

Executive Summary

This is a report of a quarterly statutory inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC). The on-site inspection occurred from 19 to 23 November 2018. Statutory detention centre inspections are conducted by delegated inspectors, located within Governance, Corporate Services. A report of each inspection is provided to the Director-General.

Inspections conducted during the December quarter each year are to verify the progress of Inspectorate made recommendations accepted for implementation by Youth Justice Services in previous inspection reports. At the time of inspection, there were 11 recommendations (three from the March and eight from the June 2018 BYDC inspection reports) in progress. The March 2018 recommendations included:

- Recommendation 1 – not-to-mix and conflict reduction measures (closed);
- Recommendation 2 – youth detention capacity and demand pressures (closed);
- Recommendation 3 – staff recruitment and retention.

The Inspectorate notes that while investigation has been completed to inform strategies to manage youth detention capacity and demand pressures (Recommendation 2, March 2018), these demand pressures remain an issue and will continue to be monitored.

It should be noted that, at the time of this inspection, the June 2018 inspection report and recommendations had only recently been accepted by Youth Justice Services. This was due to the delayed drafting process caused by organisational changes. The Inspectorate noted, however, that BYDC had already commenced action to address the recommendations with advanced progress observed by inspectors. The June 2018 recommendations included:

- Recommendation 1 – suicide observation assurance measures (closed);
- Recommendation 2 – suicide risk training for staff;
- Recommendation 3 – separation procedures in the Oak unit (closed);
- Recommendation 4 – separation data analysis;
- Recommendation 5 – behaviour development model implementation;
- Recommendation 6 – behavioural plan communication process (closed);
- Recommendation 7 – management presence and leadership (closed);
- Recommendation 8 – restriction/removal of excessive cleaning products from young people's rooms (closed).

The Inspectorate's September 2018 quarter recommendations were undergoing consultation at the time of this inspection and were not subject to verification and, therefore, are not included in this report. Further, as part of organisational changes during 2018, seven recommendations made prior to machinery-of-government changes were verified and closed in consultation with Youth Justice Services.

One of the highlights observed in this inspection was a young person who had been participating in Leaves of Absence to attend work experience and practical elements leading to the attainment of a Certificate III in fitness. Inspectors witnessed the great enthusiasm from various staff and management to support the successful reintegration of this particular young person. The Inspectorate commends BYDC and Youth Justice Services to explore the successful elements of this example with a view to increasing reintegration activities for all young people.