

## Media Release

2 September 2011

### **FULHAM IS VICTORIA'S LEADING EMPLOYER**

Fulham Correctional Centre has been selected as Victoria's most outstanding employer.

Fulham received the extremely prestigious Victorian Employer of the Year award for the world-class courses and correctional practice training it develops and delivers to employees.

The specific training and support courses were designed by Fulham staff and approved by the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority and the National Correctional Services Industry Advisory Committee.

The announcement by Skills Victoria was made at the 2011 Victorian Training Awards dinner where Fulham general manager Troy Ittensohn accepted the trophy on behalf of the correctional centre and The GEO Group Australia.

Troy said that delivering in-house training in a correctional environment is always difficult but Fulham achieved remarkable results using a wide range of delivery methods and environments.

"We linked traditional classroom and on the job training with mentoring and shadowing as well as on-site practical training," he said.

"Staff attended Corrections Victoria training off-site as well as TAFE and other personal development courses.

"There were also simulated emergency exercises involving police, ambulance and the Country Fire Authority."

As Fulham operates 24 hours a day, achieving a 98 per cent participation rate in the courses was a remarkable achievement. In fact, each session had to be delivered twice during the year-long training because of clashing rosters. A feature of the training was that it was also accessible to Fulham's 60 casual and 90 professional staff.

Troy said that correctional officers are recruited from a variety of backgrounds and rarely have any custodial experience.

"The training designed at Fulham has proved extremely successful in developing the behaviours and attitudes required in working with offenders," he said.

The managing director of The GEO Group Australia, Pieter Bezuidenhout said the award was recognition of the dedication of the Fulham training staff.

“To develop high quality, innovative training courses and then deliver them with such outstanding success is a wonderful achievement and a benchmark for GEO Australia,” he said.

Skills Victoria is funded by the Victorian Government to support and facilitate access to training and tertiary education opportunities so that Victorians can acquire higher skills and contribute to the success of Victorian businesses.

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**About The GEO Group Australia**

The GEO Group Australia is Australia’s largest provider of outsourced correctional services. With 1500 employees, The GEO Group Australia provides safe and secure services to the Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland governments through the management of correctional centres and the provision of primary health care services. GEO delivers critical public services that are cost effective and represent value for money for the taxpayer. With security and public safety as a priority, The GEO Group Australia intervenes with the 3500 offenders in our care to reduce reoffending and prevent the community becoming victims of crime. The GEO Group Australia is part of The GEO Group Inc, the world’s largest international provider of outsourced correctional services, with over 80,000 offenders and 116 facilities under management across four continents. For further information please visit [www.thegeogroupinc.com.au](http://www.thegeogroupinc.com.au)

**About Fulham Correctional Centre**

Fulham Correctional Centre is one of Victoria’s largest correctional centres. Holding 845 prisoners, Fulham is primarily a sentenced facility, holding those serving their sentences and with a particular emphasis on progressing offender’s sentence management plans by delivering activities and programs that address offending behaviours. Fulham includes the Nalu Challenge Community. Fulham has been managed by The GEO Group Australia since its opening in 1997. For further information please visit: [www.justice.vic.gov.au/utility/home/](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/utility/home/)