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Former Inmates Benefit from Specialised Accommodation

A chance to get their lives back on track – that’s what three former Barkly Work Camp inmates will get this month when they move into new Government-sponsored post-release supported accommodation in Tennant Creek.

The three-bedroom house will provide accommodation and basic support for up to six former inmates on completion of their sentences and for those released on orders under the supervision of the Northern Territory Correctional Services.

Local Member and Correctional Services Minister Gerry McCarthy said the government’s New Era in Corrections would provide an avenue for former inmates to join or complete reintegration programs in the Tennant Creek region.

“We know the period immediately post-release is high risk for re-offending,” he said.

“The monitoring and mentoring provided by the staff at the post-release house will ensure a minimisation of that risk, by focusing on the core transitional needs being employment, housing and substance abuse programs.

“Residents are selected based on their need for housing while they complete courses, treatment or ongoing employment.

“The house will provide additional support to help people transition back into the community and maintain positive skills and behaviours.”

The accommodation will be managed by NGO group Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRADAAG) who will provide life-skills training on a voluntary basis, including budgeting, cooking and cleaning skills.

Other BRADAAG initiatives available to the residents include drug awareness and harm minimisation programs.

House occupants can stay up to six months and are required to pay a weekly fee of $175 for lodgings.

The New Era in Corrections aligns with the Territory 2030 target for every Territorian to have access to appropriate accommodation.

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