



Office of the
**Custodial
Inspector**
Tasmania

Inspection of youth custodial services
in Tasmania

Youth Wellbeing Inspection Report



Easy Read Information



The Office of the Custodial Inspector acknowledges Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania.

We recognise their continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

What is in this paper

- About this information..... 4
- From the Custodial Inspector 5
- Tasmania’s Youth Custodial System 6
- Young people with difficult pasts and needs 7
- The Inspections..... 8
- Recommendations:..... 10
 - Aboriginal Program 11
 - Humanist Chaplain 11
 - Cultural Leaders 12
 - Volunteers and Outside Services 12
 - Religious and Cultural Leaders 13
 - Visitors 14
 - Entry Packs..... 15
 - Money..... 16
 - Canteen..... 17

About this information



The Custodial Inspector wrote this.

When you see the words 'we' or 'us' it means the Office of the Custodial Inspector.



We wrote this information in a way that is easy-to-read.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



Some hard words are written in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker. We explain what the hard words mean.



You can ask for help to read this paper.

You could ask a friend, family member, support person or advocate.

From the Custodial Inspector



It is my job as the Custodial Inspector to check **Custodial Centres**.

Custodial Centres are also known as prisons and youth detention centres.



I did an inspection of Ashley Youth Detention Centre in September 2022.



This is a report that tells you:

- What I found and:
- What I recommend should happen



Richard Connock

Custodial Inspector

June 2024

Tasmania's Youth Custodial System

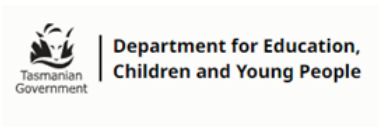


Ashley **Youth Detention Centre** is the only youth detention facility in Tasmania.

We call it AYDC for short.



A Youth Detention Centre is a place where young people are kept if they have or may have broken the law.



The Department for Education, Children and Young People run AYDC.

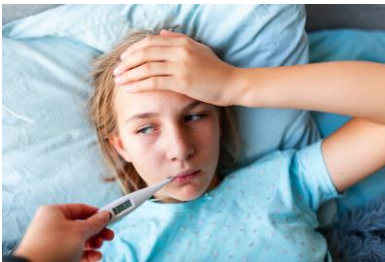
We call them DECYP for short.

Young people with difficult pasts and needs

Many young people in youth detention have come from families that have problems like:



- Family Violence
- Unstable accommodation
- Homelessness
- Childhood abuse



Young people in detention have poorer health than other young people in the community.



They are more likely to have:

- Trouble with learning, understanding and problem solving
- Poor mental health
- Alcohol and drug problems

The Inspections



The Custodial Inspector looked at AYDC in 2022.



We did inspections on:

The **Wellbeing Standards**.



Wellbeing Standards are the rules that should be followed.

These rules help to make sure people are being looked after well.

Wellbeing Standards are about:



- Sport and recreation



- Clothing and toiletries.



- Allowances and canteen.



- Property



- Time out of room.



- Spiritual and cultural life

Recommendations:



Recommendations are things we think need to happen to make things better.

Time out of rooms



Young people spent more time in their rooms because there were not enough staff.

- The DECYP should be able to measure how much time young people spend outside of their room.



We recommended they should share this information and put it in public reports.



When young people are not able to get out of their rooms it is not good for them.



Aboriginal Program

More time should be added to the Aboriginal program with:



- Time spent on country.
- Young people should have access to cultural items.
- AYDC should work with young people to help plan a yarning circle and outdoor cultural garden.



Humanist Chaplain



AYDC should think about having a **Humanist Chaplain**.

A **Humanist Chaplain** is someone who can give advice and talk about life. They're not religious.

Cultural Leaders



- AYDC should hold meetings with cultural leaders who visit the detention centre.

They should talk about their concerns and what they saw.

Volunteers and Outside Services



- There should be a plan to involve volunteers and outside services.

- Have a **memorandum of understanding**.

We call it a **MOU** for short.



An **MOU** is an agreement between groups about how they will work together.



The **AYDC young people consultation group** should help with the MOU.



The **AYDC young people consultation group** is a group of young people from AYDC.

They meet and talk about how to make things better there.

Religious and Cultural Leaders



- Religious and cultural leaders should talk to new youth workers.

They should help new workers understand their role at AYDC.

Visitors

AYDC should look at how people visit

- the detention centre.



There should be an **induction**.

Induction is telling new people about the rules and how things run.



The Induction should talk about:

- safety concerns, and
- how to report them to staff.



The DECYP has to check that all staff and visitors follow the rules for working with young people.



These are special rules called Working with Vulnerable People.



These rules should say if you volunteer or work and at what location.

DECYP also must make sure they keep their policy for working with vulnerable people up to date.

Entry Packs

When you are sent to AYDC, you are given an entry pack.



- More socks and underwear should be put into the entry packs.



- Rain ponchos and weatherproof clothing should also be given to the young people.



This means young people can go outside in any weather.

Money



When a young person goes into AYDC, they get a money allowance.



They can spend this on the canteen and toiletries.

The amount of money has stayed the same for a few years.



- AYDC should think about giving young people more money so they can buy things they need while they are there.



Canteen

There is a canteen at AYDC where young people can buy things.



There is a form to order things from the canteen.

It is hard to understand.



- Change the canteen form so that it is easier to read and understand.



To read the full report you can go to:

www.custodialinspector.tas.gov.au



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