

Better management of high risk offenders

Tough and smart justice for safer communities

The NSW Government has legislated to better protect the community from the most dangerous sex and violent offenders.

What do the changes mean?

Community safety comes first

The High Risk Offender Scheme enables the government to apply to the Supreme Court for an order to detain or supervise high risk sex and violent offenders if they pose an unacceptable risk to the community at the end of their sentences. Continuing Detention Orders (CDOs) allow offenders to be detained in jail, while Extended Supervision Orders (ESOs) allow for rigorous supervision of offenders in the community, including by electronic monitoring.

The Scheme has been improved so that:

- Community safety is the paramount consideration of the court when deciding whether to make a CDO or ESO.
- A greater number of dangerous offenders are now be eligible for a CDO or ESO as:
 - the court can consider an offender's criminal history and future risk of serious sex *and* violent offences, instead of just one or the other
 - the Scheme has been extended to include more sex offences committed under Commonwealth legislation.
- The test for deciding whether to impose a CDO has been strengthened so an offender's risk to the community is considered, instead of whether they can be adequately supervised.

- Offenders on an ESO face rigorous supervision. Conditions may include electronic monitoring, restrictions on offenders' movements, regular reporting and participation in rehabilitation programs.

Victims and their families have a stronger voice

More registered victims will be informed when relevant offenders are being considered for a CDO or ESO and have the right to provide information to the Supreme Court in writing or orally to ensure that they are heard. In cases where the victim is deceased, victims' families have the right to make a statement.

A stronger focus on reforming offenders

The courts now inform all offenders who may be subject to the Scheme when they are sentenced. Advising offenders earlier that they may be subject to a CDO or ESO after they complete their prison sentence encourages participation in rehabilitation programs to reduce reoffending.

These changes are part of a package of reforms announced in May 2017 to reduce reoffending, improve community safety and support victims.

