

Office of the Assistant Director-General
Youth Justice

Response to the Youth Detention Inspectorate Reports December 2017 – Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

Youth Justice welcomes the December 2017 quarterly Youth Detention Inspectorate (YDI) reports for the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) and the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC).

In order for the youth justice system in Queensland to be effective in addressing the underlying causes of offending, there must be rigorous oversight mechanisms to ensure young people in detention are managed appropriately, safely and securely in accordance with the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*.

These reports outline the status of recommendations made by the YDI. There are recommendations made to both BYDC and CYDC that have been implemented, partially implemented, outstanding and some to be written off given progression of work. Youth Justice will continue to implement the accepted recommendations in line with current reforms to improve practices with youth detention.

Youth Justice are continuing to reform the youth justice system through the transition of 17-year-olds into the youth justice system and through the implementation of recommendations from the Youth Detention Review. This work complements the significant reforms Youth Justice have undertaken since 2015 in recognition that an effective youth justice system could not be determined by compliance alone but must provide real outcomes for young people that lead to positive changes in their lives.

As these youth justice reforms continue to roll out it is critical that the voice of young people, in detention and in the community, is heard and responded to. The work of the Inspectorate is a valued avenue of engagement with young people as well as an important oversight mechanism of our detention centres.

As we know, youth detention can at times be volatile and challenging environments for staff who work with young people in the youth justice system.

Youth Justice is committed to continuous improvement to ensure services evolve with contemporary best practice.

Again, I thank the Inspectorate for their important work. I also acknowledge the efforts of youth justice staff around Queensland who are helping to build a better youth justice system and improve the lives of young people.

Darren Hegarty
Assistant Director-General
Youth Justice
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women