



24 April 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Public Hearings to Examine Youth Diversionary Programs in NSW

How can youth diversionary programs better support young offenders to prevent long term involvement with the criminal justice system?

This is the question the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety will examine in three upcoming public hearings for its inquiry into the adequacy of youth diversionary programs in NSW.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Geoff Provest MP, today announced that the Committee will be holding public hearings on 30 April and 8 and 10 May 2018.

“To date we’ve visited three Juvenile Justice Centres, speaking to staff and detainees” said Mr Provest. “We’re now eager to follow up on the issues raised and ask a range of stakeholders what they think of the diversionary programs on offer”.

The Committee will hear from a variety of witnesses, including the President of the Children’s Court of NSW; the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS); and the President of the Law Society of NSW. Other witnesses include NSW Government representatives; youth support and advocacy services; and peak bodies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Mr Provest noted that many groups and agencies have an important part to play when it comes to young people involved in the justice system. “We want to hear about what works best, and how these bodies can work together to put the young offender back on track”.

The hearings will all be held at Parliament House, Sydney, commencing on the morning of 30 April 2018. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

For media comment, please contact Geoff Provest MP on (07) 5523 4816. Further information about the inquiry and the details of the other hearing dates can be found by visiting the Committee’s webpage at [https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee - details.aspx?pk=178](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.