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BUDGET CRACK-DOWN ON CONTRABAND IN PRISONS

The smuggling of drugs and contraband into NSW's prisons will be reduced with almost \$19 million committed to install body scanners at correctional centres, including three at Sydney's largest prison.

Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections Anthony Roberts said the funding was part of a \$2.9 billion investment in the 2020-21 NSW Budget in Corrective Services NSW operations.

"The safe and secure operation of our prisons is an investment in community safety. Keeping inmates off drugs and on the path to rehabilitation is crucial to reducing reoffending rates," Mr Roberts said.

"By significantly reducing the trafficking of contraband in prisons, we can create greater opportunities for detox programs and increase engagement in education and therapeutic programs, aimed at addressing offending behaviour."

The scanners have the capacity to detect contraband before it enters centres by screening all inmates when they arrive at prison and after each contact visit. Visitor screenings will also be introduced in the near future.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the \$18.6 million investment would fund the purchase and installation of up to 70 body scanners, as well as the ongoing operations of the scanners.

"This \$18.6 million investment is a crack-down on contraband. It will enhance community safety and ensure our correctional centres are better equipped to detect illegal items and most importantly, reduce drug use among inmates," Mr Perrottet said.

The Budget also includes funding of more than \$372 million to manage offenders in the community, almost \$349 million for offender management services, as well almost \$109 million to better supervise serious sex offenders in the community and reduce reoffending and protect the community.

The Budget will also allocate \$12.3 million for a range of community-based programs aimed at countering violent extremism.

**MEDIA: Ian Paterson | Treasurer | 0438 748 501
Lauren O'Keefe | Minister Roberts | 0401 651 841**