

MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2002-03 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2003-04 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Total Expenses	119.7	122.7	2.5
Asset Acquisitions	22.8	45.4	99.1
Total, Minister for Juvenile Justice and Minister for Western Sydney			
Total Expenses	119.7	122.7	2.5
Asset Acquisitions	22.8	45.4	99.1

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 2002-03, the Department received \$0.8 million to assume responsibility from NSW Police for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees in the Hunter region. The pilot project has been successful and will now be progressively implemented on a statewide basis. In 2003-04, the Department will take over this function in respect of the North Coast region. The full transfer of the function will be completed over a four-year period.

The introduction of electronic case management will significantly improve the collection, storage and access to client information. This will provide for a proper tracking and mapping of the complete interaction with clients from entry to exit.

Other developments include:

- ◆ introduction of offence focused and evidence based programs for young people in custody and under community supervision;
- ◆ development of appropriate management strategies for serious high-risk young offenders; and
- ◆ enhanced co-ordination of strategies aimed at preventing illicit drugs from entering juvenile justice centres.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department's case management framework has been reviewed in light of new trends in working with young offenders. The new policy streamlines communication between community services and detention centres and defines the expanded casework roles of staff under the new detention centre structure.

During 2003-04, the Department will implement a new framework for the training of staff. In addition to its existing Drug Summit initiatives, the Department will be developing alcohol and drug programs for indigenous clients including increasing the number of drug and alcohol counsellors in rural and regional New South Wales.

Funding will continue for Youth Justice Conferencing under the *Young Offenders Act*. 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.

2003-04 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Department's total expenses for 2003-04 are estimated at \$122.7 million, allowing existing programs to be maintained at current levels of expenditure.

In 2003-04, \$3.6 million has been provided under the Government Plan of Action on Drugs. A further \$1 million has been provided for the Department to assume responsibility from the Police Service for the escorting and transporting of juveniles in the North Coast region

Cyclic maintenance programs at Juvenile Justice Centres are ongoing with maintenance expenditure in 2003-04 estimated at \$3.1 million.

Asset Acquisitions

The Department is continuing to implement its strategic capital plan to improve the standard of accommodation for juveniles held in detention. The Department will be continuing to improve its IT infrastructure including upgrades to the Client Information Data System and the Management Information System.

A total of \$34.5 million has been allocated in 2003-04 for major capital projects at Reiby and Cobham detention centres, together with the new young women's centre at Lidcombe. Following the acquisition of the Worimi site by the Attorney General's Department to build a new Children's Court, the Department of Juvenile Justice has allocated \$1.1 million to acquire another property to accommodate the Broadmeadow Juvenile Justice Community Service and Newcastle Youth Justice Conferencing offices.

Capital expenditure on IT infrastructure, major systems upgrade and the juvenile escort program is estimated at \$5.5 million.

A total of \$4.3 million has been allocated to minor capital works program. Included in this program are an annual provision (\$1.5 million) for various minor capital works and \$1.5 million for design improvements to Dubbo and Frank Baxter (Central Coast) detention centres. An amount of \$0.5 million has been provided for reserve installations against electrical storms and other emergency situations, \$0.4 million for a drainage interception project and \$0.5 million for preliminary design study at Riverina detention centre (Wagga Wagga).