

Media Release

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PARKLEA INMATES FURNISH THE PONDS

Inmates at the GEO operated Parklea Correctional Centre in Sydney have strongly supported an innovative project to enhance local community amenities.

They have designed and manufactured an extremely attractive array of community seating for the recreational areas of a new housing development in The Ponds, a new suburb in Sydney.

It is the result of a unique partnership between developers Landcom, Queensland artist Russell Anderson, West Sydney Institute of TAFE and The GEO Group Australia.

Anderson worked with the inmates over 18 months to design the furniture, which had to be robust, weather resistant and complement the local environment.

The furniture combines Aboriginal themes through a mosaic seating surface with a variety of designs for the main seat body.

Set at different heights to accommodate adults and children, the seats were manufactured at Parklea Correctional Centre's industrial workshops.

"We are delighted to have been able to play our part in supporting the local community, and in particular having the opportunity to encourage our inmates to put something positive back into the community," said the centre's offender services manager Allison Lang.

"Designing and manufacturing the seats gave the inmates the chance to gain fabrication skills accreditation that will support their search for work on release.

"It also gave them the experience of working with a renowned artist, meeting deadlines and working as a team."

Each inmate involved in the project has been formally and individually recognised with a letter of thanks from Landcom.

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Contact:

Tim McLean

T 02 9295 0206

E tmclean@geogroup.com.au

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About The GEO Group Australia

The GEO Group Australia is Australia's largest provider of outsourced correctional services. With 1,500 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 3,500 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 Parklea Correctional Centre

Parklea Correctional Centre is one of the largest prisons in New South Wales. Holding up to 823 prisoners, Parklea is primarily a remand facility, holding those committed by the courts before and during their trial. Parklea includes a minimum security works release unit for low-risk prisoners to support their resettlement back into the community. Parklea also operates extensive industrial workshops with allied vocational training. Parklea has been managed by The GEO Group Australia since 2009 when it was transferred, while fully operational, from public to private management following a competitive tender. For further information please visit: www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au

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