

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Member for Campbelltown

Friday 24 October 2008

Youth Advisory Council consults with young offenders

Members of the NSW Government's Youth Advisory Committee will consult with young people in regional and metropolitan Juvenile Justice facilities next week about their experiences in detention.

The consultations will inform the Council's advice to the Minister for Youth, Graham West, on strategies to prevent young people from re-offending.

"As the Minister for both Youth and Juvenile Justice, I am interested in what young offenders in Juvenile Justice Centres have to say," Mr West said.

Members of the Youth Advisory Council will ask young people about the courses and activities they are involved in while in detention, as well as their experience of Youth Justice Conferencing, community service orders and bail and supervision orders. Consultations will also cover reasons young people get into trouble with the law.

"Commonly, young people in detention have experienced issues within the school environment, pressure from friends or family problems," said Mr West.

"I am hopeful that the insights gained by the Youth Advisory Council will help us to deliver better policies, not only for the young people currently in the Centres, but policies that prevent young people from offending in the first place.

The Youth Advisory Council provides a critical communication link between young people in NSW and the Government.

"The Council has an important role which includes advising me on the planning, development, integration and implementation of Government policies and programs concerning young people," said Mr West.

"To inform this advice, the Council consults with young people, community groups and Government agencies on issues and policies concerning young people, and monitors and evaluates relevant Government legislation, policies and programs.

"I look forward to receiving the Council's advice on this important issue.

Consultations will take place on Tuesday 28 October and Wednesday 29 October at Dubbo, Gosford and Sydney.

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