

Executive Summary

This is a report of a quarterly statutory inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC). The on-site inspection occurred from 3 to 7 December 2018. Statutory detention centre inspections are conducted by delegated inspectors located within Governance, Corporate Services. A report of each inspection is provided to the Director-General.

Inspections conducted during the December quarter each year are to verify the progress of Inspectorate made recommendations accepted for implementation by Youth Justice Services in previous inspection reports. At the time of inspection, there were seven recommendations in progress (one from the March 2018 and six from the June 2018 inspection reports).

The subject of the March 2018 recommendation was youth detention centre capacity and demand pressures, which has now been closed. However, the Inspectorate notes that while investigation has been completed to inform strategies to manage youth detention capacity and demand pressures, these demand pressures remain an issue and will continue to be monitored.

It should be noted that, at the time of this inspection, the June 2018 inspection report and recommendations had only recently been accepted by Youth Justice Services. This was due to the delayed drafting process caused by organisational changes. The Inspectorate noted, however, that CYDC had already commenced actioning the recommendations from June 2018; which included:

- Recommendation 1 – suicide observation assurance measures (closed);
- Recommendation 2 – suicide risk training for staff;
- Recommendation 3 – separation data analysis;
- Recommendation 4 – behaviour development model implementation (closed);
- Recommendation 5 – behavioural plan communication process (closed);
- Recommendation 6 – management presence and leadership (closed).

The Inspectorate's September 2018 quarter recommendations were undergoing consultation at the time of this inspection and were not subject to verification and, therefore, are not included in this report. Further, as part of organisational changes during 2018, five recommendations made prior to machinery-of-government changes were verified and closed in consultation with Youth Justice Services.

One of the highlights observed in this inspection was the engagement of staff and young people with the rewards component of the behaviour development model, which had just been rolled out. It is expected that this will more meaningfully incentivise young people going forward, and lead to improvements in both on-centre behaviour and post-release functioning (e.g. through increased leaves of absence from independent living units to undertake reintegration activities). The Inspectorate commends CYDC for this initiative and will monitor outcomes in behaviour, reintegration activities and so forth during 2019 inspections.