



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$12 MILLION TO REDUCE JUVENILE CRIME

NSW Attorney General and Minister for Justice Greg Smith SC today announced over \$12 million in Government funding to support vulnerable young people who are at risk of becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system.

The money will be provided over the next three years to community organisations under the Juvenile Justice Joint Support Program and will address the criminogenic risks of young people.

The program will provide casework management, employment placement and support, crisis and long term accommodation as well as family intervention services.

“Casework allows intervention to be tailored to each young person’s needs, and risks of reoffending. It may include referral to accommodation, education, as well as job search and living skills, budgeting or pre-vocational training. Services may also work with the young person’s family to help address family issues,” Mr Smith said.

“The new Joint Support Program concentrates on outcomes, flexibility and a continuum of service for young people in the criminal justice system,” he said.

“This program is based on “what works” principles. We have moved from one year to three year funding contracts, allowing Juvenile Justice and funded organisations to work more closely together to ensure young people are receiving the support they need.”

The program targets young people who are supervised by Juvenile Justice in the community and have been assessed as at risk of re-offending and in need of support.

“We know that young people often offend for a number of reasons, including homelessness, family and peer influence and drug and alcohol addiction. The Joint Support Program will address those issues on a case by case basis and support will be tailored to reduce the young person’s risk of reoffending,” Mr Smith said.

Organisations were invited to tender for funding in each Juvenile Justice region. Applications were very competitive and a rigorous assessment process was undertaken to select preferred proposals from the 56 applications received.

Funding agreements have been signed with successful tenderers. They are:

- **Metropolitan Region:** Relationships Australia, Marist Youth Care, Southern Youth & Family Services, CatholicCare and Mission Australia
- **Northern Region:** Regional Youth Support Service, Centacare New England, CatholicCare, PCYC NSW, Allambi Youth Services, Each Ltd
- **Western Region:** Mission Australia, Albury/Wodonga Youth Emergency Services