



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rehabilitation & Reintegration Inspection Report – Inspection of Adult Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2018

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector’s Rehabilitation & Reintegration Inspection Report 2018 was tabled in both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament today with recommendations to address rehabilitation and reintegration activities within the Tasmania prison system.

Inspections against the Rehabilitation and Reintegration standards were undertaken in October 2018 across adult custodial centres including Risdon Prison Complex (RPC), Rob Barwick Prison (RBP), Mary Hutchinson’s Women’s Prison (MHWP) and Hobart Reception Prison (HRP).

Custodial Inspector Richard Connock has identified urgent areas of priority for rehabilitation and reintegration in the adult custodial system with particular reference to prisoner case management, employment opportunities, access to education programs and reintegration activities.

“As I have noted in previous reports, the Tasmanian Prison Service (TPS) is overstretched at almost every point due to the continual increase in prisoner numbers and existing infrastructure constraints. This also creates system pressures in many areas including education, employment for prisoners and preparation for their release,” he said.

“A guiding principle of the Corrections Act 1997 is that prisoners should be assisted to become socially responsible. Maintaining family and community ties, preparation of prisoners for release and rehabilitation and reintegration are clear themes throughout the Act and activities relating to these themes should be a priority for TPS and a consideration in all aspects of the prison regime,” Mr Connock stated.

“However, the inspection identified that there appears to be very few opportunities for prisoners to work outside of the prison and to re-socialise with family and community in preparation for their release,” he said.

“Frequent lockdowns limit program delivery to the extent that post inspection, my staff have been informed that no programs have been delivered at RPC in the 2020 calendar year (March 2020) and due to the unpredictability of lockdowns none are scheduled,” said Mr Connock.

“Rehabilitation programs that address offending behaviour are vital to reducing re-offending and the related likelihood of people returning to prison. The prison regime must support rehabilitation of prisoners and the current lack of programs, particularly in the maximum prison where prisoners most need assistance, should be addressed as an urgent priority,” Mr Connock said.

“It is clear that a more balanced approach is required for TPS to meet its safety and security obligations while at the same time ensuring prisoners receive rehabilitation and reintegration,” he said.

The response by the Department of Justice to each recommendation can be found in Appendix 1 of the report.

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