

Response by Youth Justice to the CYDC Inspection Report, September 2018

Youth Justice welcomes the September 2018 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate report for the 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 also provide critical insights and evidence-based advice to ensure youth detention services evolve with contemporary best practice.

The focus areas under inspection in this quarter were education and training, programs and purposeful activity, use of force and incident reporting. CYDC accepts all 9 recommendations (6 in principle) which have been made in the report. Some recommendations are already underway with existing work and immediate steps have been taken to implement all recommendations. These actions include:

- Service enhancements which speak to the ability to deliver effective therapeutic programming to young people in CYDC
- Ongoing work to improve and clarify recording guidelines for young person school attendance, this includes access to reasons for absenteeism and electronic system enhancements.
- Ongoing work to maximise the availability of, and young people's participation in, learning and rehabilitation through meaningful vocational training pathways.
- The pilot implementation of a strengthened reintegration planning template, commensurate to the assessed risk of young people.
- The proactive exploration and planned delivery of a more comprehensive suite of offence-focussed, criminogenic programs.
- Improved behaviour development processes, including the implementation of a new rewards and incentives scheme and a trauma-informed 'Behaviour Support Plan' to better assist staff to manage complex and challenging behaviours.

Youth Justice Services is also actively working on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Youth Detention Centres in Queensland. These reforms support and complement the practice improvements recommended by the Youth Detention Inspectorate.

The Youth Detention Inspectorate is thanked for their important work to improve the youth justice system. The efforts of youth justice staff around Queensland who are helping to build a better youth justice system and improve the lives of young people through the development of the Youth Justice Strategy are also acknowledged.

Darren Hegarty
Senior Executive Director, Youth Justice Services
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

| Recommendation 1 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
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| The Inspectorate recommends that CYDC investigate ways to ensure that all eligible young people are able to attend school every day. | Accepted in principle |
| Recommendation 2 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and CYDC together with EQ devise a clear and transparent way to record school attendance and ensure CYETC is notified of reasons for absences. | Accepted |
| Recommendation 3 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| The Inspectorate recommends that YJS increase VET availability and participation by investigating value for money options to engage young people in VET course and job readiness training while on centre and through transition, with incentives for retaining young people in courses through to completion. Other options to investigate include providing adequate supervision arrangements to allow young people to attend TAFE on campus. | Accepted in principle |
| Recommendation 4 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of anti-criminogenic programs, regardless of remand sentenced/status, to prevent a cycle of recidivism. Programs may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic and Family Violence Awareness and Prevention • Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles • Drug Addiction • Talks by Adult Offenders both reformed and currently in custody or on parole. | Accepted in principle |

| Recommendation 5 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
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| The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and CYDC devise a clear and transparent way to record program attendance in line with intended improvements to education attendance recording, and which permits individual and group data analysis of delivery and outcomes. | Accepted |
| Recommendation 6 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| Is it recommended that reintegration and preparation for life in the community be a priority for all young people as soon as possible on entry to detention, regardless of remand or sentenced status. | Accepted |
| Recommendation 7 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of life-skills programs to enable young people to be independent. Programs may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining identification • Job interview techniques • Effective communication and negotiation • How to vote and simple politics • Budgeting and financial awareness • Parenting • Applying for accommodation • Driver safety. | Accepted in principle |
| Recommendation 8 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| Is it recommended that caseworkers at the detention centres link short-term admissions (young people who stay for up to one week) with the relevant YJSC casework team to engage young people in strategies to prevent a return to detention. | Accepted in principle |
| Recommendation 9 | Accepted/Not Accepted |
| It is recommended that CYDC conduct a fresh risk and WHS assessment of the use of one section supervisor per two units. The assessment should evaluate the adequacy of current staffing levels, visibility levels, administrative accountabilities and tasks required of section supervisors, and the safety of youth workers on the floor. The assessment should culminate in an assurance statement provided to the Inspectorate as to whether the current arrangements are appropriate and safe, and why; and if not, what alternative is to be put in place instead. | Accepted in principle. |