

2016-17 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Budget Estimates Hearing

Robin Scott MP
Acting Minister for Corrections

Corrections Overview

- Inherited an overcrowded prison system and unplanned growth of offenders in the community.
- Invested \$450 million in our first year.
- Prisoner recidivism now reducing.
- More than \$400 million in 2016/17 State Budget to continue the reform.

Budget Overview

More than \$400 million in the 2016-17 State Budget :

- record funding of \$233.4 million for an expanded community corrections system
- \$84 million in funding to strengthen the management of serious sex offenders
- \$95.3 million for improvements at the Metropolitan Remand Centre
- \$1.5 million to continue two specialist programs for remand outreach and de-radicalisation
- Support for the new drug court and the response to family violence

Community Correctional Services

- Builds on 2015/16 new investment of \$89 million.
- Record new investment in 2016/17 budget of \$233.4 million.
- \$31.9 million in new asset funding and \$201.4 million in new output funding to strengthen and expand the capacity of community corrections.
- Extra staff, more rehabilitation, improved service delivery, better risk management.

Serious Sex Offenders

- Immediate response to the Harper Review.
- \$84 million includes \$32.5 million to build and \$19.9 million to operate a new specialist secure facility
- Also includes:
 - An accommodation facility for those with a cognitive disability or acquired brain injury
 - expansion of assessment and treatment services for serious sex offenders in prison
 - an intensive supervision and outreach program for offenders
 - research centre to build knowledge in reducing sexual offending and violent crime; and,
 - development of a new governance model to oversee the post-sentence scheme for serious sex offenders.

Response to the Metropolitan Remand Centre riot

- \$51.9 million in infrastructure funding for hardening MRC announced in December
- \$23.0 million for remand capital improvement, and
- \$20.4 million over four years for remand operating improvements that include:
 - staff for industries to increase prisoner work
 - program funding for structured day activities
 - a remand behavioural regime
 - stronger case management and supervision.

Other Initiatives

- \$0.8 million to continue the Remand Outreach Program.
- \$0.7 million for the Community Integrated Support Program, which works with prisoners charged with terrorism-related offences or at risk of radicalisation.
- Funding for corrections officers to support the new Melbourne drug court.
- Funding as part of the Government's response to family violence.