

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

June Quarter 2013

The statutory inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 3-7 June 2013. The primary inspection focus area was the Operational Preparedness for Transferring Young People to the newly built facilities. This area was examined to assist identify any potential operational risks for staff and young people prior to the relocation to the new facilities. Inspectors queried:

- What training and orientation opportunities staff have been provided with?
- What contingency testing has occurred?
- What is the process of transferring young people to the new facilities?

The inspection was not a quality assurance process of systems and equipment.

The commissioning of Stage one commenced on 3 June 2013 and involved representatives of WATPAC (the builders) and Project Services conducting quality assurance testing on systems and equipment. The commissioning stage was scheduled for 28 days, at the end of which the new facilities were required to be major fault and defect free. On completion of the commissioning stage, representatives of Project Services and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) were to conduct further testing of systems and equipment for five consecutive days. Any major faults or malfunctions identified in this time were to be rectified, with the testing to resume for an additional five days and until such time as all items are major fault free for five consecutive days. At the time of finalising the report, (29 July 2013) the commissioning stage had not been completed, and advice from the Centre Director was that the fault free testing is envisaged to begin by 5 August 2013.

In relation to operational preparedness, Inspectors found that the Centre Director has prepared strategies to transfer the young people to the new facilities. However, there have been minimal opportunities available to provide staff with a formal orientation to the new centre and equipment, as the commissioning stage had not been finalised. The Centre Director advised that many staff have had the opportunity of a site tour over the past 12 months. Inspectors were advised that opportunities for training will occur after the commissioning stage has been finalised and prior to the young people being accommodated in the new facilities.

The Inspectors also identified that the Centre Director had implemented a new behaviour development model for the young people prior to them being transferred to the new facilities. The rationale for this was to ensure that the young people had a clear set of expectations for their behaviour and what behaviour would be appropriately rewarded.

The Inspectors found that the new behaviour model is very different from the previous model and was being implemented at the time of the inspection. The new behaviour development model rewards or consequences the young people's behaviour on a daily basis. The previous model provided feedback on a weekly basis and did not suitably target young people's behaviour. At the time of the inspection the model had only recently been implemented, and as such there was no evidence to support whether or not the new model assisted in reducing incidents by improving young people's behaviour.

Inspectors also inspected against the centre's preparedness to respond to major incidents, as there is potential for incidents to occur by opportunistic young people during such times when change is taking place. Inspectors used similar incidents within other Australian youth detention centres, as well as examples of incidents which occurred at CYDC in the last six months as a reference point.

The Inspectorate has made a total of four recommendations that, if implemented as intended, will assist in ensuring the Director-General's statutory requirements continue to be met in relation to the move into the expanded detention centre site.