

Services in youth detention centres

Queensland youth detention centres are dedicated to rehabilitating young people and improving their life outcomes. We provide a range of programs and services to support their development during their time in detention, including a 48-week education program as well as cultural, health and therapeutic services.

Our programs and services are delivered within the centres by a team of highly qualified professionals, including caseworkers, psychologists, teachers and speech-language pathologists. These experts tailor their efforts with the aim to improve each young person's behaviour and decision-making abilities so they can start making better choices.

Each program is customised to the individual, taking into account their age, gender, experience, cognitive development, cultural background and educational needs. This personalised approach ensures that every young person receives the support they require to develop new and existing skills in both education and employment. For those aged 16 years and older, we provide opportunities to gain employment qualifications, enabling a smoother transition back into the community and increasing their prospects for a better future after detention.

Programs

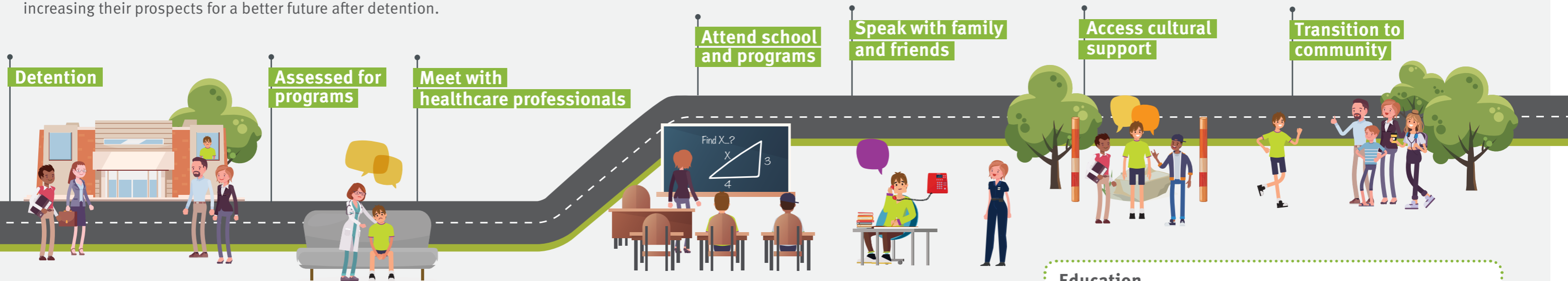
Young people participate in a variety of programs during their time in detention, some with the option to gain qualifications. They receive guidance on returning to school, pursuing careers and accessing employment and skill development opportunities.

- Change-oriented programs.
- Targeted cultural programs.
- Sport, recreation and fitness.
- Transition to community and mentoring.
- Targeted health programs.

Community-based

Communication with parents, family, friends, Elders and other important community members is available and encouraged for all young people in detention. Approved leave can be requested for external activities that may help future integration into the community.

- Attend education or training sessions.
- Face to face, mail, phone and video call communication with family.
- Engage in employment opportunities.



Health and therapeutic

Queensland Health provides services during business hours and after-hours, supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing. These services help young people understand their emotions, identify triggers, seek help and make better choices. A range of clinical services and strategies are used to provide support.

- 24/7 primary onsite healthcare.
- Suicide risk assessment team and onsite allied health teams.
- Mental health specialists, including access to social workers, Indigenous health workers and psychiatrists.

Visiting supports

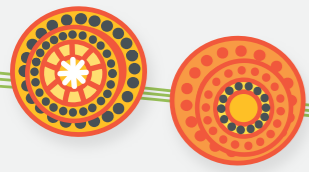
Visiting support allows family members, friends and significant others to visit young people, providing crucial emotional and social support.

- Family, partners, friends and significant others.
- Department staff members.
- Legal representatives such as Legal Aid QLD, Youth Advocacy Centre.
- Community-based caseworkers.
- Support agencies.
- Accredited visitors, including community visitors and other oversight agencies.

Education

Young people in detention are required to participate in education and vocational training programs five days a week. These programs aim to bridge gaps in literacy and numeracy, preparing them for a successful return to education after detention.

- Queensland Pathways College.
- Core curriculum topics.
- Extra-curricular activities.
- Vocational Training Queensland.



Programs and services in Queensland youth detention centres

ONSITE

Cultural support

- Cultural units and cultural liaison officers.
- Cultural engagement officers.
- Cultural visits coordinators.
- Program facilitators.
- Transition officers.
- Chaplaincy services, resources, and observation of religious practices.

Therapeutic and multi-disciplinary support

- Caseworkers.
- Restorative practice coordinators.
- Psychologists and psychiatrists.
- Counsellors.
- Speech-language pathologists.
- Cultural staff.
- Court support officers.
- Case advisors.
- Youth workers and senior operational staff.
- Young People Liaison Committee – young people raise issues and discuss solutions with staff.

Health

- Partnership with Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services.
- 24/7 onsite primary healthcare, including:
 - ▶ general, emergency, sexual and mental healthcare
 - ▶ drug and alcohol assessments including management of withdrawal
 - ▶ counselling and health promotion activities
 - ▶ maternal/paternal, antenatal and child health.
- Visiting medical officers.
- Immunisation and pathology collection.
- Suicide risk assessment team.
- Referral to onsite Forensic Child and Youth Mental Health Service.
- Referral to secondary and tertiary health care, including outpatient, emergency and specialist services.

Programs

- Program coordinators and delivery officers.
- Fitness facilitators and development, sport and recreation coordinators.
- Programs tailored to meet individual risk and needs, including:
 - ▶ educational, vocational training and skills, including arts programs
 - ▶ targeted cultural programs (for example Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, dance and cultural history programs, and dedicated time with local Elders)
 - ▶ speech and language
 - ▶ sport, recreation and fitness
 - ▶ life skills
 - ▶ targeted health programs
 - ▶ behavioural change
 - ▶ domestic and family violence
 - ▶ transition to community and mentoring.

Education

- Partnership with the Department of Education - youth education and training centres.
- Education and training programs and services five days a week for 48-weeks per year.
- Principals, deputy principals, heads of department, teachers, transition officers.
- Core curriculum topics, such as literacy and numeracy, in addition to extra-curricular activities such as drama, music, job-readiness, sporting activities, cultural programs and personal development programs.
- Specialist support as needed, including visual teachers, special education teachers, guidance officers and occupational therapists.
- Queensland Pathways College.
- Vocational Training Queensland:
 - ▶ certificates in hospitality, engineering, horticulture, construction pathways, creative industries, digital media and technology, automotive vocational pathways, visual arts, bricklaying, barbering and fitness.

COMMUNITY BASED

Leave of absence

- To seek or engage in paid or unpaid employment.
- To attend any place for educational or training purposes.
- To visit family, relatives or friends.
- To take part in sport, recreation, or entertainment, including sporting tournaments against local schools.
- To attend a funeral (including Sorry Business or Sad News).
- Any other purpose that may assist in the young person's reintegration into the community.

Communications

- Mail, phone and video call with parents, family members, carers, friends, other persons, legal support and other professionals, including:
 - ▶ legal representatives
 - ▶ Office of the Public Guardian
 - ▶ Queensland Ombudsman
 - ▶ Human Rights Commission
 - ▶ Inspector of Detention Services
 - ▶ caseworkers
 - ▶ child safety officers.

VISITING SUPPORTS

Personal visitors

- Family, kin, care providers, partners, friends and other significant support people.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, cultural healers and respected persons.
- Religious community agencies and representatives.
- Other community groups.

Accredited visitors

- Minister.
- Member of the Legislative Assembly.
- Director-General.
- Inspector of Detention Services.
- Departmental staff members.

Professional visitors

- Queensland Police Service.
- Office of the Public Guardian community visitors.
- Legal representatives and services, such as Legal Aid Queensland, ATSILS, Youth Advocacy Centre and other support agencies.
- Child safety officers.
- Youth Justice Service Centre community caseworkers.
- External program facilitators.

Current as at June 2024.

