

Prison Bed Effectiveness Program: FAQs for Justice Health NSW staff

What is happening and why?

In late March 2026, Corrective Services NSW announced the decision to:

- Close Goulburn's four Victorian era wings.
- Repurpose Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre into a 30-bed female transit centre.

These reforms are occurring under the Prison Bed Effectiveness Program to ensure facilities meet modern standards and support the safety and wellbeing of both staff and people in custody.

A six-month consultation period is underway and the changes will take effect in September 2026.

What are the operational impacts?

Goulburn

- There will be a reduction of patients by 340 and the associated industries will be impacted.
- The operations of the HRMCC, MPU and X wing will not be impacted by these changes and will continue to operate as they currently do.
- External Industries will not be impacted by these changes.
- Internal Industries will be impacted.

Silverwater Women's CC

- The population will reduce to 30 patients, and industries and programs will transfer to other centres.
- The centre will be managed as an annex to Mary Wade Correctional Centre which will transition to a female cohort.
- Refurbishment works will occur at Dillwynia Correctional Centre to accommodate high needs cohorts.

What will happen to the existing patient populations in these centres?

Corrective Services NSW is considering options for the movement of patients to other centres. More information will be provided when available.

What does this mean for Justice Health NSW staff at these centres?

For Justice Health NSW this will mean a decrease in the number of positions required at Goulburn and Silverwater Women's Correctional Centres. All effort will be made to relocate impacted staff to other centres across Justice Health NSW.

Some staff will be asked to nominate their preferred work location. However for select staff, their new location of work will be determined by the location of their patient cohort and no preference will be requested.

How can I get more information and support?

We acknowledge this may be a difficult time. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides counselling support to staff and family members for personal and work-related issues. The EAP offers free and confidential support sessions for individuals, provided by Converge International. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1300 687 327.

Alternatively, you can contact a HR Business Partner at JFMHN-HR@health.nsw.gov.au

More information will be communicated as it arises.