



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

**Inquiry into Community Based Sentencing Options for
Rural and Remote Areas in NSW and Special
Need/Disadvantaged Populations**

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE TO VISIT BOURKE ON
15 JUNE 2005**

The Chair of the Law and Justice Committee, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC has announced further details of a public hearing and public consultations to be held in Bourke on 15 June 2005, as part of the Committee's inquiry into community based sentencing options for rural and remote areas and disadvantaged populations in New South Wales. The membership of the Committee and terms of reference for this inquiry are attached.

The public meeting will be held from 2pm to 4pm at the Bowling Club Auditorium and everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend please contact the Secretariat to register before the meeting, although people who don't register will still be able to attend. There will be an opportunity to chat over a cup of tea during the break.

The public hearing will be held from 10am until 1pm at the Bowling Club. Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe the hearing, although only invited witnesses will be able to speak.

Ms Robertson said "If a person from Bourke or surrounding areas is found to have committed an offence, they are not always given a range of choices to complete their sentence in the community even though they may be eligible, because not all choices are available. The Committee is coming to Bourke to gather advice from people who live in the area and know about the difficulties faced by the community, offenders and their families. This advice will be used by the Committee to look at how more can be done to improve this situation."

"The public meeting will provide an opportunity for people to have their say and be part of the inquiry and policy making process. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the Committee will make recommendations on whether it is appropriate and in the public interest to tailor community based sentencing for rural and remote areas such as Bourke and if so how this can be done. The Government is required to respond to these recommendations within 6 months" said Ms Robertson.

If people wish to participate in the meeting, they can contact the Committee Secretariat on tel (02) 9230 3311, fax (02) 9230 3371, e-mail: lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au or website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice. Further information about the hearing is available from the Committee Secretariat. People can also keep up-to-date with inquiry progress on the website. A discussion paper raising a number of issues for consideration is available on the website and from the Secretariat.

*For further comment please contact the Hon Christine Robertson MLC,
Committee Chair, on 0428674310 or 9230 2971*



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

26 MAY 2005

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCING OPTIONS FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS AND DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) That the Standing Committee on Law and Justice inquire into and report on whether it is appropriate and in the public interest to tailor community based sentencing options for rural and remote areas in NSW and for special need/disadvantaged populations, including:
 - (a) The perceived benefits and disadvantages of community based sentencing options including Periodic Detention, Intensive Supervision Programs (Home Detention eg Drug Court) and Community Supervision Orders.
 - (b) The relationship between different Intensive Supervision Programs – Home Detention and Periodic Detention (Stage 1 and 2).
 - (c) The impact of the availability of Intensive Supervision Programs upon rural and remote communities.
 - (d) The place of Periodic Detention within a spectrum of community based sentencing options utilising intensive supervision.
 - (e) The criteria for eligibility for community based sentencing options.
 - (f) The experience of other jurisdictions in implementing community based sentencing options.
- 2) Any other related matter.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Hon Christine Robertson MLC (*Chair*)
(*Australian Labor Party*)

The Hon Greg Pearce MLC (*Deputy Chair*)
(*Liberal Party*)

The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC
(*Australian Labor Party*)

The Hon David Clarke MLC
(*Liberal Party*)

The Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC
(*Australian Labor Party*)

Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC
(*The Greens*)

*For further comment please contact the Hon Christine Robertson MLC,
Committee Chair, on 0428674310 or 9230 2971*