



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania 2018 – Education and Programs Inspection Report

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector's Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania 2018 – Education and Programs Inspection Report was tabled in both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament today with a review of programs within Tasmania's youth justice system.

In November 2018, inspections against the Education and Programs standards were undertaken at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC).

Custodial Inspector Mr Connock said that the inspection covered themes incorporating individual case management, education and skill development opportunities, and programs offered to address criminogenic needs and better equip them for life when released.

"Overall, the inspection determined that AYDC has robust case management processes in place for young people in detention and processes are supported by very experienced case management staff and a whole of Centre approach to individual case management," said Mr Connock.

"Case management is quite detailed and thorough including exit planning and through-care follow up. Yet the reintegration of young people back into the community is acknowledged as challenging with recommendations of a transition facility to assist independent living with ongoing access to relevant services and programs," he said.

"The inspection also found that whilst education and learning opportunities were adequate within AYDC there was greater opportunity to incorporate life skill courses and establish links with community employers, industries and apprenticeship schemes to enhance the likelihood of employment upon release," said Mr Connock.

"The arrangements for the Ashley School, including the expectations of the School by AYDC and the Department of Education need to be formalised to ensure the best possible education outcomes for young people in detention," he said.

Mr Connock reported that the structured daily routine at AYDC provides rehabilitative and positive development opportunities for young people and found it commendable that staff regularly appear to go above and beyond what would typically be expected to encourage and facilitate visits from family and friends,” he said.

“However, the inspection highlighted that whilst routine is structured on weekdays, there were concerns about activities to keep young people occupied after hours, and weekends and public holidays,” he said.

The Custodial Inspector also notes a significant period has elapsed between onsite inspection and the publication of this report with the delay a reflection of the resourcing constraints under which the Custodial Inspector continues to operate, also raised in previous reports.

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