

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

The Inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) occurred from 14 to 18 March 2016. The primary inspection focus areas were Suicide prevention and the Reporting of harm to children in detention. The monitored areas were Complaints system and Searches involving the removal of young people's clothes.

Inspectors acknowledge the commitment and professionalism demonstrated by all levels of staff at BYDC during the week of the inspection.

In reference to Suicide risk it was found that the centre has processes and systems in place which assist staff in identifying children and young people who are at risk of attempting self-harm or demonstrating suicidal behaviours whilst in detention.

Inspectors have made three recommendations in this area, which Youth Justice has agreed to implement.

For the focus area of reporting harm it was identified that Youth Justice has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to ensure identified incidents of harm to children and young people in custody are reported appropriately. All incidents of harm which occur in youth detention are also reported to the Office of the Public Guardian for oversight and monitoring. There were no issues raised or identified for this focus area.

In relation to the monitored area of Complaints systems it was identified that the Centre has several strategies in place to manage the complaints process, these include regular visits by Community Visitors and Child Advocates from the Office of the Public Guardian who accept written and verbal complaints from children and young people in detention.

Additionally there are avenues for parents, care providers and stakeholders to make a formal complaint either at the centre or via the Department's website.

The monitored area of searches requiring the removal of a young person's clothes identified that previous recommendations made by the Inspectorate have been implemented. These changes provide more dignity to a young person who is being searched. Additionally Youth Justice has purchased sophisticated electronic contraband detection equipment which will be introduced into BYDC in mid-2016. This equipment will further reduce the need for searches involving the removal of a young person's clothes.

The next statutory inspection of BYDC will occur from the 13 to 17 June 2016. The planned focus areas are Family and Community Contact and Transition from detention. The monitored area is Facilities and environment.