

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

The statutory inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 13 to 17 March 2017. The focus areas were **Security** and **Management**. The monitored areas were the **Use of Force**, **Contraband** and **Incident Reporting**.

Security

On 10 November 2016 a riot occurred at CYDC causing serious staff injuries and considerable damage to centre property. At the time of the inspection the majority of staff directly involved in the riot were still unable to return to work due to physical and mental trauma. Following this incident there have been considerable security enhancements at CYDC including:

- training for staff in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
- securing windows, doors and utility holes (manholes);
- exploring options to build an additional security fence; and
- barriers to reduce access to roofs of buildings.

From January 2017, staff have been provided with basic training in the use of PPE including shields, helmets and body armour. The Acting Executive Director (A/ED) has commenced discussions with Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) regarding additional incident management training applicable for Youth Detention.

There has been a review of movements of young people to and from school and early assessments indicate a decrease in the number of incidents. Whilst this restructuring has provided staff with additional control and supervision, EQ advised it had reduced school contact hours, however, this is a work in progress and school access time will be expanded.

Inspectors observed a considerable amount of spare time available when young people were not attending school and this time was largely being spent confined to accommodation units. This resulted in some units becoming unruly and increases the risk of incidents occurring.

Management

Following the November 2016 riot there have been changes in the centre's management team, including the replacement of the ED and Operations Manager. As in other inspections, Inspectors identified the need for greater coalface monitoring of the centre by management. The A/ED CYDC advised of positive action in that regard.



Monitored areas

During consultation, the Assistant Director-General (ADG) YJ advised the Inspectorate that CCTV monitoring functions are to be centralised within YJ to afford even greater scrutiny to incidents. The Inspectorate welcomes the new practice which allows the monitoring of footage of all incidents involving the use of force on young people in a just-in-time manner. There were no significant incidents of contraband at CYDC, and most detected items were minor e.g. pens and pencils, although there were some incidents of cutlery being located.

Recommendations

The report makes three recommendations (repeated below in full) to address identified issues in relation to enhancing PPE training, incident management and structured programs. The recommendations were accepted by the A/ED CYDC and ADG YJ.

During the December 2017 verification inspection, the Inspectorate will examine the extent to which these new recommendations (and others outstanding from previous inspections) have been implemented. The focus of the June 2017 quarter inspections will be Admissions to Custody and the related areas of Health Services, Removal-of-clothing searches and Contraband detection.

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that expert advice is sought from QCS and QPS to evaluate and provide input and advice in relation to the standard of training being provided to youth detention staff in the use of PPE for defensive purposes.

Accepted: Yes

Responsible Officer: ADG YJ

Nominated Timeframe: Decision to be taken by 30 June 2017 as to whether intermediate PPE training will be provided to selected staff (i.e. beyond the rollout of basic PPE training to accommodation and operations staff at both centres that commenced in January 2017). During subsequent inspections the Inspectorate will monitor the development and rollout of any intermediate PPE training that is committed to by YJ.

Recommendation 2

To assist the safe management of the centre, the Inspectorate recommends that suitable training is provided to relevant staff positions that could be expected to act as Incident Controllers during significant incidents. Such training should provide staff with the skills and confidence to manage incidents that have the potential to escalate rapidly. Consideration should be given to training shift supervisors, all members of the centre's management team, and primary stakeholders such as the Nurse Unit Manager and School Principal.



The training should be provided by persons with relevant credentials and experience, for example, representatives from QCS and/or QPS. Any training provided should be relevant to the requirements of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJA) and *Youth Justice Regulation 2016* (YJR) as well as relevant United Nation Standards to which Australia is a signatory.

Accepted: Yes

Responsible Officer: ADG YJ

Nominated Timeframe: Decision to be taken by 30 June 2017 as to whether Incident Management training will be provided to relevant staff members at both centres who may be required to assume specific roles during serious incidents (e.g. Incident Controllers). During subsequent inspections the Inspectorate will monitor the development and rollout of any Incident Control training that is committed to by YJ. This recommendation has obvious cross-centre application and any training sourced would be expected to flow on to BYDC.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the Executive Director CYDC authorise a structured range of programs as well as activities for young people at times when they are not attending school. Programs should be age appropriate and assist with the rehabilitation and transition from detention. Input from the young people and staff should be included in the development of any program or activities.

Accepted: Yes

Responsible Officer: Executive Director CYDC

Nominated Timeframe: As soon as practicable. The Inspectorate notes the ongoing nature of this recommendation and as such will monitor developments in this area during future inspections.

