

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brisbane Youth Detention Centre

December Quarter 2013

Inspections of Queensland's youth detentions are required by s263 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* to be conducted quarterly. These statutory inspections are carried out by delegated Principal Inspectors within the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit. The December 2013 inspection occurred from 9 to 13 December 2013. Consultation feedback was received on 11 March 2014. In accordance with the approved Inspection framework and procedure, findings were based on interviews with the Acting Centre Executive Director BYDC; Acting Deputy Director; Unit Managers; Managers, Monitoring and Compliance; Programs Development Officer; conversations with a variety of shift supervisors, section supervisors, youth workers and young people throughout the centre, and examination of relevant DCOIS documentation.

December quarter inspections provide a round-up of the extent to which approved, active recommendations have been implemented within agreed timeframes. For the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC), there were 24 active recommendations. Most dated from 2012 and 2013. Of these:

- 13 have been closed either because they are completely or sufficiently implemented (10) or not implemented but overtaken by subsequent developments and/or recommendations (3)
- 10 remain in progress
- 1 has no action yet commenced.

The Inspectors' findings are tabled within the body of this report alongside each original recommendation (numbered by month and year, and ordered by earliest to latest).

The most significant themes in relation to recommendations yet to be implemented are:

- Embedding the work of the dedicated Behaviour Support Team so that creative, effective and individualised plans continue to be developed and refined for high profile young people in ways that reduce their offending behaviour both on centre and in the community. This should occur against a background of a behaviour development model that maximises safety and effective outcomes for all (other) young people - this project requires local practice development and embedment across all areas of the centre.
- Developing a clear and consistent policy and procedure that promotes a comprehensive and risk-managed approach to reintegrative and rehabilitative activities designed to reduce the offending behaviour of each young person.
- Increasing best practice in the management of female detainees, now that that detainee cohort has become such a significant presence at BYDC, and especially because females are currently intended to be accommodated at CYDC from 2015. To ensure that female detainees are met with a competent and positive reception at CYDC, and to enhance detainee management across the board, the Inspectorate recommends that closer liaison occur between the detention centres, and between Youth Justice Services and Corrective Services following its absorption into the department.

- The need for more 'action learning' from serious incidents that occur in detention centres, such as roof incidents and major disturbances, through an increase in reviews by the serious incidents review committee (formed within Youth Justice Services following an inspection recommendation), with review findings to be reported to the Director-General and the Youth Detention Inspectorate (as per recent review of a major roof incident at CYDC on 13 February 2014).

The rollout of more CCTV cameras at BYDC so that common areas in accommodation units can be surveilled for the first time in that detention centre, in order to enhance the safety of young people and staff within those units.