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Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

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22 JUL 2026

Mr Marcus Vermey MP
Government Whip
Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

By email: C\ - haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Vermey *Marcus,*

In the House of Assembly, you asked the following question:

Members of my community are concerned about repeat offending and the impact that crime driven by alcohol and drug dependency can have on victims. Can you explain how the Tasmanian Government's expansion of the drug court program to include alcohol treatment will help enable offenders address the cause of their offending, reduce the likelihood of reoffending and contribute to safer Tasmanian communities?

Answer:

The Tasmanian Government's expansion of the Drug Court program to include alcohol treatment represents an important investment in community safety by addressing one of the key factors contributing to repeat offending.

As of 30 April 2026, courts now have the ability to issue Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders, expanding the existing Drug Court model to support eligible offenders whose offending behaviour is linked to alcohol dependency as well as illicit drug use.

This reform recognises that, for some offenders, untreated substance dependency can be a significant driver of criminal behaviour. By addressing these underlying issues, the justice system can help prevent further offending improving safety for the broader community.

Importantly, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders are not a soft option. Participants remain subject to intensive judicial supervision and must comply with strict treatment, testing, rehabilitation and reporting requirements. Failure to meet these obligations can result in consequences through the court process.

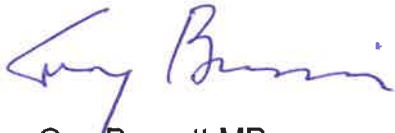
The program combines accountability with evidence-based treatment, requiring participants to take responsibility for their behaviour while receiving support to address the factors that contribute to their offending.

By targeting offenders who have repeatedly come into contact with the justice system due to substance-related offending, the expanded program aims to interrupt the cycle of addiction, offending and imprisonment. Reducing repeat offending means fewer victims, fewer crimes and safer communities.

The program also supports participants to undertake treatment within their community where appropriate, helping them maintain positive family connections, access local support services and develop the stability needed to make lasting changes.

Ultimately, this reform is about keeping Tasmanians safe. By addressing the underlying causes of offending while maintaining strong accountability measures, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders will support better rehabilitation outcomes, reduce recidivism and help prevent future harm in our communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation