

# Response by Youth Justice to the BYDC Inspection Report, September 2018

Youth Justice welcomes the September 2018 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate report for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC).

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 also 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 education and training, programs and purposeful activity, use of force and incident reporting. BYDC accepts all 10 recommendations (6 in principle) which have been made in the report. Some recommendations are already underway with existing work and immediate steps have been taken to implement all recommendations.

These actions include:

- Service enhancements which speak to the ability to deliver effective therapeutic programming to young people in BYDC
- Ongoing work to improve and clarify recording guidelines for young person school attendance, this includes access to reasons for absenteeism and electronic system enhancements.
- Ongoing work to maximise the availability of, and young people's participation in, learning and rehabilitation through meaningful vocational training pathways.
- The pilot implementation of a strengthened reintegration planning template, commensurate to the assessed risk of young people.
- The proactive exploration and planned delivery of a more comprehensive suite of offence-focussed, criminogenic programs.
- Ongoing work to improve policies and guidelines regarding the recording requirements and relevant system enhancements as they relate to the use of force. This includes the continued expansion of de-escalation training and techniques available to staff.
- Improved behaviour development processes, including the implementation of a new rewards and incentives scheme and a trauma-informed 'Behaviour Support Plan' to better assist staff to manage complex and challenging behaviours.

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.

The Youth Detention Inspectorate is thanked for their important work to improve the youth justice system. Also acknowledged are the efforts of youth justice staff around Queensland who are helping to build a better youth justice system and improve the lives of young people through the development of the Youth Justice Strategy.

Also acknowledged are all youth detention staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis and thank them for their 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 Child Safety, Youth and Women**

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and BYDC together with EQ devise a clear and transparent way to record school attendance and ensure BYETC is notified of reasons for absences.	<b>Accepted</b>
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS increase VET availability and participation by investigating value for money options to engage young people in VET courses and job readiness training while on centre and through transition, with incentives for retaining young people in courses through to completion. Other options to investigate include providing adequate supervision arrangements to allow young people to attend TAFE on campus.	<b>Accepted in principle</b>
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services establish a communication strategy between the detention centres and Youth Justice Services Centre caseworkers and relevant staff to ensure continuity of care and education for young people.	<b>Accepted</b>
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
It is recommended that reintegration and preparation for life in the community be a priority for all young people as soon as possible on entry to detention regardless of remand or sentenced status.	<b>Accepted</b>

<b>Recommendation 5</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
<p>It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of life-skills programs to enable young people to be independent. Programs may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtaining Identification</li> <li>• Job interview techniques</li> <li>• Effective communication and negotiation</li> <li>• How to vote and simple politics</li> <li>• Budgeting and financial awareness</li> <li>• Parenting</li> <li>• Applying for accommodation</li> <li>• Driver safety.</li> </ul>	Accepted in principle
<b>Recommendation 6</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
<p>It is recommended that caseworkers at the detention centres link short-term admissions (young people who stay for up to one week) with the relevant YJSC casework team to engage the young person in strategies to prevent a return to detention.</p>	Accepted in principle
<b>Recommendation 7</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
<p>It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of criminogenic programs, regardless of remand/sentenced status, to prevent a cycle of recidivism. Programs may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence Awareness and Prevention;</li> <li>• Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle;</li> <li>• Drug Addiction;</li> <li>• Talks by Adult Offenders both reformed and currently in custody or on parole.</li> </ul>	Accepted in principle
<b>Recommendation 8</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
<p>It is recommended that Youth Justice Service Review Team work with BYDC to determine the cause and reduce the number of incidents involving the use of force and the frequency of use of force.</p>	Accepted in principle
<b>Recommendation 9</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
<p>It is recommended that Youth Justice Services develop a standardised incident report template to prompt more detailed information, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was force used and which type of force was used?</li> <li>• How was the young person presenting prior to and during the incident?</li> </ul>	Accepted in principle

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why was the use of force required?</li><li>• Was a nurse called?</li></ul>	
<b>Recommendation 10</b>	<b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b>
It is recommended that YJS and BYDC find efficiencies in the current workflow process for incidents, particularly at Unit Manager review stage, and ensure staff are up-skilled to effectively document and review incidents prior to progressing to the Unit Manager for review.	<b>Accepted</b>