

## Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre September quarter 2014

Inspections of Queensland's youth detention centres are required by s263 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to be conducted quarterly. These are carried out by delegated Principal Inspectors within the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit. The September 2014 quarter inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 25 to 29 August 2014.

The methodology was guided by the Director-General's Expectations for Youth Detention Centres. Elements of the following Expectations were examined:

- Security
- Contraband
- Admissions and pre-court procedures.

Findings were based on interviews with the Executive Director CYDC; Operations Manager; Manager, Monitoring and Compliance; Court Management Officer, and conversations with a variety of shift supervisors, operations staff, section supervisors, youth workers and young people throughout the centre, and examination of the Detention Centre Operational Information System (DCOIS). The summarised findings of this inspection are that:

- Dynamic security related to the consistent management of young people within units was being hampered by wider staffing shortages, inexperience and a high number of casual staff that work from unit to unit.
- Positively, there was one current round and one imminent round of recruitment for new permanent staffing positions, and work was underway to develop standard operating procedures to tighten the management of young people.
- Inspectors found that staff assault incidents in the most recent twelve months (26) were lower than levels seen in 2013. Following the Inspectorate's highlighting of the issue in March 2014 with the Assistant Director-General, Youth Justice Services and the Director-General, this report makes a recommendation that CYDC develop specific violence reduction and response strategies for staff assaults.
- During consultation, CYDC advised that a new initiative — Protective Actions Continuum Plus — has now been developed by Youth Detention Operations, in part to address incidents of violence in youth detention centres (currently awaiting approval). CYDC advised that it would develop a complementary localised strategy to meet the recommendation through the development of a standard action plan for staff that are assaulted and subsequently press charges.
- The ongoing construction works at CYDC presented the most significant security risk, although Inspectors observed fewer conspicuous items to aid opportunistic disturbances by young people, and note that the works are largely drawing to a close at the end of 2014.
- There had been increases in contraband levels within the centre over the most recent quarter, including smoking materials and data storage items.

- Positively, CYDC had tightened its admissions procedures to enhance detection of prohibited items on the persons of young people originating from the community and other custody.

Inspectors also noted that there was a high volume of court video links being conducted, thereby reducing cost and security issues associated with off-centre appearances, and there had also been improvements to scheduling and security matters related of the on-centre video link facilities.