

New donation of soft toys ready for Red Knights' Christmas collection

Dinosaurs and teddy bears are among a donation of toys that have been handcrafted by men learning textile skills at Fulham Correctional Centre – ready for charities to gift this Christmas.

In a long-standing tradition, the toys will be presented to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club today (Thursday, 7 December) for its annual Keith Hamilton - Sale and District Toy Run on Saturday, 9 December.

The centre's Vocational Services Manager, Rose Ljubicic, said every year a number of men undertaking vocational skills training learn to cut patterns and hand stitch soft toys, knowing they will be donated for children in need.

"Over the past 12 months, and with the support of a GEO Textiles Trade Officer, eight men have made 35 soft toys for this year's event," Ms Ljubicic said.

"Not only are these men learning new skills that could help with securing employment post-release, but they are applying their skills with a sense of purpose and pride by being able to support the local community.

"It is always inspiring to see the special efforts being made to create these Christmas gifts and for the whole team at Fulham Correctional Centre to be involved in these community initiatives."

The Red Knights Australia Local Chapter President, Andrew Young, said: "The Red Knights are proud to be associated with The GEO Group Australia and Fulham Correctional Centre in passing on these gifts to The Salvation Army and St Vincent De Paul."

- *The GEO Group Australia is Australia's largest provider of private correctional services. Our focus is on rehabilitating prisoners and giving them the support and growth to become positive and productive contributors to our society.*
- *GEO Australia manages Fulham Correctional Centre on behalf of Corrections Victoria, with 390 staff and a capacity for over 1000 prisoners. Find out more at: geogroup.com.au*