

## Media Release

23 March 2012

### **GEO SELECTED TO PROVIDE AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SOCIAL BENEFIT BOND**

Private prison operator The GEO Group Australia has been selected, in partnership with leading community service organisation Mission Australia and specialist funder Social Finance, to develop and deliver Australia's first Social Benefit Bond.

The consortium has been chosen by the NSW Government to jointly address the extremely difficult challenge of reducing recidivism — released prisoners reoffending and returning to prison.

The pilot program will be funded through a Social Benefit Bond, which seeks private investors to fund public services to address social problems.

On the basis that the consortium is successful and reduces recidivism, some of the government savings are used to repay the private investors and the rest can be diverted to other services such as schools, hospitals and roads.

The government does not pay for the services unless they generate a tangible benefit and are effective in resolving the social problem. This represents a 'win-win-win' by providing taxpayer savings, generating a return for investors and achieving social outcomes — in this case reducing recidivism and creating a safer community.

Currently 43 per cent of NSW prisoners return to prison within two years of release with the cost of police, court and prison services an ongoing burden for taxpayers.

GEO will work closely with Mission Australia to provide rehabilitation programs and services for prisoners during their incarceration and in the early part of their release. Assistance upon release will include help finding accommodation and employment — both important in reducing recidivism.

The nation's leading operator of private correctional centres, GEO manages Parklea and Junee prisons for the NSW Government. A total of 500 repeat offenders will be selected from these centres for the pilot program.

It is estimated that a 20 per cent reduction in recidivism rates within this pilot program alone would save the NSW Government more than \$4 million a year.

At the launch of the initiative at Parklea Correctional Centre NSW Attorney General Greg Smith said: "If we are spending less money keeping people in prison, then we will have more money for our schools, hospitals and roads".

The GEO Group Australia Managing Director Pieter Bezuidenhout said GEO was honoured to be selected to develop the pilot program and proud to be able to support the NSW Government in implementing its bold and innovative Social Benefit Bond.

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**About The GEO Group Australia**

The GEO Group Australia is Australia's largest provider of outsourced correctional services. With 1500 employees, The GEO Group Australia provides safe and secure services to the Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland governments through the management of correctional centres and the provision of primary health care services. GEO delivers critical public services that are cost effective and represent value for money for the taxpayer. With security and public safety as a priority, The GEO Group Australia intervenes with the 3500 offenders in our care to reduce reoffending and prevent the community becoming victims of crime. The GEO Group Australia is part of The GEO Group Inc, the world's largest international provider of outsourced correctional services, with over 80,000 offenders and 116 facilities under management across four continents. For further information please visit [www.thegeogroupinc.com.au](http://www.thegeogroupinc.com.au)