

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

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YOUNG OFFENDERS LEARN TO SAVE LIVES

Young offenders at Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre were today presented with their Bronze Medallion certificates, recognising their efforts in developing the required level of knowledge to perform water rescues, said Minister for Juvenile Justice, Graham West.

“The young offenders trained and studied hard to successfully pass the Bronze Medallion course, becoming the first group of young people in custody at the centre to achieve these qualifications,” said Mr West.

“They now have the skills required by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia to perform water rescues, prevent drownings, and ultimately save lives.

“Not only are the skills they learned in custody beneficial to the safety of the community, but by passing the course, the young offenders have obtained a very useful qualification which may help them gain employment and keep them on a positive path.”

The five young offenders, four of whom were of Aboriginal background, completed the two day practical and theory course on March 14 and 15.

They trained and studied for more than two months, including an hour a day of physical work, such as improving their stroke, running, safety drills and performing CPR.

“The course, which is funded by the NSW Government, improves a young offender’s self-esteem, confidence and discipline,” said Mr West.

“The young people who received their certificates today now know they are capable of completing positive activities such as this,” Mr West said.

Staff members at Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre have been running similar courses since January last year. These courses involve increasing a young offender’s knowledge and physical ability to help carry out safe water rescues. These skills form the foundation of the Bronze Medallion course.

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