



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

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The Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP
Minister for Human Services
Level 8, 10 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Minister *Jacqui,*

I am very concerned to hear that the Reintegration for Ex-Offenders program (REO) will not be funded beyond June 2015.

I have been told that an evaluation of this program found that for every \$100,000 spent by government there is an expected saving of \$1.1 million in terms of incarceration, court and policing costs.

Cutting this program therefore is clearly a false economy and frankly I think it is downright irresponsible. Turfing ex-offenders out into the community without housing or social supports leaves them much more likely to re-offend. I understand it will also mean that prisoners applying for parole will be automatically rejected because they will not have access to appropriate accommodation upon release.

I ask that you reverse this decision and fully fund the REO program over the next financial year and through the forward estimates.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison