

Adult 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.

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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.

Adult health care inspection report

The report is about adult health care in
Adult **Custodial Centres** in Tasmania.

A **Custodial Centre** is a place where
people are held if they have or may
have broken the law.



People in prison have poorer mental
health than other people.

They also have more long-term illness.

Many of people in prison come from
poorer backgrounds.



This is a short version of a bigger
report.

The inspections



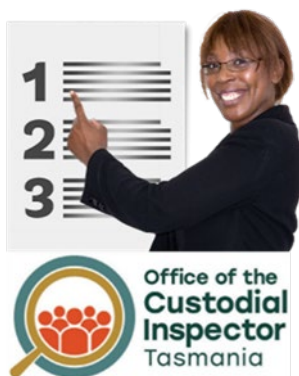
We looked at Adult **Custodial Centres** in Tasmania.



We have completed inspections about:

- 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.



We made some **recommendations**.

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

About Tasmanian Prison Service



It is the job of the **Tasmania Prison Service** to look after people in custodial centres.

We call the **Tasmania Prison Service** **TPS** for short.

There are five Custodial Centres:

- Risdon Prison Complex
- Ron Barwick Prison
- Hutchinson Women's Prison
- Hobart Reception Prison
- Launceston Reception Prison.

Recommendations



We think lots of changes should be made.

We made 117 recommendations to the TPS and/or the Department of Health.

Mental health care recommendations

We think they should:



- Help workers to have good mental health.
- Find ways to make things better.

Reception prisons



- Give more mental health support for workers and people in custody.
- Give more mental health training to workers so they can better support people in custody.



- Have up to date rules to keep people safe.

Risdon Prison Complex



- Improve worker safety, rules and training of staff.
- Employ more staff to help keep people safe.
- Have a special unit for people who need extra help with their mental health.

Physical health care recommendations

Access to care

- Improve how the prison is run.



- Make new rules about why and when people can be locked in their cells.



- Make health care for people in custody better.



- If a person is locked in their cell while staff do training, their time in prison should be made shorter.

Governance and administration

- Change how workers are trained.



- Make sure **policies** are up to date.

Policies are the rules prison staff work by.



- Improve privacy when making doctors' appointments.
- Change the complaints and feedback process.

Safety



- Make sure there is more shade in outdoor areas.



- If a prison officer must use force, ask the person in custody about what happened afterwards.

This will help to understand what happened.



- Have up to date policies.

This will help make sure workers follow the rules.



- Support workers better when they are unable to work.

Patient care and treatment



- Employ more medical workers.

- Medical treatment should be the same as in the community.



- Improve collection and storage of personal information.



- Make new policy and procedures for giving out and keeping medications.

Special needs and services



- Increase drug and alcohol support and treatment.

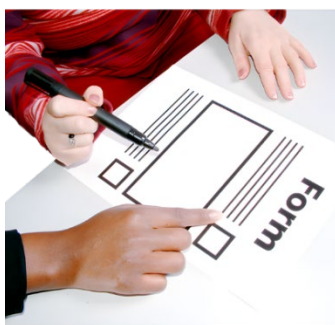


- Make sure there is good care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Symptoms of Menopause



- Look at and improve special health advice to women prisoners.



- Help people with disability fill in forms for services.
- Have a team of case managers to help people get ready to leave prison.

Substance use management recommendations



- Improve drug and alcohol support, including for those who smoke.



- Update policies for how the prison works with people who use alcohol and other drugs.



- Improve security to make sure people are not bringing drugs into the custodial centres.

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



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