

## Media Release

21 December 2012

### **JUNEE HEALTH PROGRAM WINS ACCOLADES**

The GEO-operated Junee Correctional Centre has won a prestigious national award for its groundbreaking 'Healthy Inside' program.

The efforts of the centre's health department were recognised by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) at its 15th Annual Quality Improvement Awards 2012.

Healthy Inside took out the Highly Commended Award in the Healthcare Measurement Category, beating off strong competition from major healthcare providers including three local health districts and two hospitals.

In their citation, the ACHS judges highlighted Junee's strong focus on effective leadership, continual improvement and innovation. They also emphasised best practice, evidence of outcomes and applicability to other healthcare settings as significant attributes of the Healthy Inside program.

The award recognised the outstanding results achieved by the program, including a 97 per cent success rate in health improvement and a 27 per cent increase in inmate participation in programs designed to reduce re-offending.

"Poor health has always been recognised as a factor in re-offending, not least because it often prevents inmates becoming involved in the rehabilitative programs on offer," said the centre's health promotion officer Matthew Canny who developed the Healthy Inside program.

"Engaging groups of prisoners who previously have been at the margins and at high risk of re-offending and seeing them work together to redirect their lives has been inspiring to all who have seen it."

Junee's health services manager Anne Phillips said ACHS are a benchmark organisation for all Australian health providers.

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“To see one of Junee’s health innovations recognised by ACHS in competition with several major regional health organisations makes me extremely proud of my team, and of course the inmates on the program who are working hard to turn their lives around,” she said.

The ACHS award also reflects Junee’s commitment to capturing evidence and measuring the outcomes its programs achieve to ensure value for money. Junee will track the impact on re-offending of the Healthy Inside program and report its results.

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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](http://www.thegeogroupinc.com.au)

**About Junee Correctional Centre**

Junee Correctional Centre is one of the largest prisons in New South Wales. Holding 790 prisoners, Junee is primarily a sentenced facility, holding those serving their sentences and with a particular emphasis on progressing offender’s sentence management plans by delivering activities and programs that address offending behaviours. Junee includes a minimum security unit for low-risk prisoners. Junee has been managed by The GEO Group Australia since it opened in 1993. For further information please visit: [www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au](http://www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au)

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