

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 11 July 2014

NSW BUCKS THE JOBS TREND: UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS STEADY

- The latest ABS Labour Force figures indicate the continued strength of the NSW economy, with the state's unemployment rate remaining unchanged at 5.7 per cent.
- While the national jobless rate edged up from 5.9 to 6.0 per cent, NSW has held firm, adding more than 10,000 jobs in June. Of the nearly 16,000 jobs created nationally, almost two thirds of those were in NSW, indicating again the strength of our economy.
- This is a great result, and keeps NSW as the second strongest employment market, second only to Western Australia.
- The latest job figures come off the back of the Westpac-Melbourne Institute report that showed NSW had the highest consumer confidence among the mainland states.

AUSTRALIA'S TOUGHEST TRUCK COMPLIANCE REGIME BRINGS DOWN SPEEDING

- The latest results on truck compliance and enforcement operations in NSW have shown a 91 per cent drop in excessive speeding.
- The results confirm NSW had the toughest and most targeted truck compliance and enforcement regime in Australia.
- NSW has the most extensive network in the nation of Heavy Vehicle Checking/Safety Stations, Safe-T-Cams and point-to-point cameras. Additionally, NSW has the largest enforcement and compliance regime in Australia, with almost 300 frontline inspectors.
- When the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government came to office, Roads and Maritime Services cameras detected 55,368 heavy vehicle speeding offences. By March this year, the offences had dropped to 4,924 – a huge 91 per cent reduction.

102 STRIKES FOR 'THREE STRIKES' DISCIPLINARY SCHEME

- NSW licensed venues are being reminded of their obligations under the State's liquor laws as the Three Strikes disciplinary scheme records over 100 strikes.
- Since the scheme began in 2012, there have been 102 strikes for serious offences under the Liquor Act – the 93 venues incurring strikes include seven venues with second strikes, and two venues with third strikes.
- Strikes have been imposed for offences including permitting intoxication, selling alcohol to an intoxicated person, selling alcohol outside authorised hours, selling

alcohol to a minor, permitting violence on a licensed premises, and failing to comply with licence conditions including special conditions imposed under the Three Strikes and Violent Venues schemes and in the Kings Cross precinct.

- Venues incurring strikes are effectively on a good behaviour bond for three years as any further convictions in that period could lead to second and third strikes where licences can ultimately be suspended or cancelled.
- A register of strikes is at http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_3_strikes_register.asp

EXPANDING PRACTICE FIRST ACROSS NSW

- An additional 13 sites have been added to the NSW Government's improved new model of child protection service delivery, *Practice First*.
- *Practice First* means less red tape and paperwork for caseworkers and more face to face time with families, with an increased emphasis on practitioners developing and sustaining relationships with families and interagency partners.
- Community Services Minister Gabrielle Upton said early indicators from the 24 sites already using *Practice First* show that the program is having a positive impact on families, workplace culture and service delivery.
- The 13 additional Community Service Centres to commence *Practice First* by October 2014 are: Blacktown, Campbelltown, Parkes, Condobolin, Goulburn, Yass, Kempsey, Lakes, Peninsula, Wyong, Shellharbour, Tamworth and Taree.

PRISON PHONE JAMMING TRIAL EXTENDED

- A trial of phone jamming technology at Lithgow Jail is being extended for a further three months.
- The trial is being monitored by all Australian State and Territory Corrections authorities and could lead to wider implementation of jamming technology, which has been used in jails in other countries including the United States and New Zealand.
- Mobile phone use by inmates is a significant threat as some inmates try to continue their criminal activities from behind bars.
- The jamming device uses dozens of antennas installed inside Lithgow Correctional Centre to emit a signal at very low power, preventing any mobiles inside the jail from connecting to a networked mobile phone tower. The signal does not extend beyond the jail's boundaries and does not affect phone users in the community.

LANGUAGE NO BARRIER TO JP SERVICES

- The NSW Government has launched a State-wide campaign to raise awareness among culturally and linguistically diverse communities about the services provided by Justices of the Peace (JPs).
- JPs are relied upon as witnesses for the signing of statutory declarations or affidavits and can certify copies of original documents.

- JPs do not exist in many non-English speaking countries and it has become apparent there is confusion among some of Australia's newest residents about what JPs do and how to access their services.
- A new JP fact sheet is available in 12 languages and JP workshops are being conducted with leaders from multicultural communities in NSW throughout the year. People can search for a Justice of the Peace in their area by visiting the online public register of JPs at: www.jp.nsw.gov.au

ABORIGINAL HEALTH ON 2014 NAIDOC WEEK AGENDA

- The NSW Government has used NAIDOC Week to highlight its commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities across the State.
- More Aboriginal people live in NSW than any other Australian state or territory and improving Aboriginal health is a key focus for the NSW Health system.
- The NSW Aboriginal Health Plan focuses on changing the health system to ensure policies and programs meet the needs of Aboriginal people across the State. Its intent is to improve Aboriginal health.
- There are several other important initiatives in place, including an oral health program which provides training for Aboriginal people living in regional and remote areas to become qualified dental assistants and creates pathways into higher education studies.

ONE-STOP SHOP OPENS IN PENRITH

- NSW Premier Mike Baird officially opened the new Penrith one-stop shop this week, whilst marking the one-year anniversary of the NSW Government's new customer service agency, Service NSW.
- The opening of this centre also marks an important milestone with the completion of the initial Service NSW rollout – a total of 18 one-stop shops. Due to the success of Service NSW, the NSW Government will expand its services over the next two years with a focus on increasing digital transactions to make it even more convenient for customers to do their business with the NSW Government.
- This service centre is the third to open in Western Sydney – following Parramatta and Liverpool and demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to grow services in this thriving region.
- Eight new service centres, including one in Blacktown, are now being planned for opening in the coming months with other innovative smart stores and kiosks to be trialled over the coming year.
- In excess of 3.5 million customers have so far been served by Service NSW with a customer satisfaction score of 98 per cent – unchanged since launch last year.

VICTIMS OF CRIME GET 21st CENTURY SUPPORT

- The NSW Government has launched an innovative new mobile app to help victims of crime and their families navigate the justice system.

- The NSW Government is doing what it can to ease the experience of victims of crime in the criminal justice process.
- This app makes it easier and simpler to get information about the court process, support services and victim's rights including: how to report a crime, crime investigation, and getting ready for court.
- The free Justice Journey app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and will be available at the iTunes Store in coming days. It is available on DVD, You Tube and online at www.victimsservices.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

WORK COMMENCES ON NEW \$3.9 MILLION PORT MACQUARIE FIRE STATION

- Work has commenced on a new \$3.9 million fire station at Port Macquarie.
- The new station will enhance the provision of fire and emergency services to the residents and businesses in the Port Macquarie region.
- The new station will accommodate three fire engines as well as a hazardous materials van, boat and trailer and incorporate facilities for firefighters to refill breathing cylinders. It will also provide office space for the zone management team.
- The station will be located within Port Macquarie's emergency services precinct, which will improve the coordination and cooperation between the other agencies located there - the Ambulance Service of NSW and the NSW State Emergency Service.

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