

**Response by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA)
to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (YDC) BYDC) and Cleveland (YDC) CYDC Inspection
Report, September 2020**

On behalf of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA), I welcome the September 2020 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate update for Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (YDC) BYDC and Cleveland (YDC) CYDC .

Rigorous and transparent oversight is essential to ensure young people in detention are managed appropriately, safely and securely in accordance with the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and Youth Justice Regulation 2016. Youth Detention Inspectorate recommendations provide critical insights and evidence-based advice to ensure YDCs evolve with contemporary best practice.

The focus areas this quarter included:

- COVID-19 pandemic response,
- legal rights and access,
- complaints process, and
- recreation and purposeful activities.

DCYJMA welcomes and accepts the September 2020 report.

Despite the many challenges of 2020, including direct COVID-19 impacts on YDC staff, quarantine processes impacting young people's detainment and machinery of government changes following the 2020 Queensland election, work in each of the focus areas is well-progressed and aligns with the inquiries and findings of this Inspection report.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Inspectorate for their important work to improve the youth justice system. Also acknowledged are the YDC staff working in these challenging environments on a daily basis and their tireless commitment to improving the lives of young people and ensuring the safety of YDCs.

Darren Hegarty
Senior Executive Director, Youth Detention and Operations
Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Recommendation 1	Accepted/Not Accepted
BYDC consult with internal and external stakeholders to develop a collaborative response to improve the process and prioritisation of video link court appearances and connection to duty lawyers prior to court.	Accepted
Recommendation 2	Accepted/Not Accepted
BYDC takes necessary action to ensure record keeping and complaints categorisation is in line with policy, and that this discrepancy be monitored for the next quarter via the central monitoring and oversight process.	Accepted
Recommendation 3	Accepted/Not Accepted
As part of the existing program of work by the Senior Speech Language Pathologist, a resource guide on preparing 'Easy English' correspondence for young people be developed and available for use by managers of Client Relations and other staff as required.	Accepted
Recommendation 4	Accepted/Not Accepted
<p>Opportunities be explored for specific section supervisor training modules, with a focus on leadership and role clarity, be available online and in a self-paced format, ensuring easy and consistent access, irrespective of staffing pressures or experience levels of supervisors.</p> <p>Further, as an ongoing initiative, it is recommended section supervisors be prioritised to deliver training to new inductees as a resource-effective method for establishing a shared understanding of what is taught in inductee training and consistent application of practice.</p>	Accepted