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Resources & Systems Inspection Report – Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2019

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector’s Resources & Systems Inspection Report 2019 for Youth Custodial Services was tabled in the Tasmanian Parliament House of Assembly today with recommendations to address a range of management systems within the Tasmania youth prison system.

On release of the Resources & Systems Inspection Report 2019, Custodial Inspector Richard Connock outlined that since the inspection, a new management team has been put in place at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) with notable improvement across centre standards.

“There has been marked improvement at AYDC from observations from the Custodial Inspectorate since the commencement of a new leadership and management team at the centre,” said Mr Connock.

“Most notable is the improvement to staff morale which previously contributed to a host of underlying issues within the workforce. It is pleasing to see this progression which places AYDC in a better position to address recommendations outlined in this inspection report,” he said.

Mr Connock outlined that the AYDC inspection took place in 2019 with considerable concerns raised in relation to employee management.

“The Resources and Systems Inspection Report 2019 highlighted a number of pressing staff issues in relation to staff shortages, excessive overtime, recruitment process and a lack of employee support including the breach of a number of workplace standards and policy requirements,” he said.

“The inspection identified that staff members did not feel supported, empowered or engaged within the workplace and with no human resource support or access on site, staff morale was considerably low,” said Mr Connock.

“Therefore, it is not surprising that AYDC also had an excessive number of worker compensation claims and an overwhelming sentiment of worker fatigue and stress”.

“However, I am confident that the operating environment at AYDC is improving and that continued effort will be made in regard to enhance workforce management,” he said.

Mr Connock also outlined intrinsic issues to record management within the centre that requires considerable attention including the completion of resident case plans.

“As previously reported, poor systems and processes has also exacerbated internal operations of the centre with a general lack of understanding about the importance of maintaining accurate and detailed records,” he said.

“A particular area of concern is incomplete resident case plans and assessments which determine the course of action for each resident including their overall wellbeing. This is a significant risk which requires urgent attention,” said Mr Connock.

This inspection also marks the end of the first three-year cycle for youth prison services in Tasmania and all facets of AYDC have now been inspected against the full set of inspection standards.

[Resources & Systems Report – Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2019](#)

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