

# NEWS RELEASE



NEW SOUTH WALES

**The Hon. Graham West MP**  
Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Minister Assisting the Premier  
on Veterans' Affairs

Thursday 6 August 2009

## NSW Government Funding for New Drug Rehabilitation Program

Minister for Juvenile Justice, Graham West, today announced a \$20,000 grant for the trial of Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART), a new drug and alcohol program at Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre on the state's central coast.

Mr West said "The Self Management and Recovery Training program is an evidence-based addictions treatment system that is widely used throughout the world and in adult prisons in Australia.

"The program helps young offenders gain independence from addictive behaviour. It teaches them how to maintain motivation, cope with craving, think rationally, and lead a balanced lifestyle.

"The program will be run by SMART Recovery Australia. It supplements the current counselling that young people receive in custody and will help to maintain change when they are released back into the community," Mr West said.

"The program will be piloted at Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre, then the department will assess the program for use in other centres across NSW."

Mr West said the last health survey of young people in custody showed that 90 per cent had used cannabis or alcohol in the 12 months before they came into custody.

"There are high levels of drug and alcohol abuse among young people who come into juvenile justice custody. This means we must constantly look at the best ways to help young people address the risks behind their offending behaviour."

Mr West said drug and alcohol programs in juvenile justice centres help young offenders address substance abuse and offending behaviour.

"Drug and alcohol programs are a combination of individual, group and family work. They aim to help young people recover from alcohol and other drug dependencies, which can significantly reduce their risk of reoffending when they return to the community."

SMART Recovery Australia is a volunteer-based, non profit charity that assists people to deal with their addiction problems.

For more information, visit [www.smartrecoveryaustralia.com](http://www.smartrecoveryaustralia.com)

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