

MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2003-04 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2004-05 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Total Expenses	122.7	130.6	6.4
Asset Acquisitions	45.4	37.9	-16.5
Total, Minister for Juvenile Justice and Minister for Western Sydney			
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DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Department of Juvenile Justice has responsibility, in conjunction with a number of other government agencies, for breaking the cycle of juvenile crime. The Department provides a range of custodial and non-custodial programs for the rehabilitation of young offenders.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2003-04, the Department received \$1 million to assume responsibility from NSW Police for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees in the North Coast region and to fund the establishment of a Central Support Office management structure. The Department will progressively assume total responsibility for this function from NSW Police over the next two years. In 2004-05, the Department will take over this function in respect of all police movements to court in the greater Sydney Metropolitan area.

Other developments include:

- ◆ training of community and custody staff in the delivery of offending focussed programs based on international “What Works” research;
- ◆ training of staff in implementing pro-social approaches to working with young people in contact with the criminal justice system;

- ◆ development and testing of the forthcoming implemented objective classification system; and
- ◆ enhanced co-ordination of strategies aimed at preventing illicit drugs from entering juvenile justice centres.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department's case management framework will be further developed to align it with the new intervention framework and contemporary best practices. The new framework focuses on communication between community offices and juvenile justice centres and clarifies the expanded casework role of frontline staff under the juvenile justice centre restructure implementation.

To inform best practice in reducing the risk of juvenile re-offending, the Department has developed an "Offence Focussed Intervention Framework". This framework, based on the "What Works" research, will help define both a young person's level of risk of re-offending and also the type and intensity of programs to address the dynamic risk factors associated with offending. An important element of the Department's approach will include the development of a range of alternatives to custody.

During the 2004-05 period, the Department will implement an Objective Classification System that has been designed with the assistance of international experts. Using validated classification instruments, the system will enable security and community safety concerns to be considered along with case management and program options.

Funding will continue for Youth Justice Conferencing under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*. Conferencing provides an opportunity for victims to attend conferences and have a direct say in outcome plans and ensuring young offenders take responsibility for their action.

2004-05 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Department's total expenses for 2004-05 are estimated at \$130.6 million. Key initiatives include:

- ◆ ongoing provision of specialist counselling services across the State;
- ◆ researching and developing interventions for managing young offenders with disabilities and mental health issues;

- ◆ strengthening and extending current programs for Pacific Island juvenile offenders as part of the NSW Government's Pacific Island Youth Partnership strategies;
- ◆ ongoing development of the intensive court supervision scheme in conjunction with other agencies; and
- ◆ continuing the implementation of the "Journey to Respect" initiative.

In 2004-05, \$3.8 million has been provided under the Government Plan of Action on Drugs. Cyclic maintenance programs at juvenile justice centres are ongoing with maintenance expenditure in 2004-05 estimated at \$2.9 million.

Asset Acquisitions

The Department is continuing to implement its strategic capital plan to improve the standard of accommodation for juveniles held in detention and the level of internal security at juvenile justice centres over the next four years.

The 2004-05 capital program is \$37.9 million of which \$31.8 million will be spent in completing major works at the Reiby and Cobham juvenile justice centres and the young women's centre at Lidcombe. A further \$0.2 million will be spent on upgrading internal security arrangements.

The Department will be investing \$3.5 million in upgrading the Client Information Data System and the Ellipse Management Information System.

The minor capital works program of \$2.3 million will include special projects including reserve installations against electrical storms and other emergency situations and drainage interception works.