

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

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2007-08 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Total Expenses	141.9	156.1	9.9
Capital Expenditure	8.0	8.9	11.6
Total, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship			
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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 supervises juvenile offenders when mandated by an order of the court and administers youth justice conferences. Court-ordered supervision is conducted either in the community or in Juvenile Justice Centres.

Principal legislation administered by the Department includes the *Young Offenders Act 1997* (Part 5 and Schedule 1), the *Children (Community Services Orders) Act 1987*, the *Children (Detention Centres) 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 results:

- ◆ Young offenders reduce their re-offending.

- ◆ Young offenders are effectively managed in custody and in the community to complete their sentences.
- ◆ Where appropriate, young offenders have an effective community-based alternative to formal court orders.

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

- ◆ supervising juvenile offenders ordered by the courts to remain in custody pending the outcome of their court cases and those sentenced by the courts to a period of detention;
- ◆ administering youth justice conferences for juvenile offenders referred by the police and courts;
- ◆ supervising juvenile offenders on bail and community-based sentences on order of the courts;
- ◆ providing reports to the courts to assist in sentencing and parole decisions;
- ◆ providing counselling and interventions to address the risk of young offenders re-offending; and
- ◆ transporting and supervising juvenile detainees at court.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Department of Juvenile Justice fulfils a 'downstream' function in the justice sector in that the number of juvenile detainees is primarily driven by court and police decisions, the seriousness of the offending behaviour and changes in legislation. Total admissions have risen from 3,403 in 2003-04 to an estimated 4,220 in 2006-07, with around 90 per cent on remand. The growing trend is anticipated to peak in 2007-08, with a progressive decline thereafter as the Department's diversionary programs start to take effect.

This, in turn, has resulted in increased expenditure levels for the Department as it responds to the demand for additional custodial units. Additional recurrent funding, amounting to \$9 million in 2007-08 and \$7 million per annum from 2008-09 to 2010-11 has been provided to meet the projected growth in juvenile detainees.

During 2006-07, the Department strengthened its efforts to assist young people in meeting court imposed bail requirements and implemented measures to improve corporate systems. During the year, the Department:

- ◆ implemented the Intensive Bail Supervision Program;
- ◆ continued the upgrade of fences and cameras at Juvenile Justice Centres – a four year program totalling \$6 million;
- ◆ commenced a comprehensive review of behaviour management in Juvenile Justice Centres;
- ◆ implemented a restructure of community-based juvenile offender services;
- ◆ commenced a new training program for community-based staff;
- ◆ completed reviews of the Department's Rural and Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Counselling Program, the Sex Offender Program, the Rural Residential Drug Rehabilitation Program and a review of the Drug Intelligence Unit;
- ◆ completed the final phase of transferring responsibility from the NSW Police Force for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees across the whole of the State;
- ◆ commenced work on a project to identify and respond to issues for people with disabilities participating in youth justice conferences as part of the Department's Disability Action Plan, in collaboration with NGOs and government services in all disability areas;
- ◆ collaborated with the NSW Police Force in the revision of the accredited Specialist Youth Officers Training Manual;
- ◆ completed the \$3.8 million upgrade of the Client Information Management System;
- ◆ commenced a project to replace ageing and obsolete information technology infrastructure, upgrading all old PCs, laptops and servers during 2006-07 and 2007-08 at a total cost of \$4 million; and
- ◆ commenced a project to implement a Corporate Information System that will allow the Department to accurately measure and report on its performance, a four year program with a total cost of \$5 million.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

A key initiative of the Department over the next five years is the implementation of the Community Integration Project which focuses on the most effective methods of managing young offenders in the community and in diverting juveniles from custody. The project has a number of facets including the restructure of community-based offender services, further development of an evidence-based model of practice, a staff training strategy, development of a quality assurance framework, and major initiatives such as the Intensive Bail Supervision Program introduced in 2006 and the Intensive Supervision Program for young offenders.

The Intensive Supervision Program (based on the Multisystemic Therapy Program from the United States) will be piloted in 2007-08. The program, which targets serious and repeat juvenile offenders, is designed to address the root causes of juvenile offending using the family-based treatment model. Small multi-discipline teams work intensively with offenders and their families to provide caregivers with the skills and resources to address anti-social behaviour, and provide juveniles with the skills to address the underlying causes of their offending.

The Department will continue to focus on implementing programs based on national and international research that demonstrates a positive impact on re-offending. A centralised Programs Unit will be established to improve the Department's capability to research, develop and implement evidence-based standard program interventions that are responsive to individual characteristics and needs with specific focus on programming for Aboriginal young people.

Consistent with the objects, purposes and provisions of the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, the Department will also enhance the capacity of youth justice conferences to identify the factors related to the young offender's needs and the likelihood of re-offending.

In addition, the Department will improve its capability to measure and monitor its corporate performance through enhanced information technology systems and improved consistency in business definitions, classifications and performance measurement.

Collaborative efforts with partner agencies will be advanced through whole-of-government and justice and welfare cluster initiatives.

The Department's strategic direction will improve outcomes for the community by:

- ◆ offering a more effective and proven response to reduce the offending behaviour of young people;

- ◆ achieving greater value for money for the community over the medium to longer term; and
- ◆ focusing on services and programs for young Aboriginal offenders and young people with mental health problems.

2007-08 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2007-08 are budgeted at \$156.1 million, an increase of 10 per cent compared to 2006-07. This includes:

- ◆ additional funding to meet increased demands on juvenile custodial accommodation (\$9 million);
- ◆ \$4.4 million which has been provided under the Government Plan of Action on Drugs;
- ◆ \$0.4 million for the implementation of a 12-month trial of a Youth Conduct Orders Program to impose restrictions on the behaviour and movement of juvenile offenders charged and/or found guilty of anti-social behaviour offences;
- ◆ \$0.9 million for the introduction of a new Intensive Supervision Program to work with young offenders in a family setting. This model is currently used to deal with 10,000 serious juvenile offenders around the world each year. Independent evaluations have shown a reduction of between 25 to 70 per cent in recidivism in serious and violent young offenders at one, two and four year follow ups; and
- ◆ Cyclic maintenance programs at Juvenile Justice Centres and community offices are ongoing, and the 2007-08 maintenance budget is estimated at \$3.7 million.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is estimated at \$8.9 million in 2007-08. The major works program of \$5.8 million includes:

- ◆ \$0.7 million to commence the construction of a new accommodation unit at Orana Juvenile Justice Centre, Dubbo;
- ◆ \$0.7 million to begin the upgrade of Ellipse, the Department's enterprise resource management system;

- ◆ \$1.7 million for the development of the Corporate Information System, to support strategic decision making and performance monitoring;
- ◆ \$1.6 million for the Custodial Accommodation Management Project (upgrade of security cameras and fences at Juvenile Justice Centres); and
- ◆ \$1.2 million to continue the IT Infrastructure Renewal Project which involves the replacement of outdated IT infrastructure.

A total of \$3.1 million has been allocated to the minor capital works program.