The opening of the new $2 million medium security wing of the Don Dale Centre marks a new era in justice in the Northern Territory based on protection, prevention, and punishment.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne said the Martin Government makes no apologies for being tough on crime, but it also ensures people in our Correctional Centres serve their time but don’t waste their time.

“The extension to the facility will increase the capacity of the Don Dale Centre to accommodate a total of 38 detainees,” Dr Toyne said.

“This new facility will provide an environment supportive of detainee skills development, treatment and behaviour programs.”

“It has modern classrooms and program areas where detainees are taught mainstream educational activities along with horticulture, plant propagation, art, music, and pre-vocational and vocational training.”

“Individual case management plans will also link detainees with community program providers.”

“The creation of a medium security facility provides a graduated system of behavioural management, within the one Centre, linked to a structured classification process.

“Detainees can work their way through this system, gaining access to privileges and opportunity, in a manner that is immediately visible, consistent and easily understood.”

The official opening of the medium security wing for the Don Dale Centre is the result of a team effort by staff in the Departments of Justice, and Infrastructure, Planning and Environment.

The extension to the Don Dale Centre has also been a big boost to the local construction industry with Darwin company Gratis employing up to 40 trades people during the job.

The same company will employ 60 trades people to build the $7.8 million Low Security Facility at the Darwin Correctional Centre.

Work on the Low Security Facility commenced last week.