

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Brisbane Youth Detention Centre March quarter 2015

The inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre occurred from the 16-20 February 2015. The primary inspection focus area was the Admission into Custody and Pre-Court Procedures. The monitored areas were searches involving the removal of young person's clothes and contraband.

Inspectors noted that staff were welcoming, co-operative and informative. Youth Workers appeared busy with tasks and/or engaged with young people. Staff were observed to interact positively with the young people and reinforce appropriate behaviour in a low key and authoritative manner. Staff demonstrated a sound knowledge of the young people and the operations of the Centre. Additionally they were observed to have positive interactions and a good rapport with the young people. Staff were observed appropriately and sensitively managing some young people presenting with very complex, difficult and challenging behaviours. There also appeared to be a collaborative team approach amongst the Youth Workers and Supervisors.

In relation to Admission to Custody, Inspectors found good processes and practices in operation.

The Admissions area whilst not "child friendly" in design and appearance was neat, clean and well maintained. However high levels of graffiti were present in the holding cells and ablution area.

Admission staff seek relevant pre-admission information from other agencies regarding each of the young people and identified that this is not always provided or available at the time of admission.

Initial assessments undertaken by Centre based caseworkers are undertaken in the accommodation area often with other young people and staff in close proximity. Caseworkers report the assessment tool used may not have been reviewed in the last nine years or more. Additionally the assessment is handwritten and keyed into a computer on return to an office area.

There were no significant issues or concerns identified by the Inspectors or raised with the Inspectors in relation to the unclothed searches of young people.

Inspectors identified that whilst cell searches in the accommodation areas appear to occur on a daily basis there was no consistent practice with Section Supervisors reported varying methods and numbers of rooms being searched. There is no evidence of approved cell property or property limits.

Cell searches appear not to include any inspection of the cell and no consistent or required reporting of the outcome or findings. Cell property in some cells was excessive with large numbers of magazines and toiletries which would hamper contraband searching.

Inspectors found that the Centre garden and grounds required maintenance.

Accommodation units and cells showed evidence of significant wear and tear, that could be addressed by a Centre based maintenance review.

Inspectors found that some areas of the Centre had recent modifications that affected the initial design purpose and which require immediate review.