

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister for Juvenile Justice  
The Hon. Graham West MP**



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**Monday 14 December 2009**

### **INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM REDUCES CRIME**

Juvenile Justice Minister, Graham West, and Diane Beamer, Member for Mulgoa, visited the Juvenile Justice Intensive Supervision Program in Werrington today to talk to specialist staff working with repeat juvenile offenders.

Mr West said the \$5.5 million Intensive Supervision program, a youth crime program which intensively tackles the causes behind young people re-offending, was launched in Western Sydney and Newcastle last year.

"The program targets serious, repeat juvenile offenders and aims to reduce their likelihood of re-offending and boost their chances of re-entering mainstream society," Mr West said.

"Specialist teams of professionals go into the homes, schools and communities of young people who have offended and have been identified as being at high risk of committing further crimes," he added.

Ms Beamer said the program provides crucial support to young offenders and their families. They cover issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, give the family support and advice to help their child and make sure relevant services are being accessed where required.

"Early indications are encouraging with 53 families signing up to the program in 2008-09, and an additional 13 families awaiting signup," Ms Beamer said.

"We have seen some very good preliminary results with reoffending rates dropping dramatically for the young people involved in the program.

"This style of intensive rehabilitation has already had considerable success internationally in countries including the United States, New Zealand and through Europe.

"What is unique about this program is the way it intensively tackles the source of youth crime. These teams of experts will leave no stone unturned as they work with these young people and their families."

"By getting these families back on track this program can have a significant impact on crime rates in some areas," Ms Beamer added.

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