B	0	0	0	2	1	2	5	0.7
C1	12	17	6	3	1	10	49	7.0
C2	95	84	82	78	119	58	516	73.2
C3	29	39	19	17	14	5	123	17.4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Remand/trial	6	4	0	4	4	1	19	
P.D.C.	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	
Not known	38	36	9	0	0	0	83	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>811</b>	

Table A.7

**Escapes: Alone Or In The Company Of Other(s) By Year Of Escape**

TYPE	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ALONE	110	60.1	111	61.3	93	77.5	61	57.5	96	67.1	43	55.1	514	63.4
WITH OTHERS	73	39.9	70	38.7	27	22.5	45	42.5	47	32.9	35	44.9	297	36.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>		<b>181</b>		<b>120</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>143</b>		<b>78</b>		<b>811</b>	

TABLE A.8

## ESCAPEES CONVICTED OF OFFENCES WHILST AT LARGE BY YEAR OF ESCAPE

	1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		ALL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
NO OFFENCES PROVEN	111	65.7	127	76.0	91	79.8	85	85.0	87	70.7	22	66.7	523	74.1
SOME OFFENCES	58	34.3	40	24.0	23	20.2	15	15.0	36	29.3	11	33.3	183	25.9
TOTAL	169		167		114		100		123		33		706	100
CASES UNRESOLVED OR NOT KNOWN (INCLUDES NOT RECAPTURED)	14		14		6		6		20		45		105	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ESCAPEES	183		181		120		106		143		78		811	

N.B. This table as at 5/7/89.

TABLE A.9

## SENTENCE CHARACTERISTICS BY YEAR OF ESCAPE

YEAR OF ESCAPE	Average aggregate head sentence being served (months)	Average time served before escape (days)	Average time remaining before earliest release date (days)	Average time spent at gaol from which escaped (days)	Average time since most recent review of classification (days)	Proportion of sentence served at time of escape
1983/84	52.1	431.7	324.7	88.1	72.1	.44
1984/85	46.6	353.8	279.4	70.4	59.7	.42
1985/86	41.0	301.9	243.8	66.4	80.1	.44
1986/87	33.2	258.2	205.1	66.2	52.2	.50
1987/88	31.9	181.7	200.2	57.2	50.7	.42
1988/89	55.4	566.1	265.4	90.1	83.8	.49
AVERAGE	43.5	341.4	259.1	72.5	65.5	.45

TABLE A.10

**BROAD CATEGORY OF MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE PRIOR TO ESCAPE  
BY YEAR OF ESCAPE**

YEAR	Offences against person	Offences against property	Other offences	Total
1983/84	56 30.8%	101 55.5%	25 13.7%	182
1984/85	48 26.5%	106 58.6%	27 14.9%	181
1985/86	28 23.3%	73 60.8%	19 15.8%	120
1986/87	24 22.6%	68 64.2%	14 13.2%	106
1987/88	22 15.4%	100 69.9%	21 14.7%	143
1988/89	23 29.5%	44 56.4%	11 14.1%	78
TOTAL	201 24.8%	492 60.7%	117 14.4%	810*

\* Most serious offence prior to escape unknown for one escapee.  
Includes most serious charge for prisoners held on remand.

**Table A.II: Differences between Escapees who Breach Different Levels of Security**

Escaped From	Number of escapees 1983-89	% of escapees who were male	Average age	Average aggregate head sentence	Time served prior to escape (months)	Time left to serve (earliest date of release) (months)	Time between arrival at gaol of escape & escape (months)	Time between escape & most recent classification review (months)	Time at large (months)
Within Maximum Security Institution	14	100.0%	29yrs 1mth	14yrs 1mth	23.6	40.0	8.4	1.2	2.3
Within Medium Security Institution	39	97.4%	27yrs 0mth	6yrs 1mth	22.8	10.8	4.0	2.3	7.0
Within Minimum Security Institution	555	94.8%	23yrs 11mth	2yrs 10mth	6.8	7.2	1.4	2.0	1.9
Area Adjacent to Maximum or Medium Security	19	100.0%	23yrs 10mth	3yrs 10mth	7.9	10.3	2.8	1.8	2.3
Escorted Work Parties Away from Institution	45	100.0%	24yrs 0mth	3yrs 0mth	5.9	8.3	2.8	1.5	1.9
Escorted Sports/Excursion Away from Institution	15	93.3%	28yrs 3mth	5yrs 9mth	18.1	13.7	5.2	2.5	3.9
Escorted-Other (e.g. Transfers, Hospital, etc)	9	88.9%	27yrs 1mth	11yrs 1mth	43.2	40.4	9.5	8.2	10.4
Day/Weekend Leave	23	100.0%	30yrs 11mth	3yrs 11mth	12.1	10.5	4.8	2.8	2.1
Unsupervised Education Program	19	100.0%	30yrs 4mth	7yrs 5mth	32.3	10.9	5.9	2.1	2.3
Work Release Program	48	93.8%	31yrs 8mth	6yrs 1mth	24.9	8.3	4.3	3.8	3.7
Other Unescorted Authorised Absence	10	80.0%	28yrs 11mth	6yrs 11mth	23.2	7.4	4.0	1.3	8.5
Prince Henry Hospital Annexe	5	100.0%	21yrs 2mth	6yrs 5mth	5.9	31.1	-	-	1.1
Miroma	6	100.0%	22yrs 3mth	0yrs 2mth	0.3	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.7
Periodic Detention Centre	4	100.0%	25yrs 3mth	0yrs 7mth	0.9	4.9	0.7	-	4.0
OVERALL	811	95.4%	25yrs 1mth	3yrs 8mth	10.1	8.5	2.3	2.1	2.1

TABLE A.12

**PROPORTION OF SENTENCE SERVED PRIOR TO ESCAPE**

	No.of Escapees	%
0-10%	57	7.3
11-20%	95	12.2
21-30%	113	14.6
31-40%	112	14.4
41-50%	99	12.8
51-60%	71	9.1
61-70%	76	9.8
71-80%	72	9.3
81-90%	57	7.3
91-100%	24	3.1
TOTAL	<u>776*</u>	<u>100.0</u>

\* Information unavailable for 35 escapees

TABLE A.13

## TIME SERVED AND TIME LEFT TO SERVE AT DATE OF ESCAPE

Months	Time Served		Time left to earliest release date	
	No.	%	No.	%
0 - 1	112	14.2	26	3.4
1+ - 2	126	15.9	82	10.6
2+ - 3	93	11.8	101	13.0
3+ - 6	159	20.1	220	28.4
6+ - 12	119	15.0	203	26.2
12+ - 18	59	7.5	62	8.0
18+ - 24	31	3.9	31	4.0
24+ - 36	31	3.9	27	3.5
36+ - 48	23	2.9	13	1.7
More than 48	38	4.8	11	1.4
Total	<u>791*</u>		<u>776**</u>	

\* Information unavailable for 20 escapees

\*\* Information unavailable for 35 escapees



TABLE A.14

**TIME BETWEEN ESCAPE AND**

- a) ARRIVAL AT GAOL FROM WHICH ESCAPED**
- b) MOST RECENT REVIEW OF CLASSIFICATION**

Days	a) Time at gaol		b) Time since review of classification	
	No.	%	No.	%
0 - 7	142	18.8	58	9.0
8 - 14	81	10.7	61	9.5
15 - 21	57	7.5	55	8.6
22 - 30	57	7.5	67	10.4
31 - 60	151	19.9	163	25.4
61 - 90	81	10.7	112	17.4
91 - 120	57	7.5	51	7.9
121 - 150	30	4.0	27	4.2
151 - 180	29	3.8	22	3.4
181 - 365	54	7.1	17	2.6
More than 365	18	2.4	9	1.4
Total	<u>757*</u>		<u>642**</u>	

\* Information unavailable for 54 escapees

\*\* Information unavailable for 169 escapees

TABLE A.15

SENTENCE FOR ESCAPE

Sentence length (Months)	No. of escapees	%
0 - 3	119	17.0
4 - 6	169	24.1
7 - 9	83	11.8
10 - 12	150	21.4
13 - 18	93	13.2
19 - 24	61	8.7
25 - 36	18	2.6
37 - 48	9	1.3
Total known	<u>702</u>	