

## Response by Youth Justice to the BYDC & CYDC Inspection Report, June 2020

Youth Justice welcomes the June 2020 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate update for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) and Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC).

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 provide critical insights and evidence-based advice to ensure youth detention services evolve with contemporary best practice.

The focus areas this quarter included:

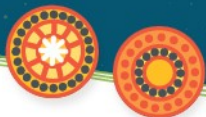
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response
- Mental health and disability assessment and services
- Security management
- Body worn cameras.

Youth Justice welcomes and accepts all three recommendations made this quarter. Immediate actions have been taken in response including:

- Commencing review and adaptation of the youth detention centre inter-agency governance framework to ensure a continuous learning approach and a dedicated focus on the mental health and disability needs of detained young people.
- Extending the project scope of the Business Analyst engaged as part of the New Youth Detention Project team to include consideration to recommendation 2 (strengthened information sharing and case management processes).

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Youth Detention Inspectorate for their important work to improve the youth justice system. Also acknowledged are the youth detention staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis and their tireless 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 Youth Justice**



Recommendation 1	Accepted/Not Accepted
<p>It is recommended that continued discussions occur with the relevant agencies (Youth Justice, Queensland Health, NDIA, Department of Education and Department of Child Safety) to continue to develop an integrated and coordinated partnership approach to addressing health and developmental needs (specifically in the context of neurodevelopmental impairment/disability) of young people within the youth justice system, particularly high risk young people and resolving current barriers in service provision.</p> <p>It is further recommended that Youth Detention Operations explore opportunities to improve communication and continue to build on and develop relationships across agencies to enhance the provision of paediatric services and comprehensive neurodevelopmental assessments.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>
Recommendation 2	Accepted/Not Accepted
<p>It is recommended that Youth Detention and Operations conduct a review of interagency and external communication methods and procedures and implement necessary changes to improve communication across agencies to ensure all relevant information can be considered in intervention and case planning for young people.</p> <p>It is further recommended that Youth Justice Operations review youth detention centre caseworker responsibilities and practice guidelines with the goal to improve coordination and collection of information to guide more effective case planning to better support the holistic needs of young people.</p> <p>Whilst the Inspectorate acknowledges constraints within the current client information system, it is further recommended that feedback is provided to the business liaison officer for the new upcoming information system regarding improvements to be made to centralised recording of outcomes of assessments and testing relevant for intervention and case planning with young people.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>
Recommendation 3	Accepted/Not Accepted
<p>It is recommended that Youth Detention and Operations engage with and address the full results of the UQ survey <sup>1</sup> once finalised, and explore training and professional development opportunities for all operational and professional staff to increase workforce capability and confidence in managing behaviours associated with neurodevelopmental and other cognitive impairments.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The Child Health Research Centre at University of Queensland recently released a survey to all youth justice staff to gain insight into workforce capability in regards to managing the behaviour difficulties associated with neurodevelopmental disorders.