

John Robertson MP
NSW Opposition Leader
Shadow Minister for Western Sydney



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**OPPOSITION CALLS ON O'FARRELL TO REVERSE DANGEROUS CUTS TO
OFFENDER SUPERVISION PROGRAM IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET**

NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson has today called on the O'Farrell Government to reverse its dangerous decision to cut \$5.7 million and 73 jobs from the program designed to supervise serious sex and violent offenders in the community.

This comes as a woman waiting at a bus stop on Wednesday evening was allegedly attacked by a man released on parole only months earlier after being jailed for the murder of a 17 year old woman in 1990.

This year's budget papers* (budget paper 3, 2-15) reveal:

- \$5.7 million is being cut this year from the Supervision of Offenders in the Community Service Group; and
- At least 73 full time jobs are being slashed from the offender supervision program.

"Following the horrific attack in Hunters Hill only a few days ago, it defies belief the O'Farrell Government would reduce supervision for violent offenders on our streets," Mr Robertson said.

"Our supervision system is failing, so why on earth would the Government seek to further reduce the monitoring of offenders in our community?"

"These budget and staff cuts mean there will be even less supervision of violent offenders like this in our community."

"The former Government successfully opposed parole for this offender six times, but then he was released into the public only ten months ago."

"The justice system will continue to fail if serious offenders are being let out without being properly monitored."

"Attorney General Greg Smith has also still refused to answer the Labor Opposition's question in the parliament yesterday, regarding whether the offender was being electronically monitored and what level of supervision he was under."

"Every woman has the right to feel safe in our community, regardless of whether they are in their own home, waiting at a bus stop or walking alone down the street."

"If the O'Farrell Government is serious about protecting the community, they would reverse these dangerous funding cuts to offender supervision programs today."

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