



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inspection of Adult Custodial Services in Tasmania 2019 – Resources and Systems Inspection Report

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector's Inspection of Adult Custodial Services in Tasmania 2019 – Resources and Systems Inspection Report was released in both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament today highlighting significant resourcing and operational concerns across the Tasmanian Prison System (TPS).

This report of the inspection of Tasmanian adult custodial centres covers the suite of Resources and Systems inspection standards for adult prisoners. All the inspections were announced inspections, carried out between 23 August and 10 September 2019.

Custodial Inspector Mr Richard Connock said the inspection revealed underlying concerns amongst staff regarding workplace practices and environment with systemic issues creating stress on the operational efficiency of Tasmania's prison system.

"Overall, there is a general lack of essential communication and collaboration between human resource functions within the TPS including work, health and safety, workers compensation, performance and absence management," he said.

"The TPS also has an excessive number of workers compensation claims with 89 active claims for a headcount of 489 staff."

Mr Connock said there appeared to be multiple breaches of employee workplace rights in regard to workers compensation documentation and there was a general reluctance by staff to raise grievances or compensation claims.

"Correctional and non-correctional staff made a substantial number of allegations about bullying and general inappropriate workplace behaviour."

"Many staff said that they felt unsupported by management and Human Resources to raise issues formally due to fears of repercussion, reprisal and/or inaction," he said.

"The inspection also identified inconsistencies with critical/serious incident crisis debriefings and significant gaps in training particularly in relation to supervisors and superintendents."

“As raised in previous reports, records management is also a challenge for TPS due to the range of systems in operation and there is a general lack of understanding about the importance of maintaining accurate and detailed business records,” he said.

“The process of calculating prisoner sentencing is manually cumbersome and has resulted in errors with some prisoner releases which is also concerning,” said Mr Connock.

Mr Connock said 64 recommendations have been put forth to be addressed by the Tasmania Prison Service with a response by the Department of Justice in Appendix 1.

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