

Media Release

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JUNEE WORK PROGRAM REDUCES REOFFENDING

Junee Correctional Centre in New South Wales has seen significant reductions in prisoner reoffending rates as a result of its innovative XIT-180 program that supports prisoners through training and work placements.

XIT-180 provides prisoners with an educational and training foundation and a period of employment within Junee's highly successful industries workshops. This culminates in a period of temporary release in which the prisoner is directly employed by a local business.

With employment recognised as a key factor in contributing to a prisoner's ability to avoid reoffending Junee has placed XIT-180 at the heart of its rehabilitative agenda. The centre has developed a coalition of supportive local businesses that are willing to give prisoners who want to turn their back on crime a fair go.

As part of its efforts to reduce recidivism Junee tracks its XIT-180 graduates after release to see if they are keeping free of crime. Initial results indicate the program is successful in diverting prisoners from reoffending.

The average return to prison rate in New South Wales is about 42 per cent. Junee's XIT-180 graduates showed a markedly reduced equivalent rate of 32 per cent — a reduction of about 25 per cent. Significantly, most of these returns are due to technical parole violations rather than committing new offences.

In terms of new offences XIT-180 graduates show a far more significant reduction in criminality. XIT-180 graduates had amassed 276 offences between them prior to participating in the program, but since completing XIT-180 had only committed, to date, a total of three new offences — a reoffending rate of just 6 per cent.

"Our initial results indicate that XIT-180 is having great success in getting prisoners work skills and jobs, and through this reducing their likelihood of reoffending," said Junee's offender services manager Trevor Coles.

"In particular, we are delighted to see the number of indigenous prisoners rising to the challenge."

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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

About Junee Correctional Centre

Junee Correctional Centre is one of the largest prisons in New South Wales. Holding 790 prisoners, Junee 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. Junee includes a minimum security unit for low-risk prisoners. Junee has been managed by The GEO Group Australia since it opened in 1993. For further information please visit: www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au