

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **Why do we need a new youth detention centre in Cairns?**

- The Queensland Government's comprehensive response to youth crime includes a commitment to provide more regional youth detention services, facilitating connection to family, community, Country, and support services during detention and when transitioning back into community.
- Cairns is a priority area based on population growth & already high numbers of young people in detention.

### **Where will the new YDC be located?**

- The exact location of the new YDC in Cairns has not been determined.
- The site that is ultimately chosen will need to meet important criteria for the effective operation of the centre and have minimal negative effects on nearby residents and businesses.
- The location of the centre should ensure easy access for families, educational services, healthcare facilities, provide easy access for employees and contractors, while ensuring safety for young people and staff.

### **When will the local community be consulted?**

- Members of the community will have the chance to have their say once the site of the new centre once a site has been decided and an initial design has been developed.

### **What will the new centre look like?**

- The design of the new centre has not been finalised as the site has not been decided.
- However, it will be built in line with contemporary and best practice design, and will be screened by native vegetation.

### How will the new centre work?

- Youth detention centres play a crucial role in the management, rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders into our communities.
- Research shows a shift towards therapeutic approaches to detention will support improved results for young people and improved community safety.
- A more proactive and holistic approach that takes into account the unique circumstances and challenges faced by young offenders will contribute to a reduction in recidivism.
- One of the key features of a therapeutic model is the emphasis on mental health support. Many young offenders have experienced trauma, abuse, or neglect, which can contribute to their involvement in criminal activities.

### Is this a therapy centre?

- Although therapeutic, this is a place to consider the consequences of an offence.
- Programs and services will aim to help young people take responsibility and be held accountable for their actions.
- The centre will promote prosocial values and behaviours, which evidence shows can lead to improved outcomes such as reduced rates of arrests and detention as well as lower rates of recidivism.
- By setting clear boundaries and consequences for inappropriate behaviour, youth detention centres aim to teach accountability and responsibility.
- Finding the right balance of welfare, justice and security is essential in creating an environment that promotes growth and accountability among young people in detention.

### Will there be disruption to the community?

- When it comes to youth detention centres, one of the key goals is to minimise disruption to the community.
- The centre will be designed to provide a safe and secure environment for young offenders while also addressing their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- Often people are concerned about security in surrounding areas of youth detention centres. It's important to consider that young people who attend the centre will be accessing the centre via transport – not wandering around in the community.