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Magill Training Centre closure: Better very late than never

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John Gardner MP

Shadow Minister for Families & Communities

Shadow Minister for Housing

Shadow Minister for Disability

Shadow Minister for Youth

Magill Training Centre closure: Better very late than never

This week's transfer of young offenders from the Magill Youth Training Centre to the new facility at Cavan is welcome despite being ten years overdue, according to Shadow Minister for Youth John Gardner.

"I am glad to see young offenders being moved from Magill, which is well and truly past its expiry date," Mr Gardner said.

"If the Labor Government had followed through with the former Liberal Government's plans, we would have seen this transfer occur ten years ago. Magill hasn't been a suitable place for children for a long time now, yet we've seen Minister after Minister drag their heels in fixing the problem.

"Time and again we've heard plans from this Labor Government for a new facility, only to have those plans cancelled at the following state budget. On the other hand, this has long been a priority for the Liberal Party which announced an upgrade back in 1999.

"In 2009 Australian UN Youth Ambassador Chris Varney condemned the centre saying that it was responsible for breaches of human rights. But this did not faze the Labor Government who again cancelled plans to build a new facility.

"Only after outrage from the community, children's advocates, staff and their representatives, together with continual pressure from the Liberal Party who promised to close the centre if elected, did the Labor party backflip and promise to build a new facility, which is finally now coming into use.

"There are still problems with our juvenile justice system, and there are still improvements that need to be made, however the final closure of the Magill Training Centre will have a positive impact on the whole system.

"I am happy that the clients at Magill are now being transferred to the new facility at Cavan where we hope they will have a much better chance of a proper rehabilitation and a brighter future," Mr Gardner said.

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