

Response by Youth Justice to the BYDC & CYDC Inspection Report, December 2019

Youth Justice welcomes the December 2019 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate update for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) and Cleveland Youth Detention Centres (CYDC).

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

The focus this quarter was the closure of previous recommendations and review of those which remained open from previous inspections. For BYDC, there were 22 open recommendations dating back to March 2018. Following verification of BYDC and Youth Justice Services implementation actions, 10 of these recommendations are now closed. For CYDC there were 18 recommendations in progress dating back to June 2018. Following verification of CYDC and Youth Justice Services implementation actions, nine of these are now closed.

Youth Justice continues to implement each of the remaining 21 recommendations through various initiatives and reviews. All recommendations are in progress and are expected to be complete by the end of 2020.

Youth Justice Services is also actively working on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Youth Detention Centres in Queensland. These reforms support and complement the practice improvements recommended by the Youth Detention Inspectorate.

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

Darren Hegarty
Senior Executive Director, Youth Justice Services
Department of Youth Justice

BYDC Recommendations

March 2018 Recommendations (BYDC)	
March 18 - Rec 3 (Recruitment)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice investigate strategies that improve recruitment, retention and work attendance at BYDC; reduce the reliance on overtime; and remove some of the current risks to young people's service delivery and safe custody.	Closed
June 2018 Recommendations (BYDC)	
June 18 - Rec 2 (Suicide Risk Training)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that BYDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immediately direct staff to complete Suicide Response training as a priority, and • provide assurances that there are sufficient staff currently trained in suicide response to adequately cover every accommodation unit, particularly during night shift. 	Open
June 18 - Rec 4 (Separations Data)	Status
It is recommended that YJS build on the extensive dataset commissioned for this report to ensure that, beyond the current broad view of separation in monthly incident data, the individual experience of locked-door separation is captured in readily-accessible data and put at the forefront of future performance reporting in an effort to reduce separations.	Open
June 18 - Rec 5 (Behaviour Model)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services develop and implement a behavioural model as a matter of urgency and immediately increase the content and availability of training (internal and external) for new and existing staff in the area of behaviour development to ensure staff are educated and able to recognise triggers and positively manage young people who display challenging behaviours.	Closed
September 2018 Recommendations (BYDC)	
September 18 - Rec 1 (School Attendance Recording)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and BYDC together with Department of Education devise a clear and transparent way to record school attendance and ensure BYETC is notified of reasons for absences.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 2 (VET and Job Readiness)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS increase VET availability and participation by investigating value for money options to engage young people in VET courses and job readiness training while on centre and through transition, with incentives for retaining young people in courses through to	Open

completion. Other options to investigate include providing adequate supervision arrangements to allow young people to attend TAFE on campus.	
September 18 - Rec 3 (Youth Justice Detention Centre and Service Centre Communication)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services establish a communication strategy between the detention centres and Youth Justice Services Centre caseworkers and relevant staff to ensure continuity of care and education for young people.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 4 (Reintegration)	Status
It is recommended that reintegration and preparation for life in the community be a priority for all young people as soon as possible on entry to detention regardless of remand or sentenced status.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 5 (Life-skills)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of life-skills programs to enable young people to be independent.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 6 (Links to Community)	Status
It is recommended that caseworkers at the detention centres link short-term admissions (young people who stay for up to one week) with the relevant YJSC casework team to engage the young person in strategies to prevent a return to detention.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 7 (Criminogenic Programs)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of criminogenic programs, regardless of remand/sentenced status, to prevent a cycle of recidivism.	Open
September 18 - Rec 8 (Cause and Frequency of Use of Force)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Service Review Team work with BYDC to determine the cause and reduce the number of incidents involving the use of force and the frequency of use of force.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 9 (Incident Reports)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services develop a standardised incident report template to prompt more detailed information.	Open
September 18 - Rec 10 (Incident Review)	Status
It is recommended that YJS and BYDC find efficiencies in the current workflow process for incidents and ensure that Shift Supervisors are up-skilled to ensure they can review incidents prior to progressing to the Unit Manager for review.	Open
March 2019 Recommendations (BYDC)	
March 19 - Rec 1 (PPE Use)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services reviews policy and procedures to provide clarity and confidence in the reasonable minimum use of PPE to efficiently resolve incidents and ensure the	Open

safety of persons and property.	
March 19 - Rec 2 (PPE Training)	Status
It is recommended that following the reviews of PPE policy and procedures Youth Justice Services considers developing new intermediate training for staff, particularly those likely to be incident controllers, with a focus on strategic use of the equipment relevant to various possible scenarios, to be delivered on a regular basis at both centres.	Open
March 19 - Rec 3 (PAC Training Frequency)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services considers delivering Protective Actions Continuum (PAC) training using an assessment of competency to inform the frequency and individualised content of PAC refresher training.	Open
March 19 - Rec 4 (Increased Outside Physical Activity)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services consider alternatives to lockdowns and restrictions on outside physical activity in response to incidents.	Closed
March 19 - Rec 5 (Security Alerts)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services establish a 'Security Alert' process, whereby, alerts and learnings following incidents are shared between both detention centres and communicated with all staff, to promote awareness and the implementation of consistent security improvements across both centres. Methods of communication could include, for example, text messaging.	Open
March 19 - Rec 6 (Compliance with Operational Security Processes)	Status
It is recommended that detention centre management implement increased compliance monitoring to enhance discipline and adherence to operational security processes.	Open
March 19 - Rec 7 (Management of High Risk Behaviour)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services in consultation with relevant government departments develops multi-agency strategies to respond to the needs of young people with high risk behaviours related to issues including but, not limited to mental health issues, young people experiencing disability and substance misuse.	Open
March 19 - Rec 8 (Partially-clothed Search Methods)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services investigates the potential difference in the application of policy between both detention centres in relation to partially-clothed searching of young people and implement less invasive search methods.	Closed

CYDC Recommendations

June 2018 Recommendations (CYDC)	
June 18 - Rec 2 (Suicide Risk Training)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that CYDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase and maintain suicide response training currency to the 85% target, and provide assurances that there are sufficient staff currently trained in suicide response to adequately cover every accommodation unit, particularly during night shift. 	Closed
June 18 - Rec 3 (Separations Data)	Status
It is recommended that YJS build on the extensive dataset commissioned for this report to ensure that, beyond the current broad view of separation in monthly incident data, the individual experience of locked-door separation is captured in readily-accessible data and put at the forefront of future performance reporting in an effort to reduce separations.	Open
September 2018 Recommendations (CYDC)	
September 18 - Rec 1 (School Attendance)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that CYDC investigate ways to ensure that all eligible young people are able to attend school every day.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 2 (School Attendance Records)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and CYDC together with Department of Education devise a clear and transparent way to record school attendance and ensure CYETC is notified of reasons for absences.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 3 (VET and Job Readiness)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that YJS increase VET availability and participation by investigating value for money options to engage young people in VET courses and job readiness training while on centre and through transition, with incentives for retaining young people in courses through to completion. Other options to investigate include providing adequate supervision arrangements to allow young people to attend TAFE on campus.	Open
September 18 - Rec 4 (Criminogenic Programs)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of criminogenic programs, regardless of remand/sentenced status, to prevent a cycle of recidivism.	Open
September 18 - Rec 5 (Program and Education Attendance)	Status

The Inspectorate recommends that YJS and CYDC devise a clear and transparent way to record program attendance in line with intended improvements to education attendance recording, and which permits individual and group data analysis of delivery and outcomes.	Open
September 18 - Rec 6 (Reintegration)	Status
It is recommended that reintegration and preparation for life in the community be a priority for all young people as soon as possible on entry to detention regardless of remand or sentenced status.	Closed
September 18 - Rec 7 (Life-skills)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services and the detention centres make available a suite of life-skills programs to enable young people to be independent	Closed
September 18 - Rec 8 (Links to Community)	Status
It is recommended that caseworkers at the detention centres link short-term admissions (young people who stay for up to one week) with the relevant YJSC casework team to engage the young person in strategies to prevent a return to detention.	Closed
March 2019 Recommendations (CYDC)	
March 19 - Rec 1 (PPE Use)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services reviews policy and procedures to provide clarity and confidence in the reasonable minimum use of PPE to efficiently resolve incidents and ensure the safety of persons and property.	Open
March 19 - Rec 2 (PPE Training)	Status
It is recommended that following the reviews of PPE policy and procedures Youth Justice Services considers developing new intermediate training for staff, particularly those likely to be incident controllers, with a focus on strategic use of the equipment relevant to various possible scenarios, to be delivered on a regular basis at both centres.	Open
March 19 - Rec 3 (PAC Training Frequency)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services considers delivering Protective Actions Continuum (PAC) training using an assessment of competency to inform the frequency and individualised content of PAC refresher training.	Open
March 19 - Rec 4 (Increased Outside Physical Activity)	Status
The Inspectorate recommends that Youth Justice Services consider alternatives to lockdowns and restrictions on outside physical activity in response to incidents.	Closed
March 19 - Rec 5 (Security Alerts)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services establish a 'Security Alert' process, whereby, alerts and learnings following incidents are shared between both detention centres and communicated with all staff, to promote awareness and the implementation of consistent security improvements across	Open

both centres. Methods of communication could include, for example, text messaging.	
March 19 - Rec 6 (Compliance with Operational Security Processes)	Status
It is recommended that detention centre management implement increased compliance monitoring to enhance discipline and adherence to operational security processes.	Closed
March 19 - Rec 7 (Management of High Risk Behaviour)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services in consultation with relevant government departments develops multi-agency strategies to respond to the needs of young people with high risk behaviours related to issues including but, not limited to mental health issues, young people experiencing disability and substance misuse.	Open
March 19 - Rec 8 (Partially-clothed Search Methods)	Status
It is recommended that Youth Justice Services investigates the potential difference in the application of policy between both detention centres in relation to partially-clothed searching of young people and implement less invasive search methods.	Closed

