



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS AT FRANK BAXTER

NSW Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Greg Smith SC, will today join locals and former staff at the Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre to mark the centenary of the site, which was opened in 1911.

The original centre was run as a barracks-style institution with an emphasis on physical drills, training in habits of industry and useful trades, as well as sport.

“The original residents, around 70 boys, helped to construct the barracks. No doubt the living conditions were basic but surely better than their previous accommodation on the school ships, which were being used as training schools for juvenile male offenders,” Mr Smith said.

“Over the 100 years young men and boys have been sent to this site many positive changes have occurred,” he said.

The Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre, which was opened in 1999, is the largest juvenile justice centre in the state, with the capacity for 120 young people, and accommodates males aged 16 to 21 years, mostly on control orders.

“The young people who now reside in this centre live in a humane and safe place where they can have access to education, health care, case management with dedicated staff, specialised counselling, and training in job and living skills.

“We want young people to come out of the system with a better chance of fitting back into their community and staying on track.

“I’m sure the site has different meanings to the boys and young men who have been sent there over its hundred year history. Today is about acknowledging them and the staff who worked with them over all those years,” Mr Smith said.