

Tuesday 12 June 2012

MORE COURTS AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR NSW

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will build new courts, expand prisoner rehabilitation programs and step up the fight against graffiti, the NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, announced today.

Mr Smith said the 2012-13 Budget provided almost \$34 million for the construction of new courthouses, including:

- \$16 million towards the construction of the \$94 million Newcastle Justice Precinct;
- \$11 million towards the development of a \$54 million justice precinct at Coffs Harbour; and;
- \$6.9 million for the completion of the new Armidale Courthouse.

The Budget also includes \$32 million for the renovation and expansion of courthouses at 40 locations including Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Liverpool, Manly and at the Downing Centre in Sydney's CBD. The funding will also enable the State Coroner's Court in Glebe to relocate to the court complex at 50 Phillip St in Sydney's CBD.

"While the Coroner's Court will still be able to utilise courtrooms at its old headquarters in Glebe, it will soon have a new registry in the city and will conduct inquests at the Phillip Street complex," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said \$4.2 million would be invested in innovative programs to reduce reoffending and rehabilitate inmates, including \$2 million for the new Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment program and \$1 million for Intensive Learning Centres.

"Studies have consistently shown that a high proportion of prisoners are poorly educated and commit offences while under the influence of alcohol and drugs - often to support an addiction," Mr Smith said.

"The Drug and Alcohol Treatment program will help up to 300 inmates at John Morony Correctional Complex overcome their addiction, while the Intensive Learning Centres will help prisoners develop job skills."

An Intensive Learning Centre is to be established at the South Coast Correctional Centre with pilot programs to be introduced at the Lithgow and Mid North Coast Correctional Centres.

There is \$24 million allocated for the completion of the redevelopments of Cobham and Riverina Juvenile Justice Centres.

The Budget also provides for the appointment of an Inspector of Custodial Services to deliver oversight of adult and juvenile custodial services.

There is \$1 million for programs to clean up and prevent graffiti, particularly in communities that have been repeatedly targeted by vandals.

"Government funding will help local councils modify the environmental design of hotspot areas to make them more resistant to graffiti," Mr Smith said.



Budget 2012-13

Building for the Future

“In addition, the Government is helping community groups set up volunteer graffiti removal squads and is continuing to support the Graffiti Hotline (free call 1800 707 125), which enables anyone in NSW to report graffiti as soon as they see it.”

Mr Smith said the Government would also make the administration of justice more efficient and effective.

“More than \$4 million will be spent over two years on a new system to manage arrangements for people being enrolled and called for jury service, while \$2 million has been allocated for the next phase of the Joined Up Justice project, which will improve the exchange of electronic information between the courts and the NSW Police Force,” Mr Smith said.