



22 September 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

GETTING YOUNG OFFENDERS BACK ON TRACK: SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR INQUIRY

Are the State's diversionary programs doing enough to deter young offenders from long-term involvement with the criminal justice system? Could things be done better?

These are questions the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety will explore with its new inquiry into the adequacy of NSW's youth diversionary programs, announced today.

"The last thing we want is for young offenders to become entrenched in a life of crime" said Committee Chair, Geoff Provest MP. "Our inquiry will look at whether the State's diversionary programs are working well to reduce the risk of re-offending, and to put our young people back on track".

In conducting its inquiry the Committee will have regard to the way in which diversionary programs work with all relevant stakeholders. This includes the Police, Juvenile Justice, the Courts, schools, non-government organisations, and the local community.

The inquiry will specifically examine Aboriginal over-representation in the juvenile justice system, staff capacity and training requirements, case management options, bail issues, and the experience of other jurisdictions.

"This is an opportunity to assess what is working well and what is not working so well," said Mr Provest. "We'd like to hear stakeholders' views about the best ways to help young offenders turn their lives around".

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is 30 January 2018.

For media comment, please contact Geoff Provest MP on (07) 5523 4816. Further information about the inquiry, including information about how to lodge a submission, can be obtained by visiting the Committee's webpage at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=178> or by contacting Elspeth Dyer, Committee Manager, on (02) 9230 2214.