

# Executive Summary

The quarterly statutory inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 9 to 13 April 2018. The inspection focus areas were security, the use of force (mechanical restraints), the reporting of harm, relationships between staff and young people, and programs and purposeful activity.

As recently announced, capacity at CYDC is increasing via the construction of an additional 12 beds in February 2019, however, the number of detained young people is increasing and unless the demand for capacity is reduced, young people will continue to be banked up in watch houses for the remainder 2018. Further, should the demand for capacity continue to exceed what is available, young people will remain in watch houses after the new unit is operational. As such, the report makes a recommendation to Youth Justice to investigate detention centre demand options.

Staff shortages was a continuing issue; however, the impacts on young people had been minimised through continuous separation and the provision of programs and activities within units. The recruitment of the intelligence officer and the planned works to allow this position enhanced access to CCTV footage and Arunta phone call monitoring will further increase the centre's proactive approach to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of young people and staff.

As part of incident reporting on the use of mechanical restraints (handcuffs), inspectors consider this practice to be in line with the required standards. Data shows that when handcuffs are used, appropriate protocols are followed and handcuffs are removed at the earliest opportunity to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. A mandatory medical check is performed by a nurse for any young person who has been subject to the use of handcuffs.

There is opportunity for staff at all levels to report and record harm via DCOIS, case notes, the medical centre and other referral processes. Harm continues to be a focus during training for new recruits and existing staff. The Inspectorate acknowledges that the Youth Justice Directorate is currently working on a harm policy to define physical, emotional and lasting harm to enhance staff ability to manage effected young people.

Regarding relationships, inspectors witnessed some very positive interactions between staff and young people and a healthy level of respect shown both ways. No concerns were raised by young people to the inspectors, nor evident as a wide-spread issue in complaints data.

The Inspection week occurred during the Easter school holiday period and Inspectors observed a full schedule of programs and activities available for young people who provided positive feedback to inspectors in this regard. Now that the first stage of the zone fencing has been completed around most units, this effectively provides young people with their own private ovals rather than being limited only to indoor common areas and ferneries.

In closing, CYDC is performing well in all areas subject of this inspection, however, the Inspectorate sees the issue of overcrowding and young people remaining in QPS watch houses continuing into the foreseeable future, but this is beyond the control of CYDC management.