

Anthony Roberts Minister for Corrections Minister for Counter Terrorism

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 18 February 2020

PRISON OFFICERS TO WEAR BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Frontline officers working in Corrective Services NSW are being rolled out with new cutting-edge body-worn camera technology to improve officer safety and operational transparency.

Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections Anthony Roberts said Immediate Action Teams across the State have begun to use the cameras.

"Our Corrections Officers do a great job under challenging circumstances so it's vital we provide them with the latest technology to enable them to do that job safely and effectively," Mr Roberts said.

"Our Immediate Action Teams are the first responders to critical incidents in the correctional environment. This technology will allow them to respond to situations quickly and confidently."

Officers will primarily use the technology to gather audio and visual evidence in the event of an officer assault, use of force or contraband raid.

The camera is attached to the front of an officer's uniform in stand-by mode until the officer activates the camera's record function. Once activated, the camera retains the 30 seconds of video prior to activation and continues recording.

Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin said the use of body-worn cameras can help de-escalate incidents and resolve investigations more swiftly.

"These body-worn cameras enable our officers to record high-quality digital video evidence of a contraband raid or use of force with the press of a button," Mr Severin said.

"Offenders will be on notice. If they try to assault, intimidate or threaten harm to an officer with a body-worn camera, it will be recorded. Our aim is to not only ensure the appropriate documentation of uses of force, but to provide greater protection and assurance to staff."

The roll-out follows a nine-month trial of body-worn camera technology at several maximum-security centres.

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