STATEMENT TO BACKGROUND BRIEFING FROM A SPOKESPERSON FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW

Thursday 15 May 2014

The new Funded Partnership Initiative (FPI) significantly increases Corrective Services NSW’  investment in supporting higher risk offenders as they transition from prison back into the community.

The FPI includes a significant stream of transitional support services. This stream will more than double the current funding pool for transitional support services for newly-released offenders in the community. The FPI will devote $13.7 million over three years for transitional support services for NSW offenders, up from $5.3 million over three years under the existing Community Funding Program it will replace.

It is anticipated a range of transitional support services including s**upported**accommodation, assistance with accessing welfare support and **in accessing alcohol and other drug services** will be provided to more than 1,000 offenders each year under the new scheme.

The objective of the program is to reduce reoffending and protect the community from harm by targeting higher-risk offenders in a period where they are at most risk of reoffending. It is not about cutting short transition assistance for offenders.

Corrective Services NSW’ (CSNSW') Community Corrections officers will have a greater say in prioritising services for higher-risk offenders and in determining what sort of services an offender requires – while still working in collaboration with service providers.

This will provide greater consistency in offender management as it is CSNSW’ primary role to supervise, monitor and case manage these offenders in the community. CSNSW does this according to a recognised, evidence-based offender risk assessment tool and an ongoing assessment of the dynamic, variable risk factors for an individual offender that, if unaddressed, can trigger reoffending.

This new system will better target higher-risk, freshly released offenders because evidence shows that these people present a greater risk of **breaching their orders or** reoffending upon their first 12 weeks of release from prison.

 However, this does not mean initial transition services end for offenders who still require them after three months. If Community Corrections officers believe an offender still requires services to prevent their reoffending, ongoing support services can be given by the providers to this individual.

 Additionally, an extended reintegration service will be offered that will deliver for higher risk offenders with more complex needs over a 12 month period.

Transitional Support Services offered in the scheme from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 include:

1. Transitional Supported Accommodation – a range of supported accommodation services to provide up to three months’ accommodation plus support in transitioning and outreach support.

2. Initial Transitional Service – for medium-high to high-risk offenders across a range of metropolitan and regional areas for an initial period of three months, but extendable depending on the specific support needs of an individual.

3. Extended Reintegration Service - This is a partnership project involving CSNSW and health and housing services that will run **in Sydney**, targeting higher-risk offenders with more complex needs for a period of 12 months.

4. Accommodation & Support Coordination Service – Assistance and support via a case coordination and brokerage approach to ensure a flexible and innovative service delivery model.

This new transitional support model is based on international evidence that service models targeting higher-risk offenders work.