

**TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND  
BY  
THE HONOURABLE DAVID ELLIOTT MP  
NSW MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
6 - 8 JULY 2016  
MISSION REPORT**

**MISSION PURPOSE**

To attend and accompany the Minister for Corrections to the annual Corrective Services Ministers' Council Meeting (CSMC) in Wellington, New Zealand for the period 6 to 8 July 2016.

An invitation from the New Zealand Minister for Corrections, The Hon Judith Collins has been extended to the NSW Minister for Corrections to attend the CSMC which is being hosted by Minister Collins.

Each year the Corrections Ministers from across Australia and New Zealand come together to discuss a wide range of issues that impact on correctional services.

Corrections Ministers are accompanied to CSMC meetings by their respective jurisdictional Chief Executives.

The meeting is being held at Broomrock, a conference venue located in the Ohariu Valley in Wellington, New Zealand.

The Minister was accompanied by his Policy Adviser for the duration of the trip and the Commissioner of Corrections CNSW.

**BENEFITS OF TRAVEL FOR THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

CSMC meetings provide a valuable forum for Ministers and Chief Executives to share information and discuss strategic and national issues.

Ministers may approve joint initiatives, provide direction on national issues, and determine shared positions in relation to other groups such as the Standing Council on Law and Justice.

The CSMC also provides an opportunity for jurisdictions to share presentations and can provide a forum for Ministers and Chief Executives to showcase successes and good news.

## **TRIP DESCRIPTION**

The trip proceeded as follows:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

- Travel from Sydney to Wellington, New Zealand
- Meeting with The Hon. Peter Dunne, Minister for Internal Affairs and his IA Adviser, Jason Hewett
- Attend Conference Welcome Drinks
- Dinner with Hon. Judith Collins, Minister for Corrections

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July

- Attend Corrective Services Ministers' Conference
- Attend Formal Conference Dinner

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July

- Tour of Upper Hutt Community Corrections
- Tour of Rimutaka Prison
- Travel from Wellington to Sydney

## **KEY OUTCOMES/FINDINGS**

### **Growing prisoner population**

All jurisdictions reported the growing prisoner population as a key challenge, except for Victoria. The growth has been most significant among the remand population. Many jurisdictions are struggling with ensuring their capital program keeps up with prisoner population growth.

Victoria has invested significantly in reducing reoffending over many years and this may have assisted in stabilising their prisoner population. Victoria reports that once Ravenhall opens, they hope they will be able to 'retire' many of the unsustainable beds currently being used in the system, including double ups. This is a longer term goal of NSW prison bed capacity program.

### **Causes of growing prisoner population**

Many jurisdictions raised domestic violence and drugs, in particular ice, as contributing to the growing prisoner population, including as a result of more effective police practices to target these offences. WA Minister mentioned the "Jill Meagher effect" or the "Man Monis effect". That is, these events may have influenced police and judicial behaviour in (not) granting bail, therefore contributing to the growing remand population.

## **Efforts to Reduce Reoffending**

### Sentencing and parole reform

Efforts to reduce reoffending have included use of home detention at the front and back end, especially in South Australia, who have the most extensive back end home detention scheme in Australia. It was reported by South Australia, that they currently have 150 prisoners serving their sentences on home detention and expected to have 300-350 on home detention soon. Home detention has been proven to reducing reoffending in jurisdiction including South Australia and the United Kingdom. Tasmania is also considering sentencing reform to introduce home detention and consolidate community detention orders, including introducing drug and alcohol treatment orders.

South Australia also reported they were working to reduce the number of people returned to prison as a result of technical breaches of parole, bail or home detention. Our current proposed parole reforms support this aim, through the introduction of swift and certain sanctions that can be imposed by Community Corrections officers, in the case that the offence is not of significant seriousness to warrant return to prison.

### Programs, Education and Industries

Queensland are renewing their efforts in this area through the trial of an earn or learn model – where all inmates must be engaged in education or work in the prison. The ACT has also moved in this direction, with the introduction of a prison industry workshop, for the first time. Involvement in programs, educations and industries are also a focus in NSW and form KPIs as part of our Better Prisons reform. In particular, the design of our new Short Term Correctional Centres will allow inmates to be engaged in programs, education and industries for 12 hours a day on weekdays.

### Reoffending target

Like NSW, NZ has an ambition target to reduce reoffending by 25% by 2017.

## **Other**

### Inspector of Custodial Services

Tasmania is introducing a custodial inspector and NSW have assisted in providing information about how the positions functions in NSW.

## **DELEGATION**

The Honourable David Elliott MP

NSW Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services and Veterans Affairs

Accompanied by:

Mr Peter Severin

Commissioner, NSW Corrective Services

Miss Sophie Rose

Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Hon. David Elliott MP

## ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRAVEL

<b>Minister</b>	The Honourable David Elliott MP
<b>Portfolio</b>	Corrections, Emergency Services and Veterans Affairs
<b>Destination visited</b> a) Country b) City	a) New Zealand b) Wellington
<b>Dates of travel</b> a) Departure date b) Return date	a) Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 b) Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
<b>Number of official travel days</b>	3
<b>Number of accompanying</b> a) Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) 1 b) 1
<b>Accompanied by spouse</b> a) in an official capacity b) in a private capacity	a) No b) No
<b>Costs</b>	
<b>Airfares</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$2,255.62 b) \$869.00
<b>Accommodation</b> (includes any meals/incidentals charged to room) a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$1,318.94 b) \$558.00
<b>Official hospitality</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) Nil b) N/A - covered by New Zealand Corrections (host of CSMC)
<b>Other expenses</b> a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals and refreshments d) Other miscellaneous costs	a) Nil b) \$60.32 c) Nil d) \$120.00
<b>TOTAL estimated travel cost</b> a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$3,634.88 b) \$1,547.00
<b>Currency conversion rate</b>	1AUD = 1.0220NZD 1NZD = .09909AUD

*Note: the above costings associated with Commissioner Severin's trip was paid by the Department of Justice and not from the Minister's budget.*