

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre December quarter 2015

The *Youth Justice Act 1992* requires that each Queensland youth detention centre be inspected at least once every three months. These statutory inspections are conducted by Principal Inspectors of the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit, Office of the Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) in Townsville, North Queensland was inspected from 23 to 27 November 2015. As with all end of year inspections, the inspection focused on whether open recommendations approved by the Director-General in previous inspection reports had been adequately implemented within timeframes nominated by the detention centre.

Of the 14 approved recommendations, inspectors found that 10 had been implemented as required. Some of the remedial actions taken to address the Inspectorate's recommendations were:

- The establishment of a permanent staff roster in the Behaviour Support Unit, purpose-built for the management of young people with the most significant behavioural issues. Previously, the unit had been staffed predominantly with casual staff that had not received tailored behaviour management training.
- The installation of barriers around roof access points historically favoured by young people to gain access to the roof. The barriers are intended to prevent young people climbing roofs and causing disruption to centre operations.
- Enhancing post-incident search practices to locate contraband left on roofs and inside buildings. On previous occasions, young people who climbed roofs had been able to hideaway potentially harmful items and retrieve them during subsequent incidents.

Full implementation is yet to occur for four recommendations. Outstanding actions include:

- The further development and implementation of a strategy to reduce the number of incidents involving violence at CYDC.
- Conducting thorough exit interviews with all staff that voluntarily cease employment at CYDC in order to make improvements in absenteeism, recruitment and retention.
- Practice consistency between CYDC and the Brisbane Youth Detention Centres on behaviour development of young people and the range of items young people can purchase with their own monies.

The next statutory inspection of CYDC will occur from 7 to 11 March 2016 and will focus on the suicide risk process, the complaints system, the statutory reporting of harm to young people, and searches of young people involving the removal of their clothing.