

Media Release

16 October 2012

GEO DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE MENTORING PROGRAM

The GEO Group Australia is partnering with psychologist and University of Sydney senior lecturer Agi O'Hara to develop *What Makes a Man a Man in Contemporary Australia* — an innovative 'virtual' mentoring program for men.

A core element of '*What Makes a Man a Man*' is a series of interviews that provide insights and opinions from well-known Australian men from a range of professional and social backgrounds.

The program provides access to the wisdom and experience of these respected public figures and is a unique resource for those who have not been fortunate enough to have male mentors in their lives.

The interviews offer a collection of life lessons and reflections that challenge anti-social attitudes and behaviours. They also provide experience-based roadmaps to illustrate strategies used by the interviewees to meet their own life challenges — both as men and as fathers.

What Makes a Man a Man will gradually be introduced to all GEO correctional facilities in Australia and GEO will track the effectiveness of the program in reducing reoffending.

The interviewees include Aboriginal actor and men's health advocate Dean Daley-Jones; film writer and director Brendan Fletcher; rock singer and aspiring politician Angry Anderson; restorative justice pioneer Terry O'Connell; former international rugby player, newspaper columnist and author Peter FitzSimons; and Father Chris Riley, the founder and CEO of Youth Off the Streets.

"*What Makes a Man a Man* is a unique approach to prisoner rehabilitation using the wealth of experiences from landmark Australians who have made successes of their lives — sometimes against great disadvantage," said respected journalist and author Andrew Urban who conducts the interviews.

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“The life lessons will give prisoners pause for thought regarding their past behaviours, attitudes and relationships, and changes to these they may not have previously thought possible.”

GEO is currently developing a number of innovative rehabilitation programs that focus on working more closely with prisoners’ families.

“*What Makes a Man a Man* was a clear fit with some of our other initiatives in this area and we are pleased to be playing an integral role in the development of the project,” said The GEO Group Australia’s executive general manager risk and compliance Keith Ketheeswaran.

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About The GEO Group Australia

The GEO Group Australia is Australia’s largest provider of outsourced correctional services. With 1,500 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 3,500 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

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