

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Brisbane Youth Detention Centre December quarter 2016

The *Youth Justice Act 1992* requires each youth detention centre to be inspected at least once every three months. Statutory inspections are conducted by Principal Inspectors of the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit, Office of the Director-General.

The December quarterly inspection of BYDC occurred from 6 to 8 December 2016, and an additional follow up inspection occurred on 20 January 2017. The inspection involved a physical on-site verification of 18 Director-General approved recommendations made by the Inspectorate during previous inspections.

Precis of recommendations and implementation status

No.	Original Recommendation Month / Year of Inspection Report	Completed / Partially implemented / Not implemented	Explanation Satisfactory?	Comment by Inspectors
1.	It is recommended that consultation occurs with referral agencies to agree the provision of the required pre-admission information and the agreed arrangements documented. March 2015 Inspection Report	Completed	N/A	A Memorandum of Understanding to share client information has been developed between the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities.
2.	It is recommended that assessments be undertaken by caseworkers in a confidential area, such as an interview room or visits rooms. March 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	It was identified that purpose-built interview rooms are being used to store staff lockers and other items which Inspectors believe could be stored elsewhere. Advice from the Executive Director is that this will be considered in the planned upgrades to the centre.

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3.	It is recommended that the Admission assessment tool be reviewed and applied if possible through the use of laptop or iPad. March 2015 Inspection Report	Partially implemented	Yes	The Executive Director authorised the purchase of two iPads for the casework team; however, the risk assessment tool has not been placed on the iPads.
4.	It is recommended that a Centre search matrix is developed by the Centre to ensure all areas of the facility are searched on a regular basis. March 2015 Inspection Report	Partially implemented	No	Whilst DCOIS has the requirement for searches of areas of the Centre there is no master search matrix, and there appeared to be no quality assurance checks or data correlations for the individual search entries that are made. Entries in DCOIS had significant detail missing. Advice from the Executive Director is that this will not be implemented until April 2017.
5.	It is recommended that blind spots in the three-person cells are eliminated so that cell detection cameras effectively cover the required areas. March 2015 Inspection Report	Completed	Not required	It was identified that bedrooms retrofitted to accommodate three young people instead of two now have camera coverage.
6.	It is recommended that a procedure be developed for the operation of Oak and any similar options used for the Separation of young people. June 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	Nil.
7.	It is recommended that the Executive Director BYDC ensure that the medical dispensing shelves remain clean and are not utilised for the storage of non-medical materials. June 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	Closer and regular monitoring by BYDC management required.

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8.	It is recommended that the centre introduces a quality assurance process to ensure that the SR2 Observation sheets are correctly completed as required. Additional consideration should also be given to reviewing the SR2 format to allow comments to be provided adjacent to observations rather than simply as a summation of the entire shift. June 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	It was identified that there has been no quality assurance process developed to ensure that SR2 Observation sheets are completed correctly as required. This could be completed on a daily basis during the Suicide Risk Assessment Team review.
9.	It is recommended that the Executive Director BYDC ensures that a maintenance schedule is developed and implemented that ensures the fabric and equipment of the Centre are regularly reviewed, and repaired or replaced to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the YP and security of the Centre. June 2015 Inspection Report	Partially implemented	No	It was found that the centre has regular maintenance occurring. However, it was also found that some accommodation units still require additional attention, particularly in regards to graffiti and general cleanliness and condition of the units and the young people's bedrooms.
10.	It is recommended that all Behaviour Development Plans (BDP) reviews are recorded in DCOIS and that the standard format is used for all aspects of BDPs. June 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	N/A
11.	It is recommended that the Executive Director BYDC document a required standard in relation to all aspects of the Centre and a formatted inspection table for each area be developed and introduced as the guidelines for the management inspection. September 2015 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	No evidence of any work commenced to enhance the level of inspections at a local level.

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12.	It is recommended that the role of staff members tasked with conducting one-on-one suicide observations is elaborated on with a clear definition of duties and responsibilities. March 2016 Inspection Report	Not implemented	No	Advice from the Director, Youth Justice Practice Programs and Design is that the recommendation will likely be implemented by April 2017.
13.	It is recommended that the Assistant Director-General, Youth Justice authorises a cost-benefit analysis to explore the purchase or lease of electronic contraband detection equipment with the aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that unclothed searches are not conducted as standard practice when children and young people are admitted to detention; • Improving the reliability of the current system, which does not have the ability for staff to identify internal secretions; • Ensuring that all unclothed searches are conducted on reasonable grounds necessary for the security of detention centre employees and young people. March 2016 Inspection Report	Partially implemented	No	In June 2016 Youth Justice purchased a Smiths Detection Ego millimetre wave body scanner and an Ion Scanner. At the time of the inspection the Smiths Detection Scanner was being installed and not fully operational, as an Operating Procedure had not been developed and staff had not been trained in the operation of the scanner.
14.	It is recommended that the Executive Director develops and implements a practice to ensure that newly-admitted young people are adequately observable by staff charged with ensuring their wellbeing, safety and security throughout the admission process. March 2016 Inspection Report	Partially implemented	Yes	Centre management has redesigned the layout of the admissions area to allow for the instalment of the Smiths Detection Scanner.
15.	It is recommended that the cancellation of family visits and medical escorts is not considered as an option to reduce the number of overtime shifts at BYDC. June 2016 Inspection Report	Completed	N/a	Family and legal visits have not been cancelled as a means of reducing overtime costs.

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16.	<p>It is recommended that Youth Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a behaviour development model which incorporates the ability for young people who demonstrate appropriate behaviour with an opportunity to live in the Independent Living Units to assist the young person learn and experience everyday life skills such as self-management, cooking, cleaning and preparing them for release from detention; Develop a defensible risk assessment tool which assists managers identify those young people who are considered a minimal risk of absconding or creating incidents whilst on off centre transition and reintegration activities; Provide suitable young people with an opportunity to participate in off centre community based programs to assist them in making the transition from being in detention to independence. <p>June 2016 Inspection Report</p>	Partially implemented	Yes	<p>It was identified that Youth Justice has developed a policy for the use of the Independent Living Units for suitable young people.</p> <p>Advice from the Executive Director is that the risk assessment tool has now been developed.</p>
17.	<p>It is recommended that all bedrooms are provided with a modesty curtain which is replaced immediately it becomes unserviceable.</p> <p>June 2016 Inspection Report</p>	Not implemented	No	<p>It was identified that a considerable number of young people did not have a modesty curtain in their bedrooms.</p>
18.	<p>That works on all rooms in Bunya and Cedar requiring repainting and repair be undertaken as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>June 2016 Inspection Report</p>	Not implemented	No	<p>It was identified that some accommodation rooms in Bunya and Cedar still require repainting and repair due to the amount of graffiti and wilful damage.</p>

The Inspectorate is concerned that there was minimal evidence found during the inspection and follow-up inspection that the majority of Director-General approved recommendations had been implemented. Additionally, none of the outstanding recommendations were identified, or argued by BYDC, to have become obsolete or overtaken by subsequent events.

It is noted that in some instances, the Youth Detention Review was provided as a reason for non-implementation. While the Review was resource-intensive for Youth Justice (and other business areas), many of these matters were due to be implemented before the Review was announced on 19 August 2016. The demands of the Review should not therefore be accepted as a basis for the non-implementation of some recommendations.