

Media Release

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GEO AWARDS YOUTH IN FOCUS SCHOLARSHIPS

The GEO Group Australia and Junee Correctional Centre are helping several talented young Junee residents to fulfill their dreams by awarding \$7500 in scholarships through the GEO Youth in Focus Scholarships program.

Three Junee High School students — Ebony Becquet, Billie-Rose Deacon and Jade Belling — are the inaugural recipients of the scholarships and each receive \$2500.

The scholarships program has been established in four categories — academic excellence, sporting distinction, creative arts and youth in business.

In each category nominees must demonstrate high achievement as well as an ability to have a positive impact in the broader community.

Junee Correctional Centre general manager Andy Walker said the scholarships are an important part of the 'GEO Builds Better Lives' program.

"A key element of the 'GEO Builds Better Lives' program is community engagement and these scholarships play a role in helping talented young people pursue their dreams," he said.

GEO received 14 nominations for the 2012 Youth in Focus Scholarships and Mr Walker said the selection panel had a difficult task selecting the recipients.

"Many of the nominees were Junee High School students and our selection panel was very impressed with the calibre of these young people and the overall quality of the nominations," he said.

Jade Belling received the scholarship for academic excellence. Jade completed her HSC during 2011 and has commenced a bachelor degree at Charles Sturt University in medical radiation science. She plans to embark on a career as a radiographer specialising in medical imaging.

The scholarship for sporting distinction was presented to Billie-Rose Deacon who has represented Junee High School in athletics at state level for the last four years. Billie-Rose will travel to Canada this year to participate in a track and field competition against some of the world's best young athletes. She will also have access to professional coaching.

Ebony Becquet received the creative arts scholarship for her commitment to dance. Her efforts as both a dancer and a teacher of young students highlight her dedication to her art. Ebony was chosen to attend a special dance camp in 2011 and spends much of her free-time rehearsing or teaching.

The youth in business scholarship was not awarded in 2012.

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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