

Response by Youth Justice to the BYDC & CYDC Inspection Report, June 2019

Youth Justice welcomes the June 2019 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate report for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) and Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC).

Rigorous and transparent oversight is essential to ensuring young people in detention are managed appropriately, safely and securely in accordance with the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*. Youth Detention Inspectorate recommendations provide critical insights and evidence-based advice to ensure youth detention services evolve with contemporary best practice.

The focus areas under inspection in this quarter were programs and purposeful activity, reintegration, suicide and self-harm, separations, and behaviour support plans. Youth Justice accepts all 6 recommendations which have been made in the report. Some recommendations are already underway with existing work and immediate steps taken to implement all recommendations.

These actions include:

- Enhanced collaboration between Youth Justice and partner agencies relating to program development and coordination to improve access to programs and services in youth detention
- Review of interagency Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Service level Agreements (SLA) to strengthen existing arrangements with partner agencies
- Review of policies and procedures as they relate to reintegration planning and associated activities, with consideration given to reintegration planning for young people on long-term remand
- Continued implementation of an incident prediction tool which will identify young people who pose a risk to the safety and security of the centres. This tool will enable staff to identify young people who require a higher level of service and support, including an assessment of program, supervision, cultural and individual needs. It will further inform the temporary day leave process to ensure young people are able to engage in community based reintegration activities where it is safe and appropriate to do so. This may include attending apprenticeships, job interviews or meeting with community-based mentors.

Youth Justice Services is also actively working on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Youth Detention Centres in Queensland. These reforms support and complement the practice improvements recommended by the Youth Detention Inspectorate.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Youth Detention Inspectorate for their important work to improve the youth justice system. Also acknowledged are the youth detention staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis and their tireless commitment to improving the lives of young people and ensuring the safety of youth detention centres.

Darren Hegarty
Senior Executive Director, Youth Justice Services
Department of Youth Justice

Recommendation 1	Accepted/Not Accepted
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services develops Terms of Reference and commences discussions with all agencies operating within the youth detention centres, to improve the coordination of programs and services in youth detention.	Accepted
Recommendation 2	Accepted/Not Accepted
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services revises policies and procedures related to reintegration, to increase access to targeted, multi-agency reintegration plans that focus on the range of supports available to young people after release.	Accepted
Recommendation 3	Accepted/Not Accepted
It is recommended that both centres develop reintegration plans for suitable young people on long-term remand, using a common risk assessment tool to assess the appropriateness of reintegration LOAs and other reintegration activities as part of these plans.	Accepted
Recommendation 4	Accepted/Not Accepted
It is recommended that any negotiations undertaken in the future to manage the variable demand within detention centres should consider the opportunity for additional staff for reintegration planning and reintegration LOA escorts to be funded across both centres.	Accepted
Recommendation 5	Accepted/Not Accepted
It is recommended that the detention centres develop a process for staff who are assessed as having a beneficial, supportive relationship with young people to continue to see young people in the community on a case-by-case basis, with management approval and in coordination with the relevant community office.	Accepted
Recommendation 6	Accepted/Not Accepted
It is recommended that CYDC increases the focus on building employment resources, networking with employers and linking young people to jobs before release.	Accepted