

Media Statement

Monday 1 November 2023



Junee Correctional Centre: Operations to move into public sector

The GEO Group Australia has learnt the NSW Government will not undertake a new tender process to continue the private operation of Junee Correctional Centre beyond the current contract, which ends on 31 March 2025.

The decision has been met by staff and management with much disappointment and surprise given 30 years of successful operations by GEO, and recognition of GEO's continuous high standard of service delivery at the centre.

GEO has operated Junee Correctional Centre since its commissioning in 1993 and is extremely proud of its long-standing history in the local Junee community and broader Riverina.

The centre is the region's largest employer and over the years our staff have worked tirelessly to forge strong and enduring partnerships with local stakeholders to deliver a safe and secure facility, while promoting better outcomes for the people entrusted in GEO's care.

More than a custodial environment, GEO has implemented a broad range of innovations at the centre, to ensure people in custody could access a vast range of life-changing initiatives towards reducing recidivism. These include education, vocational skills development, family support, counselling, and drug and alcohol programs. This is part of GEO's Continuum of Care® model for delivering correctional services – from a person's reception to their release.

Further, GEO's focus on meeting the specific cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our care has seen the success of initiatives such as the annual *Dreaming Inside: Voices from Junee Correctional Centre* book writing project, as well as the implementation of culturally appropriate education, programs, healthcare, and events.

GEO will hand over operations with the proud knowledge its social endeavours are imprinted throughout the community and hope these will continue. To name a few - fundraising efforts involving staff and inmates, our school breakfast program, annual Youth in Focus Scholarships, Meals on Wheels partnership, donations of cars and furniture built by the men training and working in our vocational services area, building the local dog park and the efforts of our community work crews maintaining the local area.

Even though staff are disappointed by this decision, and given the uncertainties and challenges brought about by transitioning to a new employer, GEO and its staff will work with the NSW Government to ensure a smooth handover.

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