

Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Juvenile Justice

Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)



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New drug detection dogs get to work – searches to increase by 250%

After 10 weeks of intensive training, a pair of specialist drug detection dogs have now begun conducting searches for illicit drugs in NSW juvenile justice centres.

Based at a newly refurbished, purpose-designed facility in Western Sydney, the dogs are dedicated solely to juvenile justice centres – a first for NSW.

“This is the first time we have had a drug detection dog squad dedicated to juvenile justice centres and means we can increase the number of searches by more than 250 per cent,” Minister for Juvenile Justice Barbara Perry said.

The dogs will work across the nine juvenile justice centres in NSW, conducting random checks for drugs being carried by visitors or detainees.

Ms Perry today officially opened the new ‘K9 unit’ in St Marys where the pair of highly trained Labradors will be based.

“Drugs being detected at our centres is extremely rare, and we want to make it even rarer,” Ms Perry said.

184 dog searches were conducted at juvenile justice centres in 08/09 with eight contraband findings.

The dogs, who came to the new training facility in St Marys from the internationally recognised Australian Customs Breeding Program in Melbourne, have just begun work.

“The dogs were brought to Sydney in June for training by Juvenile Justice staff in the detection of illicit drug substances,” Ms Perry said.

In addition to the launch of the K9 Unit, Minister Perry today also opened the new Security & Intelligence Unit office in St Mary’s.

“With a refurbishment of around \$380,000, the new Security & Intelligence Unit office includes kennelling for the drug detection dogs and secure intelligence information technology infrastructure.

“Staff collect and analyse intelligence, conduct the K9 searches, as well as coordinate the detainee urinalysis testing program, which includes random and targeted testing,” said Ms Perry.