

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

Youth Justice welcomes the September 2019 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate report for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) and Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (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 areas under inspection in this quarter were admission, searching and management of prohibited items, physical environment, case planning, the positive behaviour support model, and surveillance technology. Youth Justice accepts all 4 recommendations which have been made in the report. Some recommendations are already underway with existing work and immediate steps taken to implement all recommendations.

These actions include:

- Strengthening of policies and procedures as they relate to the use of admissions holding rooms as an absolute last resort where extenuating circumstances are present
- Both centres are collaborating to develop a more efficient intake process where a young person has been admitted to the same centre within a two week period
- Review of the existing young person induction booklet, incorporating a young person friendly design
- A comprehensive analysis of contraband detected in youth detention centres is underway intended to identify contemporary issues such as the types of contraband entering youth detention centres, any trends, and inform what search practices are most appropriate moving into the future.

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**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation 1</b>   | <b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b> |
| The Inspectorate recommends that the centres record more consistently the approving officer and rationale for use of admissions holding rooms for one or more nights in a single field in the detention centre operational information system (DCOIS), to enable reporting of this information. | <b>Accepted</b>              |
| <b>Recommendation 2</b>   | <b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b> |
| It is recommended that the centres implement a shortened process 'wellbeing intake' to be performed by caseworkers when a young person has been re-admitted to the same centre within a two-week period.  | <b>Accepted</b>              |
| <b>Recommendation 3</b>   | <b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b> |
| It is recommended that the centres review searching practices based on the effectiveness of current search methods as shown in the data.  | <b>Accepted</b>              |
| <b>Recommendation 4</b>   | <b>Accepted/Not Accepted</b> |
| It is recommended that the centres implement consistent methods of recording restricted, prohibited and illegal items located on centre to increase the reliability of available data.  | <b>Accepted</b>              |