



Anthony Roberts
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Counter Terrorism

MEDIA RELEASE

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500 NEW PRISON BEDS TO MEET DEMAND IN SYDNEY

A new 500-bed maximum-security prison wing was officially opened in Western Sydney today by Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections Anthony Roberts, Member for Riverstone Kevin Conolly and Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasdale OAM.

The Parklea Correctional Centre expansion is part of the NSW Government's \$3.8 billion investment in the state's prisons.

"The expansion of this maximum-security prison allows for greater access to education, programs and skills-based training with modern and safer facilities," Mr Roberts said.

"The project has also created hundreds of jobs during construction, and more than 70 additional ongoing jobs at the centre."

Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin said the new wing allows more male remand-inmates to be held closer to Sydney courts and their families.

"Its location in Western Sydney makes it easier for family to visit and to maintain those important links that are crucial for an offender's rehabilitation," Mr Severin said.

"The short travel time to take inmates to metro courts also saves on transport costs."

Parklea Governor Paul Baker, from operator MTC-Broadspectrum said safety, security and inmate rehabilitation would continue to be the priorities at the centre.

"We are proud to play our part in keeping the community safe and reduce the cycle of reoffending, and the facility expansion provides a safer environment for our staff to engage in this important work," Mr Baker said.

"We look forward to welcoming our new correctional officers after they have completed their comprehensive training courses."

Features of the expansion include:

- 30 audio-visual suites for remote court appearances and lawyer consultation
- A new visits building, health clinic and industries building
- An upgrade of the existing gatehouse.