

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Brisbane Youth Detention Centre

### March Quarter 2012

The statutory inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre occurred from 12 - 21 March 2012. The primary focus areas inspected were:

- Security Management and Contraband Detection Strategies;
- Health Services;
- Complaints;
- Reporting of Harm;
- Admissions to Brisbane Youth Detention Centre;
- Suicide Risk; and
- Brisbane Children's Court Cells.

The inspection criteria were informed by the Youth Detention Expectations document. The Expectations document was developed from *Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons England and Wales Juvenile Expectations* and modified to reflect:

- *Youth Justice Act 1992*
- *Youth Justice Regulations 2003*
- United Nations Standards to which Australia is a signatory
- Government approved recommendations from the *Commission of Inquiry Into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions* (Forde Inquiry)
- *The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (RCIADIC).

The March quarterly inspection also involved the use of an external specialist Inspection and Research Officer from the West Australian Office of the Custodial Inspector. The Inspection Officer is experienced in inspecting both juvenile and adult correctional facilities and holds particular knowledge and skills in security systems and security practices.

On the first day of the inspection, the Inspectors were made aware of an incident which occurred at the centre on 10 March 2012. The incident involved male young people disobeying staff directions and entering the centre's swimming pool while it was also being used by the female young people. The mixing of male and female young people in the swimming pool is not permitted at the centre.

The incident involved claims of sexualised interaction between four young people (entwined as couples, male and female), while they were in the swimming pool. The incident lasted approximately six hours and ceased when the young people volunteered to remove themselves from the pool.

During the incident, (and evident from CCTV footage sighted by the Inspectors) one young person was able to leave the swimming pool and climb on to the roofs of two separate buildings.

The Inspectors made a number of findings in relation to the incident and recommendations to improve management and review of such matters.

Security systems were reviewed and found to be effective. A number of observations were made with a view to improving effectiveness. The Inspectorate noted advice regarding planning for a the commencement of a significant security upgrade at BYDC which involved ascertaining the requirements for replacing the current copper cabling for the centre's camera system with more reliable fibre optic cabling; the need for a review of the electronic lock systems for the young people rooms; and consideration of the requirements for additional fencing and lighting throughout the centre.

The Health Services Unit, which is funded and administrated by Queensland Health, met the requirements of the Department of Communities, Youth Detention Inspectorate's Expectations document (the Expectations). Although the Health Services are not regularly inspected by the Youth Detention Inspectorate, the Inspectors have been advised that the medical centre undergoes regular assessment by qualified medical practitioners employed by Queensland Health.