



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Environmental Health and Hygiene Inspection Report – Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2021

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector's Environmental Health and Hygiene Inspection Report 2021 for Youth Custodial Services was tabled in the House of Assembly of the Tasmanian Parliament today with a review of the hygiene and health protocols at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC).

Mr Connock said this is the second time the Custodial Inspectorate has now reviewed the suite of inspection standards in relation to Environmental Health and Hygiene with the first inspection conducted in 2017 at AYDC being the Health and Wellbeing Inspection Report.

"The 2021 inspection covers the Environmental Health and Hygiene theme at AYDC and my recommendations from the inspection cover a range of issues from personal hygiene, food safety and water quality," he said.

"Overall I can report that AYDC is meeting the requirements of the inspections standards and is quite thorough with respect to the hygiene needs of young people in detention," said Mr Connock.

"Food preparation at AYDC meets the inspection standards with appropriate policies and procedures in place and compliance with food safety codes, and all young people involved in food preparation have also been provided the appropriate training," he said.

According to Mr Connock, AYDC management have also taken proactive measures to remain on top of water quality issues at the centre.

"The 2017 inspection report identified sources of nickel and lead in AYDC water samples that exceeded the Australian Water Guidelines," said Mr Connock.

"Since then, the Department of Communities Tasmania has conducted regular testing - September 2018, December 2018, February 2019 and July 2019 - which consequently resulted in finding the source of the contamination and rectifying the issue," he said.

“A yearly testing regime is now in place, which commenced in April 2021, along with the flushing of pipes in the routine maintenance schedule which indicates a commitment by management to maintain quality standards.”

Mr Connock said that in direct contrast to the TPS adult custodial centres, reporting measures and regular checking and replacement of bedding and mattresses at AYDC was thorough but it should be acknowledged that only a handful of detainees reside at AYDC at any given time.

“Unlike the situation in the TPS adult custodial centres, the inspection reported that mattresses and bedding at AYDC were in very good condition, clean bedding was provided weekly and proper records documented daily checks,” said Mr Connock.

“In addition, it is pleasing to report that the staff and management at AYDC have been proactive in developing initiatives to integrate personal hygiene into the Behaviour Development Program (BDP), which incentivizes and rewards positive behaviour for detainees,” he said.

“Overall I am satisfied that proactive measures are undertaken at AYDC to maintain a high level of environmental health and hygiene in accordance with the inspection standards,” Mr Connock said.

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