

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SAFETY**

The community will be better protected from high-risk offenders who hold violent, extremist views, thanks to an \$89 million investment by the NSW Government.

Minister for Counter Terrorism and Minister for Corrections David Elliott said the funding is part of a \$10 billion investment in the Justice system in the 2018-19 Budget, delivering on a commitment to make our streets and communities even safer.

The \$89 million over four years will fund frontline officers, surveillance, compliance checking, intelligence gathering and other activities of the Terrorism High Risk Offenders Unit.

THROU is a joint operation between Corrective Services NSW and NSW Police to manage offenders.

Corrective Services and NSW Police have so far identified about 90 offenders on a 'watch list' who could come within consideration of the scheme - some are due for release in the next five years.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals have delivered the toughest counter-terrorism legislation and measures in the nation, including more police powers, strengthened bail laws, investment in NSW jails, and stronger parole provisions," Mr Elliott said.

"This investment continues that commitment, ensuring inmates on state-based sentences, who pose an unacceptable risk of terrorism to the community, can be kept in prison or under supervision in the community after their sentences expire."

More than \$52 million over four years will fund a National Facial Biometric Matching Capability, enabling law enforcement to identify suspects, victims and protect the public. Further highlights of the 2018-19 Budget include:

- \$810 million to continue delivery of prison infrastructure as part of the \$3.8 billion Prison Bed Capacity Program
- \$62 million to strengthen offender management and continue to deliver programs which support a reduction in adult reoffending
- \$5 million for a community-based rehabilitation centre in Coffs Harbour.

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