

Executive Summary to Inspection Report Cleveland Youth Detention Centre March 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 March quarter 2014 inspection of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) occurred from 17 to 21 February 2014. Consultation feedback was received on 23 April 2014. In accordance with the approved Inspection framework and procedure, findings were based on interviews with the Executive Director CYDC; Deputy Director; Manager, Monitoring and Compliance; Programs Coordinator; Programs Officers; Caseworkers; Team Leader; and conversations with a variety of shift supervisors, section supervisors, youth workers and young people throughout the centre, and examination of relevant documentation from the Detention Centre Operational Information System.

The focus of this inspection was on the endeavours made by CYDC to rehabilitate and reintegrate young people via offence-focused programs and transitional and reintegrative activities, compared with the level of recreational programming offered. Rehabilitation and reintegration are major objectives of relevant youth justice legislation and policy (see page 5). The methodology was guided by relevant criteria within the Director-General's Expectations for Youth Detention Centres. Detailed findings are tabled against each criterion from page 7 onwards.

The main findings of this inspection are that there exist many potential opportunities to improve the breadth and depth of reintegration activities in ways that better assist young people to desist from offending and take up more prosocial engagement in community life after their release. Likewise, there exist many opportunities to refocus programs for young people, away from the current emphasis on recreational content and towards more offence-focused programming, and to ensure improvements in the throughput and successful completions of the two departmental offence-focused programs that are delivered on-centre. No new recommendations are made in order that CYDC and Youth Justice Services set their own priorities for addressing the findings of this inspection in line with the Youth Justice Blueprint and the Deputy Director CYDC's in-progress review of program delivery at CYDC.