

Executive Summary

The Inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) occurred from 28 August to 1 September 2017. The inspection focus area was the upcoming transition of 17 year-old (y.o.) offenders into the youth justice system. Areas subject to regular monitoring were Complaints, Incident and Harm Reporting, and the Use of Force.

In relation to the focus area, the department has postponed the transition of 17 y.o. offenders until 12 February 2018, when it will commence in stages. Meanwhile, BYDC is continuing to implement a raft of operational and vocational/educational measures in advance of the arrival of the older cohort.

In relation to the monitored areas, complaint handling was found to be occurring satisfactorily, with some opportunities identified to improve business processes. A variety of issues with incident reporting had already been identified at centre level, and the Inspectorate commends BYDC to resolve these locally. Further opportunities were identified in relation to more fine-grained analyses of force usage by staff, particularly in relation to the ground stabilisation technique.

The report makes two recommendations that are intended to improve recruitment levels at the centre and ensure that unit staff are not unduly diverted from supervising detainees by any increase in their administrative duties. Two matters that would otherwise have resulted in recommendations (the need for improved CCTV footage extraction and review, and the need to conduct more detailed analyses of force) have, on the advice of Youth Justice, already been covered within proposed implementation strategies for the 83 recommendations of the 2016 Youth Detention Review. The Inspectorate acknowledges the measures that have been and will continue to be undertaken by BYDC and Youth Justice to address these issues.