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# MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

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



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*EMBARGOED: 0000hours, 30 August 2009*

## **Sex offender monitoring program doubled**

The NSW Government has doubled the capacity of its Serious Sex Offender monitoring program, purchasing an additional 20 state of the art GPS tracking devices.

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson said the expansion would ensure that the community is protected from serious sex offenders even after their release from prison.

### **PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION OF GPS TRACKING DEVICES**

**Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson**

**Commissioner for Corrective Services Ron Woodham**

**10:00am, TODAY Sunday 30 August**

**Sex Offender Monitoring Unit HQ, 13 Kildare Rd, BLACKTOWN**

“Under the sex offender monitoring program high risk offenders are fitted with an electronic anklet that enables specially trained Corrective Services officers to track their movements 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Mr Robertson.

“Electronic exclusion zones are set up around schools, parks or other locations where an offender could come into contact with children and an alarm sounded if an offender attempts to enter these areas.

“If an offender is detected in a place they shouldn’t be they are immediately put back before the courts.

“Since we began monitoring offenders in 2007, nine individuals have been thrown back behind bars for failing to comply with the strict conditions imposed on them.

“This Government is committed to protecting the community from the worst offenders in the state, some of whom have committed horrible crimes against children.

“That’s why we have such tough laws for the monitoring and supervision of high risk sex offenders.”

NSW is leading the country when it comes to restrictions for serious sex offenders. Under laws introduced in 2006 the State Government can seek an order from the Supreme Court to imprison serious sex offenders beyond their full sentence or impose strict supervision and monitoring on them in the community.

“In addition to the satellite tracking and exclusion zones, offenders are subject to random visits, breath tests, urine tests and curfews,” said Mr Robertson.

“They must submit a weekly proposed schedule of movements to be approved by the monitoring team and any changes to that schedule must be submitted more than 24 hours in advance.

“The officers interview any person, friend or family member that an offender wishes to visit and conducts a criminal background check before the visit is allowed.

“On average officers conduct 100 visits a month to offenders at home and elsewhere, including covert and unannounced visits.

“Each offender would be breath tested three times a month on average and urine tested bimonthly.

“70 per cent of offenders are also required to take some form of anti-libidinal medication to chemically reduce their sex drive and must participate in counselling and psychiatric treatment.

“A breach of any one of these conditions usually results in the offender being returned to prison for an average of six months.

“This is about protecting our children and communities from known paedophiles and rapists well beyond the expiry of the prison sentence handed down by the courts.”

ENDS

*Note: Parking available for media under building.*

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