



A SOUTH AFRICAN MODEL OF COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS RESIDENTIAL CENTRES: A SOCIAL
WORK PERSPECTIVE

by

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PRETORIA



"ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL"

"He doesn't thresh all grains the same. A sledge is never used on dill, but it is beaten with a stick. A threshing wheel is never rolled on cummin, but it is beaten softly with a flail. Bread grain is easily crushed, so he doesn't keep on pounding it". Isaiah. 28:27-28

DEDICATION

THIS STUDY IS DEDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

My husband Gerhard for all his moral support, love and encouragement through long years of study

My children Werner, Stephanie, Andreo and Julani for all their love and special understanding

My mother for all her prayers through the years

To all offenders in need of community-based corrections, according to their individual needs

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TO GOD ALL THE GLORY

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

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ABSTRACT

A SOUTH AFRICAN MODEL OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS RESIDENTIAL CENTRES: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

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Prisons are overcrowded because not all the offenders who are in prison, should be in prison. Prisons are for serious criminals. Non-serious offenders can be successfully served in community-based facilities such as community corrections residential centres (CCRCs) and, at the same time, be employed in the community, taking responsibility and being accountable for their own lives. The researcher's view is that sentences should fit the individual offender as well as the crime.

The aim of this study was to investigate community corrections residential centres (CCRCs) and, as an outcome, develop a South African model for CCRCs.

The research design of the study was exploratory and both quantitative and qualitative data gathering methods were used in the study. The qualitative data were gathered during May 2000, in Denver, Colorado where the researcher utilised non-scheduled structured interviews with four CCRC programme directors and one programme director of a day

reporting centre (DRC). This qualitative data provided an international perspective and guidelines with regard to the functioning of CCRCs and DRCs. The quantitative data, gathered by means of a self administered questionnaire to social workers employed by the Department of Correctional Services in all nine provinces, provided clear direction for the establishment of CCRCs in South Africa.

Based on the key findings of the study a model for CCRCs in South Africa was proposed. The proposed South African model is an integrated model, providing for sub models of reintegration, diversion and DRCs and include the following components: Public-private partnerships, managing agencies, community support, selection criteria, accountability, funding, personnel and programmes. The primary recommendation of the study was that the proposed model for CCRCs in South Africa should be adopted by policy makers and politicians and should be implemented and evaluated by various role-players through a phased strategy. The study concluded with specific recommendations to help facilitate this process.

KEY TERMS

Community corrections

Community corrections models

Community corrections residential centre (CCRC)

Day reporting centre (DRC)

Reintegration

Diversion

Offender



Alternative sentencing options

Community corrections programmes

Community corrections partnerships



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