

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre June quarter 2015

The *Youth Justice Act 1992* requires that each Queensland youth detention centre is inspected at least once every three months. The inspections are conducted by the Principal Inspectors of the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit, Office of the Director-General.

The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) in Townsville was inspected from 22 to 26 June 2015. The two primary inspection focus areas were Behaviour Management and Staff and Young People Relationships. Following from the March 2015 inspection the use of force (including mechanical restraints) and the use of separation of a young person were also inspected.

In relation to the behaviour management system the Inspectors have recommended further development of the current system by including additional suitable rewards for young people who demonstrate appropriate behaviour. Additionally more suitable consequences should also be considered for those young people who demonstrate serious misbehaviour whilst in detention.

Any enhancement to the behaviour management system should be consistent with the principles of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2003*, be evidence-based and in line with contemporary best practices for managing children and young people in custody.

In respect to staff and young people relationships the Inspectors observed numerous positive interactions between staff and young people, including staff participating with the young people in recreational programs such as sporting and gardening activities.

In the focus area use of force, the Inspectors identified the desirability for additional staff training in the use of some types of mechanical restraints, as well as amendments to departmental operational procedures.

For the focus area of separation it was identified that Youth Justice Services has improved the recording and monitoring of young people who are separated in locked rooms to include the time young people are separated in a locked room for staff breaks, staff meetings and because of insufficient staffing at the centre. The Inspectorate commends these improvements.

There are five recommendations made from this inspection and all five recommendations have been accepted by Youth Justice Services.