

## Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre September quarter 2013

The statutory inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 26 to 30 August 2013. The primary inspection focus area was Centre Facilities and Environment and was based on the Youth Detention Inspectorate Expectations document.

The main findings in this report are that, at the time of the inspection, CYDC staff were in the process of transferring the majority of young people to the new facilities and that parts of CYDC remain an active worksite due to ongoing buildings and demolition.

The Inspectors observed some well organised security practices which were provided by the site security team, such as ceasing all movements of young people, escorting vehicles and tradespeople entering the secure perimeter, as well as conducting security searches on vehicles when they left the centre. These practices assist in providing a high standard of security as well as maintaining as far as practically possible the daily routine of the centre.

At the time of the inspection the average number of young people held in custody at CYDC was 56 and one day there were 61 young people which exceed the centre capacity by one. Prior to the inspection the numbers of young people had reached as high as 68, and to accommodate these numbers the Centre Director advised that in some cases single rooms were temporally utilised as double rooms by placing mattresses on the floors.

Disruption to the daily operations of the centre have, at times been compounded due to staff absenteeism and general shortages. Although exact data to identify operational impacts was difficult to obtain, the Inspectorate was advised that over a seven day (14 - 21 August 2013) period a total of 19 hours had not been adequately covered by a full complement of staff, due to staff absenteeism.

The Inspectorate was advised that appropriate strategies were put in place to ensure that there was as minimal disruption as possible to the daily activities of the young people. Strategies included, offering overtime to staff and only separating small groups of young people at a time, commencing additional recruitment courses for new permanent and casual staff.

Inspectors also examined the number of incidents which involved the use of physical force on young people at CYDC in comparison with the number of use of force incidents at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC). The Inspectors identified that there were 313 incidents involving the use of force at CYDC compared with 215 incidents at BYDC, however the number of young people at BYDC is almost double that at CYDC. The Inspectorate recommends that further monitoring of use of force continues and that strategies are developed to reduce the numbers of these types of incidents at CYDC.