

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre June quarter 2014

Inspections of Queensland's youth detention centres are required by s263 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to be conducted quarterly. These are carried out by delegated Principal Inspectors within the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit. The June quarter 2014 inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 24–28 June 2014.

The focus of this inspection was on relations between staff and young people at CYDC. The monitored area was the operation of the centre's Behaviour Support Unit (designed for the most challenging and/or high-needs young people). The methodology was guided by relevant criteria within the Director-General's Expectations for Youth Detention Centres. Findings were based on interviews with the Executive Director CYDC; Deputy Director; Manager, Monitoring and Compliance; Programs Coordinator; Programs Officers; Caseworkers; Team Leader; conversations with a variety of shift supervisors, section supervisors, youth workers and young people throughout the centre, and examination of the Detention Centre Operational Information System (DCOIS).

The summarised findings of this inspection are that:

- the treatment of young people at CYDC is humane and courteous;
- there are whole-of centre initiatives to enhance positive relationships;
- most staff recognise and demonstrate the importance of human interaction;
- there is a variety of avenues for young people to raise complaints about alleged staff misconduct; and
- there are multiple structural, staffing and practice issues and opportunities (discussed in the body of the report) that if addressed, have the potential to result in more optimal management of young people.

The report makes two recommendations; essentially, that:

- exit interviews be conducted with departing staff with a view to improving retention rates at CYDC; and

a permanent crew be assigned to the Behaviour Support Unit so that suitably experienced staff can work with the centre's most challenging and high-needs young people.