

**Embargoed until 10:45am, 13 October 2011**

## **Young offenders: meeting the challenges**

The NSW Ombudsman Bruce Barbour tabled a special report to Parliament this morning called *Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre: Meeting the challenges*.

Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre is the only custodial facility for young people in NSW under the management of the adult correctional system. It houses some of the most challenging and troubled 16-21 year old adolescent boys and young men in the NSW criminal justice system.

The report draws on the extensive work of the NSW Ombudsman's office over a number of years into Kariong and in particular a recent in-depth investigation into its current management.

**'Getting the management of inmates right at Kariong is crucial, not just for the inmates but for the wider community',** said Mr Barbour. **'Without significant intervention, the adolescent boys and young men in Kariong may well continue into the adult criminal justice system at considerable personal cost to themselves and cost to the community'.**

The investigation found that:

- What is happening in practice at Kariong falls short of what is required by the documented Behaviour Management Program
- The lack of case management at the centre undermines the central tenets of the Behaviour Management Program
- The extent of programs and activities at Kariong is inadequate
- The lack of oversight, management reporting and evaluation of the Behaviour Management Program means Corrective Services NSW cannot know how successful or otherwise the Program is at improving inmate's behaviour

**'The extent of the change required at Kariong is significant',** said Mr Barbour. **'I anticipate working constructively with Corrective Services NSW to monitor implementation of the comprehensive changes which are being made'.**