

## Executive Summary to Inspection Report Brisbane Youth Detention Centre March quarter 2014

Under Section 263 (1) of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, the chief executive is responsible for the security and management of each youth detention centre and the safe custody and wellbeing of children detained in these centres.

Section 263 (4) states that the chief executive must monitor the operation of the detention centres and inspect each detention centre at least once every 3 months.

The inspection function is delegated to Inspectors of the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit.

The statutory inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) occurred from 17-21 March 2014. The primary focus area was health service provision to young people in custody. The Brisbane Childrens Court Cells were also inspected on 27 March 2014.

Section 263 (3) of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* states that: in relation to each detention centre, the chief executive is responsible for – (a) providing services that promote the health and wellbeing of children detained at the centre.

Monitored areas were contraband detection processes and unclothed searches of young people.

In relation to health service provision it was identified that there is a range of health services for young people, which include on-site nursing coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week; access to two Visiting Medical Officers; Dental and Optometrist services as well as sexual health clinics. These services are provided, managed and funded by Queensland Health.

Inspectors found that there are systems and process in place to ensure that all young people are assessed by a registered nurse upon admission to the centre, and are examined by one of the two Visiting Medical Officers within 48 hours of being admitted to detention.

All young people interviewed advised Inspectors that they were comfortable and confident that they could access medical services if required.

Queensland Health also provides services to assist young people who have mental health or drug related issues. These services are provided by the Mental Health, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Service (MHATODS) which consists of counselling services, psychiatrists, social workers and Indigenous health workers.

There were no significant issues or concerns identified by the Inspectors or raised with the Inspectors in relation to the provision of health services to young people in custody.

The monitored areas included contraband detection strategies and unclothed searches on young people.

It was identified that there are process and procedures in place for regular search routines to assist in identifying any contraband being brought into the centre. It was also found that the contraband found in the previous 12 months primarily consisted of low level threats such as cigarettes. There were no significant findings or recommendations made in this report.