



Brad Hazzard MP

Attorney General Minister for Justice

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NEW LAWS HELP MORE OFFENDERS GET CLEAN

New laws passed by Parliament last night will allow more prison inmates to get treatment for serious drug problems to stop them committing crimes to support their addiction.

Attorney General Brad Hazzard said the NSW Government had amended the *Drug Court Act 1998* so the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre at Parklea can assist more drug dependent offenders get clean.

“The NSW Government wants to break the cycle of re-offending through helping serious drug dependent offenders get their lives together so they don’t continue to break the law to support a drug habit when they get out of prison,” Mr Hazzard said.

The changes allow:

- More discretion for the court to assess an offender’s complete criminal history and prior reoffending. Previously, an offender was only eligible for the program if they had two prior convictions for separate offences within a five year period.
- Expanding the numbers of offenders eligible for treatment by raising the cut off point for eligibility – allowing offenders who have six years or less remaining on their sentence to be directed to the program.

The new laws do not change the offences that are eligible for treatment. People serving sentences for murder, sexual assault, firearms matters and commercial supply of prohibited drugs are ineligible for the program.

“The Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre involves rigorous treatment and rehabilitation under the judicial supervision of the Drug Court,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Drug tests occur frequently and there are stringent search and security procedures.

“The program is providing effective treatment and helping to reduce drug use, offending rates and successfully reintegrate offenders back into the community.”

Approximately 250 offenders have been admitted to the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre since it began in 2006. 90% of offenders complete Stage 1 which involves therapeutic, educational and vocational programs. Of these, 45% complete Stage 2 which involves access to community programs and work release. Of those who progress to Stage 3, which involves living and working in the community under tightly managed and supervised conditions, 40% achieve gold standard graduation to parole or end of sentence.

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