

Sentencing Council review into periodic detention

Issued: Monday 7 January 2008

Careful consideration will be given to recommendations outlined in the NSW Sentencing Council's review of Periodic Detention, Attorney General and Minister for Justice John Hatzistergos said today.

Mr Hatzistergos said "all options" would be considered regarding the future of periodic detention.

"In particular, I will closely examine the option of replacing Periodic Detention with Community Corrections Orders as a way of forcing offenders to make changes to their lives that they will not make by themselves," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"These would be custodial sentences that would be suspended conditionally upon compliance with the court orders.

"In some cases, offenders may be expected to comply with job search, work and rehabilitation requirements or face full-time detention.

"This may mean residing overnight in dedicated transitional centres while offenders get their life on track," he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the report's recommendations had been endorsed by three key victims groups following concerns about the ongoing suitability and viability of Periodic Detention.

"The report raised concerns that Periodic Detention is for the most part only available as a sentencing option for the metropolitan area," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"In addition, it does not challenge offender's issues and perceptions regarding their offending behaviour," he said

Mr Hatzistergos also said it was important to reassure community groups that work performed as part of Periodic Detention would continue as part of any new scheme.

"The works currently performed by detainees will still continue as part of any changes," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said that NSW was the only state with periodic detention and schemes similar to Community Corrections Orders had been introduced in three other states.