

# MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY, AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON CITIZENSHIP

---

## OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>2007-08 Budget \$m</i>	<i>2008-09 Budget \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
<b>Department of Juvenile Justice</b>			
Total Expenses .....	156.1	169.2	8.4
Capital Expenditure .....	8.9	16.4	83.5
<b>Total, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship</b>			
Total Expenses .....	<b>156.1</b>	<b>169.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Capital Expenditure .....	<b>8.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>83.5</b>

In addition to the agencies listed above, the Minister is also supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Section 2) for the Western Sydney portfolio area.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Department of Juvenile Justice deals with young offenders who have been charged with, or found guilty of an offence committed between the ages 10 and 17. The Department administers youth justice conferences and supervises juvenile offenders when mandated by an order of the court. Court-ordered supervision is conducted in the community or in juvenile justice centres if the young person has been given a custodial order. Police may also remand young people to custodial supervision.

The principal legislation governing the activities of the Department includes the *Young Offenders Act 1997 (Part 5 and Schedule 1)*, the *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987*, the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*, the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987* and the *Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988*.

## RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Department contributes to safer communities by working towards the following high level results:

- ◆ Where appropriate, young offenders have an effective community-based alternative to formal court orders through Youth Justice Conferencing.
- ◆ Young offenders reduce their re-offending.
- ◆ Young offenders are effectively managed and supervised in custody and in the community to complete their sentences.

Key services provided by the Department that contribute to these results include:

- ◆ administering youth justice conferences for juvenile offenders referred by the police and courts
- ◆ administering community-based services for young offenders including providing reports to the courts, assisting young people in meeting bail requirements, supervising young offenders on community-based sentences, undertaking court-ordered supervision of juvenile offenders on bail and providing counselling and other interventions to young people to address their risk of re-offending and
- ◆ supervising juvenile offenders sentenced by the courts to detention and/or ordered by the courts to remain in custody pending the outcome of their court cases.

The key services provided by the Department and the way which they are expected to contribute to results are set out in the following table:

Service Groups	2008-09 Budget Expenses  \$m	Results		
		Youth Justice Conferences are an effective community-based alternative to formal court orders	Reduction in juvenile re-offending	Young offenders are effectively managed and complete their sentences
Youth Justice Conferencing	6.7	✓	✓	
Community Based Services	51.6		✓	✓
Custodial Services	110.9		✓	✓
<b>Total Expenses Excluding Losses</b>	<b>169.2</b>			

## **RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Department's total budget increased by 27.1 per cent to \$156.1 million over the five-year period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. This increased expenditure primarily reflects the takeover of the transport of juveniles from the NSW Police Force, additional initiatives to reduce re-offending and additional costs associated with custodial accommodation to manage the increasing numbers of young people placed in custody.

Since 2005-06, there has been a growth in demand for custodial services and for juvenile justice services generally.

The Department has continued to maintain a high level of service to young offenders and has achieved positive results in managing offenders effectively in completing their sentences. The percentage of community based orders completed remains high at approximately 90 per cent and the percentage of all young offenders showing a reduction in their assessed risk of re-offending levels has increased from 56 per cent in 2005-06 to 63 per cent in 2007-08.

The Department has also provided an effective community based alternative to court orders through Youth Justice Conferencing. The number of conferences held with community and other agency participation increased by 11 per cent between 2005-06 and 2007-08. All conferences held in 2007-08 resulted in an agreed outcome plan.

Additional funding provided for the Community Intervention Program has also allowed the Department to target reduced re-offending, resulting in a 56 per cent increase in the number of remand interventions and 93 per cent increase in the number of bail supervisions.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

The Department is implementing several key initiatives to support the Government's priority of reducing re-offending, particularly the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) and the Community Intervention Project (CIP).

The ISP is a family-focused treatment approach that has been independently evaluated as one of the most successful and cost-effective treatment models for serious, repeat young offenders across gender, age and social and cultural backgrounds. The Department is conducting a four year pilot of the ISP in Newcastle and Western Sydney.

The CIP focuses on the most effective methods of managing young offenders in the community and in diverting juveniles from custody. This multi-faceted project includes the restructure of community based offender services, further development of an evidence-based model of practice, staff training strategies, the development of a quality assurance framework and other major initiatives such as the Intensive Bail Supervision Program.

The establishment of a centralised Programs Unit will also assist the Department in implementing programs based on global research that demonstrate a positive impact on reducing re-offending.

## **2008-09 BUDGET INITIATIVES**

### **Total Expenses**

The Department's total expenses for 2008-09 are estimated at \$169.2 million, an increase of 8.4 per cent compared to 2007-08. This increase is mainly due to an additional \$8.5 million for increased juvenile custodial accommodation and other initiatives targeted at reducing re-offending.

The 2008-09 allocation also includes:

- ◆ \$1.6 million to increase the Department's capacity to work with young offenders who are required to undertake a community service order and
- ◆ \$4.5 million for initiatives included in the Government's Plan of Action on Drugs.

### **Capital Expenditure**

The Department's capital expenditure for 2008-09 is estimated at \$16.4 million.

The major works program of \$13.3 million includes:

- ◆ \$3.4 million to commence redevelopment of the Riverina and Acmena Juvenile Justice Centres to provide an additional 42 beds to accommodate the increasing numbers of juveniles being placed in custody in western and northern rural areas
- ◆ \$6.6 million to complete the construction of an additional 15-bed custodial accommodation unit to ease the overcrowding at the Orana Juvenile Centre and
- ◆ \$3.3 million for the continued development of the Department's information management systems.

A further \$3.1 million has been provided for minor capital works.

## AGENCY RESULT INDICATORS

### *Youth Justice Conferences are an effective community-based alternative to formal court orders*

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Conferences held that include victim participation	%	62	61	56	62
ii) Conferences held that include community or other government agency participation	%	74	81	85	87

Note:  
These indicators show the level of victim or community participation in conferences. Although participation by victims is not mandatory it is encouraged when appropriate.

### *Reduction in juvenile re-offending*

Result Indicator	Units	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2008-09 Forecast
i) Juvenile re-offending	%	32.2	31.2 (est)	29.2 (est)	28.2
ii) Juvenile re-offending by service group:					
- Custody	%	63.9	63.0(est)	63.0 (est)	63.0
- Community	%	53.6	52.6 (est)	51.6 (est)	50.6
- Youth Justice Conferencing	%	38.9	37.9 (est)	36.9 (est)	35.9

Notes:  
i) The rate of juvenile re-offending indicator shows re-offending rates for all juveniles, including young people not supervised by the Department.  
ii) The rate of juvenile re-offending by service group measures re-offending rates for young people supervised by the Department and identifies areas requiring further attention for intervention and resources.  
Estimates are only available for 2006-07 and 2007-08 as re-offending is monitored in the 12-month period after an initial offence.

**Young offenders are effectively managed and complete their sentences**

<b>Result Indicator</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>2005-06 Actual</b>	<b>2006-07 Actual</b>	<b>2007-08 Budget</b>	<b>2008-09 Forecast</b>
i) Safety/security breaches per 1,000 admissions:					
- Deaths in custody	no.	0	0	0	0
- Self-harm incidents	no.	26	20	22	≤07-08
- Escapes from secure perimeter	no.	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
ii) Community based orders completed	%	81	82	90	90

**Notes:**

- i) These indicators measure the effectiveness of the Department in managing detainees in a safe and secure environment.
- ii) This indicator measures the Department's effectiveness in supervising and managing young offenders to complete their community based orders.