

**Office of the Assistant Director-General
Youth Justice**

Response to the Youth Detention Inspectorate June 2017 Report the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

Youth Justice welcomes the Youth Detention Inspectorate Report for the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) for the June 2017 quarter.

In order for the youth justice system in Queensland to be effective in addressing the underlying causes of offending, there must be rigorous oversight mechanisms to ensure young people in detention are managed appropriately, safely and securely in accordance with the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*.

The CYDC June 2017 quarterly report does not make any new recommendations.

The report makes a number of positive findings in relation to the provision of health services provided to young people, improved security measures and staff training, increases in delivery of therapeutic programs and enhancing the transition arrangements for young people exiting youth detention. The report also found that the level of contraband located is low and decreased from previous years.

These findings are very positive for CYDC and are due to a number of reforms implemented by management and staff within the Centre. CYDC should be commended for their commitment to ensuring young people who are in detention are held accountable for their behaviour while at the same time investing in programs and services aimed at addressing the underlying causes of their offending.

As we know, youth detention can at times be volatile and challenging environments for staff who work with young people in the youth justice system.

Youth Justice is committed to continuous improvement to ensure services evolve with contemporary best practice.

Youth Justice is also actively working on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Youth Detention and the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre Incident Investigation.

This work complements the significant reforms Youth Justice have undertaken since 2015 in recognition that an effective youth justice system could not be determined by compliance alone but must provide real outcomes for young people that lead to positive changes in their lives.

I want to thank the Youth Detention Inspectorate for their work in compiling this report for the June 2017 quarter which contributes to the effectiveness of youth detention in Queensland and provides better outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.

I also want to thank youth detention staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis and who are committed to improving the lives of those young people who they work with.

Sean Harvey
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Department of Justice and Attorney-General**

