Corrections Ministers meet in Canberra

Correctional Services Ministers will attend a Ministerial Council meeting in Canberra tomorrow to look at strategies and programs being used to reduce prisoner numbers.

NT Minister for Correctional Services, Gerry McCarthy, said one of the issues to be discussed is the proposed national guidelines for the transfer of parole orders.

“The NT recognises that, in some jurisdictions, offenders who breach their parole have their time ‘on the street’ counted as time already served when they go back to jail,” Mr McCarthy said.

“For example, if you breach your parole conditions three months into a six month period, the three months already spent on parole can be counted as time served in your punishment.

“In the Northern Territory, if you breach your parole conditions, time served ‘on the street’ will not be counted when you go back in to custody.

“The guidelines on the table for debate now would water down our parole conditions to meet the conditions of other states, and I will not support that.”

Mr McCarthy said the Territory’s new era in corrections is all about reducing prisoner numbers and breaking the cycle of re-offending.

“Ongoing assessment of programs and initiatives at work in other jurisdictions will help ensure the Territory gets the right strategies in place to get our prisoner numbers down and keep people out of jail,” he said.

Mr McCarthy will also visit the Alexander Maconochie Centre and the Goulburn Correctional Centre.

Media contact: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279