
MEDIA RELEASE



John Robertson MLC

**Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State**

Tuesday 25th August

Long Bay Gaol celebrates 100th Birthday

Today marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of Long Bay Gaol in Sydney and a commemorative bell cast from historic prison locks will be unveiled at a ceremony on site this morning.

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson said the anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the improvements in Correctional Centres since 1909 when the gates at Long Bay first opened.

100 year birthday celebration at Long Bay Gaol - unveiling of a commemorative bell

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson

Commissioner for Corrective Services Ron Woodham

8:45am, Tuesday 25th August

Long Bay Correctional Complex, Anzac Parade, Matraville

“Long Bay is the first prison in NSW built with a focus on rehabilitating rather than punishing inmates,” said Minister Robertson.

“The prison system has come a long way since 1909 when prisoners were transported by tram to and from court and NSW still had the death penalty.

“100 years down the track in 2009 there are more than 10,000 inmates incarcerated in NSW and almost all would participate in some sort of rehabilitation program.

“Programs offered in today’s prisons include everything from drug and alcohol counselling to parenting support, gambling prevention and basic literacy.

“In addition, around 80% of inmates in NSW are employed by Corrective Services Industries whilst in prison, developing a work ethic and gaining vocational training on the job.

“In 2007/08 prison labour generated more than \$50 million in revenue and that money helps to offset the costs of incarceration and fund victim support and crime prevention programs.

“When it opened in August 1909 Long Bay was the first ever women’s prison in the state, with the men’s state penitentiary opening five years later in 1914.

“These days the Long Bay Correctional Complex is a very diverse centre, housing two hospitals, a Special Programs Centre, various industries, a transitional housing unit and minimum right through to maximum security inmates.

“It is a far cry from 1909 when Long Bay was opened as the first correctional facility that offered any sort of rehabilitation for prisoners.

“The NSW Government is now very much focussed on reducing reoffending rates and giving offenders every opportunity to turn their lives around upon their release from custody.

“Less than half of offenders who end up in prison in NSW come back and the NSW Government has made a commitment to reduce that statistic by 10% by 2016.”

Media contact: Lucy Muirhead 0402 730 710