

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Member for Campbelltown

Monday 13 October 2008

NEW UNIT AT ORANA JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE ON TRACK

Minister for Juvenile Justice, Graham West, today inspected the \$7.4 million expansion of Orana Juvenile Justice Centre in Dubbo, three months after a local construction company was awarded the building contract.

Mr West said Rawson Constructions was awarded the tender in July for the construction of a new 15 bed unit and extra communal facilities at the centre.

“The project represents a significant boost to the Dubbo economy, with around 520 people directly or indirectly involved in the project.

The new unit is expected to be completed by July 2009.

Mr West also visited the Dubbo Community Services Office today to discuss youth justice services aimed at reducing re-offending behaviour.

Mr West was told of two young people who have both recently obtained a three month work experience trial after completing community service work with the Nyngan Council.

The work was part of Youth Justice Conference outcome plans, agreed upon by the victims involved in each young person's offences. Upon completion of the trial, each young person will be eligible to access a 12 month traineeship with the council.

“This is a great result for Youth Justice Conferencing and demonstrates the effectiveness of local councils working with the department on community service work for young offenders,” said Mr West.

“The staff at Orana Juvenile Justice Centre and Dubbo Community Services Office, are doing an excellent job in working with young offenders from the region,” Mr West said.

Examples include:

- Staff work with the Dubbo PCYC to arrange community service orders for young offenders as well as referring young people to their sport and recreation programs;
- Staff assist young people in meeting bail conditions through the Intensive Bail Support program;
- Staff actively participate in an Anti Social Behaviour pilot program that coordinates government agencies to manage high risk juveniles and reduce cases of anti-social behaviour in Dubbo; and

- The department also contributes funding to various agencies to provide services to young people in Dubbo and surrounding communities.

“The NSW Government is working hard to tackle youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the community,” Mr West said.

“Rather than turn our backs, we are working with young offenders to give them skills and confidence and break the cycle of re-offending.”

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