

Media release

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A STATEMENT FROM TASMANIAN CUSTODIAL INSPECTOR DR GRANT DAVIES

The [2025-26 Annual Report](#) for the Office of the Custodial Inspector Tasmania was tabled in State Parliament this morning.

The report highlights some significant achievements throughout the year, including the publication of the [Security contractor transport of young people in custody: Safeguarding review 2025](#) in response to an incident at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) where security contractors were observed using an improvised spit hood on a young person during transport between the Launceston General Hospital and AYDC.

“The observation of the incident and the subsequent review and report that made 11 recommendations to address a variety of systemic issues we identified, were a direct result of our increased monitoring of Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC), made possible through a temporary increase in funding,” Dr Davies said.

“Updates from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) on the implementation of these recommendations have been included in this annual report.”

Updates from various departments on recommendations from the [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](#) are also included in the 2025-26 Annual Report.

Dr Davies said the rates of lockdowns in adult custodial centres worsened again in the 2025-26 financial year, with Tasmania now having the worst out of cell hours in the country for the past three years.

“This means there have been multiple days where people have no time in the open, out of their cell or unit, which is not consistent with local legislation or international standards,” Dr Davies said.

“We have consistently heard from people in custody, staff and medical experts of the damaging psychological and physical impacts of these lockdowns.

“We will be closely monitoring a range of activities initiated by the Director of Prisons following an internal review of this significant human rights issue occurring in Tasmanian prisons.”

During the reporting year 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), was released and distributed throughout Tasmanian prisons and made available for loan in the prison library.

“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,” Dr Davies said.

Dr Davies said a significant body of work would continue through the 2026-27 financial year, with four inspection and review reports being prepared for publication.

“I thank my team of inspection officers for their dedication and hard work in environments of considerable complexity.

“We look forward to continuing to work with civil society, the Tasmania Prison Service, DECYP and the broader government to achieve positive change and outcomes for people in custodial environments.”

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