



Prison strategy to break cycle of crime

A FATHERING program to be introduced at Hakea Prison in Canning Vale will try to break the cycle of family offending.

About 70 per cent of Hakea's prisoners are fathers.

The Department of Corrective Services recently signed an agreement with national charity Good Beginnings Australia to deliver its Dads and Kids Connect parenting program to strengthen family bonds and deter reoffending.

Hakea superintendent Ian Clark said the program was a great initia-

tive, with a Federal Department of Families report stating imprisoning a parent increased the likelihood of their children becoming incarcerated by up to six times.

The program is run with a three-step approach – a two-day parenting course, one-on-one support, including help with visits, and a support worker who helps families in the community.

The participants are self-referred men who want to improve their role in their children's lives during and after incarceration.

The program aims to strength-

en parenting skills by helping fathers or expectant fathers understand the importance of their parenting role, facilitating improved contact visits with their children and improving the adjustment of fathers back into their family and their community.

"For imprisoned parents it is a factor in reducing recidivism if they have a supportive family to return to post-release," Good Beginnings Australia chief executive Jayne Meyer Tucker said.



Dads and Kids program: Hakea transitional manager Keith Creado, Good Beginnings CEO Jayne Meyer Tucker, deputy superintendent Gary Rayner, program co-ordinator Mel Spencer, assistant superintendent Kerri Bishop and Jennifer Chaplyn, of Good Beginnings Australia.