

2015-16 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Wade Noonan MP
Minister for Corrections

Corrections overview

- Corrections in 2015-16: \$1.222 billion in output and \$384 million in asset – total of \$1.606 billion.
- This includes an extra \$332.8 million in the 2015-16 State Budget to provide support and expansion for prisons and Community Correctional Services:
 - \$124.9 million for critical infrastructure and services in the men's prison system
 - \$88.9 million to expand Community Correctional Services
 - \$119 million to expand the women's prison system and provide support for women prisoners and offenders

Men's Prisons

- The budget provides \$124.9 million including \$88.2 million in new asset funding and \$36.7 million in new output funding for critical infrastructure across the men's prison system to support recent and upcoming expansion including:
 - cell safety and reception upgrades at Melbourne Assessment Prison
 - expanded health, education and programs at Dhurringile, Beechworth and Langi Kal Kal
 - upgrading the wastewater treatment plant for Barwon and Marngoneet Prisons to meet increased demand
 - new SESG offices and expanded reception capability at the Metropolitan Remand Centre
 - an expanded health and programs building at Loddon Prison
 - industry for the Marngoneet Correctional Centre annexe

Increased health and mental health capacity

- The budget also provides funding for:
 - An eight-bed high dependency unit at Thomas Embling Hospital for prisoners and forensic patients with acute mental illness
 - 20 additional secondary health beds for the men's prison system, effectively doubling existing health capacity

Community Correctional Services Expansion

- The budget provides an extra \$91 million including \$26 million in new asset funding and \$65 million in new output funding for expansion of Community Correctional Services to support increased demand for court orders including:
 - Up to 143 new CCS staff across case management, court assessment, community work, and local administration roles
 - Four staff for a pilot expansion of the Mental Health Court Liaison Service at Melbourne and Sunshine Magistrates' Courts
 - Funding for increased delivery of programs to reduce reoffending
 - Leasing of new trailers and buses to expand community work
 - \$26 million to lease nine new CCS locations and refurbish 25 existing locations to support additional staff
 - \$2 million has been allocated for men's behaviour change programs as part of family violence initiatives

Women's Prison Expansion

- The budget provides \$65.7 million in new asset funding and \$53.3 million in new output funding for expansion across both DPFC and Tarrengower for a net gain of 106 beds including:
 - 44 purpose designed mental health beds, as part of a new 70-bed unit at DPFC
 - a 44-bed mainstream unit at DPFC
 - an 18-bed minimum-security unit at Tarrengower
 - operation of 48 contingency beds at DPFC to meet immediate demand while new units are under construction
 - supporting infrastructure including expanded medical, stores, kitchen, and industries at DPFC, and multipurpose space at Tarrengower
- The budget also provides for continuation of the Targeted Women's Correctional Response

Questions