

Tasmanian NPM Annual Report 2026

October 2026

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Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism

Annual Report 2026



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Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the original and continuing Custodians of the Land, Waterways, Sea and Sky.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, all of whom have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Aboriginal rights.

We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this land.

About the Tasmanian NPM and this report

The Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) is an independent statutory body established under the *OPCAT Implementation Act 2021* (Tas) (the OPCAT Act).

The purpose of the Tasmanian NPM is to prevent the torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of people deprived of their liberty by embedding best practice human rights. It does this through proactive oversight of places where people are or may be deprived of their liberty, ongoing cooperation with government and relevant authorities, and by providing education and advice.

The Tasmanian NPM works alongside NPMs across Australia to ensure the fulfilment of Australia's obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

This is the fifth annual report to be presented by the Tasmanian NPM. It describes the functions and operations of the Tasmanian NPM for the year ending 30 June 2026. In accordance with section 24 of the OPCAT Act it also includes:

- an evaluation of the response of relevant authorities to the recommendations or advice made by me; and
- recommendations for changes in the laws of the State, or for administrative action, that I consider should be made as a result of the exercise of my functions.

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From the Tasmanian NPM
Dr Grant Davies

I am honoured to submit this Annual Report detailing the results of my first year as Tasmanian NPM. Before I begin, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of my predecessor, Mr Richard Connock and his stewardship of the jurisdiction during its formative years. Following previous years, my activities related to custodial centres are performed by my Custodial Inspector office with delegated authority. Reporting on those activities have been appended.

This year was one of strategic transformation for the office, pivoting from implementation and establishment to the commencement of substantive operations. This process consisted of three key strategic priorities: recruitment, governance strengthening and the commencement of functions.

Recruitment commenced in late 2025. This was due to resourcing delays arising from the Tasmanian House of Assembly elections that took place in July, deferring the usual State Budget process by several months. I was encouraged by the field of candidates who responded to the recruitment process and the diversity of experience my new team brings to the role. My office now consists of four full-time staff, complemented by my Custodial Inspector office and wider Ombudsman Tasmania corporate team.

With a team now on board, governance strengthening work was prioritised to guide office activities and ensure consistent practice when collaborating with other bodies or contracted experts. This notably included development of an office manual and visit policy and the development of memoranda of understanding to promote information sharing. Alongside these activities, I commenced a wider cross-jurisdictional organisational review to identify opportunities to improve how my multiple offices work together.

While the governance activities proceeded, I solidified examination planning for the coming years. This would guide visit activities over the balance of the reporting period. Leading this examination planning was the development of a milestone joint project agreement with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Disability Commissioner, focusing on children and young people deprived of their liberty in the community. This prioritisation took into consideration that to date, there had been inconsistent oversight of children and young people deprived of their liberty in non-custodial settings and against a recent backdrop of serious concerns being raised about their living conditions, treatment and risk. Under the project agreement, my office will lead and oversee examination activities and my project partners will contribute their expertise, with staff from those offices joining on visits. This is a model I hope to replicate into the future on in-depth examinations focused on specific issues or cohorts where complementary independent bodies are well-placed to lend their expertise to augment activities and deliver shared outputs.

With these process and project milestones reached, over the remaining months my team commenced examination activities. Unfortunately, project timeframes to obtain primary information and commence visit activities were unable to be met and visits under the joint project could not begin within the reporting period. As a relatively new oversight body with broad jurisdiction, I had envisaged that activities might take some time to gain momentum as my team and I engaged cooperatively with relevant authorities and stakeholders, to educate them about my functions and the information needed to complete my work. However, I had not foreseen that my jurisdiction might be disputed within government, which is regrettably what occurred. This took time to resolve, but I am pleased to report was able to progress to a stage where by the end of the reporting period my team's first visits were close to commencing.

Alongside examinations, I began providing feedback on draft policy and legislation. This is an important function and pillar of OPCAT. Mistreatment can often arise because of unforeseen and unintended consequences at the policy development stage and through gaps in legislative development. Prevention and the strengthening of people's protections against ill-treatment can therefore be most effective when issues are identified and addressed before policies are implemented and laws are promulgated. I am confident that my office can make timely and cogent contributions to inform development and reduce risk. I am pleased Tasmanian government agencies are promptly including me in their consultation processes. I also look forward to continuing to work with my Australian NPM counterparts in delivering on our shared responsibilities.

Finally, looking ahead I take this opportunity to restate my optimism for this office and the important role it plays in supporting Tasmania's way of life and renown as a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Since relocating from South Australia, I have been inspired by the state's strong community values, commitment to ongoing improvement and integrity. I am hopeful that ongoing resourcing insecurity for the office can be resolved in future budget years and that my team and I can continue to deliver on my mandate to strengthen people's protections by working to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



Dr Grant Davies

1 Key activities

As Tasmanian NPM, over the last financial year I have continued implementation activities following the release of my predecessor's *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania* reports.[1] This has included recruitment, developing internal processes and policies, staff training and now examination visits forward planning.

This year saw the recruitment of three newly established roles, commencing around the end of 2025. This brings overall office staffing to four full-time staff: Director (TPS Band 8), Assistant Director (TPS Band 7), Senior Policy and Project Officer (TPS Band 6) and Senior Monitoring Officer (TPS Band 6). This resourcing has been integral to enabling my office to begin substantive activities.

I have chosen a collaborative, project-based oversight model that prioritises activities based on evaluated risk. Examinations will focus on one cohort or type of place of deprivation of liberty at a time, working in partnership with relevant independent statutory bodies—who provide subject-matter expertise and staff resources—to strengthen people's protections against torture and ill-treatment. This approach was identified in my predecessor's 2024 *Supplementary Report* to be most effective in utilising available resources in a manner consistent with the proportionality principle.[2]

The first project, which commenced mid-year, focuses on children and young people deprived of their liberty in non-custodial settings. It is being completed in partnership with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Disability Commissioner. The first phase of this project, focusing on out of home care, is currently progressing through the planning and information gathering phase, with examinations scheduled to commence early in the 2026 – 2027 financial year.

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[1] Tasmanian NPM, 2024, *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania: Supplementary report to the Tasmanian Government focusing on health and social care and update on the implementation of the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism under the OPCAT Implementation Act 2021* (Supplementary Report). Available online: https://www.npm.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/790867/Tasmanian-NPM-Supplementary-Implementation-Report-November-2024-ONLINE-WCAG.pdf; Tasmanian NPM, 2023, *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania: Report to the Tasmanian Government on the implementation of the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism under the OPCAT Implementation Act 2021* (Implementation Report). Available online: https://npm.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/736302/Tasmanian-NPM-Implementation-Project-and-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf

[2] Supplementary Report, page 71.

The office's major output in the reporting period was advice on policy and legislative reforms and joint feedback with the Office of the Custodial Inspector on the new Youth Justice Facility Model of Care and four youth justice procedures from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP).

Work remains ongoing to complete an inaugural police and court cell examination, which commenced in May 2025 with assistance from the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). While my predecessor had initially forecast a shorter timeframe to complete this examination, since commencing as Tasmanian NPM it has expanded in scope to include reviewing the new Spirit of Tasmania brig facilities. These vessels form a critical link between Tasmania and mainland Australia, carrying about half a million passengers annually. It is important that the cell facilities onboard and their use is appropriately monitored. Following the expected finalisation of the police, court and brig report in the coming financial year, the Custodial Inspector team will be delegated authority to undertake regular visits.

As a new oversight body, my experience has been that the process of engaging with relevant authorities for the first time to obtain information can take longer than anticipated; notably as they become familiar with my jurisdiction, expectations and engage with my office to fulfil statutory requests. While physical visits play a critical role in the examination process, information collection and analysis pre-and-post-visit is essential to corroborate anecdotal disclosures, identify systemic issues that may merit further investigation and to review supporting policies and procedures against records.

I have purposefully taken a consultative approach to my engagement with relevant authorities, cognisant that the information I require may not always be readily available and compiling it may require a diversion of limited resources. My mandate will be most effective if I can work cooperatively with relevant authorities to raise awareness and strengthen protections. I expect that as my activities become more regular and authorities become more familiar with my office, productivity will improve.

Over the next fiscal year until 2028, I intend to iteratively expand the scope and range of activities undertaken by my office, to include:

- Finalising existing project activities relating to children and young people in non-custodial settings and commence new examinations, particularly in relation to vulnerable adult cohorts, such as older people with disability and people receiving mental health support.
- Commencing work to raise stakeholder and wider public awareness and engagement consistent with my educative function and engage proactively with authorities on legislative and policy matters of importance or concern.

- Continuing to explore ways to improve productivity through strategic engagement.
- Engaging with the Official Visitors Program to raise the quality and regularity of information gathering, particularly across settings that my staff cannot visit regularly but Official Visitors do, including hospitals and prisons.

I will also continue to review and strengthen the internal mechanisms and operations of the office, ensuring I am exercising my role as Tasmanian NPM flexibly, efficiently and effectively.

2 Corporate update

Since the Tasmanian NPM was established in 2022, activities have primarily been focussed on the foundational design, strategy and office implementation. My predecessor reported on that progress via the *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania* reports.[3] This year, with the additional resourcing, I have been able to make significant strides in moving from the planning phase to operationalising the office and exercising my functions.

2.1 Recruitment

Between December 2025 and March 2026, three staff members were recruited to support the Director.

The Assistant Director was established to lead the office's examination activities and is assisted by a Senior Monitoring Officer. The Senior Policy and Project Officer was recruited to lead the advisory functions, provide visit project governance assistance and coordinate stakeholder engagement.

Currently, only my Director is permanently employed. Should resourcing not be renewed for any of my supporting roles, I will be unable to fulfil my functions. I continue to advocate for permanent resourcing for my office and these core staff.

2.2 Budget

Budget reporting is contained in the Ombudsman Tasmania Annual Report 2026. The Tasmanian Audit Office audits the financial reports.

Within the reporting period, as Tasmanian NPM, I received a total of $705,000. This was comprised of $300,000 recurrent funding, $250,000 in time-limited funding and $155,000 from the Commonwealth Government (which is one-off implementation

[3] Implementation Report (2023) and Supplementary Report (2024).

funding) pursuant to a federal funding agreement. The State Government matched this $155,000 funding for the 2026 – 2027 financial year.

Spending over this period was primarily allocated to wages, training and expert consultants. This is discussed further in the next section. The office additionally contributes proportionately to corporate expenses incurred by Ombudsman Tasmania, who manages corporate services for all my jurisdictions.

Within this reporting period a member of my staff alerted me they will take extended parental leave, commencing in the next reporting period. On enquiring about the process for resourcing to backfill parental leave, we were informed that I would need to fund any backfill from my current budget allocation. This is a difficult position in which to be placed. As a small office, my budget is largely allocated to existing staff resources, with the remainder necessary to carry out examinations and cover corporate costs. I therefore cannot self-fund a backfill. It follows that I would need to operate at significantly reduced capacity or exceed my budget. Both outcomes are contrary to effective oversight and the principles of budget integrity.

To avoid offices incurring budget difficulties due to staff taking parental leave, I recommend that independent offices, including this one, be permitted to apply to Treasury directly to obtain additional funding associated with any required backfill.

2.3 Internal processes

This year I prioritised internal policy and process development across my jurisdictions and with government stakeholders. My objective has been to identify opportunities for change that can improve service delivery and management to better support activities over the coming years. This has included considering how best to fulfil my Tasmanian NPM responsibilities and the development of an agile operational plan.

Office implementation

Under my predecessor, substantial scoping work was completed to scope this office's establishment and future requirements.[4] The first of its kind in Australia. Unfortunately, the 12 recommendations across the resulting two reports were not adopted in a timely way, despite ongoing efforts to work constructively towards a solution. The Legislative Assembly passed a motion calling on the Government to do so, the effect of which is yet to be realised.

We are now three years on since the first eight of those recommendations were provided to government. The analysis underpinning those reports remains cogent,

[4] Detailed in the 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports.

however it would be remiss of me to not acknowledge that Tasmania's wider circumstances have changed; the overall fiscal outlook has tightened significantly and, within government, I am now part of an oversight landscape that includes complementary bodies which did not exist when that implementation analysis was completed—in particular the Disability Commissioner and forthcoming expanded Commission for Children and Young People.

Considering these factors and reviewing the practice of other NPMs globally, I have decided not to pursue the first recommendation in my predecessor's implementation report: *that the Tasmanian NPM be established as a new specialised institution, separate from the Ombudsman*. This has not been a decision taken lightly, however I believe it would be irresponsible to continue advocating for funding to establish a standalone oversight office while all of government is working to identify cost savings. I continue to pursue opportunities to collaborate with my independent oversight counterparts on the delivery of my functions.

I observe that it is common globally for Ombudsman institutions to concurrently serve as their state's sole NPM. The APT reports this accounts for almost half the 79 designated state NPMs in existence.[5] Accordingly, my continuing as Tasmanian NPM is unremarkable. There is substantial guidance on how Ombudsman institutions should implement their NPM designation to meet the requirements of OPCAT—including from the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Council of Europe and the APT—which I will aim to incorporate as I work to establish the office.

As a combined office—including my Ombudsman, Health Complaints Commissioner and Custodial Inspector duties—I collectively employ 34.42 FTE covering eight jurisdictions,[6] in addition to other legislative responsibilities with no dedicated resourcing. During my first year leading this multijurisdictional office, what became apparent is how, over time, new jurisdictions had been added into my office portfolio by successive governments in a piecemeal fashion. With the NPM and recent Code of Conduct for Unregistered Health Care Workers included, the office has grown to a size where I considered it timely to review the overall organisational structure to identify governance improvement opportunities and incorporate organisational design learnings from my Ombudsman peers. This is not intended to downplay my responsibilities to manage risk and conflicts of interest between my

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[5] *See*: Association for the Prevention of Torture, OPCAT Database, <https://www.apt.ch/knowledge-hub/opcat> (last accessed 14 August 2026). Many other state NPMs are National Human Rights Institutions, of which Tasmania has no equivalent body.

[6] Tasmanian Ombudsman, Right to Information, Energy Ombudsman, Health Complaints Commissioner, Custodial Inspector, Tasmanian NPM, Prison and Mental Health Official Visitors.

jurisdictions. Rather, it reflects my belief that productive organisations remain so by regularly reviewing their governance, processes and strategy. Therefore, I have commenced an in-depth review to evaluate whether operational changes may be merited.

In the context of the Tasmanian NPM, this includes closer integration with the Custodial Inspector. Some steps already taken by my predecessor to facilitate this process include the sharing of assets, such as website and vehicle. I also intend for my Mental Health and Prison Official Visitors to support my NPM functions by promoting information sharing and reporting in the ordinary fulfilment of their duties, in a similar manner to how HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland's 'independent prison monitors' function to support it as an NPM.[7]

Further information about the results of these activities will be included in my next Annual Report.

Internal capability building

With a new NPM team onboard, my Director has prioritised creating corporate materials including policies, process templates, reporting, along with workbooks and research materials to support planning and information gathering for examinations.

Policies developed in this period include a Visit Policy, which provides detailed health and safety guidance and risk identification and management processes for visits to places of deprivation of liberty. This policy is particularly important for guiding delegates joining us on visits. My office also contributed to the Ombudsman's Child Safe Policy, which staff across all my jurisdictions are required to follow. This policy outlines how staff identify, respond to and report complaints, disclosures and information received in the course of their work that relate to child sexual abuse.[8]

My staff also facilitated strategic and operational planning workshops for the next financial year and beyond. This included reevaluating the office's strategy, operational priorities and risk identification and planning. Staff also engaged in wider planning with the Ombudsman Office and developed a range of deliverables

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[7] Further information about this monitors program is available at: <https://prisonsinspectoratescotland.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do#npm>

[8] The policy supports the Office's commitment to being a child and youth safe organisation under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* (Tas) and Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework. *See*: https://www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au/publications/child-safe-commitment

for the next financial year, guided by the Ombudsman's shared strategic pillars and outcomes which include:

1. Community and Stakeholder Engagement
2. Leadership, People and Culture
3. Governance and Innovation

More information on these pillars and the specific outcomes can be found in the Ombudsman's Annual Report 2026.

Information sharing

As NPM, I am not a regulator and administrators of places of deprivation of liberty do not have continuous reporting obligations. Accordingly, I turn to relevant oversight entities to obtain contemporaneous information so that I can reliably identify where deprivation of liberty may be occurring. This is particularly the case in relation to health and social care, where deprivation of liberty is more dynamic, occurring in a range of places including residential homes and smaller group care facilities.

To facilitate proactive information sharing, this year I sought to enter into memoranda of understanding with entities well placed to assist me in the exercise of my functions (and vice-versa). I am pleased to report that I signed two agreements, with the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission and the Office of the Senior Practitioner, to support knowledge and information sharing in relation to disability support services and the use of restrictive practices.

I additionally signed agreements with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) and the Disability Commissioner to facilitate examinations and knowledge sharing. This is described in more detail at section 3.

I will continue to seek out opportunities to formalise information sharing with my oversight counterparts to enhance our important work managing safety and risk.

2.4 Training

As my office expands, internal training and capacity building has been an ongoing priority. This year, staff attended a range of different workshops and engaged in specialised training to improve output quality and safety, including:

- Trauma-informed practice and engaging with children and young people, with the Australian Childhood Foundation;
- Personal safety and conflict management (Maybo), with the Department of Health;

- Disability and mental health law, with Associate Professor Dr Yvette Maker and Disability Commissioner Catherine Whitington; and
- Neuroinclusion in the workplace, with the Australian Disability Network.

Additionally, my Director was fortunate to join the Scottish NPM in Edinburgh for a week, in May 2026, joined by a member of the Swiss NPM. During this time he met with several Scottish NPM bodies to learn about their operations and gather valuable insights, viewed different deprivation of liberty facilities and met with administrators.[9] I extend my sincere thanks to Sara Snell, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland and Sam Gluckstein, Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons for welcoming my Director and facilitating this opportunity.

In the coming financial year I will continue to seek opportunities to provide quality training based on the needs and priorities of the office at the time.

3 Examination activities

3.1 General update

As Tasmanian NPM, my primary function is to visit and examine the conditions and treatment of people deprived of their liberty. Notably, in prisons, detention centres and community-based health and social care locations around Tasmania. I then make recommendations with a view to strengthening people's protections and preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (or ill-treatment).

In the previous financial year, my predecessor began a comprehensive examination of Police and court facilities across Tasmania, in collaboration with APT Senior Advisor, Mr Ben Buckland. At that time, the office consisted of one staff member so the APT's support was essential for these visits to occur. I subsequently extended the scope of this examination to include the new Spirit of Tasmania Brigs, engaging with TT-Line and visiting Spirit of Tasmania IV in October 2025. My office continues post-visit evidence gathering, analysis and report writing, with publication scheduled for the coming financial year.

This year, as part of onboarding of new staff, several joint visits took place to custodial facilities operated by the Tasmanian Prison Service and Ashley Youth Detention Centre, accompanying Custodial Inspector staff. The purpose of these

[9] As self-funded professional development.

visits was both to familiarise the new staff with these facilities, support my Custodial Inspector team with their observations and to follow up on ongoing issues.

With my new team onboarded, we commenced work on this office's first in depth project, examining the conditions and treatment of children and young people deprived of their liberty in non-custodial environments. It is currently scheduled to run until 2027 and sequenced into three thematic focus areas, each of which will be released as a standalone report. The first area being examined is out of home care, discussed further in the next section.

3.2 Children and young people project

Overview

This year I commenced the first activities applying my operational strategy of targeted thematic oversight. Under this approach, I selected children and young people deprived of their liberty in the community as the cohort to prioritise first. This decision was made after weighing multiple factors, including:

- results in my predecessor's Implementation Report pertaining to deprivation of liberty using restrictive practices and in out of home care;
- concerns expressed about potential oversight gaps;
- that Tasmania's health care system does not include a dedicated paediatric mental health unit;
- relevant concerns expressed by the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings; and
- Discussion from the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture in its General Comment No. 1 on NPM activities in health and social care settings.

Following my predecessor's recommendation that NPM activities focusing on children and young people be carried out jointly with the respective Commissioner, in November 2025 I entered into a formal Project Plan and Agreement with CCYP to act as a joint Project Sponsor. In February this year I entered into a similar agreement with the Disability Commissioner, becoming the third joint project partner. Their involvement enhances the level of expertise and strategic support available throughout the project, minimises the likelihood of any duplication of activities (noting we all have overlapping oversight responsibilities) and enhances information sharing and cooperation in relation to child safety.

The Project Agreement establishes key governance, risk, budget parameters and milestone periods to promote efficiency. My office leads project activities, reporting and provides secretariat support. To uphold jurisdictional consistency, approved

staff participating on visits are delegated authority under my legislation.[10] Noting the breadth of this project, examination activities have been divided into three 'focus areas', each of which will be examined sequentially and reported on separately. The first focus area selected is children and young people deprived of their liberty in out of home care.

This first focus area was agreed based on perceived risk and (limited) available insights. We noted that no information about the use of restrictive interventions had been provided by the responsible agency—DECYP—under my predecessor's implementation project. Unlike many other places of deprivation of liberty,[11] we observed a gap in independent oversight of the system overall. Concerns had also been raised confidentially by government staff about the use of unregulated restrictive interventions.[12] I provide a progress update on this examination in the next section.

Out of home care examination update

This examination process commenced in December 2025, following execution of the Project Agreement with the CCYP and recruitment of my Assistant Director (bringing my office to a staff of two). Our foundational understanding of deprivation of liberty in out of home care led to us focusing on two groups:

- children and young people with disability receiving support under Tasmania's disability framework—the *Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024* (Tas) (the DRIS Act)—and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which included the use of approved restrictive practices; and
- those subject to interventions similar to restrictive practices but which are not regulated because the child or young person do not meet DRIS Act/NDIS requirements.

I began by writing to the Secretary of DECYP in December 2025, notifying them of my planned examination and requesting information about deprivation of liberty in out of home care. The Department sought (and received) an extension of time to respond. I sought information from the Senior Practitioner about children and young people subject to restrictive practices under the DRIS Act, which was provided.

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[10] OPCAT Act, section 11.

[11] For instance, youth detention is subject to Custodial Inspector oversight, mental health facilities are visited regularly by my Official Visitors and the NDIS Commission and Senior Practitioner exercise regulatory functions over disability services generally.

[12] Tasmanian NPM, 2024 Annual Report, part 2.3 (page 64) and Appendix 8.

In early 2026, after employment of my Senior Policy and Project Officer and signing the subsequent Project Agreement with the Disability Commissioner, my office began preparatory examination activities and preparations to commence visits. Work included desktop research on out of home care, environmental scanning and a review of the wider regulatory system. We also explored current issues and gaps and planning for visits in a trauma-informed way. This included preliminary inquiries and engaging with stakeholders.

I have since developed a range of internal tools and templates against my Expectations, such as examination workbooks, stakeholder management plans, interview plans, risk management approaches and analysis documents.[13] I also created personalised information sheets and public materials (including shared story models) outlining our role and purpose for providers, families and guardians and children and young people.

In February, I received a response from the Secretary of DECYP which did not include the requested information but rather disputed my jurisdiction and consequently rejected the request. The Secretary's justification appeared to rest on earlier Solicitor-General advice they had sought regarding my jurisdiction in education settings. I considered that advice nondeterminative and misaligned with UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) guidance as well as wider NPM practice. In any event, it had suggested the Secretary engage with me on a way forward to align with the government's child safety policy priorities.

Before I proceed to outline how examination activities have unfolded, I want to address two matters of importance: first, as a new oversight entity in Tasmania I do not expect agencies and their staff to be familiar with my jurisdiction, functions and expectations. Differences of opinion are likely to arise and I remain open and willing to constructively discuss any queries or concerns relevant authorities may have. The Tasmanian NPM is a unique creature of statute incorporating elements of international law and obligations applicable to all of Australia as a State party to OPCAT. The international legal system imports peculiarities seldom navigated at the state government level (typically, it is by the Commonwealth) including concepts such as 'UN norms' and the rules of treaty interpretation. Accordingly, the consultation work completed by my predecessor with Departments and my ongoing engagement activities are intended to raise awareness and understanding, with the aim of bringing stakeholders along cooperatively as I start exercising my functions.

[13] Available to view on my website: <https://npm.tas.gov.au/our-expectations>.

Secondly, in the performance of my functions I am obliged to have regard to guidance issued by the SPT, whose mandate includes issuing technical advice to NPMs.[14] Notably, its General Comment on OPCAT article 4, which provides detailed analysis on the scope of the definitions of 'places of deprivation of liberty'.[15] My jurisdiction is directly linked to this article.[16] Therefore, unless persons or places are expressly excluded from my jurisdiction (e.g. places of deprivation of liberty in other states), my starting position is that I follow this SPT advice. In general terms, the SPT advises that when faced with ambiguity on a question of deprivation of liberty, OPCAT must be interpreted expansively so that NPMs can exercise their preventive mandate. Therefore, when I announce my intention to conduct an examination based on information demonstrating deprivation of liberty may be occurring somewhere, I expect authorities will engage with me in good faith to resolve any identified potential jurisdictional hindrances rather than taking a narrow view to block my jurisdiction.

My mandate is one of proactive oversight, advice and cooperation. My aim is not to name and shame or generate controversy. I aspire to work constructively with relevant authorities to strengthen people's protections from harm. Operating effectively, I add value by reducing the risk of harm, thereby uplifting social wellbeing and promoting the effective use of public resources.

In response to the Secretary of DECYP's letter, my project partners and I agreed that it was necessary to seek external legal advice from appropriately qualified counsel. We considered that, as independent entities, engaging the Office of the Solicitor-General created a position of conflict noting its prior advice to DECYP on the matter. I subsequently engaged Ms Maree Norton SC and Professor Chester Brown SC to provide that advice. In short, they confirmed that children and young people who are or may be deprived of their liberty out of home care fell within my jurisdiction under the OPCAT Act.

I subsequently shared this advice with the Solicitor-General and Secretary of DECYP, with a view to restarting dialogue and enabling the examination to proceed. While the advice succeeded in recommencing engagement with the Department, at the end of the reporting period I have received no information requested in relation

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[14] OPCAT, article 11. To a lesser extent, I also consider the activities of my counterparts operating around the world.

[15] UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 'General comment No. 1 (2024) on article 4 of the Optional Protocol (places of deprivation of liberty)' CAT/OP/GC/1 (4 July 2024).

[16] OPCAT Act, section 5.

to unregulated restrictive interventions. However, towards the end of the financial period my team began to receive background information about children and young people subject to regulated restrictive practices under the DRIS Act (applying information provided by the Senior Practitioner). I also note there has been a general tendency by DECYP to try and manage my activities. I consider this an indication that there is more work to do in terms of education and engagement about the importance of my office completing its work independently. These events inevitably resulted in project delays. However, I remain optimistic that a cooperative resolution is within reach and my team can effectively undertake visits to complete its work.

At this time, my team has commenced meeting with identified out of home care service providers to explain the project, discuss the examination process, obtain residential contacts and request information. They have also begun liaising with departmental staff to discuss children and young people's individual circumstances and the most appropriate means of engaging and obtaining information. These steps have been necessary for me to ensure I adopt a child-centred, disability aware, culturally safe and trauma informed approach to examinations – ensuring I uphold the principle to *'do no harm'*. Physical visits are due to commence early in the coming financial period, with a report expected to be finalised by early 2027.

I take this opportunity to underscore that unrestricted access to both information and places of deprivation of liberty is central to my preventive mandate and an obligation of the Government under both the OPCAT Act and OPCAT article 12. This occasion has reinforced the importance of my office holding a robust, enforceable mandate. Without unfettered access to places and information my ability to provide independent oversight is hindered, leaving people deprived of their liberty at greater risk of mistreatment.

4 Advisory outputs

As Tasmanian NPM, one of my functions is to submit proposals and observations concerning existing or draft legislation relating to detainees or places of detention,[17] with the view of strengthening the protection of people deprived of their liberty against torture and ill-treatment. This reflects the advisory function of NPMs set out at Article 19 of the OPCAT.

This year, I provided a submission on the Integrity Commission Amendment Bill 2026 and commenced work on consultation submissions for the Sentencing

[17] OPCAT Act, section 9(1)(j).

Amendment (Publication of Criminal Activity) Bill 2026 and Sentencing Amendment (Good Character) Bill 2026.[18]

In addition to legislative consultations, my office provided feedback draft policies and procedures with DECYP. This included providing a submission on the New Youth Justice Facility Model of Care and commenting on the AYDC Body Worn Camera Procedure, Draft Chemical Agent First Aid and Decontamination Procedure, Draft Releasing a young person from custody Procedure, and Complaints Guide. I welcome the concerted effort being made by the Department to strengthen its policies and procedures to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the youth justice system.

Further, I welcome the Tasmanian Government's proposal to define the Tasmanian NPM as an integrity entity in the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (Tas). This will improve accountability by bringing this jurisdiction into the purview of the Tasmanian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Integrity (JSCI). It gives effect to part of recommendation 12 in my predecessor's 2024 Annual Report (the Supplementary Implementation Report) and brings the office into alignment with my Ombudsman and Custodial Inspector jurisdictions—which are already integrity entities.

I have recommended a consequential amendment to enable these annual reports to be tabled in Parliament. While I currently report annually to the Commonwealth NPM, who in turn reports to the Australian Government and SPT, my becoming an integrity entity creates an inconsistency at the state level. The JSCI is required to review integrity entity annual reporting and all current entities' reports—including my Ombudsman and Custodial Inspector jurisdictions—are tabled in Parliament. Should the Integrity Commission Amendment Bill pass, however, I would need to share my annual reporting with the Committee privately.

I encourage the Tasmanian Government to prioritise responding to my legislative reform recommendations.

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[18] See: https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/consultations/2026/sentencing-amendment-good-character-bill-2026; https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/consultations/2026/sentencing-amendment-publication-of-criminal-activity-bill-2026 (last accessed 9 September 2026).

5 Engagement

The Tasmanian NPM engages cooperatively with government, Parliament, non-government bodies and civil society to share information, raise awareness about human rights and strengthen protections against torture and ill-treatment. In addition to providing oversight, the Tasmanian NPM publishes materials and delivers education to relevant authorities, stakeholders and the wider public.

5.1 Australian NPM

This year, I continued engagements with my counterparts at the Australian NPM, which includes designated oversight bodies across Commonwealth, state and territory jurisdictions.

A primary purpose of this network is to facilitate cooperation, information sharing and greater consistency in preventive monitoring approaches across the Australian NPM, including through joint activities and engagement with international bodies.

This year, the Australian NPM convened two meetings in October 2025 and March 2026.[19] Members also participated in training, developing joint statements and contributed to Australian NPM annual reporting.[20]

In May 2026, my staff participated in the 'Learning from Practice: Joint Visits under OPCAT' session facilitated by the NPM Coordinator. This session focussed on practical experiences of undertaking joint visits under OPCAT, including how oversight bodies work across different mandates, powers and operational approaches to conduct collaborative preventive monitoring

The Australian NPM also published several joint statements, including:

- OPCAT 20th Anniversary Joint Statement - 22 June 2026
- Update: Australian NPM listed by the SPT – 13 May 2026
- Rushed youth justice reforms won't make NT safer - 1 August 2025

[19] Communiques and information on topics discussed at these meetings can be found on the Commonwealth Ombudsman's website. See: https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/industry-and-agency-oversight/monitoring-places-of-detention-opcat/australian-national-preventive-mechanism-npm (last accessed 21 July 2026)

[20] Australian NPM Annual Reports can be found on the Commonwealth Ombudsman's website. See: https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/industry-and-agency-oversight/monitoring-places-of-detention-opcat/australian-npm-opcat-publications-and-reports (last accessed 21 July 2026)

Over the next financial period, the Australian NPM plans to continue work on implementing its strategic priorities and goals, including through knowledge and information sharing, communications and coordination activities.[21]

5.2 Civil Society Advisory Council

Community engagement is an important part of the Tasmanian NPM and Custodial Inspector's work. It includes educating people about torture prevention and human rights, sharing outcomes and learnings arising from Office activities and receiving feedback and information from people that may help with future work.

The SPT recommends that NPM bodies develop processes that will help them to proactively engage with the community. Accordingly, many NPM bodies around the world have adopted models that embed civil society participation as part of their governance structure.

In Tasmania, the Tasmanian NPM and Custodial Inspector established a Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC) in 2024, with the aim of enabling community engagement in office strategic decision-making and to obtain direct feedback in relation to its activities and reporting. This recognises the importance of proactive, continuous civil society engagement in the delivery of its functions.

The CSAC consists of seven members with expertise in areas that are essential to our work, including children and young people; people with disability; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; health and social services; lived experience of deprivation of liberty; custodial settings; and human rights law.

This year, CSAC met once, in December 2025. Topics discussed included the out of home care monitoring project, the website review, Custodial Inspector reports and advisory members' concerns and observations across places of detention. Its proposed meeting in the second quarter of 2026 was postponed as the office worked to progress project activities. A meeting will take place early in the next reporting period. Given CSAC appointments are for a two-year term, this meeting will include a broad review of the format to consider improvements.

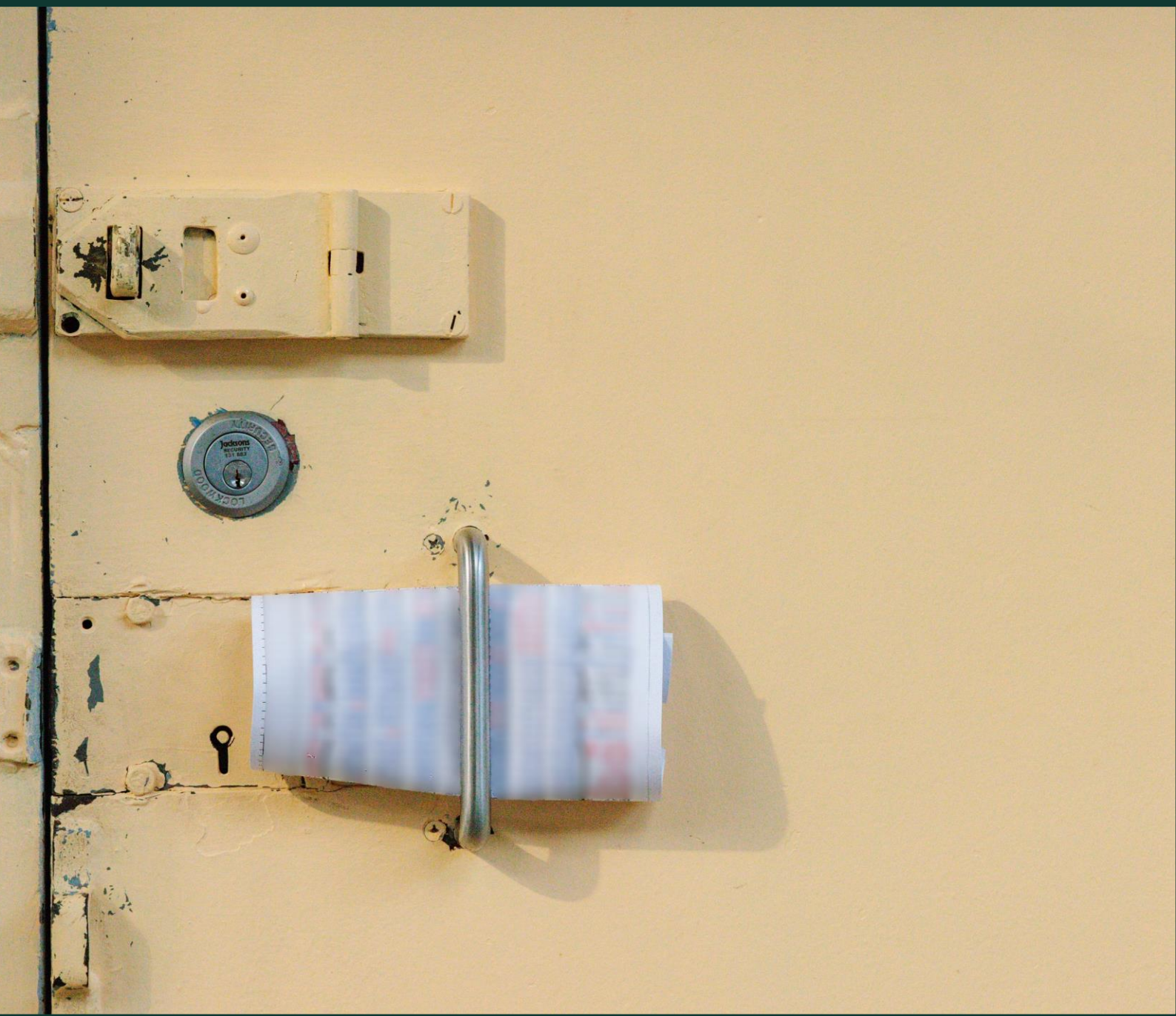
[21] More information about the Australian NPM's strategic priorities can be found at https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/305657/Australian-NPM-Strategic-Plan.pdf

Appendix 1: Custodial Inspector Annual Report 2026

Office of the Custodial Inspector Tasmania

Annual Report

2025-26



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.

About this report

This annual report describes the functions and operations of the Custodial Inspector for the year ending 30 June 2026.

The report is available in printed or electronic format for ease of accessibility. We can also provide the report in alternative formats to meet specific accessibility requirements.

If you have a question about this report or would like to receive it in an alternative format, please contact us. Our contact details are:

Address: Office of the Custodial Inspector Tasmania
Level 6, 86 Collins Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000

If you are in custody, mail to us is free and private.
Custodial centre staff can only read mail to and from people in custody with their permission.

Telephone: 1800 001 170

From Tasmanian prisons:
log in to the Unity phone using your account number
press 2 'CADL' (common auto dial list)
press 11 'Custodial Inspector'
press # to speak to one of our team members.

From Ashley Youth Detention Centre:
log in to the Unity phone using your account number
press 2 'CADL'
press 4 'Custodial Inspector'
press # to speak to us.

Calls to us are private and confidential.

Email: ci@custodialinspector.tas.gov.au

You can find more information about the Custodial Inspector on our website, www.npm.tas.gov.au.
We can send relevant printed excerpts to people in custody on request.

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Cover photo credit: courtesy of Ben Buckland, close-up photograph of a Tasmanian prison door.

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1. From the Custodial Inspector

This is my first full year as Custodial Inspector. My aim has been to work with the Tasmania Prison Service, the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) and the broader government to achieve positive change and outcomes for people in custodial environments. My firm belief is that we achieve better outcomes when working together than when we are overtly critical of one another. That does not mean we do not hold government to account when things go wrong. The *Security contractor transport of young people in custody: Safeguarding review 2025* is one example of this approach.

The publication of this report was a key achievement during the reporting year for the office. It was a direct result of our increased monitoring of Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC), made possible through a temporary increase in funding. It was during a monitoring visit in December 2024 that we observed video footage of DECYP security contractors using an improvised spit hood on a young person during transports from a hospital to AYDC. My predecessor, following inquiries, determined to conduct a review of the incident and we ultimately made 11 recommendations in our report to address a variety of systemic issues we identified.

Updates from DECYP on the implementation of those recommendations have been included in this annual report. It is pleasing to see some progress occurring although there is still much to be done. During the 2026-2027 reporting year, we will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and assess some of the updates we have been provided against our observations on the ground. We have also included updates from various departments on recommendations from our *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024*, *Adult health care inspection report 2023*, *Youth health care inspection report 2023* and *Children in Tasmania's prisons review report 2025*. Members of the community and civil society can contact us if they have direct observations or experiences that would be relevant when assessing the implementation of any of our previous recommendations.

As in previous years, we have highlighted in the annual report a number of notable issues and observations during the reporting year as a consequence of our active monitoring of custodial centres. The rates of lockdowns in adult custodial centres worsened again in the reporting year to the point that Tasmania has now had the worst out of cell hours in Australia for the past three years, with the latest year being the worst. We will be closely monitoring a range of initiatives the new Director of Prisons is overseeing following an internal review of this significant human rights issue occurring in Tasmanian prisons.

During the reporting year we released a booklet, *How you should be treated in custody*, summarising our *Expectations on the treatment of people deprived of their liberty in adult custodial centres* (Expectations). This was the culmination of a joint piece of work between my office and the Australian Human Rights Commission to increase the accessibility of our lengthy Expectations document and increase awareness for people in custody and the

community about the standards expected when held in prison. The booklet was distributed throughout Tasmanian prisons and made available for loan in the prison library.

This new booklet can be found on our refreshed website, updated during the reporting year. The website now combines information about my functions of Custodial Inspector and Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism in one place. It is our hope that the website will increase awareness of Tasmania's preventive oversight mechanisms for places where people are deprived of their liberty.

A significant body of work will continue in the 2026-2027 financial year with four inspection and review reports being prepared for publication. We then plan to move towards focussing on reports designed to give more immediate feedback to custodial centres.

In this upcoming reporting year we will commence an organisational review of the entire office, encompassing the functions of Custodial Inspector, Tasmanian NPM, Ombudsman, Health Complaints Commissioner and Principal Official Visitor. We hope this will result in better organisational alignment, more efficient services and greater capacity to share information between my various responsibilities.

I wish to thank my team of inspection officers for their dedication and hard work throughout the reporting year. They engage in their work in environments of considerable complexity with open minds, professional curiosity and a commitment to upholding the human rights of people deprived of their liberty.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Dr Grant Davies
CUSTODIAL INSPECTOR

October 2026

2. Key observations and activities

Below are a range of matters from the reporting year arising from monitoring and inspections of custodial centres. An overview of the of the role of the Office of the Custodial Inspector can be found at Section 3.

2.1 Adult custodial centres

2.1.1 Out of cell hours are the worst in the country

As predicted in our last annual report, Tasmania has the worst out of cell hours in the country for the third year running based on Productivity Commission data.[1]

Figure 1. Average time out of cell in Australian prisons by State/Territory.
Time out of cell is the average hours per day people in custody can spend out of their cells.

	NSW[2]	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
2024-25	8.0	10.1	8.2	9.3	9.0	7.0	8.8	12.1
2023-24	8.3	10.1	8.1	9.8	9.1	7.5	10.2	11.5
2022-23	7.6	10.0	8.4	9.6	8.9	7.3	9.5	11.3
2021-22	7.3	9.6	8.4	10.0	8.4	7.7	9.3	11.7

The lockdown data is more concerning when the impact in specific facilities is considered. In the below figure we have illustrated the average time out of cell for the year per facility, the decrease compared to last year and a comparison to the planned out of cell hours[3] for that facility.

[1] Productivity Commission 2026, *Report on Government Services 2025: Corrective Services*, part C, section 8, table 8A.13 [data set], accessed 21 August 2026.
[2] According to the Report on Government Services, NSW data for 2021-22 has been revised. See the original dataset for more details: www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2025/justice/corrective-services
[3] Planned out of cell hours refers to the number of hours a person in custody would spend out of their cell if there were no lockdowns or late unlocks, as detailed in the TPS' Director's Standing Order 1.19 Core Day.

Figure 2. Average time of out cell per facility in the 2025-26 financial year, the difference in out of cell time compared to last financial year, and the difference in out of cell time this financial year and the planned out of cell hours.

	Planned out of cell hours (OOCH)	Average OOCH each day	Change to average OOCH since last financial year	Difference from planned OOCH
Risdon Prison maximum units	8 hours and 15 minutes	2 hours and 2 minutes	↓ 46 minutes	↓ 6 hours and 13 minutes
Risdon Prison medium units	8 hours and 20 minutes	3 hours and 16 minutes	↓ 8 minutes	↓ 5 hours and 4 minutes
Southern Remand Centre	9 hours	2 hours and 51 minutes	↓ 1 hour and 3 minutes	↓ 6 hours and 9 minutes
Ron Barwick Prison	15 hours and 30 minutes	14 hours and 53 minutes	↑ 5 minutes	↓ 37 minutes
Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison (MHWP) minimum units	10 hours and 22 minutes*	10 hours and 14 minutes	↑ 1 hour and 1 minute	↓ 8 minutes
MHWP medium units	9 hours and 22 minutes*	7 hours and 23 minutes	↑ 28 minutes	↓ 1 hour and 59 minutes
MHWP maximum units	9 hours and 15 minutes	5 hours and 16 minutes	↑ 6 minutes	↓ 3 hours and 59 minutes

* The planned out of cell hours used for these calculations are an average of two figures to account for additional unlock hours during daylight savings time observation.

To reach such low averages in the Southern Remand Centre, maximum units and medium units, there are multiple full and half day lockdowns each month.
provides further detail.

During the reporting year the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) conducted an internal review focusing on the issue of lockdowns. The report, *Constrained to Capable*, made a total of 43 recommendations. An internal working group has been set up to monitor their implementation and we will be monitoring its progress given the significant impact of lockdowns on people.

2.1.2 Population pressures

The average population of people in custody rose during the reporting period from a monthly average population of 793 in June 2025 to 862 in June 2026. Prison population data can be viewed in .

Population pressures have been particularly pronounced at the small Launceston Reception Prison, where there have been instances of people sleeping in an internal exercise yard due to insufficient numbers of beds in cells. Figure 14 in shows a doubling of the average population from 14.74 in July 2024 to 30 at the end of the 2026 reporting year. The TPS specified design capacity of LRP is 26 with eight temporary beds.[4] The actual population regularly surges above this average during times of demand, creating increased strain. Doubling up in cells has been common, with some people sleeping on mattresses on the floor. This has been particularly concerning in the context of reports of rats emerging from the toilets in cells, with reports of some people in custody blocking toilets with towels to stop rats entering their cell.

There is recognition of the need to replace LRP. The 2026–2027 State Budget referenced a deliverable, the Launceston Reception Prison Replacement, stating:

> *This deliverable provides for the development of a detailed business case for a new reception prison with contemporary prisoner accommodation, training spaces and accompanying recreation support within the Launceston CBD.*[5]

If the business case is approved, it will likely be years before a new prison is built.

[4] Design capacity excludes bed places used for special purposes, such as crisis support, disciplinary separation and temporary beds. Apart from 'buddy cells', all cells are designed for single occupancy. TPS defines temporary beds as "...additional surge beds installed as a temporary measure when prisoner numbers exceed the total capacity".
[5] Tasmanian Government, Budget Paper No. 2 Agency Information Supporting Appropriation Bill No. 1 (2026) 115.

2.1.3 Continuing concerns regarding Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison

In last year's annual report we raised concerns about some practices at Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison (MHWP), including a more punitive approach to applying punishments in disciplinary processes and the use of group punishments. We made further inquiries during the reporting year that are ongoing but relevantly, TPS indicated in response to a draft excerpt of this report that it does not consider the characterisation of a 'more punitive' approach to be reflective of overall practice within MHWP.

At a Joint Standing Committee on Integrity meeting during the reporting year a member of parliament asked if there was a model of care for MHWP. We made further inquiries following the hearing and confirmed there is not. The suggestion of establishing a model of care is a sound one given the practice concerns we have previously discussed at MHWP. A model of care would provide a framework for the approach to the provision of services in MHWP and may improve the focus on rehabilitation. Recruitment during the reporting period for a Women's Prison Practice Lead was an important development and the creation of a model of care should be an active consideration for this role. We look forward to meeting with the person appointed to the role during the 2026–2027 financial year.

2.1.4 Dry cell

We received updates on recommendations from a number of past reports during the reporting year, discussed in greater detail in the section titled Evaluation of responses to Inspector's recommendations. In particular, we sought updates on our Inhumane treatment in dry cells - review report 2024.

During the reporting period we received reports and observed records which raised concerns that some elements of the dry cell approach still need active monitoring. While there was a significant improvement following publication of our report, we have since heard concerns about people not being provided appropriate bedding. This includes not receiving a pillow and only being provided canvas blankets which are used for people at risk of suicide and self-harm. It is unclear why people not at risk of suicide or self-harm should be treated as if they were but this seemed to occur on occasions when people on dry cell placement are housed in the Crisis Support Unit, a unit used primarily for people at risk of suicide or self-harm.

More information about progress against the recommendations in our report can be found in Appendix 3: Updates on recommendations from *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024*.

2.2 Ashley Youth Detention Centre

2.2.1 Incidents

On 18 December 2026, eight young people escaped from Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC). Escapes of this size from a youth justice detention centre are uncommon. Data from the Report on Government Services provides the total number of escapes from each Australian jurisdiction and this single incident was the largest number of escapes from state or territory youth justice detention centres since the 2016-2017 financial year.[6] From 2017-18 till 2024-25 there were eight or fewer escapes recorded each year across all Australian youth justice detention centres combined.[7]

The escape incident also involved a serious assault of AYDC staff members. This followed a major incident in October 2025 in which young people assaulted staff and caused considerable property damage to several AYDC buildings. These events contributed to a particularly challenging period for AYDC. Many staff were deeply affected by the incidents and held ongoing concerns about their safety in the workplace, which led to diminished staff numbers. For example, on some days AYDC daily reports noted several staff members had called in sick or had left their rostered shifts early, impacting normal operations. In early February 2026, the two unions active at AYDC led joint stop-work action related to staff safety and security concerns.

This situation led to high rates of isolation for children and young people. This meant 'lockdowns' either in individual bedrooms or in units. Isolation also included 'rolling unlocks' (in which groups of children and young people alternate between isolation in bedrooms and time 'out' in units or in activities). Those young people assessed as 'high risk' were subject to more isolation than other children and young people, often because they were assessed as requiring a higher number of staff to care for them.

The gravity of this situation and its impact on AYDC staff, children and young people prompted DECYP to commission an independent review of the two serious incidents, led by an external consultant. The review considered systemic, cultural, environmental and operational factors contributing to the incidents. Our office, as well as the broader AYDC Oversight Network, engaged with the external consultant throughout the process. The report made four recommendations aimed at addressing core systemic issues affecting AYDC's daily operations and overall stability.[8]

---

[6] Australian Government (Productivity Commission), 'Escapes from detention and escorted movement, by Indigenous status', *Report on Government Services 2026* (Data set, 29 January 2026) Part F, Section 17, Table 17A.23.
[7] Australian Government (Productivity Commission), 'Escapes from detention and escorted movement, by Indigenous status', *Report on Government Services 2026* (Data set, 29 January 2026) Part F, Section 17, Table 17A.23.
[8] Mike Wheaton, *Independent Review of Serious Incidents at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC)* (Report, May 2026).

2.2.2 Staffing

Our 2024–2025 annual report noted we had commenced a thematic review into staffing at AYDC due to persistent difficulties retaining sufficient operational staff. This challenge persisted throughout 2025. This included occasions where critically low operational staff numbers required AYDC to enact its Business Continuity Plan. In November, DECYP appointed an 'Ashley Youth Detention Centre Stabilisation Taskforce'. The Department advised us the Taskforce would lead a six-month plan designed to improve operational stability, workforce capability and safety outcomes for the centre. This included recruitment initiatives, which resulted in significant increases in applications, as well as actions aimed at addressing existing staff members' concerns such as safety and security.

We welcomed the AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce and its efforts to address some of the concerns identified during the information-gathering stage of our staffing review. As part of our review we engaged a consultant to contribute to our understanding of staffing issues at AYDC. The consultant, an organisational psychologist experienced in custodial settings, completed a report on staffing at AYDC in November 2025. Though we have not finalised our staffing review, we decided to share this report (as well as some of our preliminary findings) with DECYP to inform the work of the AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce.

The AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce's work—notably its intensive recruitment strategies—contributed to a steady increase in staffing levels in the first half of 2026. At the end of June, AYDC advised us that nearly all of the youth workers recruited and trained since October 2025 were still employed at AYDC. DECYP was also continuing other work at AYDC during this time; we observed the deployment of additional resources across several areas. This included offering additional educational and recreational programs and re-establishing a daily routine to promote children and young people's increased participation outside of units. As a result of these efforts, we started to see positive changes including children and young people spending more time engaged in meaningful educational and recreational activities. This included valuable off-property activities for some children and young people such as work experience.

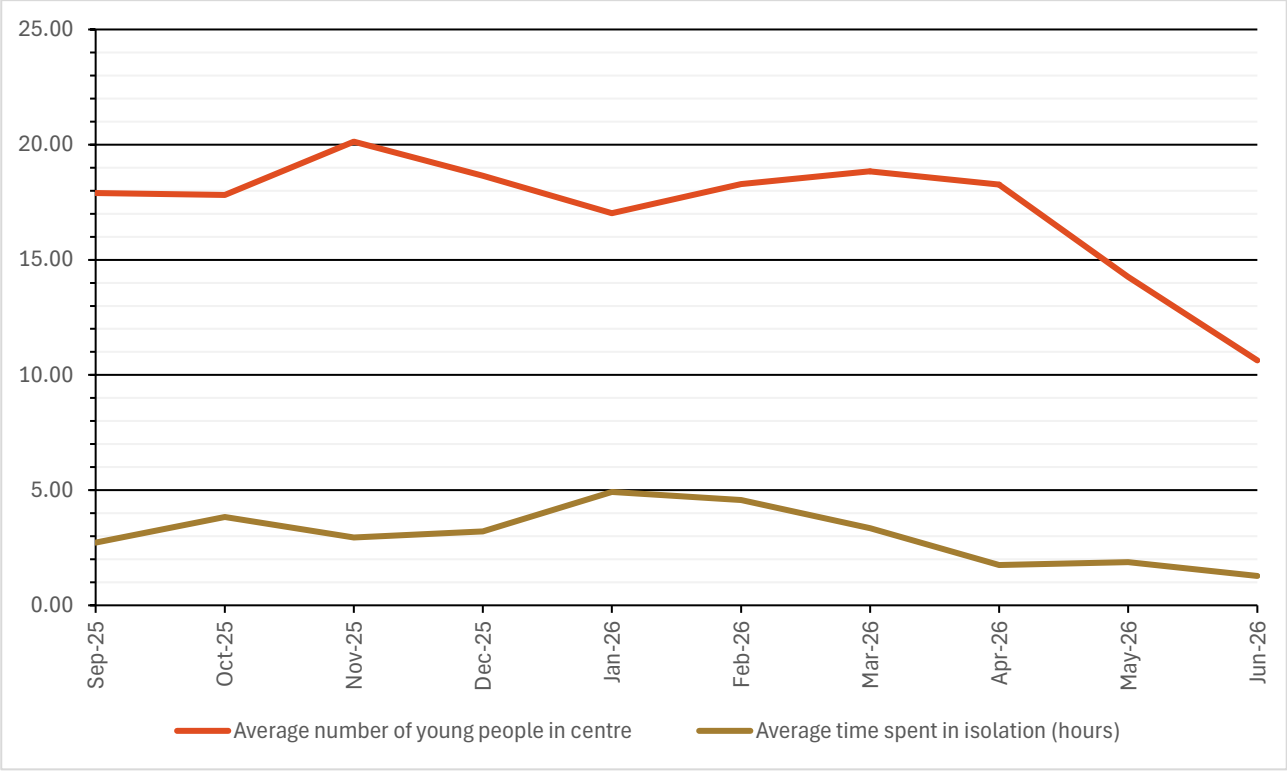
The challenge for AYDC will be to maintain these improvements. The AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce has now concluded (though some of its actions will continue via other processes). We paused work on our staffing review to reduce duplication while the AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce was underway but in the coming year will consider any ongoing systemic issues. During our regular monitoring visits, we have continued to receive information about matters affecting staff, which we bring to the attention of leaders within AYDC as well as DECYP executives as required. This has included the training and support needs of existing staff: ongoing professional development and supervision have been challenging to provide in the context of low staffing. Custodial settings often experience staffing challenges and sustained effort is required for successful recruitment and retention.

2.2.3 Isolation

As discussed in section 2.2.1, during the reporting year AYDC experienced serious challenges that affected operations. As a result, we repeatedly heard concerns about high rates of isolation of children and young people. They told us about experiencing boredom, frustration, and poor mental health when isolated in their bedrooms or units. These restrictive practices meant they could not participate in the educational or recreational activities usually provided. During periods of increased isolation, staff told us they also experienced additional challenges. We further heard concerns about AYDC's ability to consistently facilitate children and young people's attendance at legal, medical and therapeutic appointments. While these concerns were most prominent during periods of critically low staffing, isolation occurred to different degrees throughout the year. Various factors can contribute to use of isolation, including staff experience, training and wellbeing. Isolation rates are displayed in Figure 3 (refer also to section 2.2.4 for discussion on data accuracy).

As outlined in section 2.2.2, in the latter part of the reporting year we noted a significant reduction time children and young people spent isolated in bedrooms or units.

Figure 3. Monthly average time spent in isolation and number of young people at Ashley Youth Detention Centre September 2025 to June 2026. ***Note:*** *factors affecting data are discussed in section 2.2.4. July and August 2026 data have not been included due to some of these factors.*



2.2.4 Record-keeping and data

In previous reports we discussed the challenges involved with interpreting AYDC data and therefore determining overall time children and young people in detention spend in isolation. During the reporting year, several factors may have affected the data, including:

- varied terminology and reporting requirements for practices involving isolation
- change to start time of official daily routine from 8am to 9am (which increased 'routine' time in room and thereby decreased 'isolation' time, though practice did not change)
- change in reporting method from paper-based records to online records via a new reporting system, YJ Plus, in September 2025
- manual data entry by DECYP staff (may be affected by human error or staffing pressures)
- manual data manipulation and cleaning by our office, including comparing different data sets and in some circumstances adjusting due to discrepancies.

Several of these factors also affect data on other aspects of AYDC operations such as incident reports and observations records. In 2025, we heard concerns about record-keeping at AYDC, including about timeliness and accuracy of information recorded. We raised these concerns and were informed that YJ Plus, the new recording system, would resolve many reporting issues (though during the implementation phase it would reduce data availability and accuracy). Now that YJ Plus has been in place for well over six months, we are undertaking a project to verify the accuracy of data recorded at AYDC and identify any systemic issues affecting staff members' ability to maintain records.

2.2.5 Transfers to adult custodial facilities

In the 2025–2026 reporting year, three young people were transferred from AYDC to the custody of Tasmania Prison Service (TPS). The transfer process, which is governed by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DECYP and TPS (under the Department of Justice), has received attention in recent years following Commission of Inquiry recommendation 12.25 concerning reforms to transfers.[9] We also considered the process in our 2025 *Children in Tasmania's prisons* report, highlighting its inherent lack of robust safeguards and focus on operational factors rather than the best interests of the child or young person.[10]

Following the escape from AYDC in December 2025, two young people (who had already turned 18) were transferred to TPS custody at short notice. Both young people identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the decision was criticised by stakeholders

[9] Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings, *Who was looking after me? Prioritising the safety of Tasmanian Children* (Report, August 2023) vol 5(3) 152–156.
[10] Office of the Custodial Inspector Tasmania, *Children in Tasmania's prisons: Review report 2025* (Report, 2025) ch 4, 69–87.

such as the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service.[11] As detailed in section 2.2.1, this period was particularly challenging for AYDC. Leaders were seeking solutions to operational pressures and security risks that were affecting the wellbeing of staff, children and young people. The transfer of the two young people followed a meeting of a Transfer Assessment Panel (provided for under the MOU) comprising staff from both agencies (though we were advised TPS and AYDC had multiple discussions before and after this meeting to discuss the possible transfers, including consideration of operational, welfare and custodial matters). TPS noted the importance of honouring the intent of Commission of Inquiry recommendation 12.25 and maintaining transparency, due process and focus on the young people's best interests in the transfer process.[12]

At the TAP meeting, AYDC leaders also requested transfer of a third young person, who had not yet turned 18, for operational reasons. TPS did not agree to immediate transfer of this young person and requested additional information and planning to inform further discussions. AYDC continued to experience operational challenges which they perceived would be partially addressed by the proposed transfer.[13] However, when it became apparent TPS would not allow the early transfer of the third young person, AYDC leaders shifted their focus from transfer to how they could better meet the young person's needs. They established several child-led measures to achieve this, leading to significant improvements in the young person's wellbeing which then alleviated the concerns that had prompted the transfer request. We encourage AYDC to implement this kind of child-led, needs-based practice with all children and young people in its care.

These events were taking place concurrently with broad reforms to the transfer process, including the drafting of a new MOU and a shift to a more child-focused approach. In this context, the eventual transfer of the third young person after they had turned 18 acted as a test case for these evolving processes. To better understand the reforms and oversee the transfer of the third young person, we requested copies of the draft MOU and TAP meeting minutes and attended two TAP meetings in our monitoring capacity. Senior TPS and AYDC staff attend these meetings and the Commissioner for Children and Young People or a representative can also attend. We observed a strong focus on the best interests of the child and collaboration between agencies to ensure smooth transfer of the young person to an adult custodial facility.

While this process showed significant improvements, further reform is still necessary as per recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry and our office. Transfer processes must be child-focused and rights-based but also based on strengthened procedural safeguards, including legislation and independent decision-making.

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[11] Callan Morse, 'Aboriginal legal service raises concerns following transfer of Indigenous youth from detention to adult prison', *National Indigenous Times* (Online, 30 December 2025) <https://nit.com.au/30-12-2025/21955/aboriginal-legal-service-raises-concerns-after-indigenous-detainees-are-transferred-from-youth-detention-to-adult-prison>.

[12] Tasmanian Government (Department for Education, Children and Young People), 'Transfer Assessment Panel: Meeting minutes' (December 2025–March 2026).

[13] Tasmanian Government (Department for Education, Children and Young People), 'Transfer Assessment Panel: Meeting minutes' (December 2025–March 2026).

3. Overview of the Office of the Custodial Inspector

3.1 Background

The Custodial Inspector is an independent statutory officer appointed by the Governor. The Inspector must act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

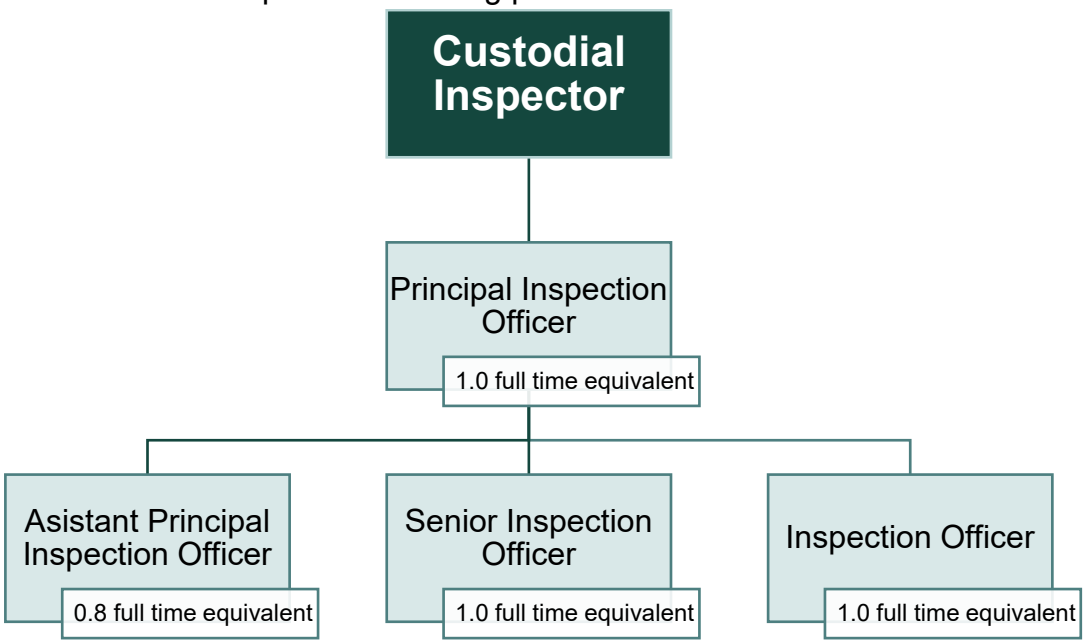
The Custodial Inspector provides oversight of all aspects of prison and youth detention centre services in Tasmania. We do this through proactive inspections, reporting on those inspections to Parliament and regular monitoring of custodial centre systems and records. Our focus is on the care and welfare of people in custody and the management, control and security of the State's prisons and youth detention centre.

The *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* provides that each custodial centre must be inspected at least once every three years.

3.2 Staffing and resources

3.2.1 Staffing

The office is made up of the following positions:



The Custodial Inspector also holds a number of other statutory appointments including:

- Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism;
- Ombudsman;
- Health Complaints Commissioner;

- Principal Mental Health Official Visitor; and
- Coordinator of the Prison Official Visitors Scheme.

3.2.2 Budget

Budget reporting is contained in the *Ombudsman Tasmania Annual Report*. The Tasmanian Audit Office audits the financial reports.

3.3 Functions and powers

3.3.1 Jurisdiction of the Inspector

The Custodial Inspector has jurisdiction over all custodial centres in Tasmania. A custodial centre is defined as a prison within the meaning of the *Corrections Act 1997*, and a detention centre within the meaning of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

The adult custodial centres included in our jurisdiction are:

- Risdon Prison Complex (RPC), which includes:
  - maximum units;
  - medium units; and
  - the Southern Remand Centre;
- Ron Barwick Prison;
- Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison;
- Hobart Reception Prison; and
- Launceston Reception Prison.

The TPS operates these centres.

AYDC is Tasmania's only youth custodial centre although all the adult custodial centres above are also gazetted as youth detention facilities. DECYP operates AYDC and it is planning to build a new Tasmanian youth detention facility.

All transport vehicles for people in the custody of DECYP and TPS are also within the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector.

The Custodial Inspector does not respond to individual complaints but can refer complaints received to relevant agencies and/or oversight bodies for resolution.

3.3.2 Functions of the Inspector

The functions of the Custodial Inspector are set out in section 6 of the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* as follows:

6. Functions

(1) The inspector has the following functions:
- (a) to carry out a mandatory inspection of each custodial centre at least once every 3 years;
- (b) to carry out an occasional inspection and review of any custodial centre at any time, of his or her own accord or as requested by the responsible Minister;
- (c) to prepare and publish guidelines and standards in relation to the conduct of inspections;
- (d) to report to the responsible Minister or Parliament on the various inspections carried out by the Inspector;
- (e) to report to the responsible Minister or Parliament on any particular issue or general matter relating to the functions of the Inspector, if in his or her opinion, it is in the interest of any person or in the public interest to do so;
- (f) to report to Parliament on any particular issue or general matter relating to the functions of the Inspector is requested to do so by either House of Parliament or a Committee of either House of Parliament;
- (g) to provide an annual report to Parliament;
- (h) to include in any report such advice or recommendations as the Inspector thinks appropriate including, but not limited to –
  - (i) advice or recommendations relating to the safety, custody, care, wellbeing and rehabilitation of prisoners and detainees; and
  - (ii) information relating to education and programs to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners and detainees;
- (i) such other functions as may be conferred or imposed on the Inspector under this or any other Act.

(2) The Inspector may from time to time amend the guidelines and standards prepared and published under subsection (1).

3.3.3 Powers of the Inspector

The powers of the Custodial Inspector are set out in section 8 of the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* as follows:

8. Powers

The Inspector has the following powers:
- a) to visit and examine any custodial centre, and any vehicle, equipment, container or other thing in a custodial centre, at any time the Inspector thinks fit;
- b) to obtain full access to all documents, including health records, that -
  - i) are in the possession of a Department, public authority or any other body or person prescribed by the regulations; and
  - ii) relate to any custodial centre or persons in custody or detained, or residing, at a custodial centre –

iii) and to make copies of, or take extracts from, those documents or records and to remove and retain those copies or extracts;

c) to require, in any reasonable manner that the Inspector considers appropriate, a person whose work is concerned with the operation of a custodial centre to provide any information that is relevant to the performance or exercise of the Inspector's functions or powers under this Act;

d) to enter and examine any equipment or container outside a custodial centre which is used in connection with the custodial centre, and any vehicle used to transport prisoners or detainees, at any time the Inspector thinks fit and with any assistance or equipment that the Inspector thinks is reasonably necessary;

e) to require any member of the staff of the custodial centre or other person who provides services to prisoners or detainees to –

i) supply information or produce documents or other things relating to any matter, or class of matters, concerning the custodial centre's operations; and

ii) attend before the Inspector to answer questions or produce documents or other things relating to a custodial centre's operations;

f) to refer matters relating to a custodial centre to an appropriate agency for consideration or action;

g) to obtain access to, and communicate with, persons in custody or detained or residing at a custodial centre;

h) to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance and exercise of his or her functions and powers under this Act.

3.4 Relationships

3.4.1 Places of detention

We maintain regular communication with the Department of Justice and DECYP. We also liaise closely with appropriate officers in these agencies when planning and undertaking inspections.

Regular meetings to support the functions of the office are held with:

- the Assistant Director of Prisons – Engagement, Communications and Policy from TPS; and
- the Director Custodial Youth Justice Services from DECYP.

We meet with people in custody and other custodial centre staff, both individually and in groups, as and when required. This occurs during and outside the inspection process. We also present to youth worker and custodial officer recruits on the role of the Custodial Inspector throughout the year.

3.4.2 Parliament

We provided a briefing to members of parliament on our *Security contractor transport of young people in custody: Safeguarding review 2025* published during the reporting year.

These briefings allow members of Parliament and their staff to receive a summary of the report, engage with inspection staff and discuss the issues raised in the report.

During the reporting year the Custodial Inspector and Principal Inspection Officer also appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity, a parliamentary committee responsible for the oversight of integrity entities.

3.4.3 Civil Society and other stakeholders

During the year we engaged with multiple civil society organisations in the course of our work. These groups included:

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service;
- Women's Legal Service;
- Prisoner Legal Service; and
- Association for the Prevention of Torture.

We also engaged with the following additional public authority stakeholders as and when required:

- Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Tasmania;
- University of Tasmania;
- Disability Commissioner;
- Tasmania Legal Aid;
- Tasmania Police;
- Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner;
- Prison Official Visitors Program;
- Tasmanian Audit Office;
- Ombudsman Tasmania;
- Office of the Health Complaints Commissioner;
- Integrity Commission; and
- inter-jurisdictional counterparts.

We attend quarterly meetings, along with the Director of the Office of the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), with the Australian NPM Network. This group is made up of all the nominated NPMs around Australia and is an opportunity to discuss common issue in places where people are deprived of their liberty.

Custodial Inspector staff participated in the quarterly Tasmanian NPM Advisory Group meeting. This meeting engages with members of civil society and people with lived experience to discuss our work and issues of strategic importance.

The Office of the Custodial Inspector continued to provide secretariat support for the quarterly AYDC Oversight Network meetings. The Network is made up of the Independent Regulator, the Interim Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Custodial Inspector/Ombudsman. The Disability Commissioner will be joining the Network. The Network continues to be a valuable forum to share information about issues of concern or interest at AYDC to all oversight bodies and engage directly with DECYP on those matters.

The Custodial Inspector attended a meeting of Inspectors from around Australia in Queensland during the reporting year. An online working group for Deputy Inspectors and Principal Inspection Officers also continued during the reporting year with our office commencing responsibility for chairing these meetings at the end of the reporting year. Both of these meetings are an important opportunity to discuss common issues across jurisdictions.

3.5 Training and professional development

Our staff attended a range of training and professional development activities during the reporting year.

- Our Inspection Officer assisted with an inspection of a prison in Western Australia. This was a valuable professional development opportunity and was made possible through the Western Australia Inspector of Custodial Services covering the cost of travel and accommodation. Our work is a niche area of expertise and learning from other jurisdictions is a way to observe different methodologies and develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of custodial environments.
- Training in neurodiversity.
- Two of our inspection officers attended training delivered to AYDC youth workers on awareness, de-escalation and protection.
- Audit Tasmania training on internal controls.
- The Disability Commissioner and Dr Yvette Maker delivered training on the foundations of mental health and disability law.
- Tasmanian Council of Social Service Inc training sessions on challenging racism and bias and Artificial Intelligence for leaders.

4. Inspections and reports

4.1 Current work in progress

4.1.1 Rehabilitation, reintegration and community contact inspection

This mandatory inspection occurred onsite at the Risdon Prison Complex, Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison, Hobart Reception Prison and Ron Barwick Prison from 26 May to 3 June 2025. Further engagement with external service providers occurred in the reporting year following the onsite inspection. The report on this inspection will be combined with our education inspection, which occurred in the 2023-24 reporting year.

4.1.2 Finalisation of youth education report and transition to adulthood

Our draft *Looking towards the future: Youth education inspection report 2026* was sent to DECYP as part of our procedural fairness process at the end of the financial year and will be published in the 2026–2027 reporting year. The report related to a mandatory inspection of AYDC against our education Expectations. Inspection visits occurred in May and August 2024. The report also comprises information from 2025 and 2026, including observations from regular monitoring visits and data supplied by Ashley School and DECYP.

Publication of our Transition to adulthood inspection report has been delayed. This was a mandatory inspection assessing specific Expectations relating to young adults and will be published during the 2026–2027 reporting year. This inspection considered young people aged 18 to 25 years old in adult prison.

4.1.3 Two occasional inspection and reviews

We are currently continuing two reviews which we expect to be completed in the 2026–2027 reporting year:

- review of the Hostile Management Regime in the Risdon Prison Complex; and
- review of staffing at AYDC.

4.2 Publications

We published our *Security Contractor transport of young people in custody: Safeguarding review 2025* during the reporting year. This also included a youth version of the report. We sought an update on the implementation of the recommendations during the reporting year and more information can be found at Evaluation of responses to Inspector's recommendations.

In collaboration with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), we published *How you should be treated in custody*. This is a summary booklet of our Expectations on the

treatment of people deprived of their liberty in adult custodial centre. Our Expectations is a lengthy document that sets out best practice in adult custodial centres and helps guide our inspections. We worked with the AHRC to create this summary booklet to make the Expectations more accessible to people in custody and the community to increase understanding and awareness of best practice in adult custodial centres.

We distributed copies throughout the various Tasmanian prisons, with copies available in prison street libraries and the Ron Barwick Prison Library and a digital copy available to those with access to computers in custody. It is also available on our website.

4.3 Visits to custodial centres

As well as announced inspections we also conduct occasional inspections, or visits, to Tasmanian custodial centres. These are generally unannounced. Unannounced visits are a valuable way to prevent ill treatment.

The visits can be in response to particular issues being raised with us, to assist with a future or past inspection or as part of general monitoring. As a minimum, we attend AYDC twice a month to conduct monitoring visits and randomly to adult prisons.

5. Evaluation of responses to Inspector's recommendations

5.1 Mandatory inspection recommendations

It is our usual practice to evaluate responses to past recommendations from mandatory inspection reports in the context of new inspections. For example, previous reports in 2024-2025 contained appendices evaluating recommendations that arose in previous reports examining the same inspection standards.

At the end of last financial year, we requested updates from the Department of Justice, Department for Education, Children and Young People and the Department of Health on the implementation of our recommendations in our *Adult health care inspection report 2023* and *Youth health care inspection report 2023*. People in custody, particularly adults, consistently raise concerns with us during monitoring visits relating to health care and our 2023 health care reports made a number of recommendations so we sought an update outside of our usual practice. The Departments' updates and our evaluation can be found in Appendix 4: Updates on recommendations from *Adult health care inspection report 2023* and

.

5.2 Occasional inspection and review recommendations

Occasional inspection and review reports usually consider a distinct issue and so the method of recommendation monitoring outlined above is not as applicable.

At the end of last financial year, we requested updates from the Department of Justice and the Department of Health on the implementation of our recommendations in our *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024*. The updates and our evaluation of those responses can be found in

.

We met with the Director of Corrective Services in December 2025 to discuss progress on implementing the recommendations in our *Children in Tasmania's prisons review report 2025*. We also sought a written update from the Director and DECYP to include in this annual report. Their updates and our evaluation can be found in

.

We sought an update from DECYP on our *Security Contractor transport of young people in custody: Safeguarding review 2025*. Evaluation of the response can be found at

.

5.3 Feedback on implementation

We encourage people to contact us if they have feedback on the implementation of any of our recommendations. Information from people with direct observations or experience, including staff, civil society and people in custody and their family and friends, is helpful in evaluating the progress of various agencies to implement changes.

6. Recommendations for change

Section 26(2)(c) of the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* (the Act) provides that the Inspector must include in their annual report:

> *any recommendations for changes in the laws of the State, or for administration action, that the Inspector considers should be made as a result of the performance of the Inspector's functions.*

In December 2025, a range of amendments were made to the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* (Tas) (the Act), following the passage and royal assent of a private member's bill. These amendments implemented recommendations we made in past annual reports. These changes have already had positive impacts, including improved ability to share information with relevant agencies and being able to provide more meaningful reassurances to people who wish to discuss concerns with us regarding custodial centres. One of the key changes to the Act was to introduce protections from reprisal.

During the reporting period we brought several issues relating to the *Youth Justice Act 1997* to the attention of DECYP. These included a lack of legislative consistency relating to searches and use of force when young people are moving through the system including during police custody, whilst in reception prisons and on and off site at AYDC. Trauma-informed and therapeutic care - which underpin the approach the youth justice system is moving towards - must be consistently applied across the system regardless of where the child or young person is. The Department is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Act and we look forward to seeing the outcome of its work.

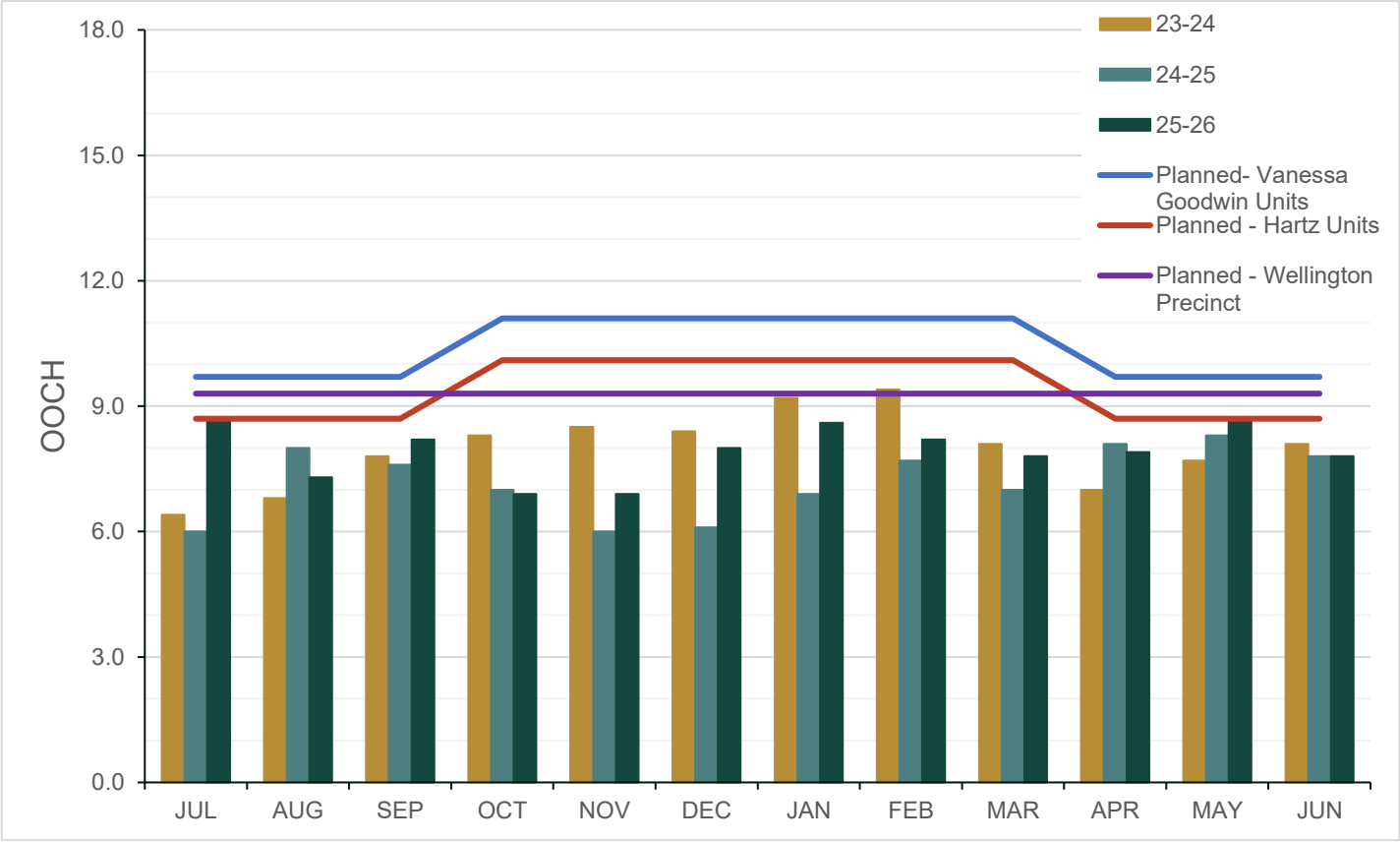
Appendix 1: Out of cell hours and lockdowns at Tasmania Prison Service facilities



Appendix 1:
Out of cell hours and lockdowns at Tasmania Prison Service facilities

The below graphs show the number of hours on average a person in custody spends out of their cell each day per month. The graphs contain data for the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years. A line on each graph also displays the planned out of cell hours for each area. These hours are those that people in custody would spend out of their cell if there were no lockdowns, late unlocks or early lock-ins.

Figure 4. Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison average monthly effective and planned out of cell hours (OOCH) for 2023-24 to 2025-26



The data in the below graph is the average across mainstream maximum units. It does not include people accommodated in behaviour management, crisis support or inpatient units.

Figure 5. Risdon Prison Complex - Maximum Precinct average monthly effective and planned out of cell hours (OOCH) for 2023-24 to 2025-26

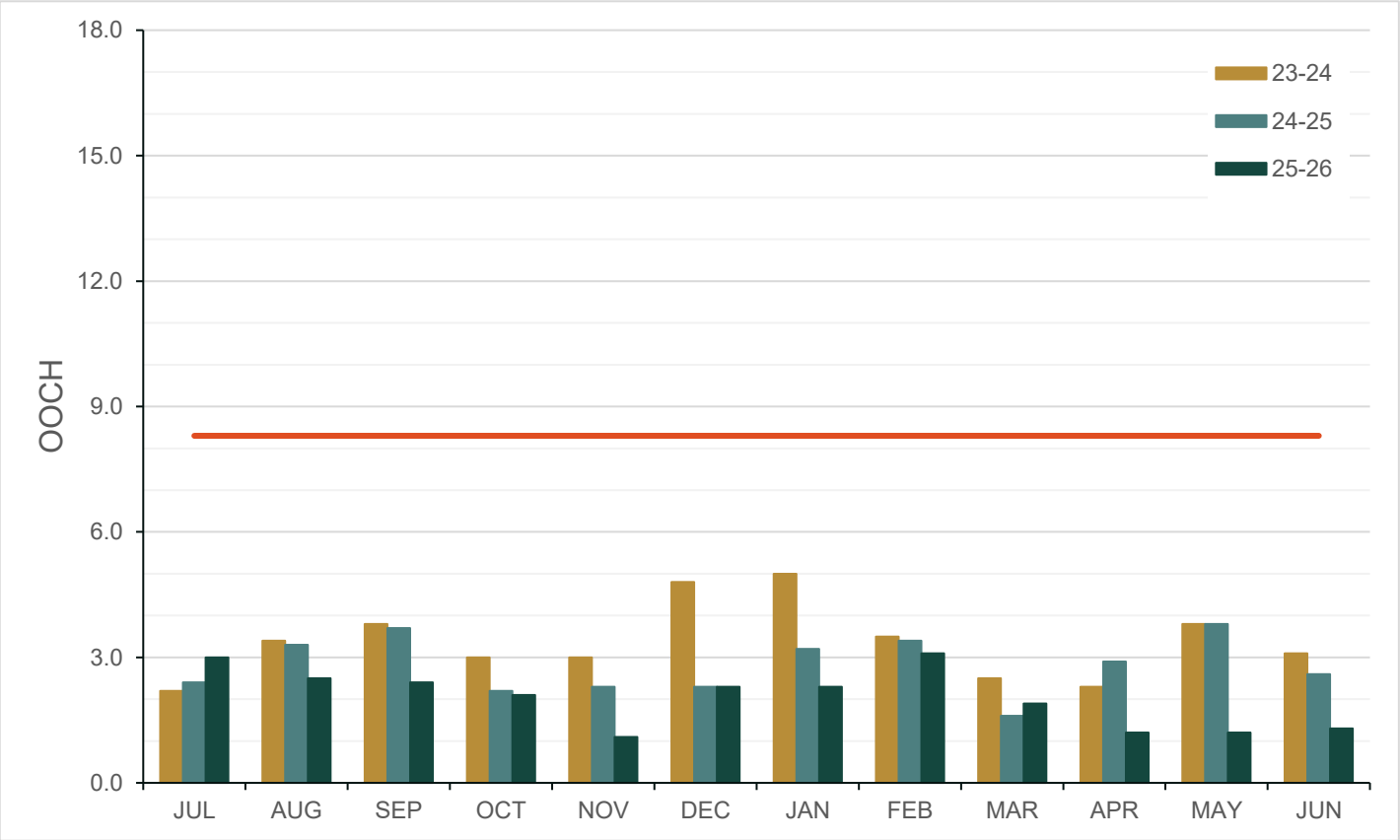
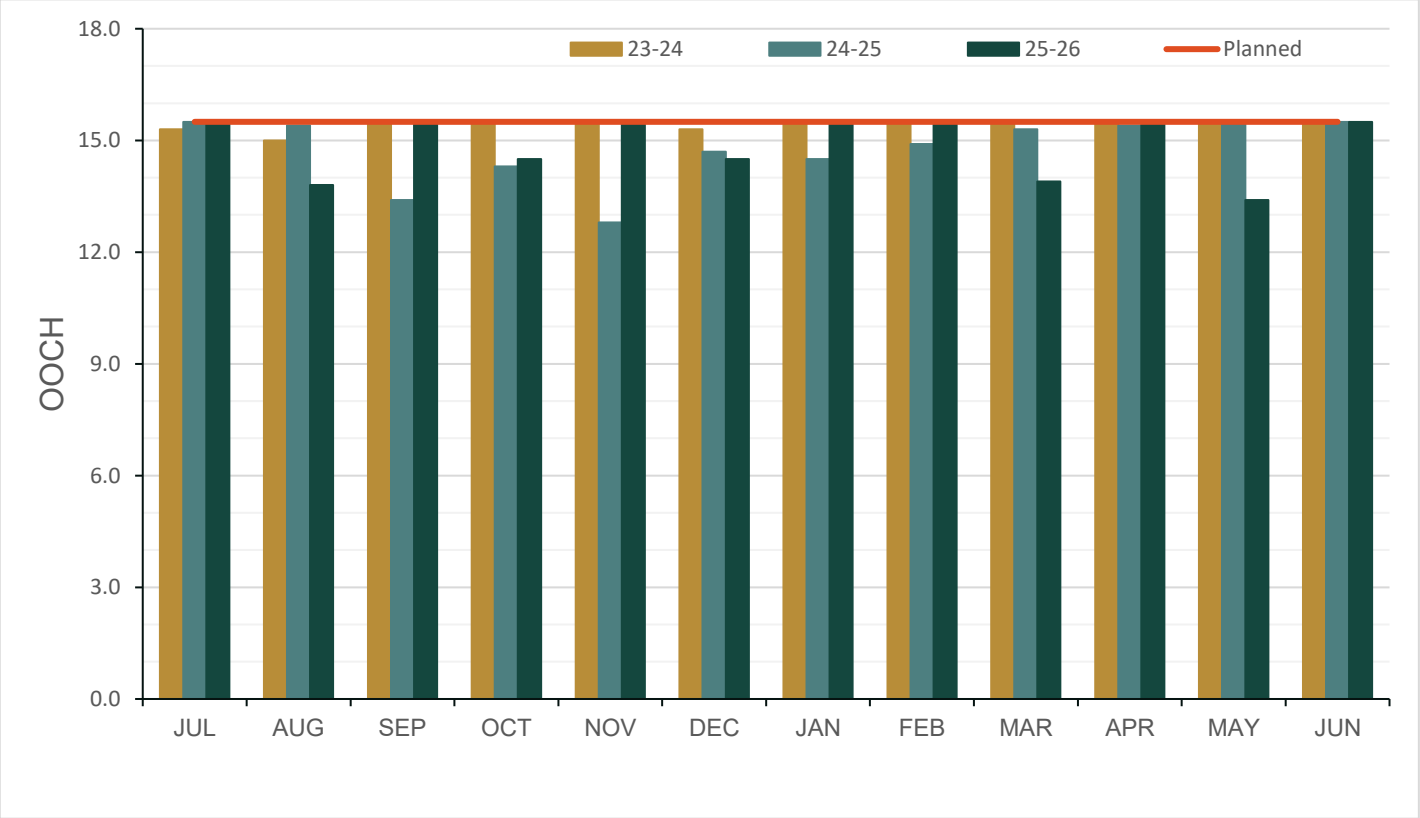


Figure 6. Ron Barwick Prison (Divisions 1 - 7) average monthly effective and planned out of cell hours (OOCH) for 2023-24 to 2025-26



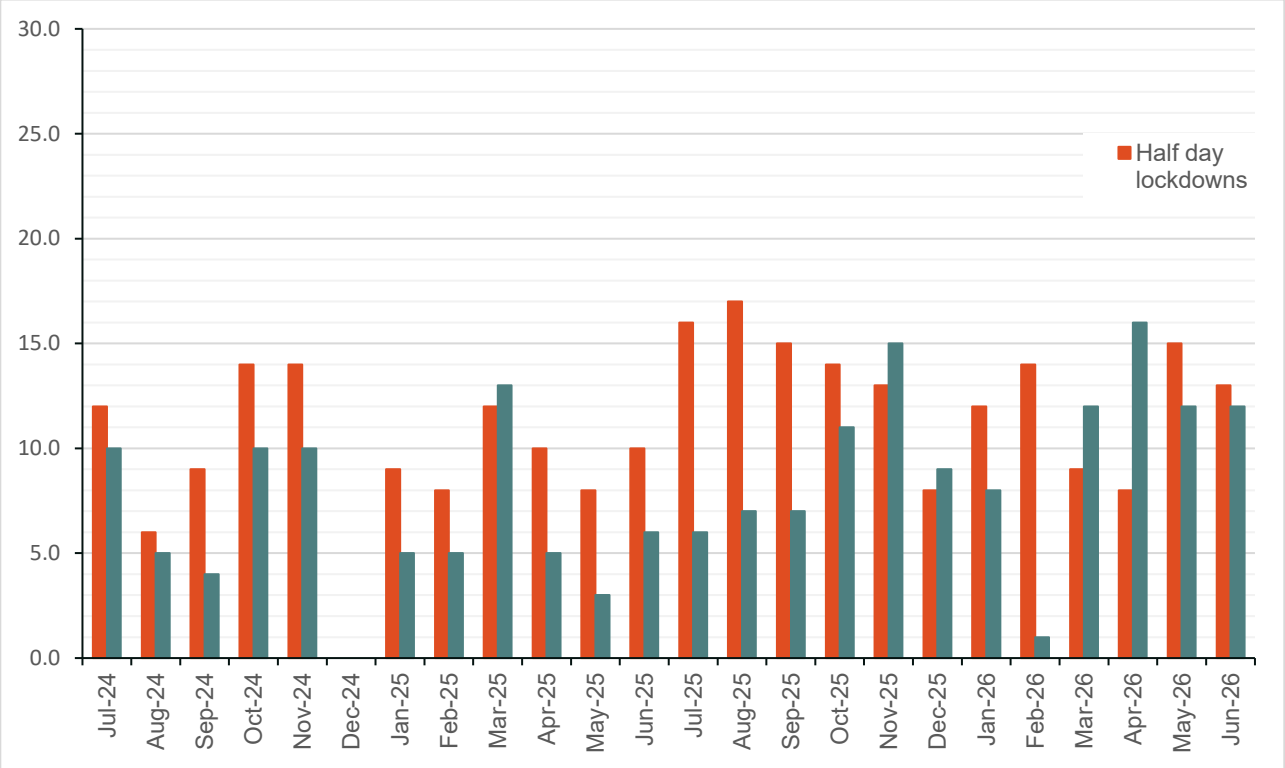
The below graphs are based on scheduled lockdown data supplied regularly by Tasmania Prison Service. This data sets out what TPS schedules to lock and unlock at the start of each day. It is not completely reliable as it may not capture all subsequent unlocks, lockdowns, late/early unlocks or early/late lockups that may occur throughout the day. It does, however, provide an indication of the number and types of lockdowns (full or half day) across the Risdon Prison Complex and Southern Remand Centre. This provides greater context to the average hours out of cell data. It should also be noted that data is missing for December 2024 as we did not receive a complete set of the scheduled data for this month although TPS does have records of actual lockdowns for this period.

Figure 7. Average percent of month scheduled to spend in lockdown in Risdon Prison Complex maximum units July 2024 to June 2026[14]



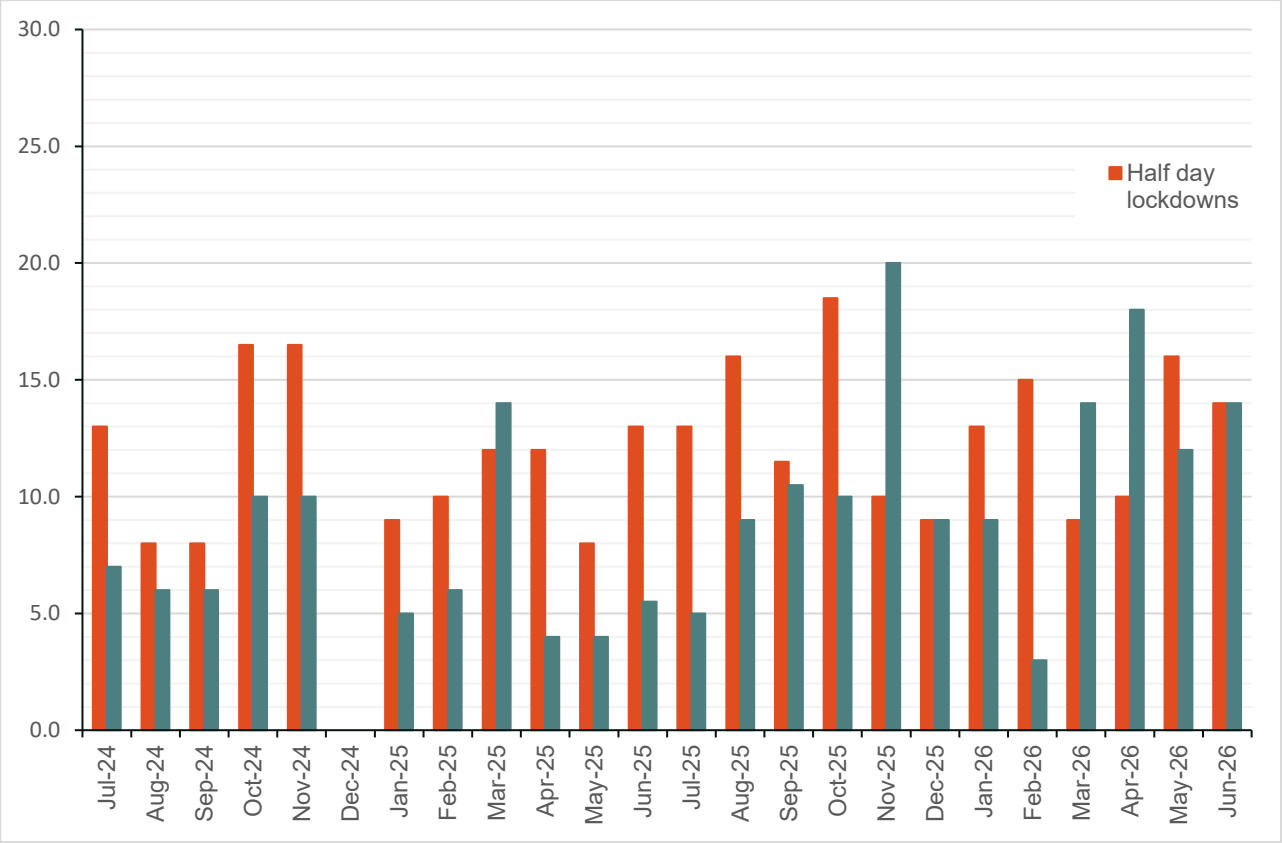
[14] Mainstream maximum units include Derwent Alpha, Derwent Bravo, Apsley and Huon. Disciplinary maximum units include Franklin and Tamar. People are accommodated in these units as a result of disciplinary action or administrative separation and have reduced contact with others and minimal privileges.

Figure 8. Number of scheduled full and half days spent in lockdown in Risdon Prison Complex medium precinct July 2024 to June 2026



Appendix 1: Out of cell hours and lockdowns at Tasmania Prison Service facilities

Figure 9. Number of scheduled full and half days spent in lockdown in the Southern Remand Centre July 2025 to June 2026



Appendix 2: Tasmania Prison Service population statistics



Appendix 2:
Number of people in Tasmania Prison Service custody - 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026

Figure 10. Average monthly population of people in Tasmania Prison Service custody July 2026 to June 2026

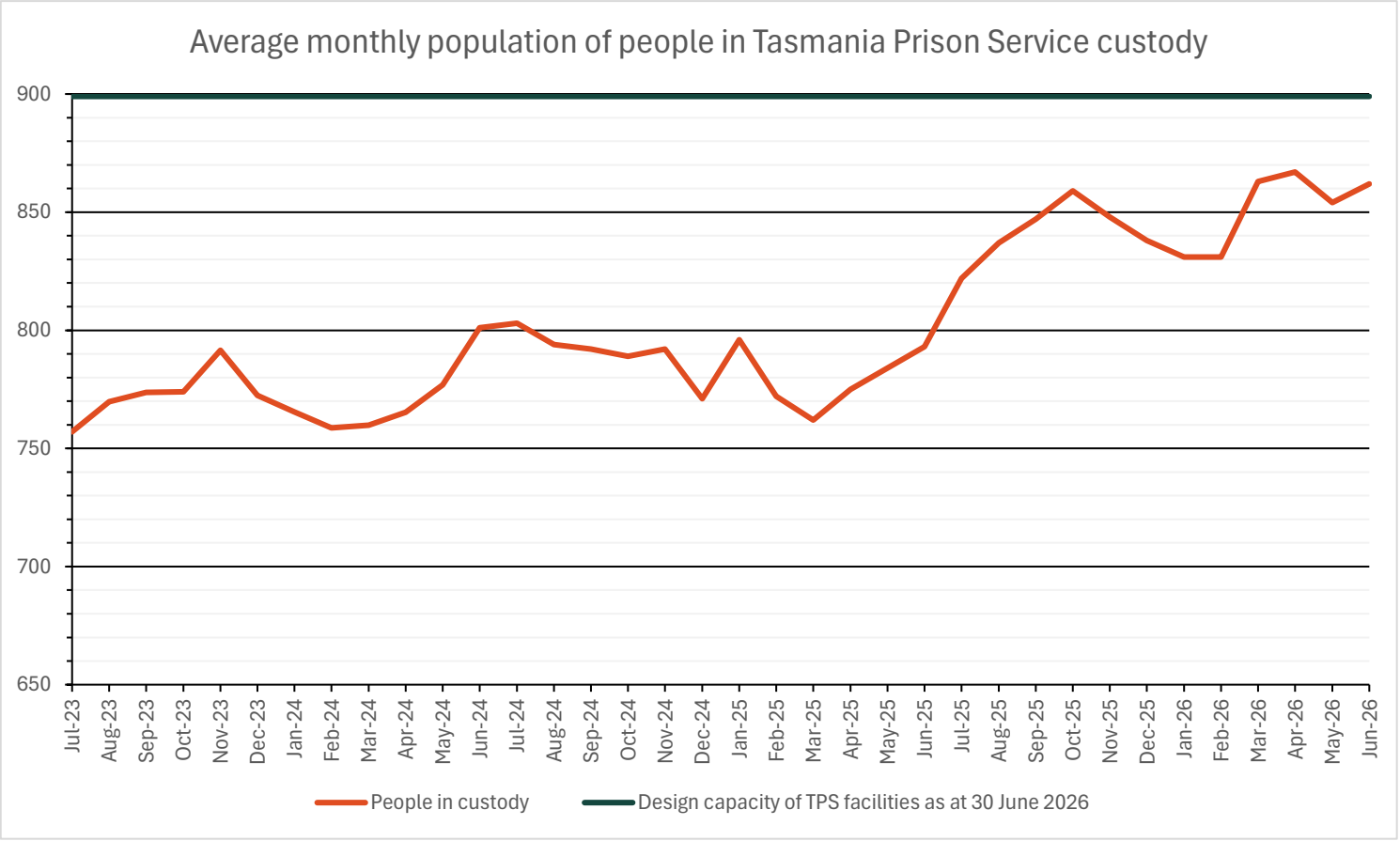


Figure 11. Average monthly population of men in Tasmania Prison Service custody July 2023 to June 2026



Figure 12. Average monthly population of women in Tasmania Prison Service custody July 2023 to June 2026

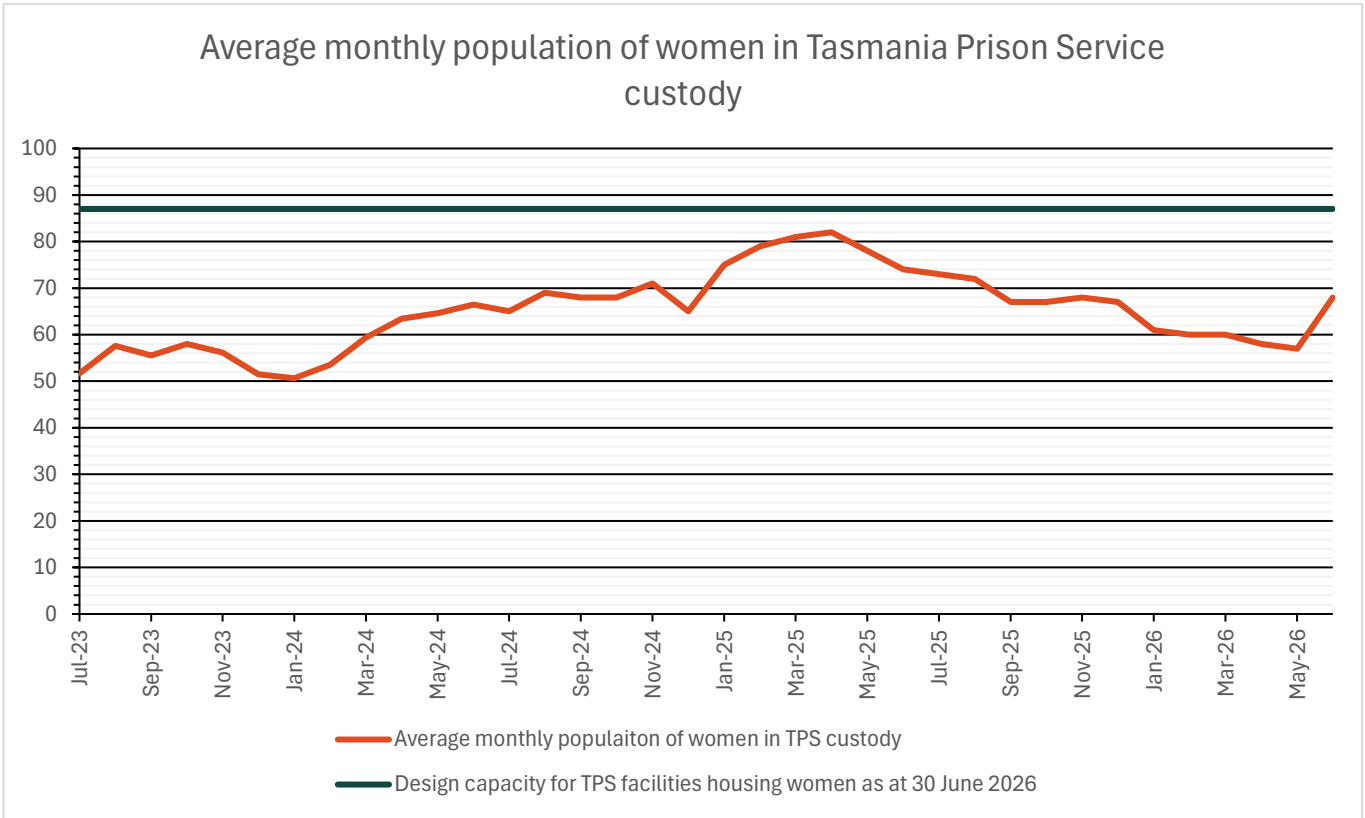


Figure 13. Average percentage of people in Tasmania Prison Service custody held on remand and serving custodial sentences July 2025 – June 2026

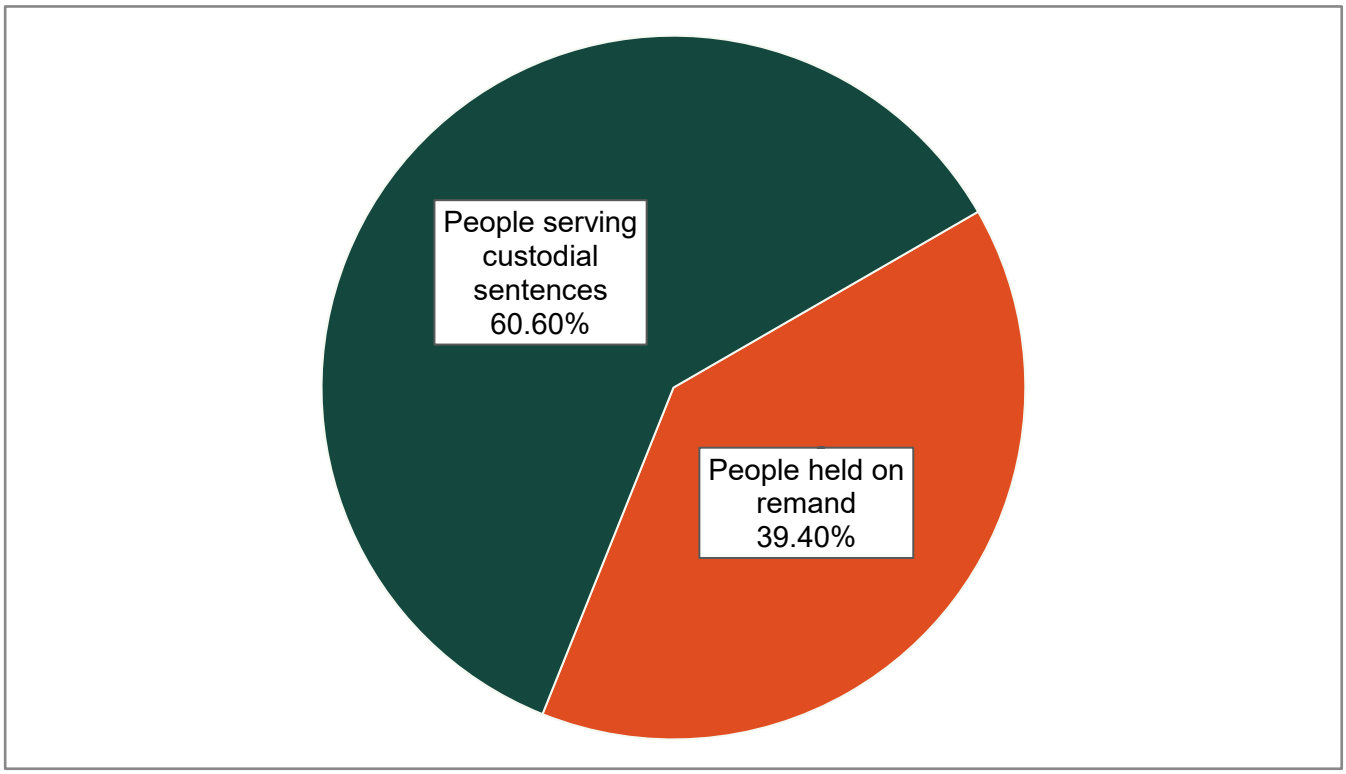
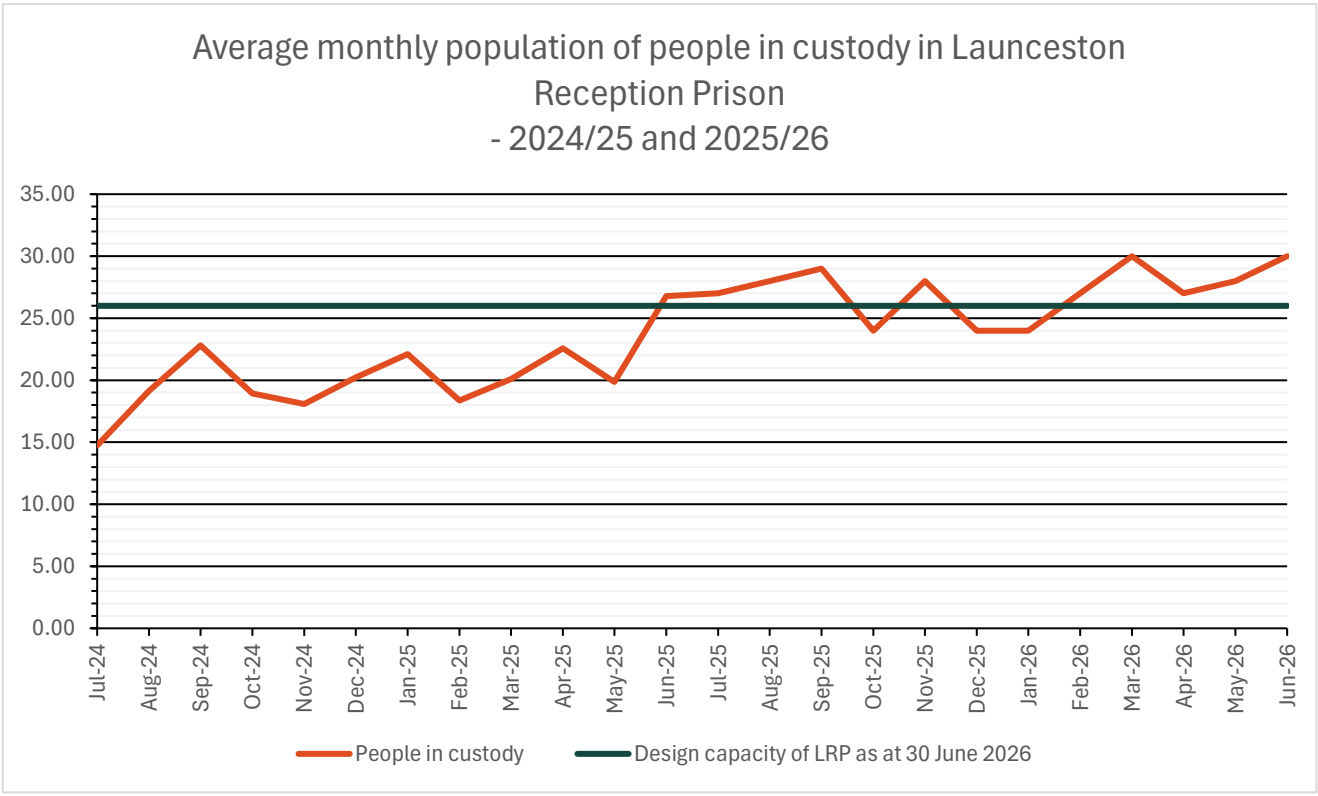


Figure 14. Average monthly population of people in custody in Launceston Reception Prison July 2024 to June 2026



Appendix 3: Updates on recommendations from *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024*



Explanatory note

The following table includes the initial response and an update to the recommendations made in the *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024* from the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Department of Health (DoH) followed by our evaluation and analysis, where relevant. The updates to the recommendations were received from DoJ on 29 August 2025 and from DoH on 25 August 2025.

When the Office of the Custodial Inspector published this report in July 2024, we included the covering correspondence accompanying the responses from DoJ and DoH in Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, of the *Inhumane treatment in dry cells review report 2024*.

1	**Director's Standing Order (DSO) 1.40 Managing Prisoners Suspected of Internally Concealing Items be reviewed to determine if it is necessary considering the introduction of body scanners.** **If the DSO and dry cells remain necessary, the DSO is revised to prioritise the care and wellbeing of people in custody before security considerations. Any revisions should respect and protect the therapeutic relationship between Correctional Primary Health Services (CPHS) staff and people in custody.** **The following specific focus areas should be addressed:** **1. Lighting should not be left switched on throughout the night in any cell. People in custody should have control over the light in their cell.** **2. Provide reasonable entertainment, such as access to a television, radio, books and writing material.** **3. Provide appropriate privacy, such as block-out curtains, in the reception area dry cell of Risdon Prison Complex.** **4. Install an intercom in the reception area dry cell of Risdon Prison Complex so people in custody can call for help in an emergency.**

5. **If a video camera is required in the reception area dry cell of Risdon Prison Complex to monitor activities at night, install a night vision video camera.**
6. **Improve record-keeping for the use of dry cells, such as through the creation of a dry cell register.**
7. **Ensure people in custody have clean prison issue clothing or their own clothing (if on remand) and normal bedding unless there are explicit documented health reasons why they should not, such as self-harm concerns.**
8. **Ensure people in custody receive standard meals unless there are explicit documented health reasons why they should not, such as self-harm concerns.**
9. **Ensure the contraband register, or the new dry cell register, specifies whether contraband was found or surrendered during a person's placement in the dry cell so the effectiveness of the dry cell process can be better monitored.**
10. **Ensure that Correctional Primary Health Services staff have access to the relevant Director's Standing Orders if they are expected to assist with dry cell operations.**
11. **Ensure Correctional Primary Health Services Advice/Instructions and 'On Watch' levels are documented on dry cell management plans.**
12. **Ensure all dry cell management plans are placed on a person's Custodial Information System file as they are created so they can be accessed by Tasmania Prison Service staff with a duty of care for the person, including correctional officers in the control room.**
13. **Tasmania Prison Service ensure people in custody always receive a copy of their separation order and are informed of their rights to request a review of this order. It should also provide writing materials to people in custody to allow them to make a written review request and explore allowing them to verbally request a review.**
14. **Exclude women from placement in dry cells.**
15. **Limit the initial standard period someone can be held in a dry cell to 72 hours. Any extensions should be limited to two 24-hour periods with a total maximum of five days in a dry cell. Any application for an extension, like any approval of a dry cell plan, should be supported with**

documented reasons setting out why there is a reasonable suspicion that the person in custody has contraband, such as information from a body scanner.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	DSO 1.40 is currently under active review as part of the delivery of body scanning technology and the Astria digital solution. The TPS continues to balance the care and wellbeing of people in custody with security considerations. Body scanning technology will replace personal searches as the routine method of detecting contraband, offering a more trauma informed approach that minimises harm and improves detection rates. As per the recommendation, the TPS will consider whether dry cell management will remain a necessary approach as part of the review of the DSO and implementation of body scanning technology. Subject to the outcome of that review, the exclusion of women from the DSO's operation will also be considered. Several parts of this recommendation have already been addressed or are in the process of being addressed, including:	

• the practice of cells being constantly lit in the evenings has ceased; the TPS is exploring methods of remotely dimming or turning off cell and hallway lights; • curtains have been custom-made for the dry cell at RPC Reception and the TPS is awaiting components to complete installation; • the TPS has sought a quotation for the installation of an intercom in the RPC Reception dry cell; • the TPS is obtaining a quotation for the installation of infrared cameras to reduce the need for cells to be lit at night while maintaining visibility; • the TPS is exploring the viability of installing a television in the RPC dry cell; • the routine practice of removing mattresses in the morning has ceased, unless SASH risk requires this; • finger food and canvas gowns will not form part of dry cell management unless required to mitigate SASH risk; • the separation of prisoners will be managed within Astria, with work	

	underway to ensure that staff have access to relevant information; • on 3 January 2024 the TPS implemented a central separation register. This includes identification of dry cell management; and • on 3 July 2024 the TPS gave all CPHS staff access to the Director's Standing Orders via SharePoint, extending the existing access beyond key CPHS personnel. A process has been established to ensure CPHS staff arrivals and departures are communicated to TPS Policy for the ongoing management of access for CPHS staff.	
2025 update	In progress. The policies governing the management of prisoners suspected of internally secreting items (DSO 1.40 and DSO 1.24) have been subject to a comprehensive review, which is nearing finalisation. The specific focus areas for improvement not already addressed are	Complete. CPHS access to the prisoner prior to placement in a dry cells is commonplace and an health assessment is undertaken and appropriate information is shared with the TPS. TPS will, if further health services are required, request CPHS' assistance with the prisoner. CPHS have been provided with access to the

	being considered in detail as part of this review. The TPS has ceased the use of restrictive practices, such as supervised hygiene and limited access to running water, when managing these prisoners. There is a greater focus on ensuring the health and safety of these prisoners. The use of body scanners has assisted the TPS to minimise personal searching, enhanced detection and provide greater confidence that the need for isolation and monitoring of a particular prisoner has ceased and they can be returned to mainstream accommodation.	Directors Standing Orders via TPS Sharepoint.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Complete

2	**Training for TPS supervisors should include a dedicated unit on human rights standards for people deprived of their liberty.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported.	Responsibility of another agency

	TPS strongly supports this recommendation and will ensure that a relevant unit is sourced or developed. In addition, the TPS is supportive of providing this training to all staff in managerial positions.	
2025 update	No action. TPS intends on having a unit developed ready for the next Supervisors training course.	Responsibility of another agency
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

3	**TPS undertake a review of the environmental health conditions for staff involved in monitoring dry cells, including:** • **testing for any pathogens on the external surfaces of the machine used to process faeces;** • **assessing any risks to staff and people in custody from potential airborne pathogens; and** • **ensuring appropriate maintenance is undertaken on the machine and relevant staff have access to training material on its appropriate use.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Supported. The environmental health conditions for staff involved in monitoring dry cells will be reviewed as a matter of urgency to	Responsibility of another agency

	ensure that the risks of airborne pathogens and other concerns are mitigated, standard precautions for staff who risk encountering bodily fluids are adhered to, and a clear process for the use and maintenance of the machine is documented.	
2025 update	Complete. A review conducted by the TPS identified some deficiencies in the hygienic use of the machine. No remedial action was required as the machine is no longer in use, given that the TPS has transitioned away from traditional dry cells and no longer requires staff to monitor bodily secretions to recover contraband.	Responsibility of another agency
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

Appendix 4: Updates on recommendations from *Adult health care inspection report 2023*



Explanatory note

The following tables include the initial response and an update to the recommendations made in the *Adult health care inspection report 2023* from the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Department of Health (DoH) followed by our evaluation and analysis, where relevant. The updates to the recommendations were received from DoJ on 29 August 2025 and from DoH on 25 August 2025.

When the Office of the Custodial Inspector published this report in June 2024, we included the covering correspondence accompanying the responses from DoJ and DoH in Appendices 5 and 6, respectively, of the *Adult health care inspection report 2023*.

The numerical numbering of recommendations in the tables reflects the numbering used in the two consultants' reports which contributed to the *Adult health care inspection report 2023*. The tables also divide the recommendations into their relevant subsections.

A	**The Corrections Act 1997 be amended to ensure consultation at a senior level, appropriate to the circumstances, occurs prior to removing access to prison facilities for health staff and state servants. In the interim, the Director of Corrective Services, or their delegate, implement an internal process for consultation.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Not supported. The TPS remains of the view that the Director of Prisons must retain the ability to refuse access to a prison to any person in the appropriate	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. TPS and CPHS have a dispute escalation process in place which provides for appropriate consultation

	circumstances. Urgent matters may arise which risk safety, security and order within a prison which require an urgent response.	should a dispute occur which could result in CPHS staff losing access to prison facilities.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	Complete. While CPHS and the Department of Health do not have any power to amend the Corrections Act 1997, the Department of Health and Department of Justice have an agreed dispute resolution process embedded within the Letter of Intent between the two parties. This document is signed by the Secretaries for both Departments.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Complete
Analysis	This recommendation was not supported but the agreed dispute resolution process is an improvement so we have marked it as complete. No incidents of a similar nature that prompted this recommendation have since come to our attention.	

Mental health care

2	**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) providers are specifically trained to understand and support staff working within custodial contexts.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Not supported. The TPS acknowledges that recommendations 2, 4 and 6 largely related to AYDC. The TPS already has a suite of resources available to staff as part of a holistic wellbeing program, which includes the Wellbeing Hub and the MATES Program, in addition to the EAP. This provides multiple support options for staff and a greater choice to find the support that suits their needs and preferences. The MATES Program provides particular context specific support for staff working in custodial contexts. Indeed, the MATES Program and the proactive mental health initiatives in place at the Department were subject to commendation 5 and 6 of Dr Norris' report (pages 55 and 56). [now pages 110 and 111]	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. EAP providers for CPHS staff are those contracted by the Department of Health and therefore do not have expertise in custodial settings. Should the TPS contract EAP services with expertise in custodial settings, CPHS would seek access to these EAP settings for CPHS staff where appropriate.
2025 update	No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	Complete. The initial response is, in CPHS's view appropriate as this is delivered across

		the whole agency. These providers are utilised by CPHS staff as needed.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Complete

4	**As an interim measure, information be sought from other jurisdictions regarding their EAP providers and their organisational fit.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported. The TPS's current mental health supports are fit-for-purpose (see response to recommendation 2).	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. CPHS welcomes the opportunity to work with TPS to explore the EAP providers in other jurisdictions.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	Complete. The TPS have stated that they believe their EAP providers are fit for purpose, noting that Department of Health have access to a number of other EAP providers that TPS do not.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Complete

6	**Review the Award Wages to ensure that these are competitive to the external market.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported.	Supported.

	The Award Wages for correctional staff are determined in negotiations with workers and unions, and codified as part of the Correctional Officers Award. Other wages are covered by the State Service Award and Allied Health Professional Award.	CPHS staff wages fall under the Tasmanian Health and Human Services State Service Award. These wages are reviewed as part of Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations to ensure they are competitive to the external health labour market.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	In progress. Enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations are currently underway for a range of Agreements, including the Health and Human Services Award. These negotiations are undertaken between the State Government and Public Sector Unions and fall outside the specific CPHS remit.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	In progress

Reception Prisons

16	**Increased access to natural light and consideration of mental health needs in renovations and redevelopments of Reception Prison facilities.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle.	Responsibility of another agency.

	The TPS recognises that there are deficiencies in the design of the reception prisons, including with respect to natural light. Significant investment would be required to address this recommendation, noting that the existing infrastructure at the reception prisons does not easily lend itself to adaptation. Contemporary corrections design principles are being applied to all new infrastructure. The TPS's newest infrastructure maximises natural light and fosters a therapeutic prison environment with open spaces and freedom of movement, evidenced, for example, in the Southern Remand Centre. These principles will continue to be applied in the design of new infrastructure such as the new maximum security unit and the Northern Correctional Facility.	The physical facilities of the prison are managed by the TPS. The Forensic Mental Health Service can provide advice on mental health considerations in any renovations or redevelopments of TPS facilities.
2025 update	In progress. As funding becomes available to address this issue this will be considered. Contemporary corrections design principles are being used to shape the configuration and architecture of the Correa maximum security unit.	In progress. The TPS is underway with a review of their facilities and accommodation. CPHS/Prison Mental Health Services will be involved in discussions relating to this review.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	The 2026-27 Tasmanian state budget has allocated $300,000 for Launceston Reception Prison replacement. This deliverable provides for the development of a detailed business case for a new reception prison with contemporary prisoner accommodation, training spaces and accompanying recreation support within the Launceston CBD.	

17	**Mental Health training opportunities be provided to correctional staff in Reception Prisons.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. Mental Health First Aid Training forms part of recruit school training, including two full days dedicated to this component, as well as mandatory refresher training for all staff. As noted in Prof Norris's report, the Therapeutic Services Unit has designed, and is now delivering, a new training package for Correctional Supervisors in relation to neurodiverse prisoners. A new training package for correctional staff will be delivered following the finalisation of the review of DSO 2.02	Responsibility of another agency.

	Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention to support its implementation.	
2025 update	In progress. The suite of training developed by the Therapeutic Services Unit is currently being delivered to recruit schools. Plans to deliver the training more broadly are continuing to be developed.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

18	**Appropriate resourcing and governance structures to support transfer of offenders with higher/more complex (mental health) needs.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. Noting that this recommendation was made in the context of the transfer of prisoners from the reception prisons, the TPS notes that these facilities are not generally used as long-term accommodation. Processes are already in place to ensure that prisoners received through the reception prisons are transferred to a longer term facility once their induction is complete.	Supported in principle. We currently have funding for 1FTE Clinical Nurse Specialist, 1FTE Clinical Nurse Consultant, 1FTE Registrar and 1FTE Project Manager. To fully implement this recommendation would require an expansion of the service given the growth in prison numbers.

	Processes also exist to ensure prisoners at risk of suicide or self-harm are appropriately assessed to identify the most appropriate facility for their placement. This includes consultation with the TPS Therapeutic Services Unit and CPHS, as well as correctional staff responsible for their management. Governance processes are also in place to manage the transfer of prisoners to the Wilfred Lopes Centre (WLC) in cases where higher and more complex needs are identified. This transfer is predicated on consultation between the Chief Forensic Psychiatrist and the Director of Prisons. The TPS also has governance structures to support the placement of prisoners in the Mersey Needs Assessment Unit within the Risdon Prison Complex which can provide a higher level of support and supervision than mainstream accommodation, and enables clinical staff at the TPS to undertake assessments of the prisoner's mental health needs with consultant advisory support from CPHS.	

2025 update	In progress. The TPS are developing a more comprehensive intake assessment on reception and are also considering a clinical governance role to oversee clinical work, best practice and coordination of services.	In progress. Increased staffing for this service include 1 Consultant Psychiatrist, 1 CMO/Registrar, 1 CNC, 4 CNS. A model of care is being developed as part of the project to implement the Prison Mental Health Service in response to the Prison Mental Health Taskforce Report. Future staffing increases are planned to appropriately operate the Model of Care.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

19 An MOU is entered into to facilitate assessments for treatment orders as required.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. Processes to facilitate assessments for treatment orders are already referenced in the existing letter of intent. The existing letter of intent between TPS and the Department of Health provides that the Department of Health are responsible for assessments of	Supported in principle. TPS have agreed to facilitate transfer of prisoners from Hobart Reception Prison to Risdon Prison Centre to facilitate assessments for Treatment Orders. We currently do not have a Consultant Psychiatrist in the north of the state to enable a similar process at Launceston Reception Prison.

	prisoners at initial reception including mental health, and the provision of statewide mental health services, including assessment for and provision of inpatient services at WLC.	
2025 update	Complete. The existing letter of content is current and provides processes to facilitate treatment orders. This recommendation is complete.	In progress. As above.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	
Analysis	We have marked this recommendation as complete as it relates to establishing an MOU and TPS has confirmed there is a letter of intent.	

20	**Increased provision of mental health supports and services for prisoners in Reception Prisons.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle – responsibility shared with another agency. Existing initiative. The TPS is exploring resourcing options to provide increased supports in reception	Supported in principle. The FMHS supports the establishment of a mental health services for prisoners. This would require resourcing in addition to the resources currently available as described under recommendation 18.

	prisons. This may require further investment and is a shared responsibility with CPHS.	
2025 update	In progress. Telehealth services are currently in place, facilitated by CPHS. Additional funding is required to expand these services further.	In progress. See recommendation 18 response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

21 Increased health staffing/resourcing for adult prisoners.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency. Primary responsibility of the CPHS. The TPS is supportive of further resourcing.	Supported in principle. Increased health staffing for adult prisoners would require additional resources given the growth in prisoner numbers.
2025 update	The TPS remain supportive of further resourcing, noting that it would require additional funding to CPHS.	In progress. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

Risdon Prison Complex

22 Urgently increase TPS staffing resources to protect prisoners and staff.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Not supported. Noting the context of this recommendation related primarily to MHWP and the management of SASH risks, particularly in the Wellington Unit, the TPS notes that all correctional officers are trained in SASH risk identification and management. Further, two staff are rostered to the Wellington unit on a daily basis. These officers take a collaborative approach to the workload. Both officers are trained and understand the processes and protocols regarding HRAT management. The roster ensures that staff are not continuously rostered to Wellington. This enables all staff to have practical experience in that role and reduces any potential key person dependencies.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency
Analysis	Professor Norris relevantly stated prior to making this recommendation at page 119, 'This need for additional staff resourcing spans all facilities and employment	

	categories within the RPC and will be returned to within this section of the report. As such, the below recommendation should be considered relevant to all discussions regarding staffing within the RPC'. The TPS' inability to meet its planned out of cell hours, as reported on in this annual report, is demonstrative in part of insufficient staffing resources.

23	**TPS and CPHS develop a designated inpatient unit for mental health presentations.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle – responsibility shared with another agency. Significant funding required to address this recommendation.	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. TPS and CPHS have held discussions regarding a designated mental health inpatient unit. Depending on the model of care, this could require significant resourcing from both agencies.
2025 update	No action. No further action can be taken without the provision of significant funding.	In progress. As per response in Recommendation 18 – a Model of Care is currently being developed, and as per response in Recommendation 16, discussions are commencing relating to the usage of facilities within the TPS. No commitment has yet been made by the TPS in

		relation to this recommendation, but would also require significant resourcing.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

24	**Develop and engage with best practice models which cater to the needs of the Tasmanian adult prison population.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. TPS operating models and policies are based on current Australian Corrections guidelines, standards, and international law. The TPS has policies that specifically cater for gender diverse prisoners and prisoners with disability. Other processes make appropriate allowances for the diversity of the Tasmanian prison population. For example, disability is a mandatory consideration in the disciplinary process, and the lower risks generally posed by female offenders is recognised in the placement system in MHWP which is unique to that facility.	Supported in principle. There is currently no dedicated Prison Mental Health Team (PMHT) within Tasmanian prisons. A PMHT would be a prerequisite for best practice models.

	All policy reviews as part of the TPS Policy Renewal Project include considerations of gender sensitivity, and neurodiversity.	
2025 update	Complete. Existing initiative. This recommendation is complete.	Complete. As per response in Recommendation 18, a prison mental health service has been established and further efforts are being made for service expansion.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete

25	**TPS encourage and support peer mentoring and embed in formal workloads.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. The TPS is exploring ways to formally embed peer mentoring for all staff; with a particular focus on new staff.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. No update.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

26	**Staff mental health training be embedded into onboarding and ongoing professional development frameworks.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. The TSU provides training to all new recruits including: SASH, a brief mental health package, and a brief vicarious trauma, resilience and trauma informed practice workshop. The TPS is continuing to develop a Trauma Informed Framework. All staff are required to complete mandatory training every two years which includes a mental health module. Additional mental health training needs will be considered for inclusion by the training team.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. Continuing to develop.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

27 Reflective practice and other forms of peer supervision be integrated into workload for all staff.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle.	Supported.

	There are well established peer supervision practices integrated into the workload for non-correctional staff. The TPS is exploring ways to integrate reflective practice and peer supervision into the workload for correctional staff, including options of piloting peer supervision and reflective practice in one facility. As noted in response to recommendation 25, peer supervision will form part of the introduction of a mentor program which the TPS is currently exploring.	Clinical supervision is provided to CPHS clinical leadership teams and this is currently being rolled out to all CPHS staff. In addition, performance and development discussions are scheduled annually for all staff with a focus on supporting employees: • to understand behaviour and performance expectations • to participate in two-way conversations with their manager about how they are going with their work and any development needs. The Department of Health Performance Policy and supporting resources detail a number of principles and requirements for having performance discussions, including what they must cover, how often they should occur and what documentation is needed.
2025 update	In progress. Continuing to develop.	Complete. Completed as per initial response.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Complete

28	**Consider recruiting a staff member in Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison to the MATES framework.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. As noted by Professor Norris, this would be dependent on gaining the interest and consent of a staff member rostered to MHWP as this is a volunteer position. However, the TPS notes many MATES volunteers have lived experience as correctional officers and all volunteers receive specialised training to provide support regardless of the staff member's rostered facility. A facility-specific background is not critical to the provision of support.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete. Voluntary position has been filled with training due for completion in mid-August. The TPS is currently reviewing its entire offering in the wellbeing space to ensure that the best staff supports possible are in place.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency.

29	**Support TPS staff requests for training from mental health staff to increase mental health literacy, interdisciplinary learning and more coordinated mental health support for prisoners.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Noting that the TPS already incorporates extensive mental health training, the TPS is supportive of providing increased levels of training and supports to staff in this area.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. TPS remains supportive of this recommendation.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

30	**A psychologist with specific knowledge and skills related to gang and terrorism behaviour continues to work with TPS in a consultant role to develop methods to manage prisoners posing a risk to others.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle – responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS intends to continue to engage with this psychologist.	Responsibility of another agency.

2025 update	Complete. The TPS Senior Psychologist has undertaken relevant training and maintains the skills and knowledge relevant to this recommendation.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

31	**Development of a structured, standardised and integrated system to assist in record management for offender mental health data.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. In November 2023 CPHS transitioned from Prison Health Pro (a stand-alone database) to the iPM / DMR clinical databases. These are the systems used across Statewide Mental Health Services and enable CPHS to share information on offender mental health with other services, including Wilfred Lopes Centre, Adult Community Mental Health Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Emergency Departments at general hospitals.
2025 update	N/A	Complete.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

32	**Existing policies are reviewed and updated to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing needs of staff working in a complex extreme and unusual environment typified by exposure to potentially traumatic events are appropriate to the context.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. The TPS is engaging in ongoing industrial discussions regarding a revised fatigue management and overtime policy which will include additional support following critical incidents.	Responsibility of another agency. The mental health and wellbeing of CPHS staff are supported by Statewide Mental Health Service and Tasmanian Health Service policies. These are regularly reviewed and updated in line with the Department of Health policy framework.
2025 update	In progress. The fatigue management and overtime policy is currently under review. Current supports in place to support staff include the Employee Assistance Program, Justice Wellbeing Hub, and the MATES Program. Incident management processes, such as hot and cold debriefs, are also available to assist staff following critical incidents. The TPS are	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

	currently reviewing their wellbeing offerings including response to critical incidents and the associated de-brief process.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

33	**Develop and review governance structures to better account for mental health and wellbeing needs of staff and prisoners as a matter of priority, ensuring these reviews are workloaded appropriately to ensure meaningful engagement and associated outcomes.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. A review of governance structures will be undertaken.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. The TPS are currently reviewing their wellbeing offerings.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

34	**Implement a formal professional development framework in RPC to support implementation and consolidation of evidence-based, contemporary practices relating to therapeutic climate and therapeutic jurisprudence.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported.	Responsibility of another agency.

	However, the TPS is exploring the development of a professional development stream as part of TPS Training. Noting the context in relation to this recommendation primarily related to facilitating cultural change within the prison population, the TPS, in partnership with the Australian Red Cross, delivers the Volunteering for Change Program, based on the proven Community Based Health and First Aid in-prison program. The program trains prisoners to become Special Status Red Cross Volunteers within the prison and empower them to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of their prison community through identified initiatives. The program assists in providing prisoners with the skills to support a therapeutic prison environment and reduce stigma associated with mental health. This program is delivered in the MHWP and was expanded to the male prison estate in 2023. The introduction of facility-based teams will place therapeutic staff within facilities which will assist in normalising mental	

	health outreach and provide a greater proliferation of staff to engage in prosocial modelling regarding mental health.	
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

35	**Health staff liaise with correctional staff to ensure that mental health screening and monitoring is considered as part of the dry cell management procedure.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. As stated, DSO 1.40 *Managing Persons Suspected of Internally Concealing Items* is currently under review. This recommendation will be actioned as part of that ongoing review.	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. CPHS staff currently review prisoners under Dry Cell management on a daily basis.
2025 update	Complete. The TPS has made a number of changes to the management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing items to ensure a harm minimisation approach is applied. These	Complete.

	changes include accommodating these prisoners in the Inpatients Unit of the Risdon Prison Complex to ensure oversight by TPS and health staff, and ensures their management incorporates overall health assessments, while also reducing opportunities to expose other prisoners to harmful contraband.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete

36	**As a matter of priority, develop policy or documentation regarding the management of the mental health needs of older and very old prisoners.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. TPS policy regarding the mental health needs of prisoners includes all ages, and includes individual assessments in conjunction with CPHS. The TPS supports a review of existing policies to ensure these policies sufficiently consider the unique needs of our older prison population. The TPS will need to engage and consult with CPHS and/or Statewide Mental Health Services in the review of the	Supported in principle. Statewide Mental Health Services have policies and protocols in place to manage the specific mental health needs of older people for example assessment and management of acute behavioural disturbance.

	relevant DSOs.	
2025 update	No action. Work on this recommendation is yet to commence.	In progress. Further discussions with TPS relating to the care of aged and complex prisoners is a priority and has been highlighted as an area of improvement in the new draft version of the Letter of Intent between the two agencies.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

37 Adopt early intervention models of mental health care.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS will work with CPHS to implement an early intervention model.	Supported in principle. The implementation of a prisoner mental health service would facilitate early intervention model for mental health care. See response to Recommendation 18.
2025 update	No action. Work on this recommendation is yet to commence.	In progress. A model of care is currently in development as per Recommendation 18, which will have a focus on appropriate Referral, Triage and

		Assessment and transfer of care for prisoners with mental health issues.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

38	**Additional resourcing of existing research units/engaging with partners to undertake robust targeted mental health research focused on custodial contexts.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. See response to Recommendation 18.
2025 update	N/A. This recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. In progress as per response to Recommendation 18.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

39	**Identify and implement evidence-based/evidence-informed targeted intervention programs of shorter duration for prisoners within the RPC serving sentences of shorter duration.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. Already an existing initiative with our facility based teams model and the planned work of the SRC team.	Responsibility of another agency.

	The TPS and Safe at Home jointly won a funding bid from the Commonwealth Government (DSS) for Family Violence Interventions for People on Remand and Offenders on short sentences. The TPS will soon recruit two positions responsible for adapting the current TPS family violence intervention program to appropriately meet the needs of people on short sentence or remand. The funding for this project is four years. The TPS anticipates recruitment for the clinicians will be finalised by mid-2024.	
2025 update	In progress. The program targeting remand and short-term sentences is up and running successfully. Two staff have been recruited, the program developed and delivery is occurring on a regular basis. The TPS is further developing a suite of evidence-based psycho-educational programs focusing on life skills and emotional regulation. These program will be delivered across the short sentence cohort and remand prisoners. The psycho-educational programs are	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

	targeted to offender needs and reflect evidence-based best practice for psycho-educational programs.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

Physical health care and substance use management

	Introduction	
1	**TPS and Correctional Primary Health Services (CPHS) develop a set of principles for the delivery of healthcare services and monitor their services against these principles.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. A review of the arrangements between TPS and CPHS is currently underway and this recommendation will be considered as part of that review.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. The Letter of Intent between CPHS and TPS and its appendices outline the principles for delivery of healthcare. This Letter of Intent is currently under review.
2025 update	In progress. Initial conversations have commenced between TPS and CPHS with initial indicators considered. Conversations	In progress. This has been addressed in the Letter of Intent currently for review with the TPS.

	continue around indicators such as chronic care plans.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

Access to care

2	**If prison lockdowns are urgently required for regular training, they occur a maximum of one day per month.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. This is not achievable with the current staffing model, but the TPS will continue to explore rostering options and continued recruitment to minimise lockdowns for this purpose.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. The TPS will be undertaking a roster review which will include the consideration of rostered training days.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

3	**During prison lockdowns, each prisoner who is confined to their cell is considered to be in a state of segregation.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Not supported. The circumstances that exist when prisoners are locked down are significantly different than when they are in segregation. Principally, the conditions that relate when a prisoner is in segregation are significantly different. For example, prisoners in lockdown continue to have access to television and gaming consoles, receive canteen, engage in functional employment, may be taken to their usual appointments and visits and engage in programs and education, critical appointments still occur such as court attendances and critical medical appointments. Remandees in the SRC have unlimited access to telephone contact throughout any period of lockdown. This differs to prisoners on segregation who have limited access to some privileges or activities, and are subject to a higher level of operational security, but still receive essential services.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

4	**Prisoners in segregation have at least one hour out of their cell every day in line with the Corrections Act 1997 and international humanitarian obligations.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. The TPS supports this principle.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency
Analysis	The opportunity to have one hour out of cell every day is impacted by lockdowns in disciplinary units, as seen in the representation of lockdown data in figure 7 in Appendix 1.	

5	**People who are mentally ill are not subject to segregation unless it is by a specific order, such as disciplinary segregation or medical segregation.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Segregation does not occur without a specific order being made. The mental health of prisoners and remandees is taken into account in relation to any order for segregation.	Responsibility of another agency.

2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

6	**People in segregation should be medically reviewed according to international guidelines.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. The TPS supports this principle.	Supported in principle. Prisoners in segregation for disciplinary reasons are not currently medically reviewed daily by a medical practitioner or Registered Nurse. They do however have the opportunity to speak with a nurse during medication rounds which occur twice daily. CPHS will work with TPS to implement European Rules 43.2 and 43.3. This may have resource implications for CPHS.
2025 update	In progress. Work on this recommendation is yet to commence.	In progress. This item is ongoing.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

7	**CPHS staff receive the appropriate training to be permitted to walk within the maximum and medium security parts of the prisons unaccompanied.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported – responsibility shared with another agency. Existing initiative. The TPS currently offers the appropriate training to CPHS to enable this occur. Not all CPHS staff choose to take up this currently non-mandatory option.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Currently only Psychiatric Liaison Nurses are permitted to walk, unescorted between maximum and medium units. CPHS will work with TPS to expand this provision to appropriate CPHS staff.
2025 update	Complete. Following consultation with CPHS, it was determined that CPHS staff walking unaccompanied within the prisoner accommodation areas could pose a risk to safety due to the perception from prisoners that staff may be carrying medication.	In progress. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	The responses from the two Departments suggest that there is some misunderstanding about the status of this recommendation. We have marked it as in progress for future monitoring.	

8	**CPHS ensure appropriate standards relating to waiting times to see doctors are set and audited in a rolling cycle.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. CPHS was using Prison Health Pro information system until November 2023. This system was unable to accurately identify waiting times for appointments. Since November 2023 CPHS has transferred clinical documentation to iPM/DMR. These systems will now enable auditing of waiting times.
2025 update	In progress. CPHS noted issues with prisoners attending appointments. This recommendation to be updated to broaden the responsibility. Shared performance indicators are being established to monitor waiting times.	Complete. iPM and DMR fully rolled out to CPHS and Prison Mental Health Service.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	It is unclear if the shared performance indicators discussed by the Department of Justice in its update have been established and so we will review this recommendation at a later date.	

9	**The business case for expansion of the available staff base with the opening of Southern Remand Centre (SRC) is reviewed and resubmitted.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported. The staffing model of the SRC is sufficient, effective and sustainable. Where lockdowns occur due to staffing issues in the SRC, this is related to individual staffing and/or standalone events, not the rostering of the SRC.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

10	**Staff on workers compensation considered to be permanently incapacitated should be removed from the TPS staffing establishment to enable recruitment into their vacant full time equivalents (FTEs).**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. This recommendation is complete. This is an existing practice and is part of our ongoing work within the Injury Management Team.	Responsibility of another agency.

	Section 143L of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 requires an employer, for a period of 12 months commencing on the day the employee becomes totally or partially incapacitated by a workplace injury, make available the employment which the employee was engaged in immediately before becoming incapacitated, with some conditions. When an employee on workers compensation is incapacitated for a period of 12 months or more the employee is moved to a "holding line" where they still retain their permanent employee status, but may be transferred to a different facility or role upon their return to work, and the vacant role can be permanently filled.	
2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

11	**TPS and the unions are both encouraged to reach agreement about staff numbers required to fully operate the prison and the threshold for when lockdowns are required on the basis of staff shortages.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported.	Responsibility of another agency.

	Existing initiative. Ongoing industrial discussions between the TPS and the unions are occurring.	
2025 update	In progress. Discussions remain ongoing.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

12	**TPS Senior Management Team (SMT) seeks external advice from a management consultant regarding the development of a change management process to replace the command and control culture into a more contemporary and effective management approach.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Not supported. This recommendation would appear to stem from a misunderstanding of senior TPS staff's position on command and control. The running a correctional facility occasionally necessitates swift operational decisions to respond and ensure safety and other matters. Outside of critical incident management, the TPS operates under a contemporary effective change management approach and undertakes extensive consultation	Responsibility of another agency.

	and provides the ability for staff to co-create outcomes.	
2025 update	No action. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

13	**TPS SMT seek external advice from a strategic human resources management consultant regarding the development of an effective staff recruitment and retention strategy.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. Existing initiative. The TPS has made use of recruitment consultants to support its ongoing recruitment campaign. In addition, the TPS has created a specific recruitment team to drive this work.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete. The TPS has employed a Recruitment Manager.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

14	**The Director of Corrective Services considers granting prisoners in segregation during lockdowns special management days to the equivalent time they have been in lockdown and that this time is remitted from their sentence.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported. The TPS is focused on reducing lockdowns and increasing time out of cell. The TPS is of the view that the vast majority of lockdowns would not meet the criteria listed in the legislation for the granting of special management days and this would not be in line with the intention of the provision.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

Governance and administration

15	**Training be provided for correctional staff about the role of health staff and vice versa.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported. Training is currently provided on induction and through recruit training. Further refresher training will be considered.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. CPHS is supportive of additional training for TPS staff on the role of health staff.
2025 update	In progress. Work on this recommendation is yet to commence.	Further work is being identified in this space, including providing stigma training for TPS staff by CPHS.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

16 Review the Letter of Intent between the Department of Health and the Department of Justice, and this to be shared with all staff from CPHS and TPS.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. A review of the arrangements between TPS and CPHS is currently underway and this recommendation will be considered as part of that review.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. The Letter of Intent is currently under review and will be shared with all staff on completion.
2025 update	In progress. A review of the letter of intent is currently underway. The letter of intent concludes 2026.	In progress. The Letter of Intent has been reviewed by CPHS and is currently with TPS for further review/update.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

17	**TPS to bring all standard operating procedures and Director's Standing Orders relating to healthcare services up to date and keep them under review.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS has an established process in place for reviewing and updating DSOs. The TPS aims to review DSOs on a regular basis in a timely fashion.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. DSOs are regular reviewed and updated by priority. DSOs are readily available to CPHS staff. Health Services DSO requires updating.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

18	**CPHS Clinical Speciality group needs to meet at least six times per year.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported.

		CPHS CSG did meet quarterly, i.e. 4 times per year but following Inspectorate recommendations, the CPHS Clinical Specialty Group now meets bi-monthly i.e. six times per year.
2025 update	Complete. Actioned.	Completed. CPHS CSG is scheduled monthly.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

19	**CPHS acknowledge patients' medical requests and give a date by when they will be actioned or reasons why they will not.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. The Moodle system has been introduced in certain parts of the prison whereby prisoners are able to make requests or enquiries to health via electronic communication. By utilising this system CPHS are able to acknowledge the request immediately and advise of progress on the complaint or request. It is hoped this system will be extended throughout the prisons.
2025 update	N/A.	In progress.

	Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

20	**Alert patients of their medical appointments without announcing it to the entire unit.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. The TPS is supportive of this principle.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete. Local practice has been updated where possible.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

21	**CPHS acknowledge the receipt of complaints and provide a date by which they will be investigated and if appropriate, actioned.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. The Department of Health Complaint and Feedback management policy, updated in April 2023, requires acknowledgment of all complaints within

		five working days and a response provided to the complainant within thirty-five working days.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Completed.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

22	**Feed findings from complaints into the Clinical Speciality Group for introduction into the clinical improvement process.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. Feed findings from complaints into the Clinical Speciality Group for introduction into the clinical improvement process.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Completed. Complaints are discussed at CSG.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

23	**CPHS to establish a regular meeting with the Health Complaints Commissioner to discuss complaints, trends and outcomes.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. CPHS leadership team last met with the Health Complaints Commission (HCC) in September 2023. At this meeting it was agreed to schedule regular meetings going forward. The Statewide Mental Health Service complaints team have regular communication with HCC on individual issues.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. As per initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

24	**All CPHS health staff need access to peer support and supervision, training, skills and career develop opportunities, cultural diversity training, and regular updates in clinical practice.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. All CPHS staff are required to complete a range of training, both on commencement and through regular

		updates. This includes training in cultural awareness, patient centred care and clinical practice. Staff also have access to performance development through their managers.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. Mandatory training rates are continually monitored both at the CSG and Operational Management
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

Safety

25 Provide more shaded areas to the yards in the SRC.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported. Remandees have uninhibited access to return inside from the yards in the SRC. Hats and sunscreen are also provided.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Responsibility of another agency

26	**Review the terms of reference, including operation and membership, of the Use of Force Review Panel with the view to increase community input, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The current Terms of Reference for the Use of Force Review Panel allow participation from ad hoc members by invitation. The TPS considers that the addition of community members without relevant experience on the Use of Force Review Panel would provide little benefit to the process.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete. The TPS is currently undertaking a broad review of the use of force including the operation of the use of force panel and terms of reference of that panel.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

27	**Provide, as a minimum, the Dedicated Response Team (DRT) and officers working with watch-house detainees with body cameras.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. The TPS is introducing a pilot for body-worn cameras to correctional officers working in the reception prisons, with the launch expected in late 2025. Following a review of this pilot, the TPS will consider a broader distribution of body-worn cameras among other facilities and staff cohorts	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

28 Obtain prisoner perspectives after every use of force so they can be fed back into the review of the incident.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS supports obtaining prisoner perspectives where it is possible and appropriate to do so.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. The TPS is currently undertaking a broad review of the use of force	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

	including the operation of the use of force panel and terms of reference of that panel.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

29	**Review the violence reduction strategies that are in use to ensure they are contemporary.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. This will be considered in the broader context of a healthy prisons framework under development.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. Work on this recommendation has not yet commenced.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

30	**The State Government to consider how people on workers compensation can access the psychiatric care they require.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative.	Responsibility of another agency.

	Through the workers compensation scheme all employees with accepted or pending workers compensation claims have access to various supports as directed by their treating team, including psychiatric services. The Department is aware there is a shortage of psychiatric services in Tasmania, and through the workers compensation system, employees are supported to travel interstate, where medically indicated, to receive in-patient psychiatric services.	
2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

31	**Consider how best to support people on workers compensation or sick leave, especially in light of the Wellbeing Officer role no longer being funded.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. The Department's Injury Management Team continually makes improvements to the work it does to ensure the best	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.

contemporary supports are being provided. Despite the cessation of funding for a correctional officer to be offline, the TPS MATES program is still active. Each employee with an accepted workers compensation claim has a dedicated Injury Management Coordinator and external Rehabilitation Provider. Once any notification of injury occurs, the injured employee is contacted by the Injury Management Team and provided support and referral to appropriate support services. The Wellbeing Support Unit has a Case Manager on site at the TPS each week, and employees can drop in, or make appointments to access this service. The Injury Management Unit has developed and implemented a range of supports, services and resources to support employees on workers compensation or with personal injuries including: • Injured Worker Kits	

	• Refreshed and updated the Workers Compensation and Work Health and Safety intranet pages • Training for all new Correctional recruits. • WHS and Workers Compensation module delivered through the Ready to Lead program. • Supervisor Workers Compensation training package. The Department of Justice has engaged an external consultant to conduct a review of all the Department's wellbeing services to ensure they align with current best practice and that all services are evidence based. That review is expected to be completed by the end of April 2024.	
2025 update	Complete.	Complete. CPHS have access to a range of wellbeing supports including EAP and return to work coordinators to work with the employees and their medical professionals to assist in returning staff to work in an appropriate manner.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete

Patient care and treatment

32 **Consider increasing nursing staff on duty in Hobart Reception Prison (HRP), as is done with correctional officers, during evenings and nights when there are public events likely to involve large crowds and substance use which may result in high numbers of arrests.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported in principle. Additional resources will be required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. Request for further resources is being arranged within CPHS budget submission. No further updates as yet.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

33 **The medication management committee/ drugs and therapeutic committee should ensure all aspects of prescribing practice are in accordance with an established set of clinical guidelines for prescribing in correctional settings. Prescribing guidelines need to be developed where these differ from community treatment guidelines. A formulary needs to be agreed with clinicians.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported.

		A CPHS formulary is available to Medical Officers for use specifically within Tasmanian prisons.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

34	**All medication changes made at the point of admission (and thereafter) should be discussed with the patient before they are made. Until then drugs prescribed in the community should be continued unless contraindicated; wherever possible community health providers should be contacted for treatment information, and proposed changes discussed.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency. The TPS notes that not all medications that are prescribed in the community are appropriate to be prescribed in a custodial facility due to the risk of misuse.	Supported. If medication needs to be changed from what the client was prescribed in the community, this would be discussed with the Medical Officer and entered into the clinical notes record. Certain medications are not prescribed in prison due to the risk of trafficking or the risk to the client from fellow prisoners. In these circumstances an

		alternative medication is prescribed as appropriate.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

35 Electronic prescribing is established.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported in principle. Electronic prescribing has been identified as part of a long term solution to medication management within the correctional environment. This will form part of the EMR project due to be completed 2026.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. This work is ongoing by the Department of Health ICT Bluegum Program of work.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

36 Historical paper medication charts should be moved and stored off site in a central location.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported in principle. Third party storage provider costs would need to be considered.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

37	**The policy and practice regarding drug availability in imprests in various sites should be reviewed and standardised and brought into accordance with Tasmanian pharmaceutical regulations. If pharmacy input is required at Launceston Reception Prison (LRP) this should be organised.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. Completed. The policy and practice regarding drug availability in imprests in various sites was reviewed and standardised and brought into accordance with Tasmanian pharmaceutical regulations.
2025 update	N/A.	Complete. As per initial response.

	Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

38 Commonly required medication should be available in imprests to avoid gaps in medication administration.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. Nurse Initiated Medications are able to be administered by Registered Nurses without the need for a prescription.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. As per initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

39 Evening medication rounds should be established particularly for sedating or psychotropic medication.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle. It is noted that this requires staffing input from CPHS, as well as TPS, and the	Supported in principle. Additional resources may be required to enable achievement of the recommendation.

	operational impact of this will need to be considered.	
2025 update	In progress. Options are currently under active consideration.	In progress. Further resourcing requests have been put forward in budget submission.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

40	**A multi-agency review of medication security should be undertaken with a view to enhancing it where possible, so reducing the potential for trafficking of medication and therefore increasing the use of medication that is therapeutically useful but deemed trafficable.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS will support this review to occur.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.
2025 update	In progress. Options are currently under active consideration.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

41	**The use of on-person medication be reviewed.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS will support this review to occur.	Supported. Weekly Webster medication pack are issued at Ron Barwick Prison. The use of on-person medication in other areas of the prison to be reviewed.
2025 update	In progress. Options are currently under active consideration.	Complete. Webster medication packs are available across whole of Risdon Prison site.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	Given the contradictory responses, we will make further inquiries to establish if this recommendation is complete. Webster medication packs are used across the prison estate but the issue is whether people have to receive their medication daily from a nurse from these webster packs in medium and maximum units or have access to more than a day's worth of medication that they can store and access in their cell. This would only be for those medications that present minimal risk of harm or trafficking.	

42	**Over the counter medication should be more readily available in the units. TPS and CPHS should work to establish an effective policy to implement this.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency.	Supported in principle.

	The TPS will work with CPHS to review options.	
2025 update	In progress. Options are currently under active consideration.	In progress. CPHS Pharmacy is working with TPS to determine best approach for this recommendation.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

43	**CPHS consider creating a list of medication that nurses across the prisons are permitted to dispense both with, and without, a prescription.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. Nurse Initiated Medications are able to be administered by Registered Nurses without the need for a prescription.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. As per initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

44	**Medication be sent with prisoners to court with personal belongings as a matter of routine.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. It is noted that daily medication already transfers with prisoners and remandees, and further work will be undertaken to consider the viability of extending this practice.	Supported.
2025 update	In progress. Discussions with relevant stakeholders are underway.	Complete. CPHS have employed a discharge planner which ensures medication is sent with the prisoner to court.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete
Analysis	Complete as per Department of Health response, since medications are their responsibility.	

45	**The post release medication practices should be reviewed and at least one week's medication should be sent with prisoners who are attending court or who are being released.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. As per the Recommendation 44.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

46	**The criteria for access to dental care should be reviewed to include all patients, both sentenced and remandees, who meet the clinical criteria for care and they should be screened against these criteria by staff trained in dental triage.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. To be reviewed in consultation with Oral Health Services Tasmania.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. An initial education session has been undertaken by Oral Health Services for Correctional Primary Health Services staff for common dental presentations for triage purposes. A commitment between both OHST and CPHS for future sustainable education opportunities including the appropriate medications for oral health treatment.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

47	**CPHS should work with Oral Health Services to review and amalgamate the correctional and community waiting list to ensure people are not disadvantaged regarding their waiting times for dental treatment by virtue of changes to their custodial or legal status.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. To be reviewed in consultation with Oral Health Services Tasmania.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. OHST supports this approach and are working constructively with CPHS to achieve this. Identification of patient names and cross checking lists is the first step in this process and further meetings relating to this are proposed. This is strongly achievable.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

48 Dentistry services at the prison need to be doubled without delay.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. OHST have been approached to consider utilising both dentistry suites at RPC and RBP. It was suggested, due to

		demand, that this could be for a trial period or until waiting list was shortened.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. Access of dental services by OHST are well supported within Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison with good levels of provision. The real area of improvement is within the Risdon Prison Complex with lockdowns impacting service provision. Further discussions between CPHS and OHST relating to surge capacity to addressing waitlists in this part of the prison.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

49 CPHS to review input provided by allied health professionals and business cases prepared to increase input to meet demand where necessary.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported in principle.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. Increases in staffing across the board are being considered as part of a whole of CPHS budget submission.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

50	Upgrade and mend the broken fittings in the Inpatients Unit.	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Complete. The broken fittings identified in the report have been repaired and future maintenance will be completed as necessary.	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources may be required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	Complete.	In progress. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete
Analysis	The report referred to a door that was removed from its hinges and a hole in the wall of one of the cells in the new Inpatients Unit. On a visit during the reporting year we observed both issues have been remedied.	

51	Refurbish the areas of the old Inpatients Unit.	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS has undertaken refurbishment of parts of the Inpatients Unit and further works are subject to funding.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.

2025 update	No action. Progress against this recommendation is subject to the provision of appropriate funding.	In progress. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

52	**Review TPS and CPHS staffing of the Inpatients Unit, particularly the reallocation of TPS staff to other areas during lockdowns.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in part. The TPS does not support the need for a review of staffing of the Inpatients Unit. The TPS is working to ensure that lockdowns do not have as significant an impact on the Inpatients Unit as currently occurs.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.
2025 update	Complete. TPS does not support the need for more staff in this unit. However, do need to address lockdowns causing staff to be redeployed to other areas of the prison.	In progress. Discussions are continuing with TPS on delivery of CPHS services during lockdowns.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	It is unclear if the discussions indicated by the Department of Health in its update are still ongoing and so we will review this recommendation at a later date.	

53	**Review the use of the Inpatients Unit, the medical procedures that could and should be undertaken there, and deliver appropriate training to staff as soon as practicable to reduce the number of escorts to hospital.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. CPHS to lead this review due to the clinical expertise required.	Supported. A Clinical Nurse Educator has collaborated with clinicians from the Royal Hobart Hospital to provide in-reach training for CPHS staff.
2025 update	In progress. Currently under consideration.	Complete. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	It is unclear from the Department of Justice's response if the Inpatients Unit review or the Inpatients Unit use is currently under consideration and so we will review this recommendation at a later date.	

54	**Review the security needs of the Inpatients Unit to allow immediate medical access to all rooms.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.

	Will be considered as part of the review of the Inpatients Unit.	
2025 update	Complete. Immediate access to rooms in the Inpatients Unit is currently provided to long-term patients who require high levels of medical observation or care. Access controls to other rooms are determined on case-by-case basis after an assessment of the risk posed by the prisoner, particularly to health staff. This assessment includes a consideration of the prisoner's security rating	In progress.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	Given the differing responses we will review this recommendation at a later date along with recommendation 52 an 53.	

55	**Review the use, function and infrastructure of the Crisis Support Unit (CSU) to ensure it is a therapeutic space.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Supported. The TPS is exploring solutions to improve the therapeutic nature of the environment. Extensive development would require significant investment.	Responsibility of another agency.

2025 update	No action. Significant budget constraints.	While this is TPS' recommendation, CPHS and Prison Mental Health Services strongly support this recommendation and will be discussed as part of the TPS' infrastructure and accommodation review.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

56	**Increase number of medical escorts to hospital back to eight per day without delay. This will take some work regarding resourcing, but it should be a priority.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS acknowledges that resourcing will be required to enable this to occur and it is limited by that. Concurrently, the TPS is exploring with the CPHS/RHH alternative options to increase access to health care.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	No action. Acknowledging the resource constraints applicable to the implementation of this recommendation, the TPS is reviewing rosters regarding escorts to determine if	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

	improvements can be made with current resourcing.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

57	**CPHS and TPS work with Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) to plan the implementation of secure areas in the refurbished Emergency Department so they can be used by prisoners and escorting staff.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. This has been a long-held view of the TPS. Significant infrastructure and funding will be required.	Supported in part - responsibility shared with another agency. Meetings and discussions have commenced with Royal Hobart Hospital on this issue.
2025 update	In progress. Initial discussions about support for this option have commenced. Significant funding would still be required to implement this recommendation.	In progress. Meetings continue.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

58	**Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RHH and Launceston General Hospital (LGH) regarding mutual expectations and ways of working with prisoners to ensure their safety and welfare as well as that of the public. The MOU with RHH and LGH should also consider introducing regular visits of specialists to the prisons.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Existing initiative. Initial discussions with the RHH to develop a new MOU have commenced.	Supported in principle. Additional resources may be required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	In progress. Discussions are ongoing.	In progress. As per the initial response.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

59 Review arrangements regarding escorts. Consider outsourcing of the transport function to an external provider while TPS is unable to staff the function to sufficient levels.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle. As above see response to recommendation 56. Consideration of this recommendation will occur.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. A review of the escort roster with current resourcing is currently underway.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

60 CPHS to liaise with TPS staff in good time regarding escorts required.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency. The TPS looks forward to working with CPHS in relation to this recommendation.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. Discussions with TPS staff are frequent in relation to escorts.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

61 Increase use of video-conferencing and telehealth for healthcare, wherever possible, with outpatient clinics to minimise escorts required.

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Significant upgrades have occurred to the video conferring capacity of the TPS. The feasibility of undertaking telehealth and health care appointments by video-link	Supported. Discussions are underway between TPS, CPHS and external health providers to maximise the use of Telehealth when a face to face appointment is unnecessary.

	will need to be explored with the CPHS, including with specialists and allied health professionals.	
2025 update	Complete. Telehealth and video-conferencing are fully utilised and is considered the first option for appointments by CPHS, with the exception of specialist appointments which require an in-person assessment of the patient. Telehealth availability is limited to general practitioners and other providers who offer this service.	In progress. Discussions still in progress.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	It is unclear if the discussions indicated by the Department of Health in its update are still ongoing and so we will review this recommendation at a later date.	

Special needs and services

62	**Review the level of information and support required regarding the management of menopause and related symptoms.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response		Responsibility of another agency.	Supported.

		A female Medical Officer provides dedicated services at Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete. Dedicated medical resources are available to Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison and menopause management is available to prisoners based on clinical need.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete
Analysis	Response from Department of Health indicates menopause management available based on clinical need. We have heard from a number of people in Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison that menopausal hormone therapy (HRT) had not been provided, even when asked for. We raised this with the Secretary of the Department of Health when requesting the 2025 recommendation updates, and the response was HRT is available to people in custody where clinically appropriate. We continue to hear from people in Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison who are experiencing perimenopausal symptoms that they do not have access to HRT. We have marked this recommendation as complete given the Department appears to have reviewed this issue but we will continue to monitor the issue of access to HRT more broadly.	

63	**Incorporate the Volunteers for Change program into the male estate and into the CPHS clinical governance program.**		
		Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Existing initiative. The Volunteers for Change Program was rolled out to the RPC medium security precinct during 2023, and will continue to be provided in MHWP and RPC Medium or Ron Barwick Prison in 2024. It is noted that the funding arrangement for this program is due to come to an end and ongoing funding will be required for the program to continue, and to expand the program into other areas of the prison.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation
2025 update	Complete. The existing initiative referred to, run by Red Cross, ceased operating and in late 2024, the TPS partnered with Men's Resources Tasmania to reinstate a Peer Support Program across the men's estate, including in SRC, Ron Barwick Prison and in RPC Medium, after Red Cross removed its service delivery in Corrective Services institutions across Australia. Men's Resources Tasmania has re-established a comprehensive	In progress. As per the initial response.

	peer support program with sound numbers of peer support workers and ongoing coaching and mentoring for peer support workers. TPS is seeking to establish an equivalent program for the women's estate in the coming months.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	In progress

64	**TPS reintroduce the peer support service into Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison (MHWP).**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. TPS is currently exploring options to engage an external support provider to deliver a peer support program in MHWP. The Volunteering for Change Program has a peer support component.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. TPS is currently seeking to re-establish peer support in MHWP.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

65	**Develop Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) rehabilitation services for women to reflect their level of need.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported Existing initiative. This is being delivered as part of the move to facility based teams. Since the inspection the TPS has recruited two additional Alcohol and Drug Counsellors and part of their role is to provide counselling specifically to female prisoners on request. In addition, the Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Program is delivered on a rolling basis in MHWP and provides significant levels of AOD support to women prisoners.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	Complete. Regular AOD counselling and criminogenic programs targeting AOD are available at MHWP, with a programs nurse also attending.	In progress. Work continues on the development of AOD services within CPHS, noting there has been rapid expansion of the Opioid replacement therapy program in the last 12 months.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	In progress
Analysis	Correctional Primary Health Service and Alcohol and Drug Services deliver services based on clinical needs and have developed request for further resourcing. We will review this recommendation at a later date.	

66	**Mental health input to the MHWP may require review. An audit of need should be conducted and the input provided should reflect the level of assessed need.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. Prison Mental Health Service has formally commenced in September 2024 and work continues with the expansion of services, including development of a model of care and the request for increase in staffing, subject to funding.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

68	**TPS and CPHS should conduct a recruitment drive targeted towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle. The provision of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners is currently being examined by the Nous Group through a National Review of First Nations Health Care in Prisons. In the Tasmanian context this is more complex than is perhaps	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.

	anticipated given the span of the State's principal ACCHO does not extend to all people who identify as Aboriginal.	
2025 update	In progress. TPS are awaiting the final report from Nous.	In progress. Work continues to improve ATSI [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander] representation across CPHS and Statewide Mental Health Services.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

69	**CPHS should ensure that culturally appropriate care is provided to people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. A Medical Officer currently works between CPHS and Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. In addition, the Statewide Mental Health Service Improving Aboriginal Cultural Respect within our Services Action Plan 2021 – 2024 outlines the services commitment to meeting the needs of people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

		Staff are also required to complete Aboriginal cultural awareness training.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

70	**The need for transitional case management needs to be reviewed given the impact it can have on recidivism. Transitional case manager positions should be created and a manager appointed.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency. The Department notes that the context of this recommendation relates to the case management of mental health supports.	Supported in principle. See response to Recommendation 18.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Complete.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	Complete

71	**Assistance to those with disabilities to complete the requisite forms for services should be provided.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported. Prisoners are not required to use a carer to fill out forms. They are able to request assistance from correctional officers and non-uniformed staff when required. The TPS will ensure these other support options are known to prisoners.	Supported.
2025 update	In progress.	In progress. This recommendation is supported by CPHS and as noted in the report, the usual means to fill out forms is via a carer. However, CPHS staff will often assist upon request.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

72	**TPS and CPHS establish protocols to ensure prisoners have appropriate access to voluntary assisted dying.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS will work with relevant parties to review and update relevant policy to ensure prisoners have appropriate access. This will be undertaken as part of a review of DSO 4.15 End of Life Care	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. There is also a collaborative agreement in place between the Palliative Care in Prisons (QUT) and DoH. It has been

	which is scheduled for review during 2024.	managed in conjunction with the DoH Research Governance Unit.
2025 update	In progress. The review of DSO 4.15 is underway and includes engagement and input from CPHS. This recommendation is being considered as part of that review. Meetings have occurred between the TPS and staff of the VAD commission/CPHS to discuss factors to be considered.	In progress. A Voluntary Assisted Dying Staff member presented at the August 2025 CPHS clinical services group meeting and a senior medical officer is currently undergoing training in VAD.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

73	**Evaluation of the effectiveness of criminogenic programmes, especially in relation to substance use management, should be undertaken.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS undertakes individual assessments pre and post program participation using peer reviewed tools to evaluate program effectiveness for the individual. TPS programs are evidence-based and the TPS is supportive in principle of	Responsibility of another agency.

	undertaking broader evaluations of criminogenic programs subject to resourcing being available.	
2025 update	No action. This recommendation has not yet been commenced.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

74	**An alternative base for the Programs Team should be found so they are not accommodated in prison cells.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported. Existing initiative. Programs Team members have moved into selected facilities as part of the facility-based teams model.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. Programs team members are now predominantly based in prison facilities.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

75	**Criminogenic programs, especially those containing information about substance use management, should be reinstated within the prison service. They should be closely linked to community services, and ideally straddle delivery of program services in the community after the participant's release.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Not supported. The TPS has consistently maintained the delivery of criminogenic programs addressing substance use management. It is acknowledged that residential substance use management programs that have previously been delivered were ceased due to priorities and staffing during response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the TPS continues to consider further options for a residential program to recommence within the prison.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Work is underway for CPHS to collaborate with the Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS) to improve substance use management and treatment.
2025 update	N/A. No further action as this recommendation was not supported.	Complete. A CPHS/TPS/ADS and community providers have established a stakeholder meeting that occurs every 6 weeks and has drafted a model of care to identify AOD needs for prisoners, and has developed a role delineation framework across all providers for

		efficient use of resources. This is led by TPS.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Not supported	Complete

76	**Criminogenic programs, especially those containing information about substance use management, should be available to women when required.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS offers programs and cessation of substance use supports to women. The Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Program is offered to women at MHWP on a rolling basis as the primary criminogenic program. The recent change to facility based teams will support the further delivery of interventions to women.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Work is underway for CPHS to collaborate with ADS to improve substance use management and treatment.
2025 update	Complete.	Complete. As per response for Recommendation 75.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete

Patients with alcohol and drug problems

77	**Review the policy regarding supports provided for tobacco cessation to ensure the humane treatment of those dealing with nicotine addiction and withdrawal.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS provides support through access to AOD counselling, and the Quit Line. The TPS acknowledges the difficulty in providing nicotine patches in custodial settings, and will continue to provide alternative supports.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

78	**Improve conditions within the dry cell, which is used to house prisoners suspected of internally concealing contraband, including installation of a call button and increasing frequency of levels of observation.**

	Department of Justice	Department of Health
2024 response	Supported. The TPS is obtaining a quotation for the installation of an intercom in the RPC Reception dry cell and other improvements will be undertaken.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	Complete.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

	As noted, practices regarding the management of prisoners suspected of internally concealing items have changed. Prisoners are now accommodated in the Inpatients Unit of the Risdon Prison Complex to facilitate better access to health services and observation by CPHS staff.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

79	**Increase screening of staff, contractors and visitors on entry and at random (including drug testing).**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. Broader legislative and policy amendments would be required for drug testing staff. Staff and their property are routinely searched on arrival to all higher security prisons, including random searches by drug detector dogs. Consideration will be given to increasing screening of staff, contractors and visitors.	Responsibility of another agency.
2025 update	In progress. A working group has been established with this project under consideration.	This recommendation falls outside of Department of Health's responsibility.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Responsibility of another agency

80	**Base AOD waiting lists on all those who require the service, not on legal status. Use this waiting list to assist making the case for development of AOD services.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS is supportive of expanding the services provided, however funding is required.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.
2025 update	Complete. This recommendation has now been actioned - waitlist has been opened up to all requiring access.	In progress. TPS is the lead agency on this recommendation based on the prisoner's legal status. From a CPHS and ADS perspective, services (including AOD treatment) are delivered based on clinical need. Request for further resourcing has been developed for consideration in a budget submission.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete
Analysis	Response from the Tasmania Prison Service indicates the waiting list has been opened up to all who require the service. The new waiting list will be an accurate reflection of demand and better assist in making the case for development of AOD services.	

81	**Deliver AOD treatment to people who require it rather than limiting treatments to those for whom community services are being allocated.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS has little control over the availability of community delivered services. However, the TPS is supportive of expanding the services provided but funding is required.	Responsibility of another agency. CPHS and ADS have expanded treatment for prisoners requiring AOD treatment.
2025 update	Complete. TPS has adopted a new model of service delivery with external AOD NGOs and THS to ensure coordinated and efficient resourcing to adequately meet needs.	N/A
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Responsibility of another agency

82	**Review policy and protocols regarding management of alcohol and drug withdrawal to ensure adequacy of care.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.

	The TPS will work with CPHS to review policy and protocols	CPHS & ADS.
2025 update	In progress. Review into the policy and protocols has progressed, now developing the process into written documentation.	Complete. Tasmanian Health Service has developed a whole of Service policy for Alcohol Withdrawal. CPHS works consults with ADS on the delivery of drug withdrawal services, noting the sharp increase in demand (and delivery) for ORT within the prison setting.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	Complete
Analysis	Response from Department of Health and Tasmania Prison Service both indicate policy has been reviewed/developed. As Tasmania Prison Service are in process of developing written documentation reflecting this, we will review this recommendation at a later date.	

83 Include therapy as part of the opiate replacement program as per treatment guidelines.

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	N/A.	In progress.

	Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	Currently resources are constrained. Budget submission is being developed for further increase in staff within CPHS.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

84	**Review criteria for placement on Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT).**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Responsibility of another agency.	Supported. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	N/A. Recommendation is the responsibility of another agency.	In progress. ADS have recently released Brief clinical guidelines for the use of long-acting injectable buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence. ADS is currently seeking budget to undertake review of TOPP.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Responsibility of another agency	In progress

85	**The leadership and structure of the delivery of AOD services is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose, contemporary and meets the needs of the prison population.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported. The TPS will undertake a review.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	Complete. CPHS have specific Doctors who manage AOD services. Agreed to changed to a shared responsibility. TPS is recruiting for AHP4 Manager - Specialist Services (AOD and disability services) to ensure effective oversight and management of this areas. In addition see new model of service delivery co-designed with AOD NGO's and THS. As an outcome, review considered complete. In late 2024, TPS employed a Senior Psychologist to oversee AOD and Disability Services' in TPS, the "Specialist Support Services". This service provides oversight of AOD service delivery, coordinates AOD stakeholders and external service providers and	Complete. See response to Recommendation 75.

	complements CPHS' health services concerning AOD.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete	Complete

86	**Parameters of eligibility for all AOD treatments and programs need to be created which reflect patient need. Criteria based purely on legal parameters (e.g. remand status) should be abolished. Waiting lists should be then used where necessary to demonstrate service insufficiency. Adequate support and clinical supervision for AOD staff, including off site support where required, should be structured into the program and fully funded to enable all treating staff to have sufficient access as part of the role** **a) A space be identified for the delivery of a residential AOD therapeutic program pending the outcome of the business case for development of Division 8 in Ron Barwick Prison (RBP). Suitable prisoners should be identified for the program, moved to this area and the program initiated without delay. Whilst the program could be structured around the principles of Pathways, it needs multidisciplinary input and close integration with community AOD services, and with community services. Any carefully generated culture needs maintenance, or it can erode over time and this reduces program effectiveness.** **b) Custodial and therapeutic staff for this unit should be carefully selected.** **c) The effectiveness of the program should be evaluated.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS will undertake a review to consider each of these factors.	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.
2025 update	In progress. This work is ongoing.	In progress. Discussions are ongoing with the TPS in this regard and are awaiting the outcome

		of the business case for the development of Division 8 at RBP.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

87	**Develop a business case for the establishment of an adequate number of AOD counsellor positions.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle. The TPS supports adequate resourcing being available to deliver AOD services. In the 2023-24 Budget, funding of $375k p.a. was provided to facilitate increased drug and alcohol interventions to prisoners. Any business cases for funding need to be considered in the broader context of funding requests.	Supported. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.
2025 update	No action. A review into the model and staffing is expected to be undertaken in the coming months.	In progress. AOD Counsellors are within the TPS, therefore the responsibility of this recommendation falls the to the TPS, not CPHS.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

88	**Introduce bleach needle-washing facilities and/or introduce needle exchange facilities.**	
	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**

2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. CPHS is currently reviewing options for re-introducing bleach needle washing facilities with the in principle support of TPS.	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Senior Management Team, the TPS leadership committee have approved this recommendation but work is still underway to implement this.
2025 update	In progress. Bleach needle washing options are under active consideration.	In progress. Still underway. Requires further discussions with the TPS due to personnel changes in TPS leadership within Ron Barwick Minimum Security to implement this recommendation.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress
Analysis	Harm minimisation strategies trial began mid-2026.	

89	**AOD services deliver a range of education programs to CPHS staff and TPS staff regarding drug use in prison and treatment approaches.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The TPS will work with CPHS to explore options to deliver education and training to all staff.	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources may be required to enable achievement of the recommendation.

2025 update	In progress. TPS still to consider AOD training provided to staff to review if this requires expanding.	In progress. Some training has been implemented, specifically surrounding ORT and long acting injectables, however education is ongoing.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	In progress

90	**Develop a multi-agency interdisciplinary model of care for AOD service provision which extends into the community and uses the services of community providers who have contracts or Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to deliver coordinated services.**

	Department of Justice	**Department of Health**
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency. Existing Initiative. In 2022, Statewide Mental Health Services commenced a multi-agency project titled 'Review of Alcohol and Drug Treatment for Tasmanian Prisoners'. This comprehensive review has enabled the development of a related Action Plan and the establishment of the Continuing Care: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Treatment for People In, Entering and Exiting Secure Facilities in	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Additional resources required to enable achievement of the recommendation.

	Tasmania Project (Continuing Care Project) Steering Committee. The Continuing Care Project Steering Committee consists of representatives from multiple government agencies, non-government organisations, people with a lived or living experience of ATOD use, and people with a lived or living experience as a family member, friend, or support person of a person who uses ATOD. The Action Plan was developed collaboratively with key stakeholders from relevant government departments (Department of Justice, Department for Children, Education and Young People), non-government organisations, and people with lived experience. Relevant SLAs will be put in place to support the work arising from the Action Plan.	
2025 update	In progress. Currently being implemented. TPS is progressing the development of a Drug Strategy for its AOD service provision. The Drug Strategy will	Complete. See Recommendation 75 Complete. A CPHS/TPS/ADS and community providers have established a

	intersect with TPS' capability building in community partnerships to establish stronger throughcare pathways for people leaving custodial settings. The Drug Strategy will consider a multi-agency interdisciplinary model of care for AOD service provision.	stakeholder meeting that occurs every 6 weeks and has drafted a model of care to identify AOD needs for prisoners, and has developed a role delineation framework across all providers for efficient use of resources. This is led by TPS.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress	
Analysis	Department of Health has indicated that this recommendation is complete but stated it is led by TPS and TPS has indicated the recommendation is still in progress. We have marked it as in progress and will review this recommendation at a later date.	

Appendix 5: Updates on recommendations from *Youth health care inspection report 2023*



Explanatory note

The following table includes the initial response and an update to the recommendations made in the *Youth health care inspection report 2023* from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) followed by our evaluation and analysis, where relevant. The updates to the recommendations were received from DECYP on 21 August 2025.

When the Office of the Custodial Inspector published this report in February 2024, we included the covering correspondence accompanying the responses from DECYP in Appendix 4 of the *Youth health care inspection report 2023*. The 2024 response to the report from the Department of Health (DoH) was also included in Appendix 5.

The DoH updates to recommendations were received on 25 August 2025 and relevantly stated:

> "I am pleased to provide the updates on progress towards meeting the recommendations that are within the remit of the Department of health. Notably, since the authoring of the youth and adult reports in 2023, the Department has invested in improving service delivery for mental health services in both areas.
>
> Child and Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS) has been progressing well with the development of models of care through the CYMHS Reform Program and specific to the recommendations in the Youth Health Care Inspection Report, the development of a Youth Forensic Mental Health model of care."
>
> "Regarding specific progress on the recommendations:
>
> - For the **Youth Health Care Inspection Report**, there were a total of 24 recommendations provided by the Office of the Custodial Inspector requesting an update.
> - Of the total recommendations, 19 of these were identified to be the responsibility of another agency.
> - Of the remaining five recommendations CYMHS either provided an initial response supporting these recommendations, noting that responsibility is either shared with another agency or there were commitments from CYMHS to address. Progress is well underway on these recommendations."

A	**The Incident Review Committee Terms of Reference provide for up to two community members, including a Tasmanian Aboriginal community member, to be appointed to the Committee. The Committee should ensure that the perspective of young people involved in use of force incidents are sought as part of its review.**	
		Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response		Supported in principle. The IRC has recently established a new Terms of Reference, including the introduction of an external Chair. These additional recommendations regarding the IRC will require scoping and consideration of risk and confidentiality requirements under the new Terms of Reference.
2025 update		In progress. A review of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) IRC has been conducted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police. The review report is currently being considered by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP).
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress

B	**DECYP seek external advice from a strategic human resources management consultant regarding the development of an effective staff recruitment and retention strategy or review of its current strategy.**	
		Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response		Supported in principle.

	A Youth Justice Workforce Strategy will be developed which will include workforce planning, marketing and recruitment, and ongoing workforce management.
2025 update	In progress. The first draft of the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan has been completed. Consultation on the draft and refinement of the proposed actions, particularly with respect to operational workforce needs at AYDC has commenced. A second draft of the Action Plan is expected to be ready in the third quarter of 2025.This Action Plan will address workforce-related Commission of Inquiry recommendations (12.6, 12.7, 12.9 and 12.34). The plan will focus on workforce planning, recruitment and marketing, and ongoing workforce management, to ensure that young people in the youth justice system continue to be supported by a highly skilled and capable workforce.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

C	**An appropriate provision be inserted in the Youth Justice Act 1997 to provide for special remission that goes beyond s87 of the Corrections Act 1997. It should recognise that if a child is locked down, contrary to their human rights, DECYP should consider appropriate reductions to their term of detention.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. The Youth Justice Act 1997 is currently being reviewed by DECYP, and this recommendation will be considered as part of that review.
2025 update	In progress. DECYP have added this to their Legislative Review risk register to ensure it is considered in their review of the Youth Justice Act 1997.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

D	**DECYP lobby for time out of room data to form an indicator in the Report on Government Services.**	
	Department for Education, Children and Young People	
2024 response	Supported in principle. Isolation policy and procedures in AYDC are currently under review, and the way in which associated data is recorded is subject to change. The applicability of this recommendation will be re-assessed once those changes have been implemented.
2025 update	In progress. Time out of room data has been discussed at a national level. There have been delays nationally in achieving sufficient data availability and counting rule agreement to support this reporting. DECYP will be able to report on time out of room when the new YJPlus system is implemented and associated reporting is developed from that system.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

Mental health care

1	**Develop and implement change management processes to support staff and residents until the proposed closure/redevelopment of AYDC.**	
	Department for Education, Children and Young People	
2024 response	Supported.

	The Department is currently reviewing the structure of Services for Youth Justice, including key leadership roles in youth detention. Part of this includes consideration of a Culture Change Manager at AYDC.
2025 update	In progress. A Cultural Change Lead is now in place at AYDC to support change management processes. Work is continuing on making improvements to practice at AYDC to ensure that children and young people are provided with the care and support they need. The development of a Workforce Transition Plan will consider options to support the workforce in the lead up to the closure of AYDC.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

2	**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) providers are specifically trained to understand and support staff working within custodial contexts.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. The Department currently has EAP services available for all staff across the Department. A review of appropriately trained EAP service providers within the custodial context is required to determine the availability of such services.
2025 update	In progress. DECYP is considering this recommendation as part of a Department EAP review project that is underway. A new Wellbeing Connect Program replacing EAP was launched on 1 August 2025, offering a broader range of supports for individuals and teams. These supports include but are not limited to personal services and traumatic incident support for individuals, and urgent response and recovery for

	workplaces. Work has commenced to see if the Program's offerings can be further tailored to AYDC's context.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

3	**The AYDC EAP provider or another mental health professional provide a framework regarding the organisational responses to the current media focus and associated allegations of abuse perpetrated towards residents.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle - responsibility shared with another agency. Refer to response to recommendation 2.
2025 update	In progress. DECYP is considering this recommendation as part of a Department EAP review project that is underway. A new DECYP Wellbeing Connect Program replacing EAP was launched on 1 August 2025, offering a broader range of supports for individuals and teams. These supports include but are not limited to personal services and traumatic incident support for individuals, and urgent response and recovery for workplaces. Work has commenced to see if the Program's offerings can be further tailored to AYDC's context.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

4	**As an interim measure, information be sought from other jurisdictions regarding their EAP providers and their organisational fit.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported.

	Refer to response to recommendation 2.
2025 update	In progress. DECYP is considering this recommendation as part of a Department EAP review project that is underway. A new Wellbeing Connect Program replacing EAP was launched on 1 August 2025, offering a broader range of supports for individuals and teams. These supports include but are not limited to personal services and traumatic incident support for individuals, and urgent response and recovery for workplaces. Work has commenced to see if the Program's offerings can be further tailored to AYDC's context.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

5	**Urgently increase AYDC staffing resources to protect residents and staff.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported. Rapid recruitment is currently underway and two rounds of recruitment of Youth Workers have occurred within the last four months. Recruitment will continue to occur until satisfactory staffing levels are sustained, which will be support by the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy (see response to recommendation 6).
2025 update	Complete. The number of Youth Workers employed at AYDC has increased over the past 12 months, and year-on-year since November 2022. A total of 25 Youth Workers were employed as a result of three recruitment campaigns run during 2024. Recruitment campaigns continue to be a priority in 2025 to maintain and grow the AYDC

	workforce. This will continue to be supported through actions in the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan that is under development.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete
Analysis	Staffing numbers have improved significantly following DECYP's establishment of its AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce. Focus on ongoing recruitment and retention will be necessary to ensure staffing numbers remain appropriate.

6	**Review the Award Wages to ensure that these are competitive to the external market.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported. A Youth Justice Workforce Strategy will be developed which will include workforce planning, marketing and recruitment, and ongoing workforce management.
2025 update	In progress. This will be considered as part of the ongoing work on the development of the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan (update provided at Recommendation B) and as part of the negotiations on the Child Safety and Youth Justice Incentive Industrial Agreement 2024 when that takes place.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

7	**Development of a structured, standardised and integrated system to assist in record management for offender mental health data.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle.

	A new system is currently under development to support the collection and use of information by staff in AYDC, this recommendation will be considered as part of the ongoing development of this system.
2025 update	In progress. The new YJPlus system will collect information on the suicide and self-harm risk of young people in detention. The inclusion of any further health information included in a DECYP system would be subject to information sharing agreements with the Department of Health.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

8 Increased access to trained mental health professionals to support resident and staff wellbeing.

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2024 response	Supported in principle. The Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) staff are on site at AYDC providing therapeutic evaluations of young people and their support needs, as well as direct guidance for staff. A Clinical Services Team will be implemented to provide professional advice and practical support in the management of young people which will include clinical supervision. Refer to the response to recommendation 2 for further information regarding staff wellbeing support.
2025 update	Complete. A range of additional supports have been implemented. In addition to access to a consultant psychiatrist and a Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS) Youth Psychiatrist, young people now have improved access to psychological services. A CYMHS forensic psychologist is available two days per week at

	AYDC. Further, the CYMHS coordinates referral meetings between AYDC and the service for young people nearing release, to support their smooth transition and continuity of care in the community. In addition to this, ACF have two practitioners onsite to provide wellbeing support to staff as well as therapeutic intervention directly to the young people. A key role of the social work team onsite is to also provide mental health support to the young people. They have a pivotal role in the development of individual plans, care plans and therapeutic response plans which help to coordinate required responses and supports for young people. The Chief Allied Health Advisor has now been appointed in DECYP and allied health staff will be employed to provide assessment and interventions to support young people at AYDC.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete
Analysis	The situation at AYDC has changed since the update in 2025 as there is no longer an ACF staff member onsite but there is a psychologist on site four days a weeks and CYMHS is attending AYDC regularly.

9	**Review policies and procedures employed by external contractors providing transport for AYDC residents with a specific focus on protecting basic physiological needs (food, hydration, toileting) and psychological safety (supported by prioritised transport between Reception Prisons and AYDC).**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported. External contractors providing transport for AYDC young people are trained in relevant AYDC procedures as part of their induction. A review of their policies and procedures will be incorporated into the broader policy and procedure review underway.
2025 update	In progress.

	DECYP conducted a training session for secure transport workers in July 2025 (4 hours 15 minutes). That session included an introduction to young people at AYDC, provided by ACF that provides an overview of the young people in detention, their backgrounds and experiences, information on the impacts of trauma, health challenges and disability. Awareness, De-escalation and Protection (ADP) training tailored for secure transport officers was provided to give techniques to build situational awareness and de-escalation, as well as protection from harm for everyone on board. A Request for Tender for the provision of transport is being progressed and appropriate training will be provided to successful providers with this to include basic physiological needs and psychological safety prior to commencing transports for AYDC.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress
Analysis	It is unclear from the 2025 update if the policies and procedures for security contractors providing transport for AYDC have been reviewed. See for more recent updates relating to security contractors arising from a report involving their use of an improvised spit hood on a young person during a trip from a hospital to AYDC.

10	**Implement a formal professional development framework in AYDC to support implementation and consolidation of evidence-based, contemporary practices relating to therapeutic climate and therapeutic jurisprudence.**	
		Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle.	

	A workforce learning and development framework has been reviewed and the recommendations will inform development of the model of care and our practice approach to ensure that staff are well supported and supervised.
2025 update	In progress. Professional development is being considered as part of the development of a Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan. This Action Plan will address workforce-related Commission of Inquiry recommendations (12.6, 12.7, 12.9 and 12.34). The plan will focus on workforce planning, recruitment and marketing, and ongoing workforce management, to ensure that young people in the youth justice system are supported by a highly skilled and capable workforce. The first draft of the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan has been completed. Consultation on the draft and refinement of the proposed actions, particularly with respect to operational workforce needs at AYDC has commenced. A second draft of the Action Plan is expected to be ready in the third quarter of 2025.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

11	**AYDC staff be provided training in neurodivergence and neuro-affirmative practice.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. The AYDC staff training package is currently under review. This training will be conducted in light of this work.
2025 update	In progress. Consultation for the review of the Youth Worker Induction Package has now been completed. A report with recommendations prepared by the external contractor

	conducting the review is expected by the end of August. This recommendation has been considered as part of this broader review. It is expected that implementation of a new training model, informed by the review will be implemented in early 2026. This will be considered alongside recommendation 27 and the development of the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

12	**Installation of shade cloths or other structures to encourage AYDC residents to spend time outside in nature.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. This recommendation will require consultation and consideration regarding the infrastructure safety and security risks of installing shade cloths and/or other structures.
2025 update	In progress. As part of upgrade works currently underway at AYDC, the Liffey unit will be getting a new Colourbond roof over the courtyard area to provide shade.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

13	**Review the range and implementation processes of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with external service providers to ensure access to appropriate and timely mental health care.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported - responsibility shared with another agency.

	The existing MOUs with external service providers will be reviewed as part of the broader policy and procedure review currently underway.
2025 update	In progress. Scoping and planning for the MoU and Service Level Agreements reviews has commenced.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

14	**A representative from health be present at AYDC multidisciplinary team meetings to ensure that health is a core consideration in all decisions.**

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2024 response	Supported in principle. The governance structures in place are currently under review and subject to change. The outcome of this recommendation will be dependent on the finalised governance model. Currently, Care Team Meetings can include, where relevant, external medical professionals (e.g. paediatricians and General Practitioners).
2025 update	In progress. A multidisciplinary team meeting is scheduled to occur weekly at AYDC. These meetings have occurred intermittently due to staffing constraints. To facilitate ongoing multidisciplinary engagement, including by the health representatives invited to attend, the operating model for these meetings is currently being refined.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

15	**Review of governance structure and planned reviews of action plans, policies and communication processes.**

	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. Refer to response to recommendation 14.
2025 update	In progress. A new portfolio structure is currently being implemented for the Child Safety and Youth Justice Operations Portfolio. This will see an increased focus on leadership structures and related governance for Custodial Youth Justice.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

26 Staff mental health training be embedded into onboarding and ongoing professional development frameworks.

	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. The AYDC staff training package is currently under review, and improvements to staff mental health training will be considered for onboarding staff and ongoing staff development.
2025 update	In progress. Consultation for the review of the Youth Worker Induction Package has now been completed. A report with recommendations prepared by the external contractor conducting the review is expected by August. This recommendation has been considered as part of this broader review alongside recommendation 11. It is expected that implementation of a new training model, informed by the review will

	be implemented in early 2026. Ongoing professional development will be considered as part of the Youth Justice Workforce Strategy Action Plan that is under development (please see response to recommendation 10).
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

27	**Reflective practice and other forms of peer supervision be integrated into workload for all staff.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. A workforce learning and development framework has been reviewed and the recommendations will inform development of the model of care and our practice approach to ensure that staff are well supported and supervised. A Clinical Services Team will be implemented to provide professional advice and practical support in the management of young people which will include clinical supervision.
2025 update	Complete. ACF provides therapeutic support to AYDC staff through the Practice Lead: Clinical Review position. In May 2025, the Practice Lead increased their on-site presence from three days a fortnight to three days a week. The Practice Lead is involved in staff training, providing formal and informal support to AYDC staff, and facilitating reflective practice for AYDC staff in group sessions. They also attend weekly AYDC management debrief meetings, as a means of keeping updated with changes occurring at the centre and attend twice weekly Incident Review Meetings to provide external advice and support regarding serious incidents at AYDC. The Chief Allied Health Advisor provides professional advice and practical support to Youth Justice staff. Ongoing proactive, clinical supervision is in place for AYDC staff. Coaching and supervision are also available for leaders to build their

	capability to manage their staff's wellbeing and support their teams following critical incidents for example.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress
Analysis	Since this update there is now a DECYP Wellbeing Officer on site part time each week to support staff and there have been training workshops with existing staff. We have marked this recommendation as in progress as we will verify in the upcoming reporting year that reflective practice and peer supervision have been formally implemented.

32	**Existing policies are reviewed and updated to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing needs of staff working in a complex extreme and unusual environment typified by exposure to potentially traumatic events are appropriate to the context.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle. The implementation of this recommendation will be supported through the outcomes of recommendations 2, 3, and 4.
2025 update	In progress. DECYP are considering this recommendation as part of broader department EAP review project underway.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

37	**Adopt early intervention models of mental health care.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2024 response	Supported in principle.

	Refer to response to recommendation 8.
2025 update	In progress. The AYDC Suicide and Self-Harm (SASH) Procedure is currently being reviewed and mental health training for staff is being considered as part of its implementation. The revised scope of the procedure considers prevention through proactive strategies and interventions as well as response to SASH incidents.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

Physical health care and substance use management

67 **AYDC engage an acoustic consultant to review the acoustic conditions in units and other areas, such as the gym, and implement the advice as appropriate to improve and create more calming acoustic conditions.**

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2024 response	Supported in principle. This recommendation will require consultation and consideration regarding the infrastructure safety and security risks of any recommendations made by an acoustic consultant.
2025 update	In progress. Recent renovations at AYDC including a new gym floor and new furniture in some units may have assisted with noise reduction. However, an acoustic consultant has not been engaged as part of this work. Calm acoustic conditions have been considered as part of the new youth justice facility with the Masterplan outlining that: ‘Careful spatial planning will seek to optimise thermal performance and

	acoustic comfort by regulating temperature and reducing noise, ensuring a comfortable environment.’
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

Appendix 6: Updates on recommendations from *Children in Tasmania's prisons review report 2025*



Explanatory note

The following table includes responses to the recommendations made in the *Children in Tasmania's prisons review report 2025* from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP), and the Department of Justice (DoJ).

When the Office of the Custodial Inspector published this report in June 2025, it included the consolidated multi-agency response coordinated by DPAC and including DECYP and DoJ.

In addition to this consolidated response, DECYP provided individual responses to each recommendation and DoJ provided individual responses to five recommendations.

Each response received has been included in the table below. Covering correspondence from each Department, accompanying these 2025 responses, can be found in Appendix 1 of *Children in Tasmania's prisons review report 2025*.

In 2026 we only requested updates from DoJ and DECYP in light of machinery of government changes. The updates to the recommendations from DoJ were received on 30 September 2026 and from DECYP on 5 October 2026.

1	**The Tasmanian Government should ensure that youth justice reform encompasses all settings where children are detained, including prison watch-houses. Officials responsible for this work should be informed by visiting the Hobart and Launceston Reception Prison watch-houses when children are in custody to observe and evaluate the facilities and practices, and to talk to the children, staff, and other people in custody.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**

2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the Tasmanian Government as the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce (under the Department of Premier and Cabinet) will cease operation on 30 June 2025. A comprehensive review of the Youth Justice Act 1997 is currently underway through the Department for Education, Children and Young People.	DECYP acknowledges the concerns raised about the use of reception prison watch-houses for children and agrees that this is an important issue to consider as part of broader youth justice reform. Work is already underway across government to review the policies and practices relating to these settings. DECYP is working closely with the Department of Justice to better understand the current use of watch-houses and identify opportunities for improvement. In April 2025, DECYP officers visited the Hobart Reception Prison to inform this work. In addition, the Tasmanian Government is currently reviewing the *Youth Justice Act 1997* to ensure it reflects modern, evidence-based approaches to supporting children and young people. This review is considering a wide range of issues, including the use of watch-houses, and aims to strengthen the legislative framework to better support	

		safety, wellbeing and community outcomes. Any changes to how watch-houses are used—including alternative options—will need to be carefully assessed and considered alongside available resources. DECYP is committed to ensuring youth justice reforms remain responsive to evidence, aligned with best practice, and focused on the best interests of children and young people.	
2026 update		The use of prison watch-houses for holding children and young people continues to be considered as part of ongoing youth justice reform work, including through the review of the Youth Justice Act 1997. Further visits to watch-house settings were undertaken by DECYP's Youth Justice Reform team during 2025 to strengthen understanding of existing arrangements, operational processes and issues relevant to	Officials have undertaken a recent visit to the Launceston Reception Prison. The Tasmanian Government also remains actively engaged in forums supporting the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024-2034.

		reform activity. DECYP continues to work with the Department of Justice and the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management to explore alternative approaches to current watch-house arrangements that align with the broader direction of youth justice reform.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

2	**The Tasmanian Government should collate, analyse and publish data on the use of prison watch-houses for children since August 2024.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the Tasmanian Government as the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce (under the Department of Premier and Cabinet) will cease operation on 30 June 2025. Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify	DECYP supports continued efforts to better understand the experience of children and young people in custodial settings and welcomes the intent of this recommendation. Some members of the Youth Justice Reform Expert Panel have already visited the Hobart	The Department of Justice would be supportive of sharing data relating to the use of watch-houses for children with other Agencies to support data-informed decision making in relation to youth justice reform.

the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. Comment on 2(a) – query whether this is trauma-informed. Suggest the wording needs to leave it open for the careful design of the methodology to be used. Note that members of the Youth Justice Reform Expert Panel (Expert Panel) have visited the Hobart Reception Prison. Note that the Expert Panel is an advisory governance body, not a decision-making body. The collation of this type of data would be through the Department of Justice and/or the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management. The Department for Education, Children and Young People may hold some data, given the role of youth justice in after-hours Court, which	Reception Prison to inform its understanding of the custodial environment and provide advice on areas of concern. Separately, DECYP officers also visited the facility in April 2025 to inform internal planning and escalation of policy issues. DECYP recognises the value of site visits in shaping evidence-informed reform and will continue to work with partner agencies to ensure children and young people's experiences are considered as part of future planning. With regard to data, DECYP acknowledges the importance of transparency and evidence in shaping reform. While Tasmania Prison Service holds primary responsibility for data related to prison-based facilities, DECYP is committed to collaborating across government to support improved collection, analysis and use of data on the use of watch-houses for children. Consideration will be given to how this data may be used to inform reform efforts, including through the broader	

	arises as a result of a young person not receiving Police bail. It would not be the role of an ongoing Expert Panel to collate, analyse and publish this data (through the Department for Education, Children and Young People post 30 June 2025).	implementation of the Youth Justice Blueprint. Any future public reporting will need to consider data availability, quality, and privacy protections, particularly given the small cohort of affected children.	
2026 update		The Department of Justice remains the custodian of data relating to the use of prison watch-houses for children and young people and is responsible for its collection, analysis and publication. DECYP continues to work collaboratively with partner agencies to consider how available information may inform youth justice reform.	The Department of Justice currently publishes some data on children and young people, which includes those admitted to reception prison watch-house facilities. This is available at Prisoners, detainees and community based offenders output data | Department of Justice [https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/about-us/access-to-information/prisoners-detainees-and-community-based-offenders-output-data]. The Department takes into consideration certain data due to the small sizes, ensuring that individuals cannot be identified.

Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress
Analysis	This recommendation is not complete. The Department of Justice published data is limited to the number of total admissions over six month periods dating back to 2021 along with the numbers of unclothed searches, with details of the number of males, females and Aboriginal children and young people. Other relevant data is not actively disclosed including the number of children with repeat admissions, age and length of stay.		

3	**The Tasmanian Government should develop a plan, with timelines, to minimise and then stop the use of prison watch-houses for children and ensure alternatives align with broader youth justice reform.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the Tasmanian Government as the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce will cease operation on 30 June 2025. Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the Youth Justice Act 1997. Legislative amendment would be required to give effect to these	DECYP acknowledges the intent of this recommendation and agrees that reducing the use of watch-houses for children is an important goal as part of broader youth justice system reform. Planning for the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility has focused on creating a modern, fit-for-purpose environment that supports therapeutic and developmentally appropriate responses for children and young people. While the facility has not been designed as a substitute for	

recommendations and transferring these statutory responsibilities from the Department of Justice and/or the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management to the Department for Education, Children and Young people. A comprehensive review of the Youth Justice Act 1997 is currently underway. through the Department for Education, Children and Young People.	watch-house detention, its operation is expected to contribute to a reduction in the number of children entering watch-house settings, particularly through increased remand capacity and improved custodial alternatives. DECYP also recognises the unique challenges in Launceston, where facilities are significantly more constrained. Longer-term planning for custodial infrastructure—particularly in northern Tasmania—will need to involve close collaboration with the Department of Justice and be subject to government priorities and available funding. Work is already underway to consider the policy and legislative frameworks that underpin custodial placements. This provides a key opportunity to examine options for reducing reliance on reception prison watch-houses, supported by cross-agency planning over time. Any shift away from the use of these environments will require	

		careful sequencing, sustainable resourcing, and system-wide coordination.	
2026 update		Through broader youth justice reform activity, work continues across government to identify alternative arrangements that reduce reliance on prison watch-houses for children and young people. This includes DECYP working with relevant agencies on short-term custody arrangements in the south of the state, and consideration of appropriate arrangements in the north. It is important that any future arrangements are developed carefully to ensure they are safe, appropriate, and aligned with the intended direction of the Tasmanian youth justice system.	DOJ and DECYP are exploring options for alternatives to watch-houses for children, including discussion between the Ministers for Education and Corrective Services. These options are being considered with a child-centered design that minimises exposure to adult prison environments.
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

4	**The Tasmanian Parliament should apply the minimum age of detention (16 years of age) to prison watch-houses as well as youth detention centres.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Noting that the Commission of Inquiry recommendation 12.11(c) requires the Tasmanian Government to *'work towards increasing the minimum age of detention (including remand) to 16 years by developing alternatives to detention for children aged 14 and 15 years….'* **by July 2029.** Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. This recommendation will require legislative amendment to give effect to the proposed changes. A comprehensive review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* is currently underway through the Department	DECYP supports the Tasmanian Government's commitment to exploring an increase to the minimum age of detention to 16 years as part of its broader youth justice reform agenda. This significant reform is being progressed in stages to ensure the necessary policy, service and legislative frameworks are in place to support safe and effective alternatives to detention for younger children. The application of a minimum age of detention to watch-house settings is a complex policy matter that requires further consideration, including how such a change would interact with current policing and custodial practices. These matters are being explored as part of the current review of the Youth Justice Act 1997, which aims to ensure that Tasmania's legislative	

	for Education, Children and Young People.	framework reflects best practice and is developmentally appropriate, evidence-informed and responsive to community needs. DECYP will continue to work in partnership with relevant agencies to explore viable pathways for reducing reliance on custodial settings for younger children, including strategies to divert children under 16 from watch-house environments wherever possible. Implementation of any change to the minimum age of detention across all settings will require detailed planning, interagency coordination and appropriate resourcing.	
2026 update		DECYP continues to contribute to the Tasmanian Government's work relating to this recommendation through the review of the Youth Justice Act 1997 and broader youth justice reform activity. A Youth Justice Act Review Discussion Paper is being	Discussion is ongoing across government regarding the minimum age of detention, and how it would apply to watch-houses and youth detention facilities.

		finalised, with public consultation anticipated later in 2026. Matters relating to the minimum age of detention and arrangements applying to children and young people in custodial settings continue to be considered through this work. DECYP continues to work with the Department of Justice and the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management to progress consideration of these matters.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

5	**The Tasmania Prison Service should use all possible options to reduce the negative impacts of the prison watch-house environment on children. This should include greater use of culturally appropriate and gender-informed support persons, and measures to reduce the length of stay.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify	N/A	Supported.

	the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.		Noting the commentary throughout this report about removing children from watch house facilities, the Tasmania Prison Service is supportive of reducing negative impacts on children housed in watch houses. The Tasmania Prison Service is supportive of providing access to culturally appropriate and gender-informed support persons to provide support to children in watch houses. Partnership with community organisations is in the early stages of exploration in regard to the establishment of a volunteer scheme to provide suitable on-call support persons for children in watch-house custody.
2026 update		N/A	Reducing length of stay is a multi-agency responsibility. The TPS aims to ensure that the negative impacts are reduced as much as is possible on every occasion a child is housed in the watch house. The Young Person Watch House Admission Form must be

			completed for every young person entering the watch house. The first section of this form, completed by Tasmania Police (TasPol), records whether Child Support Services (CSS) has been notified and if not then the reason why. There is also a subsequent prompt for TPS staff to contact CSS if TasPol has not already done so, and it includes the relevant CSS contact details. Upon reception, young people are asked whether they identify as Aboriginal and whether they would like the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service (TALS) to be contacted. Where appropriate, TALS will typically liaise with the relevant Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO). TPS and TasPol work closely together to ensure the health and wellbeing of all children in custody in the watch houses. At HRP and LRP, TasPol is responsible for facilitating provision of medical care to watch house detainees.

			TPS transfer custody of the detainee to Tasmania Police if an escort to hospital is required. For emergencies, Correctional Officers are responsible for responding according to the TPS Emergency Operating Procedure. This may include rendering first aid. Additionally, health practitioners employed by Correctional Primary Health Services (CPHS) stationed at HRP and LRP would assist as required for any detainees, with nurses stationed at HRP and LRP seven days a week from 6:30am to 6:30pm.
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress
Analysis	Our report specifically referred to children under 14, who account for around 10% of all the children in prison watch-houses (see page 59), and their greater need for intensive support that is age, gender and culturally appropriate. The 2026 Department of Justice response provided no update on its initial response where it indicated, 'Partnership with community organisations is in the early stages of exploration in regard to the establishment of a volunteer scheme to provide suitable on-call support persons for children in watch-house custody.' The most recent response is primarily a list of services that were already being provided at the time of the report's publication.		

6	**The Tasmania Prison Service should ensure that records for all children in prison watch-houses are complete, accurate and accessible to relevant oversight agencies.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.	N/A	Supported. As noted in the report, more comprehensive record keeping has been put in place and there are now few data gaps. The TPS will continue to audit compliance with reporting requirements to ensure this remains the case.
2026 update		N/A	Ongoing improvements being made here. Regular auditing of records (bi-monthly) is undertaken to improve accountability, ensure records are complete and consistent. This will improve accessibility for relevant oversight agencies. Where the TPS detects that improvements need to be made with records this is raised at a senior level to support stronger compliance.

Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress
Analysis	We will arrange during the reporting year to review the results of some of the regular audits of records to assess performance.		

7	**The Tasmania Prison Service should ensure that girls and gender-diverse children are not disadvantaged in prison watch-houses. This includes ensuring that searches are conducted by people of the same or requested gender.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.	N/A	Supported. It is noted that the TPS have made substantial changes to searching protocols for children, which has resulted in significantly fewer intrusive searches of children being undertaken. The TPS will continue to ensure that, as far as reasonable and practicable, all searches are conducted by staff of the appropriate gender and will investigate instances where this does not occur to inform future approaches.
2026 update		N/A	As noted above, it remains on agenda to continue to upskill staff

			working with children and youth in watch houses to ensure that all are not disadvantaged. Director Standing Orders have requirements for searches to be conducted by people of the same gender or requested gender. Audits are conducted by TPS to ensure compliance with DSO requirements.
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress
Analysis	We will arrange during the reporting year to review registers and the results of some of the TPS audits to assess performance.		

8	**The Tasmania Prison Service should ensure that all staff working with children are given trauma-informed, child-specific training that includes a focus on child development, gender and culture.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest adding reception prison in front of watch-houses to clarify the jurisdiction of the Custodial Inspector in line with section 3(1) and 25A of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.	N/A	Supported. The TPS have procured and delivered training to staff who work with children as part of the roll out of compliance with the new Child and Youth Safe Organisations

			Framework. This training was developed and delivered by the Australian Childhood Foundation to Correctional Officers and managers, and focussed on trauma-informed engagement with young people in custodial settings. Consideration will be given to further training that can be delivered with a focus on gender and culture.
2026 update		N/A	TPS are delivering Child Safeguarding Training that introduces Professional Conduct Policy, how to engage appropriately with children and youth in facility and reporting pathways. It does not explicitly cover child development, gender or culture. TPS is continuing to look for partnerships with other agencies to expand training in this area. Previous discussions with AYDC to attend their trauma-informed training did not eventuate, however continued discussions occurring with Australian Childhood Foundation.

Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

9	**The Tasmanian Government should ensure the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility is designed, constructed and operated so that in future, no child will need to be transferred to a prison.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the Tasmanian Government as the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce (under the Department of Premier and Cabinet) will cease operation on 30 June 2025. Consideration will need to be given to the statutory responsibilities for relevant agencies.	DECYP supports the intent of this recommendation and is committed to ensuring that the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility provides a modern, safe and developmentally appropriate environment for children and young people. The new facility is being designed to support a therapeutic model of care and will be a key part of the broader shift toward a more child-centred, rehabilitative approach to youth justice in Tasmania. It will include infrastructure and operational capabilities aimed at safely managing children and young people with a range of complex needs, thereby reducing	

		the likelihood of transfer to adult custodial settings. DECYP acknowledges that the use of adult prisons for children—however rare—should only occur in the most exceptional of circumstances, if at all.	
2026 update		The New Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility is being designed to support a therapeutic, trauma-informed, culturally safe and child-centred Model of Care. The new facility will provide a rights-based and rehabilitative environment focused on healing, growth, accountability and positive behaviour change. Integrated therapeutic, educational and rehabilitation services will support children and young people in custody. The new facility will include infrastructure and operational capabilities aimed at safely managing children and young	For DECYP consultation This recommendation is the responsibility of DECYP. There are ongoing discussions between DoJ and DECYP on transfers and future arrangements.

		people with a range of complex needs, strengthening Tasmania's capacity to support children and young people within youth justice settings. Implementation of the new facility will be complemented by broader youth justice reform activity, including work to strengthen the legislative and operational framework governing transfers between youth and adult custodial settings.	
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

10 The Tasmanian Parliament amend s 25 of the Youth Justice Act 1997 to:

a) remove the power of the Secretary to place children on remand in an adult prison; and

b) allow vulnerable young adults to be placed in the Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility where this is necessary for their safety, health and wellbeing.

	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	There is no statutory distinction between 'adult' (or otherwise)	DECYP acknowledges the intent of this recommendation and	

	when referring to a prison (section 3 of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* - A prison means a prison within the meaning of the *Corrections Act 1997*.) Reconsideration of the wording of the recommendation may be required due to the following: Section 25(3) of the Youth Justice Act 1997 deals with a youth who is less than 19 years old and '…must be detained…' (not remanded). Section 25(4) deals with a youth who is 19 or more years old and is to be 'remanded'. A comprehensive review of the Youth Justice Act 1997 is currently underway by the Department for Education, Children and Young People.	agrees that the legislative framework should reflect contemporary youth justice principles and safeguards for children and young people. A comprehensive review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* is currently underway. This review is examining all relevant provisions, including section 25, to ensure the Act is evidence-based, operationally sound, and developmentally appropriate. The review will also consider the needs of vulnerable young adults and options for safe, appropriate custodial placement. Any proposed changes will be subject to detailed policy and operational analysis, interagency consultation, and resourcing considerations, with a focus on promoting safety, rights, and long-term outcomes for children and young people.	
2026 update		DECYP continues to contribute to the Tasmanian Government's work relating to this recommendation through the	For DECYP consultation DoJ and DECYP have been working together on improving the

		review of the Youth Justice Act 1997. Matters relevant to section 25 of the Act, including provisions relating to the placement of children and young people in custodial settings, are being considered through this work. DECYP continues to work with the Department of Justice and the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management to progress consideration of these matters.	transfers process for children, including building in independent monitoring of decision-making (in line of COI recommendation 12.25)
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

11	**The Tasmanian Government should ensure that the processes for transfer are based on legislation not a Memorandum of Understanding.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the	DECYP acknowledges the importance of ensuring that	

Tasmanian Government as the Youth Justice Reform Taskforce (under the Department of Premier and Cabinet) will cease operation on 30 June 2025. A comprehensive review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* is currently underway by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP). Through DECYP, cross-agency collaboration is underway to establish a consistent and considered process for assessing and approving transfers of young people from detention to adult facilities.	transfer decisions involving children and young people are supported by a clear, transparent, and accountable legislative framework. A comprehensive review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* is currently underway. This review is focused on aligning the Act with contemporary evidence-based youth justice practice, delivering on government commitments, addressing operational and legal issues, and supporting broader reforms such as increases to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and detention. The review aims to embed a fit-for-purpose model of youth justice that promotes the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people, while supporting improved community outcomes. As part of this work, current provisions relating to transfers to adult custodial facilities are being considered. In the interim, and in response to Recommendation	

		12.25 of the Commission of Inquiry, DECYP is working closely with partner agencies to strengthen cross-agency processes for assessing and approving transfers, ensuring decisions are made with appropriate safeguards and oversight.	
2026 update		Matters relevant to this recommendation, including statutory mechanisms for assessing and approving transfers, are being considered through the review of the Youth Justice Act 1997.	For DECYP consultation In developing a new MoU for the transfers process, DoJ and DECYP are focused on ensuring it reflects the existing underlying legislation.
Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress

12	**The Tasmanian Government should implement Recommendation 12.25 of the *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* in full by the Commission's target date of 1 July 2026.**		
	Department of Premier and Cabinet	**Department for Education, Children and Young People**	**Department of Justice**
2025 response	Suggest confining the recommendation to the Tasmanian Government as the	The Tasmanian Government has committed to implementing Recommendation 12.25 of the	

Youth Justice Reform Taskforce (under the Department of Premier and Cabinet) will cease operation on 30 June 2025. Note: COI recommendation 12.25(c) includes reference to *'…or the new specialist children's division of the Magistrates Court (Recommendation 12.15) for approval to transfer'.* Recommendation 12.15 and 12.15(c) in particular, are not required to be implemented until **July 2029.** The Department for Education, Children and Young People is leading the implementation of this recommendation.	Commission of Inquiry in full by the target date of 1 July 2026. This recommendation calls for the development of a new, legislated process for approving transfers of young people from youth detention to adult prison, supported by judicial oversight and independent safeguards. DECYP is leading implementation of this work, in collaboration with key partners including the Department of Justice. The new process will align with human rights standards and best practice frameworks and will ensure that the voice of the young person and their family or guardian is heard in decision-making. Wherever possible, the Government is committed to preventing young people's contact with the adult justice system. The new transfer process will reflect this principle and will be subject to ongoing review as related Commission of Inquiry recommendations are implemented—particularly the	

		establishment of a new specialist children and young people's division of the Magistrates Court to approve such transfers.	
2026 update		The transfer process is materially stronger today than it was at the time of the Commission of Inquiry. In relation to Recommendation 12.25, DECYP and the Department of Justice operate on the joint policy position that transfers are limited to young people aged 16 years or older. Formalising this position in legislation is being considered through the review of the Youth Justice Act 1997. DECYP remains committed to a rights-based, principles-based transfer process aligned with best practice. In support of this, DECYP notifies the Commissioner for Children and Young People of any proposed transfer process and keeps them informed should it progress. The Commissioner and	For DECYP consultation This recommendation is managed by DECYP, who have been in discussion with the Office of the Implementation Monitor on the timeline and way the recommendation can be delivered.

		the Advocate for Young People in Detention are also routinely invited to participate in cross-agency Transfer Assessment Panel meetings, contributing to discussions and advocating for children and young people. In consultation with Tasmania's Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor, it has been established that legislative amendments are required to implement Recommendations 12.25(c) and 12.25(d). These matters are being considered through the review of the Youth Justice Act 1997. In the interim, DECYP continues to work with the Department of Justice to uphold the intent of Recommendation 12.25 and strengthen independence within transfer assessment and approval processes under current legal frameworks.	

Custodial Inspector evaluation		In progress	In progress
Analysis	This recommendation has not been met but DECYP's engagement with the Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor and the broader review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*, which is a considerable task that will take time, will hopefully ensure a better outcome overall.		

Appendix 7: Updates on recommendations from *Security contractor transport of young people in custody safeguarding review 2025*



Explanatory note

The following table includes the initial response and an update to the recommendations made in the *Security contractor transport of young people in custody safeguarding review 2025* from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) followed by our evaluation and analysis, where relevant. The update to recommendations from DECYP was received on 22 July 2026.

When the Office of the Custodial Inspector published this report in December 2025, we included the covering correspondence accompanying the responses from DECYP in Appendix 2 of the *Security contractor transport of young people in custody safeguarding review 2025*.

1	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People should:** **a) educate staff about the risks of spit hoods and improvised spit hoods** **b) update relevant policies and procedures to prohibit their use**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported. Spit hoods are prohibited and not in use at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC). Operations staff have been advised by direction and via briefings that this includes spit hoods of any type – including makeshift spit hoods such as t-shirts or any material that covers the face. This extends to use on transports to or from the centre. This is due to the risk of suffocation posed as well as risk of causing psychological harm to the young person. If staff assess a risk of spitting, they have been advised that single-use spit shields (a form of Personal Protective Equipment or PPE) are available in office units. Transport officers will be advised if a young person is at risk of spitting and contracted transport officers have also been provided with spit shields.

	The Awareness, De-escalation and Protection (ADP) training provided to AYDC Operations staff, including new Youth Workers, now includes a section on how to identify when someone is preparing to spit and protective measures that can be taken. A condensed version of this training that contains the same advice on protective measures has also been provided to Essential Security workers. AYDC's Use of Force procedure is being updated to include this information on spit hoods (including makeshift spit hoods of any kind). Information on spitting and spit hoods will also be included in the AYDC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines currently being drafted, as well as a fact sheet.
2026 update	Complete. Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines have been developed specifically for AYDC and apply to all workers, contractors, service providers and visitors onsite. The Guidelines are designed to protect the health and wellbeing of children, young people, workers and visitors by outlining practical measures to prevent and manage the spread of infection, including appropriate responses when exposure to body fluids occurs. The Guidelines also reaffirm DECYP's position that the use of spit hoods, including improvised spit hoods, is prohibited in all circumstances.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	Complete

2	**The Tasmanian Parliament should legislate to ban the use of spit hoods and improvised spit hoods in all circumstances.**

	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported. The Department acknowledges the significant risks associated with spit hoods and is actively progressing work to ensure practices remain aligned with contemporary therapeutic models. The *Youth Justice Act 1997* is currently under comprehensive review, which provides an opportunity to consider legislative reinforcement of existing operational prohibitions. We are supportive of ongoing examination of legislative pathways to strengthen alignment across the youth justice system, noting that this will be progressed in phases, alongside broader legislative reform and stakeholder engagement.
2026 update	On track. This is currently being considered within the scope of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* review.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

3	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People should:** **a) develop improved protections for staff at risk of exposure to bodily fluids, and make these readily accessible to all staff and contractors** **b) ensure staff training focuses on relational security, while also including information about appropriate techniques to respond to spitting and the physical and psychological risks of assaults and bodily fluid exposure.**

	Department for Education, Children and Young People

2025 response	Supported. a) Work to tailor Infection Prevention and Control guidelines for the youth detention environment is underway in a staged manner, drawing on existing departmental and health system resources. Once refined, these materials will be considered for inclusion in future training cycles as capacity permits. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for use where assessed as appropriate. As part of their induction, Youth Workers currently complete a one-hour 'Standard Precautions' e-learn module, which outlines work practices required to achieve a basic level of infection prevention and control. b) The Awareness, De-escalation and Protection (ADP) training provided to AYDC Operations staff, including new Youth Workers, was developed by Resolution Australia in consultation with the Department to support greater situational awareness, build strong de-escalation skills and ensure that our AYDC Operations staff feel safe and well-equipped to fulfil their duties. The training provides a foundation for participants to build the capability and confidence to address challenging behaviours. Drawing on a relational security model, ADP provides a toolkit to keep children, young people and staff safe. The ADP training program has been updated to include a section on how to identify when someone is preparing to spit and protective measures that can be taken to appropriately respond. A condensed version of this training that contains the same advice on protective measures has also been provided to Essential Security workers. AYDC Operations staff have been made aware via briefings that spit hoods of any type – including makeshift spit hoods such as t-shirts – must under no circumstances be used at AYDC or on transports to or from the centre. The physical and psychological risk of assaults and bodily fluid exposure will also be added to the training, which is continually being updated to align with procedural updates and workplace needs.

	Our training program is currently under review and we are working to continually improve the currency of the information provided to staff. A Work Health and Safety consultant is currently being recruited for AYDC. The consultant will work with centre management and staff to continuously improve safety practices, including identifying hazards and implementing controls that are reasonably practical to mitigate risks to staff and young people.
2026 update	On track. Youth Worker Induction content has been updated to include education alongside the release of the AYDC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines. DECYP have been working to develop a Transport Induction Program which will provide transport officers with key information to help ensure the safety, wellbeing and dignity of young people, and the safety of staff and the community when undertaking transport duties for Custodial Youth Justice. This training is based on current policies, procedures and legislative requirements that apply to secure transport of young people and access to Custodial Youth Justice Sites.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

4	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People should improve governance processes for contractors providing transport for Ashley Youth Detention Centre. This includes:** **a) tender processes that require demonstrated expertise in working with children and young people and evidence of compliance with the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023** **b) initial and ongoing vetting of staff** **c) ongoing monitoring of compliance with contractual obligations and child-safe principles** **d) providing and tracking completion of comprehensive, ongoing training that focuses on relational security and de-escalation techniques**

e) providing contractor staff with the information, equipment and ongoing support required to fulfil their roles

f) regular executive oversight and auditing, including processes to capture children and young people's experiences of the service.

	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported. Strengthening governance arrangements for secure transport services is an ongoing area of focus, and work is currently progressing to enhance contractor screening, safeguarding oversight, training expectations and performance monitoring. The contract specifications for transport of children and young people to and from AYDC are currently under consideration to ensure they are fit for purpose. The newly established Strategic Commissioning team within DECYP has been engaged to support planning and staged implementation. Monitoring, training provision and equipment support are already occurring and will continue to be refined and extended progressively, aligned with broader Youth Justice reform sequencing and workforce capacity.
2026 update	Complete. Quarterly contract management meetings established between AYDC, Strategic Commissioning and Essential Security. Strategic Commissioning Team actively involved in monitoring contractual compliance, including staff suitability, licensing, training and safeguarding requirements.

	Shared master list of approved contractor personnel established and regularly reviewed. Governance and oversight arrangements strengthened through ongoing performance monitoring and compliance reporting.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress
Analysis	We are not yet satisfied that this recommendation is complete and will continue to make further inquiries during the upcoming reporting year into some elements of this recommendation, including around vetting processes and tracking of training completion.

5	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People, alongside Ashley Youth Detention Centre staff and children and young people, should develop therapeutic, restorative post-incident processes that are in line with best practice.**

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2025 response	Supported. As part of its Wellbeing focus, the AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce is working to improve post-incident processes – as recommended through the 2025 Incident Review Committee (IRC) Rapid Review commissioned by DECYP. Deliverables include: • Emergency Response training, focusing on incident leadership (IRC Rec 42) • Commence undertaking incident 'Hot debriefs' after incidents (IRC Rec 40) • Providing training in reporting skills, recording observations and supporting resources. (IRC Recs 3, 4, 37 and 41)

	• Explore greater use of CCTV to help workers to learn from incidents and enhance reflective practice noting this will require procedure review. The establishment of a Wellbeing Officer and providing a quiet space for staff to move to after a serious incident are also being considered as part of the AYDC Stabilisation Plan. The Plan also focuses on improving AYDC rostering to provide training days, which will create an environment for practice improvement and reflection. Further development of restorative, therapeutic and wellbeing-supportive post-incident processes will be considered over time, informed by consultation with staff and young people, operational learning and the broader implementation of relevant Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
2026 update	On track. Work is underway to strengthen therapeutic, restorative and wellbeing-supportive post-incident processes at AYDC. Progress to date includes the recruitment of a Wellbeing Officer, who commenced late May 2026 and is currently working two days per week, and the introduction of post-incident 'hot debriefs' following serious incidents. Planning is also underway for emergency response training, subject to available resourcing. In addition, a series of short staff learning sessions is being delivered from July 2026 to strengthen reporting skills, observation recording and the use of supporting resources. Work arising from the Rapid Review of the Incident Review Committee is also contributing to this recommendation, including consideration of ways to strengthen organisational learning from incidents and increase young person participation in

	post-incident processes. Opportunities to support reflective practice through the appropriate use of incident footage for staff learning and development are also being explored. Work is also continuing between AYDC and the Office of the Chief Practitioner to further develop relational and trauma-informed responses at AYDC. This includes the review and development of practice supports such as the Positive Behaviour Support Framework, practice policies, operational procedures, training, and new staff induction processes.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

6	**Legislation introduced to amend (or replace) the *Youth Justice Act 1997* should cover use of force against children and young people in custody that occurs outside of youth detention centres.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported. The review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* provides an opportunity to consider how use-of-force provisions apply across custodial contexts, including transports and community interfaces. Relevant considerations have been noted for ongoing legislative development work, which is being undertaken in stages with extensive stakeholder engagement and will continue to evolve over time.
2026 update	On track. This is currently being considered within the scope of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* review.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

7 The Department for Education, Children and Young People should strengthen oversight of external transport providers by:

a) developing processes to monitor, investigate and review staff conduct and incidents that occur offsite

b) promptly addressing operational and training needs identified during review.

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2025 response	Supported. The Department is progressing a series of improvements and processes to support the monitoring and review of staff and secure transport workers offsite. These include: • Equipping secure transport workers with body worn cameras (BWCs), with footage to be reviewed through the Incident Review Committee (as per Youth Worker BWC footage that records incidents). • Improved transport booking (Notice of Engagement) and reporting forms that prepare contracted workers for transports and supports the reporting of pertinent information from the young person's journey to share with AYDC staff. • An accessible guide for transport staff that includes clear processes will also be developed. • The provision of improved training to contracted workers can also be considered as part of AYDC's training program, which is currently being reviewed. The department will prioritise the development of processes to monitor, investigate and review staff conduct and incidents that occur off site.

	The department will work with the Custodial Inspector to ensure that new and updated operational and training provisions relating to off-property transports comply with the intent of this review.
2026 update	On track. Work has been undertaken to strengthen reporting arrangements between AYDC and Essential Security in relation to incidents occurring during transports. Essential Security has established a dedicated incident reporting form within its Guardhouse system that captures the required information. In accordance with contractual requirements, incident reports are provided to AYDC and subsequently recorded in YJPLUS. In addition, work is underway to introduce Body Worn Camera (BWC) use for transport contractors, with the updated AYDC Body Worn Camera Procedure now enabling such use. A meeting has been scheduled between AYDC and Essential Security to finalise contractor-specific guidance. Further work is also underway to formalise post-transport reporting requirements where no incident has occurred. It has been identified that the Guardhouse system can also support this function, and planning is underway to develop an appropriate end-of-journey reporting form. Consistent with incident reporting arrangements, these reports will be shared with AYDC in accordance with contractual requirements. These arrangements, together with existing contractual reporting obligations, will strengthen oversight of contractor performance, staff conduct and transport-related incidents.

Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

8	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People, in consultation with Ashley Youth Detention Centre staff and children and young people, should purchase purpose-built vehicles that safeguard children and young people, staff, and the public, and reflect therapeutic care principles.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported in principle (noting DECYP leases rather than purchases vehicles). Work is progressing on the number and type of vehicles available to transport children and young people. The Department is in the process of replacing one of the existing vehicles (leased) with a larger Mercedes Sprinter van that will be customised to meet safety, security and therapeutic requirements. This leased van will be customised in Tasmania to ensure a more comfortable and safer journey for young people. The customised features will be designed to be re-fitted into subsequent leased Mercedes Sprinters. To ensure the fit-out is therapeutic, safe and comfortable for young people, the customised van will: • Include flexible secure enclosures that can be left open or closed, depending on risk, and designed so handcuffs are not required at all times. • Enable young people to see where they are going and ensure young people and staff can communicate easily and see each other at all times. • Be well lit, temperature-controlled and well ventilated. • Be relatively uncomplicated yet be able to safely secure the passenger. Young people with physical disabilities should be considered. • Be anti-ligature – especially the seat, seatbelt and inside cavity. • Enable swift and easy entry and exit, especially in an emergency.

	• Be comfortable, with seating suitable for a long journey. This Mercedes Sprinter has been ordered, with a delivery time to be confirmed. Once delivered, the design can be progressed in consultation with clinical practice and safety experts, AYDC staff, children and young people in detention and oversight bodies. A further van is being leased to be located in Hobart to minimise the time young people will wait for transport to AYDC.
2026 update	Supplier delays have impacted delivery of the vehicle to the specialist vehicle modification provider responsible for fitting out the transport vehicle, with arrival currently anticipated in mid-July 2026. Arrival at AYDC will be dependent on completion of the required fit-out works and associated scheduling. Once the vehicle has been received, further work will be undertaken to develop the supporting operational framework, including procedures, risk assessments, training requirements and implementation arrangements before the vehicle enters service. Consultation with the Office of the Custodial Inspector will occur as part of the development of this documentation.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

9	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People should urgently improve the complaints management framework, including:** **a) timely reporting and action when significant misconduct or child safety concerns are detected** **b) robust systems to capture and track concerns** **c) expediting investigations into Ashley Youth Detention Centre staff in recognition of critically low staffing levels**

d) requiring the same standard of care from all staff, including contractors, working with children and young people in detention. This must be accompanied by creating the conditions staff require to meet these standards, such as ongoing training, development, and support.

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2025 response	Supported. A DECYP-wide Complaints Framework has been confirmed for delivery by the Complaints Management Oversight (CMO) unit by 1 July 2026. A dedicated resource has been assigned to the project to ensure delivery within this timeframe. Deputy Commissioner of Tasmania Police, Jonathan Higgins undertook a secondment to DECYP for three months from 28 April 2025. The Deputy Commissioner was able to draw on his executive-level policing experience and expertise to support and guide the development of an agency-wide approach to complaint management. Although his secondment has concluded, Deputy Commissioner Higgins continues to co-chair a steering committee established to oversee and support the development and implementation of the Complaints Framework and the Complaints and Incident Reporting System. The overarching objective of the Complaints Framework is to strengthen the Department's response to complaints and ensure greater consistency by, in the first instance, clarifying (or establishing, where necessary) the standards, expectations, and legislated obligations as they relate to complaints management within DECYP, and particularly where they relate to child safeguarding concerns. Once these elements are finalised, the Framework will, in a subsequent stage of work, encompass training and professional development to support staff meet the standards and requirements.

The Complaints Framework will be relied upon to substantively deliver Commission of Inquiry (CoI) Recommendation 12.35 (a–e), which requires an update of DECYP's complaints procedure and practice advice for youth detention.

Improvements that have been made to date in line with Recommendation 12.35 include:

- Information about young people's rights when making a complaint, including who can support them through the process, is now provided through a revised Complaint Help Form.
- A new phone line has been established to enable young people in detention to contact the Department directly and speak with the Complaints and Projects Officer. If a call is missed or occurs outside business hours, the caller is prompted to leave a message and will be contacted as soon as possible via AYDC administration.

The CMO is partnered with Business Operations and Supportive Services regarding the development of a centralised Complaints and Incident Recording System, to support and complement the Complaints Framework, and to deliver on CoI Recommendation 9.31(2).

The Complaints and Incident Recording System project has received only partial funding, impacting the scope and ability of the system to adequately capture complaint management. The Department continues to prioritise internal investment to address budget shortfalls, however this does not adequately meet all funding gaps.

In the interim, the Chief Practitioner's Practice Quality Assurance (PQA) team has been using a Microsoft Forms and Lists solution to capture and track young people's complaints. While not a full system, this approach enables the Department to keep centralised records and manage workflow while supporting our reporting.

	Additionally, since May 2025, the CMO Unit has triaged and coordinated responses to oversight bodies, including the Ombudsman. This has resulted in more timely acknowledgements and updates, and consistent, coordinated responses across the Department. As part of Deputy Commissioner Higgins' work, an AYDC Workplace Relations Panel was established on 30 May 2025. The Panel has been designed to assess investigations into AYDC staff conduct and expedite outcomes for the worker and young person, as appropriate.
2026 update	Complete. Release of the updated DECYP Complaints Procedure, AYDC Complaints Procedure and Complaints PLUS system. Implementation activities, including onsite training and support from the Complaints Management Oversight Unit, will continue through to December 2026.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress
Analysis	We are not satisfied that this recommendation is complete based on observations from monitoring visits. We will continue to monitor and make inquiries during the upcoming reporting year.

10	**The Department for Education, Children and Young People should explore means of implementing therapeutic and trauma-informed care principles during external clinical appointments.**
	Department for Education, Children and Young People
2025 response	Supported. Children and young people's experiences of clinical care while in custody should be more trauma-informed and less challenging for all involved.

	While current procedural advice for off-property journeys includes techniques for protecting the privacy and dignity of children and young people – such as taking a spare jacket to cover handcuffs and using discreet entryways – there is more to be done in this space. Areas where work is underway or planned to progress includes: • Ensuring an appropriate gender ratio for each transport, indicated in the Notice of Engagement (booking form) • Engaging an extra worker/s to relieve secure transport staff during particularly long waiting periods at hospital • Improving how workers communicate with young people around medical treatments and set clear expectations • Ensuring a Youth Worker can accompany a young person to medical appointments to provide support. The current concerted effort to increase Youth Worker numbers is expected to support this. • Better preparation for medical appointments, including the provision of food and drinks for hospital visits if long waiting periods are anticipated. The department will continue to liaise with the Department of Health in relation to this recommendation as the implementation will also be dependent on their engagement.
2026 update	On track. The *Notice of Engagement Secure Transport Form* has been updated to capture information regarding the young person's gender, supporting transport planning and compliance with gender ratio requirements. Since implementation, the required gender ratio has been met for all transports undertaken during 2026. As staffing resources have increased, AYDC remains committed to having Youth Workers accompany young people during external appointments wherever

	operationally possible. This continues to occur, with Youth Workers accompanying all medical transports undertaken during 2026. Further work is also underway to strengthen therapeutic and trauma-informed transport practices through ongoing transport improvement initiatives and workforce stabilisation efforts.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

11	**The Tasmanian Government and the Department for Education, Children and Young People should:** **a) as an interim measure, provide sufficient funding and resources for Ashley Youth Detention Centre staff to accompany children and young people during transport (this includes taking immediate steps to prioritise staff wellbeing and retention)** **b) in line with the principles of the Youth Justice Model of Care, phase out use of security officers and establish more therapeutic means of transporting children and young people.**

Department for Education, Children and Young People

2025 response	Supported in principle. Staffing is a key priority of the new AYDC Stabilisation Taskforce, which is driving urgent change in the areas of workforce, safety and wellbeing. The Department is currently taking steps to boost Youth Worker numbers at AYDC. Nine new Youth Workers will join AYDC in November and, subject to recruitment being finalised, up to 24 more are expected to be trained in December and January 2026. We are also scoping contingency workforce arrangements to supplement staffing as required.

	When staff numbers stabilise, Youth Workers will be more available to accompany young people on transports and the Centre will be better placed to establish more therapeutic means of transporting children and young people. Due to unpredictable journey times and staff availability, using an external security contractor to transport young people currently makes logistic and financial sense. DECYP is also exploring basing a leased van in Hobart, which will reduce the time young people wait to be collected from the south and driven to Deloraine. The Taskforce is also prioritising a range of staff wellbeing supports including: • engaging a dedicated wellbeing support officer based at AYDC to provide best practice wellbeing support (modelled on other jurisdictions). • exploring options for a dedicated, confidential Wellbeing Room (interim and long-term fit-for-purpose solution) to support on-site staff wellbeing. • implementing operational supports and processes to enable the embedding of mandatory wellbeing check-ins to provide support, gauge mood, fatigue and morale, as well as reflective practice sessions with the Australian Childhood Foundation. The AYDC Stabilisation Plan also focuses on improving AYDC rostering to provide training days, which – in addition to higher staffing levels – will create an environment for practice improvement and reflection.
2026 update	Ongoing. Staffing capacity at AYDC has increased following several successful recruitment rounds, supporting greater Youth Worker participation in transports. A dedicated transport vehicle has been established in Southern Tasmania to reduce wait times for young people requiring transport from the south of the state.

	AYDC remains committed to having Youth Workers accompany young people during transports wherever operationally and logistically appropriate.
Custodial Inspector evaluation	In progress

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