Media Release

John Elferink
Minister for Correctional Services

New recruits on Corrections front line

28 July 2015

Twenty four graduate recruits have joined the Correctional Services Officer ranks after completing training at the Northern Territory Correctional Services Staff Learning and Development Centre.

Three graduate Correctional Officer Trainees received awards based on their achievements including Best Team Member, Academic Achievement and Student of Merit. One of the officers was awarded the Best Team Member and also Student of Merit. For the first time, all awards went to female graduates.

The latest class of Trainee Correctional Officers took up their new roles immediately after graduating from the Northern Territory Correctional Services Staff Learning and Development Centre at the Darwin Correctional Precinct.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink congratulated the graduates on their achievements, welcomed them to the team and acknowledged the challenging job they face.

“I am very impressed with the quality of our graduating officers,” Minister Elferink said.

“As Correctional Officers you are working in an environment that regularly requires judgement and decisions to be made in difficult and complex situations requiring you to act with professionalism, honesty and integrity.

“This role carries with it enormous responsibility, you make a difference to public safety in the Northern Territory and you have the opportunity to make a difference to so many lives.”

The graduating class of 18 male and six female graduates began their intensive 11 week training course on 11 May 2015.

Of the 24 on parade, one officer has been posted to Alice Springs Correctional Centre, one to the Barkly Work Camp and one to the Datjala Work Camp at Nhulunbuy. The remaining Trainee Correctional Officers will be rostered to the Darwin Correctional Precinct.
The graduation ceremony also saw three Community Corrections Probation and Parole Officers receive their Certificate IV in Correctional Practice, three Corrections staff awarded with their 10 year service medal and one member presented with a 30 year service medal.

Correctional Services Commissioner Ken Middlebrook told the graduates that they had chosen one of the most important career paths in the community.

“You are beginning your careers at an exciting time in Corrections, the Darwin Correctional Precinct is now fully operational and a range of new programs and technologies are being introduced to bring down the high levels of recidivism we have been experiencing,” Mr Middlebrook said.

“As role models and mentors, you will work at the front line, turning people’s lives around and returning them to the community as productive members of society.”

Mr Middlebrook said he expected each graduate would uphold the highest values of the Northern Territory Department of Corrections and conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism.

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