

MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2004-05 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2005-06 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Total Expenses	130.6	135.4	3.7
Capital Expenditure	37.9	12.7	-66.6
Total, Minister for Juvenile Justice and Minister for Western Sydney			
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DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Department of Juvenile Justice is responsible for providing a range of non-custodial and custodial programs, which include the diversion of young offenders from the court system and the management and rehabilitation of young offenders. The Department, in conjunction with a number of other government agencies, contributes to a reduction in juvenile offending.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2004-05, the Department committed more funds to the community intervention and diversionary programs following research findings indicating these activities would have a more positive result in impacting on the rate of recidivism in juvenile crime. This resulted in a change in the budget mix with a 2.7 percent reduction in the allocation for custodial services offset by a 2.1 percent increase in community interventions and 0.6 percent increase in diversionary programs under Youth Justice Conferencing.

Other developments include:

- ◆ the transfer of administrative responsibility for the Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre to the Department of Corrective Services;
- ◆ assuming responsibility from NSW Police for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees in the greater Sydney Metropolitan area;
- ◆ progressive introduction of training and delivery of offending focussed programs for community and custody staff based on international research;
- ◆ introduction of the objective classification system supported by a progressive program of testing, validation and evaluation; and
- ◆ introduction of a co-ordinated drug detection and management program aimed at preventing illicit drugs from entering juvenile justice centres.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2005-06, the Department will continue its focus on improving community-based services. Recent reviews of the role of Juvenile Justice Officers and the Department's Psychological and Specialist Services have highlighted the need for a structure that delivers management support with higher levels of professional supervision and staff skills development and that fosters a clear role definition for staff.

The Department will undertake extensive consultation with staff and employee representatives concerning a proposed new structure for community-based services.

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 actions.

A new Youth Justice Conferencing (YJC) office in Far Western New South Wales was established in late 2004-05, increasing the number of YJC offices across the State to 18. This will mean that YJC staff will provide improved capacity to work directly with police and courts in making the *Young Offenders Act 1997* work in the far west of New South Wales.

2005-06 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Department's total expenses for 2005-06 are estimated at \$135.4 million which allows for existing programs to be maintained at current levels of expenditure.

In 2005-06, \$4.1 million has been provided under the Government Plan of Action on Drugs. Cyclic maintenance programs at juvenile justice centres and Community Offices are ongoing, and the 2005-06 maintenance budget is estimated at \$3.1 million.

Capital Expenditure

The Department is continuing to implement its strategic capital plan to improve the standard of accommodation for juveniles held in detention. Upgrades to the Cobham and Reiby Detention Centres will be completed in June 2005 and December 2005 respectively. The new Juniperina Detention Centre for young women will be operational in August 2005. The capital investment program to improve internal security arrangements at Juvenile Justice Centres over the next four years is on target.

A total of \$9.6 million has been allocated in 2005-06 for major capital projects at Reiby and Juniperina detention centres, upgrading the Client Information Data System, meeting the expanded juvenile transport program and continuing the installation of security cameras and fencing at juvenile detention centres.

A total of \$3.1 million has been allocated to the minor capital works program. This allocation includes an annual provision of \$2.5 million for general minor works, \$0.4 million for special projects including reserve installations against electrical storms and other emergency situations, and \$0.2 million for the purchase of camera tapes to support new internal security arrangements.