



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

UPGRADE OF PERIODIC DETENTION CENTRE, SYMONSTON, TO ACCOMMODATE REMANDEES

Minister for Corrections Ted Quinlan announced today that included in the ACT Corrective Services' budget for 2002-2003, is an amount of \$1.739 m additional funding to meet the costs of operating remand facilities at the upgraded Periodic Detention Centre at Symonston.

Mr Quinlan indicated that this is recurrent funding which will be ongoing while the temporary remand facilities at Symonston are operational.

“This amount is over and above the capital cost of \$3.1m associated with upgrading the Period Detention Centre to accommodate remand prisoners.

In November 2001 remandee numbers peaked at 91 (maximum capacity is now 69). The severe overcrowding, the need to manage remandees with particular needs and the continual need to keep certain categories of remandees separate has increased pressure on the centre to a critical level.

“The Government was left with no alternative than to convert part of the Periodic Detention Centre at Symonston into a second remand facility, given the indecision of the previous Government in relation to the ACT's correctional needs, and the critical situation now facing remand accommodation in the Territoryd.

The upgraded Periodic Detention Centre at Symonston will accommodate up to 30 remandees, and only those remandees will be placed there who meet strict assessment criteria as being suitable for placement in this facility.

Statement ends 25 June 2002

Media Release



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