



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

\$13.2 MILLION UPGRADE OF QUAMBY YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

The Stanhope Government has committed \$15 million in the 2003-04 Capital Works Program for the upgrade of children's, youth and family services facilities, including a \$13.2 million upgrade of Quamby Youth Detention Centre.

The upgrade of the Quamby Youth Detention Centre will:

- expand the capacity and standard of accommodation units,
- include a new multi purpose recreational facility
- provide a new educational building
- fund a significant upgrade of security features, and
- include a new intake assessment unit

The Quamby Youth Detention Centre upgrade will ensure that the centre has appropriate accommodation for young people depending on gender, age, health and offending behaviours. The new initiative will also ensure that perpetrators and victims have appropriate physical segregation.

The Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Ms Katy Gallagher said "The upgrade will address the particular issues identified by the Coronial Inquiry handed down by Coroner Somes in 1999 and will ensure that young people are accommodated in a safe and secure environment.

The upgrade will also provide young people with a range of teaching and recreational facilities, including a classroom block and a gymnasium, to provide young people with every opportunity to participate in rehabilitation programs and provide them with life long learning skills."

The Government has also provided \$1.8 million to commence a program of upgrading of older preschools and to undertake a range of minor works at public preschools, child care centres and youth facilities.

"The \$15 million provided in the 2003-04 Capital Works Program demonstrates the Stanhope Government's strong commitment to children, young people and their families in the ACT" said Ms Gallagher.

Statement ends.

