



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST EVER GRADUATES OF INTENSIVE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAM

NSW Attorney General and Minister for Justice Greg Smith, SC, has praised the first participants to complete the Government's new Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP), who graduated from the program on Thursday.

"I commend the achievements of these 20 graduates," Mr Smith said.

"In completing this intensive program they have taken a very big step towards addressing their problems with drugs and alcohol."

The Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program is a major NSW Government initiative that aims to provide a new approach to alcohol and other drug treatment and reduce drug-related crime for offenders serving custodial sentences.

It is a unique partnership between Corrective Services NSW, Justice Health and the Forensic Mental Health Network to address primary health and the mental health needs of offenders.

"IDATP is a full-time, custody-based therapeutic centre to help offenders overcome drug and alcohol addictions – on a scale never seen before anywhere in the world," Mr Smith said.

"The program encompasses a treatment facility that recognises the multi-layered needs of alcohol and drug dependant offenders.

"Treatment incorporates a range of therapeutic, health, education, vocation and employment programs aimed at addressing substance dependence and offending behaviour.

"Treatment is tailored to meet the individual needs of each offender, based on evidence-based best practice. These are methods that are known to work in drug and alcohol treatment and in reducing the risk of re-offending."

The concept for the program recognises the importance of supporting participants through their transition to the community and beyond.

"Pre and post support of offenders is integral to the program's success and will include engagement with a range of community and government agencies to enhance reintegration opportunities," Mr Smith said.

The therapeutic program focuses on:

- Enhancing and maintaining motivation to abstain from addictive behaviour
- Learning how to cope with urges and cravings
- Using rational ways to manage thoughts, feelings and behaviours
- Balancing short-term and long-term pleasures and satisfactions in life
- Changing antisocial thoughts, values and choices
- Interpersonal and social skills training for cognitive self-control, relationships and community responsibility
- A comprehensive relapse and recidivism change plan with interaction, role playing, skills practice and homework.

Eligible offenders are sentenced inmates with a documented history of problematic drug and/or alcohol use. They must have a minimum non-parole period of six months still to serve and a minimum or medium security classification.

The program, being implemented over several stages, commenced in February this year, with the opening of a 62-bed unit at John Morony Correctional Centre.

The second stage, which was implemented in July, will see another 62-bed unit filled and the second class of participants is currently working through the program.

Two more units will be opened next year, resulting in a total of 248 beds before the final stage is implemented in mid 2014.

This will provide an extra 50 female beds within Dillwynia Correctional Centre, bringing the total number of participants to 298 when the program is fully implemented.