

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

The Inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre occurred from 7 to 11 March 2016. The primary inspection focus areas were Self-harm and Suicide prevention; and Reporting of harm. The monitored areas were Searches requiring the removal of clothing; and the Complaints process.

Inspectors found staff to be professional, cooperative and supportive during the Inspection process.

In relation to the area of Self-harm and Suicide prevention it was identified that there were good proactive strategies and practices in place at CYDC. Inspectors found that detention youth workers and caseworkers were alert to and actively looking for any indications of self-harm and suicidal intent. Inspectors found that the Suicide Risk Assessment Team meetings were well-managed.

A system comprising of electronic buttons that are situated in the wall beside each young persons bedroom door that staff can press, which digitally records their presence at that place is currently being trialled at the centre. This system provides a more accurate and accountable record of when staff were present to undertake observations.

Inspectors recommended that the policy with regard to suicide observation be enhanced with a clear definition of duties and responsibilities.

The monitored area of searches requiring the removal of clothes identified that previous recommendations made by the Inspectorate have been implemented, which provides more dignity to a young person when being searched. Additionally there is a commitment by the Assistant Director-General Youth Justice to research further strategies which will reduce the necessity for searches requiring the removal of clothes on young people in detention.

Youth Justice has comprehensive policies and procedures contained in the Manual which cover the reporting of harm to children in custody. Youth Justice also provides training to all new detention youth worker recruits in the identification and reporting of harm to young people in detention. There were no significant findings or concerns identified in relation to this area.

In relation to the Complaints process, the centre admission induction provided to all young people details how to make a complaint regarding perceived mistreatment. The complaint system provides for verbal and written complaints to the centre. The centre addresses all complaints it receives from young people and refers serious complaints to the department's Ethical Standards Unit or the Queensland Police Service.

The department provides complaint information and forms on its website for parents, care providers, stakeholders and visitors.

The Centre is visited by a Community Visitor and Child Advocate from the Office of the Public Guardian which accepts both written and verbal complaints from young people. Inspectors have made recommendations, similar to suggestions made by the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman to improve the accessibility of the complaints process.