

Youth health care inspection report 2023



**Office of the
Custodial Inspector**
Tasmania

Easy read information





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

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

What is in this paper

About this information	4
Youth health care inspection report.....	5
The inspections	6
What we found out	7
Recommendations	9
Time out of rooms	9
Advice on hiring and keeping staff	10
Changes to the law	10
New committee members	11
Mental health care recommendations.....	12
Support people during change.....	12
Taking care of young people's mental health	13
Changes to the way the centre runs	15
More help for staff.....	16
Good pay for workers	18
Physical health care and substance use recommendations	19
Noise levels	19
Full report.....	20

About this information



The Custodial Inspector wrote this.

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



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

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



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

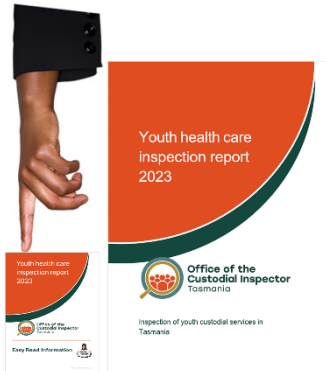
This means the letters are thicker and darker. We explain what the hard words mean.



You can ask for help to read this paper.

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

Youth health care inspection report



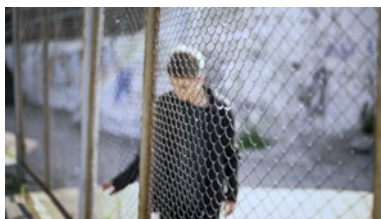
This is a short version of a bigger report.

The report is about youth health care in the youth detention centre in Tasmania.



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

We call it **AYDC** for short.



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

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

We call them **DECYP** for short.

The inspections



It is very important to make sure young people get the healthcare they need when in AYDC.



The Custodial Inspector looked at AYDC in 2022 and 2023.



We did inspections on:

- Mental health care
- Physical health care
- **Substance use management.**

Substance use management is about drug and alcohol use and how people are helped to stop using them.

What we found out



Many people held in detention have poor health.

We found that most of the youth health needs are **psychiatric** and **psychosocial**.



Psychiatric problems affect how you feel, think and act.

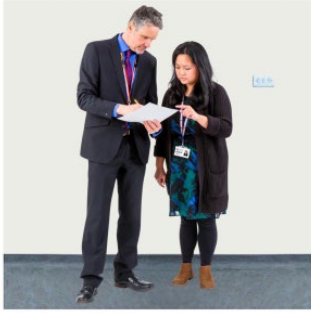
Psychosocial problems are about how social things affect you.



AYDC is doing well with the physical health needs of youth in detention.



AYDC needs to increase access to mental health professionals.



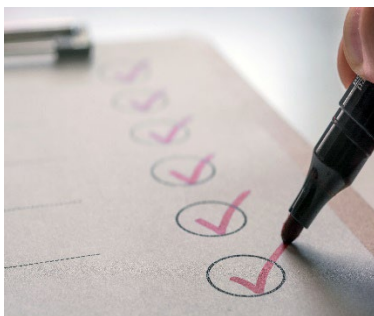
After our last inspection of AYDC we wanted changes to the **exit packs**.

When young people leave AYDC they get an **exit pack**.

In it are things they may need.



Condoms are now added to the exit pack.



From the latest inspections we think that 25 changes should be made.

Recommendations



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

We made 25 recommendations to DECYP and/or the Department of Health.

Time out of rooms

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

We recommended that:

- DECYP should measure how much time young people spend outside of their room.
- It should share this information and put it in reports.
- This information should be a part of the Report on Government Services.



Advice on hiring and keeping staff



- DECYP should get advice from an **expert** on how to hire and keep good staff.

An **expert** is a person who knows lots about a topic.

Changes to the law



- The **Youth Justice Act 1997** should have a new rule.

The **Youth Justice Act 1997** is a law.



- The new rule should say that if a young person is locked down, their time in detention should be made shorter.

New committee members



- We think the AYDC **Incident Review Committee** should have two community members.

The **Incident Review Committee** reviews incidents that happen at AYDC.



- One of the community members should be a member of the Aboriginal community.
- The Incident Review Committee should get the view of young people.

Mental health care recommendations

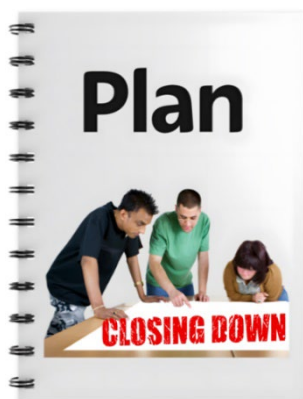
Support people during change



In 2021 the Tasmanian Government said that it plans to close the AYDC.

The government will be opening a new centre in its place.

We recommended that:



- There should be a plan to help young people and staff know about these changes at AYDC.

Taking care of young people's mental health



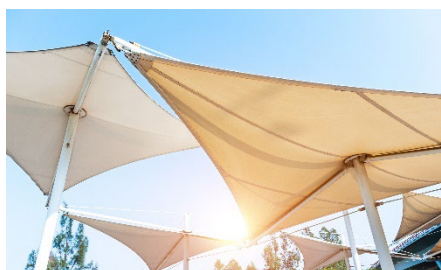
- We want AYDC to make a plan that records the mental health of the young people who are held in AYDC.

- DECYP should check how they use agreements with outside services.

This will help make sure people have good access to mental health services.



- AYDC must make sure young people get the right mental health care quickly.



- There should be shade cloths so that people at AYDC can spend more time outside.



Outside companies transport young people to and from AYDC.

We recommended that:

- Young people must be looked after well while they are being transported.
- DECYP need to look at the transport company's rules to make sure they are good.



Changes to the way AYDC runs

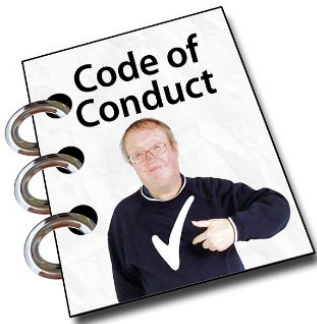
All AYDC teams should think about the health of the young people.

We recommended that:



- There should be a Health Care Worker at **multidisciplinary team meetings**.

Multidisciplinary team meetings are when workers from different teams meet to talk about how to support each young person.



- AYDC staff should look at how things are run and check their plans, rules, and the way they talk to each other.



- DECYP should make sure policies about staff mental health and wellbeing are right for people who work in detention centres.

More help for staff



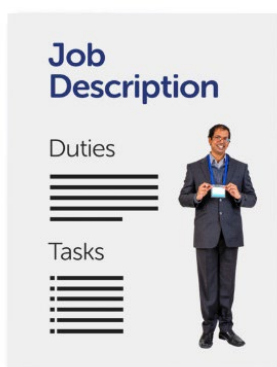
- We think people who work at AYDC need more support.

AYDC provides access to an **Employee Assistance Program.**

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) gives counselling support to employees.

We recommended that:

- They should be trained to support people that work in detention centres.



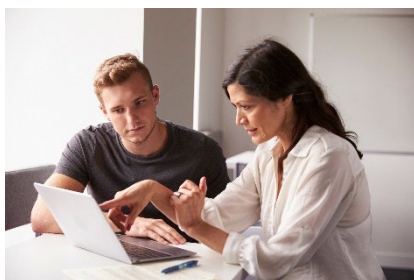
- DECYP should hire new workers with the right skills to be able to look after staff and young people at AYDC.



- They should set up a plan to help workers learn new, better ways of supporting young people.



- We want workers at AYDC to get expert advice for helping young people who have different needs.



- We want AYDC to make sure workers have **supervision**.

Supervision is where a worker meets with a manager.

They look at how they are working and what they can do better.



- DECYP should act quickly to support people with their mental health needs.

Good pay for workers



- DECYP should look at what workers are paid.

If they are paid well, more people will want to work at AYDC.

Physical health care and substance use recommendations

Physical health care at AYDC is good.

Noise levels

We recommended:



- AYDC should use an **Acoustic expert** to make changes to noise levels in some areas.

An **Acoustic expert** is a person who understands sound.

They can make loud places quieter.

Full report



This information is just a snapshot of a bigger report.



To read the full report you can go to:

www.custodialinspector.tas.gov.au



Office of the
**Custodial
Inspector**
Tasmania



Contact us:

1800 001 170

Monday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:45 pm



Website:

www.custodialinspector.tas.gov.au



Email: ci@custodialinspector.tas.gov.au

Visit us at:

NAB House,
Level 6, 86 Collins Street
Hobart Tasmania

