

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Brisbane Youth Detention Centre September quarter 2013

Inspections of Queensland's youth detentions are required by s263 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* to be conducted on a quarterly basis. Statutory inspections are carried out by delegated Principal Inspectors within the Youth Detention Inspectorate, Ethical Standards Unit.

The September quarter 2013 inspection of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) occurred from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The focus areas were:

- Relations between staff and young people
- Restoration and reintegration.

Both focus areas were evaluated against the department's approved Expectations for Queensland Detention Centres, which are derived from state and international law and key recommendations from relevant inquiries committed to by governments (including the Forde Inquiry and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody).

Other regularly-monitored areas that fell due in this inspection were:

- incident and harm reporting
- searches of young people involving the removal of clothes
- operation of the Brisbane Childrens Court cells.

The following themes emerged in relation to focus and monitored areas:

- Relations between staff and young people were observed and reported to be generally healthy. Within this report is discussed the variety of mechanisms that deal with such practice exceptions as do occur.
- The Programs area at BYDC continues to be in a state of transition while work continues to reorient programming towards more meaningful and measurable anti-offending outcomes. The Inspectorate requested that BYDC complete Appendix C in order to highlight development and innovation in the Programs area in relation to all current programs BYDC runs that it considers to be rehabilitative, reintegrative, and restorative i.e. anti-offending in the broadest sense. This occurred during consultation.
- A strategy needs to be developed to drive the reinvigoration of reintegration activities at BYDC to obtain lasting footholds for young people in the community. Consideration should be given to the extent to which victim restoration could be included in this approach to better hold young people to account for their offences by engaging with victims of crimes, in an effort to reinforce the anti-offending focus taking shape in other areas such as Programs. The Assistant Director-General accepted the Inspectorate's recommendation to drive change in this area, following rollout of the Youth Justice Blueprint in March 2014.

In total the report makes five recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Director BYDC and the Acting Assistant Director-General, Youth Justice, according to their areas of responsibility.