

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COREY WINGARD MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Building better prisons after 16 years of Labor neglect

Both Yatala Labour and Adelaide Women's prisons will be expanded with almost \$170 million being committed to both projects in the 2018-19 State Budget by the Marshall Liberal Government over the next four years.

Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Corey Wingard MP said Adelaide's prisons had been neglected for far too long by the previous government.

"The expansion will include 270 high security beds at Yatala Labour Prison in addition to a new kitchen and prisoner admissions centre," said Minister Wingard.

"The funding also provides for an extra 40 new beds at the Adelaide Women's Prison to deliver additional capacity."

The additional beds at the Adelaide Women's Prison are expected to be available by early 2020.

"Our jails are near capacity and the government is thinking ahead to prevent an overflow," Minister Wingard said.

"These projects will create employment during the construction phase and more full-time jobs will be added to the prison workforce when the new beds become operational."

Security systems will also be upgraded at the Northfield Prison complex.

"This includes Yatala Labour Prison, Adelaide Women's Prison and the Adelaide Pre-release Centre, as part of the project" Minister Wingard said.

Minister Wingard said the projects would also strengthen security to prevent drugs and contraband entering the prison with the construction of a new gatehouse and high security visitor centre.

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Other initiatives will include more than \$6 million allocated towards the implementation and transition of smoke-free environments for all South Australian prisons by 2020.

“This election commitment will improve conditions for prison staff, visitors and prisoners who will be offered counselling support services and nicotine replacement therapy, as assistance during the transition period.”

The Adelaide Remand Centre will also transfer its operations to a private sector provider to be determined through a competitive procurement process.

“There will be no job losses as a consequence of this change which will provide savings in operating costs, and prison staff will have the option to transfer to other positions in the Department for Correctional Services,” Minister Wingard said.

“The Adelaide Remand Centre operates at a higher cost of service relative to other SA prisons.

“Transferring the management of operations to a private provider is expected to deliver prison services at a lower cost.”

The Adelaide Remand Centre established in 1986, accommodates up to 274 prisoners in 164 cells and employs 150 correctional officers.

Benchmarking will also be introduced against best practice standards and to set targets to gain better efficiencies across the prison system.

“This measure will initially save taxpayers \$2.6 million and increase to more than \$10 million annually by the end of the forward estimates period and improve the level of accountability,” said Minister Wingard.

“This initiative will include strategies for a more flexible and responsive workforce by introducing part-time and casual staff.

“This government is investing to create more jobs, by lowering costs to provide more resources and ultimately provide better services in the prison system.”

The State Government is committed to funding the following key projects over the next four years:

- Yatala Labour Prison expansion - \$149 million
- Adelaide Women’s Prison (extra beds) - \$20 million
- Electronic security system upgrade - \$9 million
- Smoke free prisons - \$6.2 million
- Trial of mobile phone jamming in prison - \$950,000