

Tough and smart sentencing for safer communities

Factsheet – May 2017

Stronger sentencing will make the community safer by holding offenders to account and reducing reoffending.

Abolishing suspended sentences

- Suspended sentences are ineffective. A suspended sentence does not punish an offender unless they commit a further crime or breach their order.
- It is not mandatory for offenders on suspended sentences to be supervised in the community or to complete rehabilitation programs.

Improved community sentences

- The existing Intensive Correction Order (ICO) will be strengthened. Offenders subject to an ICO will be supervised by NSW Community Corrections Officers and subject to conditions that can include home detention, electronic monitoring, curfews and community service work.
- Under the new framework:
 - ICOs will only be able to be issued if the court is satisfied that the community will be safe.
 - ICOs will not be available for murder, manslaughter, sexual assault, any sexual offence against a child, discharge of a firearm, terrorism offences or organised crime.
- More than 200 extra Community Corrections Officers will be employed to ensure that offenders in the community are subject to appropriate supervision.

- Community Correction Orders (CCOs) and Conditional Release Orders (CROs) will replace existing sentences.
- Supervision conditions will also be able to be attached to CCOs and CROs.
- Community Corrections Officers are best placed to manage offenders in the community. Officers will have clearer authority to deal with breaches of conditions in real time.

Strengthened orders	Replaces
Intensive Correction Order (ICO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home detention orders • suspended sentences
Community Correction Order (CCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community service orders • good behaviour bonds
Conditional Release Order (CRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-conviction bonds

Benefits

- The abolition of suspended sentences means more offenders will face closer supervision.
- Greater supervision of offenders and community rehabilitation programs will improve community safety, by increasing the number of offenders who are supervised and imposing conditions to address the causes of offending.
- Evidence shows that supervision and rehabilitation is the most effective way of reducing reoffending as it addresses the causes of offending behaviour.

This reform builds on recommendations of the NSW Law Reform Commission Sentencing Report and will help deliver tough and smart justice for safer communities.

For more information go to:
www.justice.nsw.gov.au/reform