

Response to the Youth Detention Inspectorate June 2017 Report of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre

Youth Justice welcomes the Youth Detention Inspectorate Report for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) for the June 2017 quarter.

In order for the youth justice system in Queensland to be effective in addressing the underlying causes of offending, there must be rigorous oversight mechanisms to ensure young people in detention are managed appropriately, safely and securely in accordance with the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*.

The BYDC June 2017 quarterly report does not make any new recommendations.

It is pleasing that the Inspectorate reported the level of contraband found through the admission process was low, that young people were treated respectfully through the admissions process and that the level of physical/mental health services provided to young people was found to be high.

Further, the Inspectorate acknowledged the work undertaken to address a range of issues previously identified.

In relation to the operation of the body scanning machine, BYDC have decided to resume the trial of the machine to ultimately ensure that the privacy of young people is maintained and there are appropriate protocols and procedures in place for staff to use the machine effectively. As part of the ongoing trial, additional training will be provided to staff to ensure they are appropriately and professionally trained so they can provide better services to young people in youth detention.

As we know, youth detention can at times be volatile and challenging environments for staff who work with young people in the youth justice system.

Youth Justice is also actively working on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Youth Detention. This work complements the significant reforms Youth Justice have undertaken since 2015 in recognition that an effective youth justice system could not be determined by compliance alone but must provide real outcomes for young people that lead to positive changes in their lives.

I want to thank the Youth Detention Inspectorate for their work in compiling this report for the June 2017 quarter which contribute to the effectiveness of youth detention in Queensland and provide better outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.

I also want to thank youth detention staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis and who are committed to improving the lives of those young people who they work with.

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