

Barbara Perry MP

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Juvenile Justice

Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)



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Bail Assistance Line launched in the Newcastle/Hunter Region

An after-hours service designed to ensure young people eligible for bail are not kept in custody has begun in the Newcastle/Hunter Region with the support of NSW Police and NGO Life Without Barriers, Minister for Juvenile Justice Barbara Perry said today.

The launch of the Hunter service today marks the final stage in the roll-out of the innovative program that also operates in metropolitan Sydney and the Dubbo region.

“The Bail Assistance Line gives police in the Newcastle and broader Hunter region after-hours access to Juvenile Justice staff who assist in finding accommodation and services for young people who are eligible for bail but cannot meet their bail conditions,” Ms Perry said.

“Juvenile Justice staff will help locate a responsible person who will attend the police station to help facilitate bail as well as find the young person suitable accommodation.

“Staff will organise transportation for the young person from the police station to their accommodation if required.”

Member for Charlestown Matthew Morris welcomed the local launch of the service saying it will add to the network of services available to help at-risk young people in the region.

“NGO Life Without Barriers will be contacted to provide the support services to the Bail Assistance Line in the Hunter region,” Mr Morris said.

“Life Without Barriers is providing services such as transport, housing, and referrals to education and training, drug and alcohol counselling, and other support programs for the young people on bail.”

The Bail Assistance Line has been successfully operating in Dubbo since June, and in Western Sydney since August.

“The service frees up police to return to front line duties and helps reduce the number of young people held on remand for short periods who should be on bail receiving support services,” Ms Perry said.

Deputy CEO of Life Without Barriers, Claire Robbs, said: “Life Without Barriers is in full support of the Bail Assistance Line, and its aim to help young people in the Newcastle/Hunter Region who find themselves on the wrong side of law stay out of unnecessary custody.

For more information on Life Without Barriers, visit www.lwb.org.au.

For more information on Keep Them Safe, visit www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au.