



Custodial Inspector Annual Report 2018-2019

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Tasmanian Custodial Inspector's Annual Report 2018-2019 was tabled in both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament today calling for more resources to allow the Inspectorate to fulfil ongoing responsibilities.

Custodial Inspector Mr Richard Connock outlined in the 2018-2019 Annual Report that resourcing for the Office, now in its third year of operation, is struggling to keep pace with reporting requirements. This is due to its heavy inspection workload necessary to meet the legislated mandatory inspection requirements.

"The *Custodial Inspector Act 2016* as passed by Tasmanian Parliament in September 2016 requires a mandatory inspection of each custodial centre in the State at least every three years," he said.

"The permanent staffing establishment remains the Inspector, one Principal Inspection

Officer (0.9FTE) and one Inspection and Research Officer (0.6FTE) which is currently inadequate given reporting responsibilities. Having now completed three years of operation this is particularly apparent,” said Mr Connock.

“A budget submission for an increased allocation for the 2019-2020 financial year was rejected, and we are currently preparing another request to seek a functional budget to allow the Custodial Inspector to fulfil ongoing responsibilities under the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016*,” he said.

“With new prison infrastructure on the horizon the number of custodial centres is expected to increase from six to eight placing further pressure on the resourcing and reporting obligations of the Office,” he said.

Mr Connock highlighted a number of key observations from inspection reports for Adult Custody and Youth Custody that were finalised in 2018-2019.

“In previous years the biggest challenge for the Tasmanian Prison Service (TPS) has been increasing prisoner numbers creating system pressure. This has shifted in 2018-2019 however towards staffing shortages with daily ‘holes’ in the roster ultimately resulting in an increase in overtime cost and a generally fatigued workforce,” he said.

“Of considerable concern is the issue of lockdowns at Risdon Prison Centre due to staff shortages. That is to say, TPS is unable to meet the agreed prisoner to custodial staff ratio, and to mitigate safety and security risks the prison is locked down on a regular basis,” Mr Connock said.

‘In regard to youth custody at Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC), incident reporting has been identified as a concern along with the complaints mechanism for young people and training for staff in use of force and de-escalation techniques,” he said.

“More specifically, issues with availability of, and access to, electronic systems for staff at AYDC have a significant impact on centre management and efficiencies,” said Mr Connock.

In the 2018-2019 financial year, the Office of the Custodial Inspector also undertook the following inspections:

- Rehabilitation and Reintegration at all custodial centres, adult and youth;
- Families, Community and Partnerships at AYDC; and
- Equal Opportunity at AYDC.

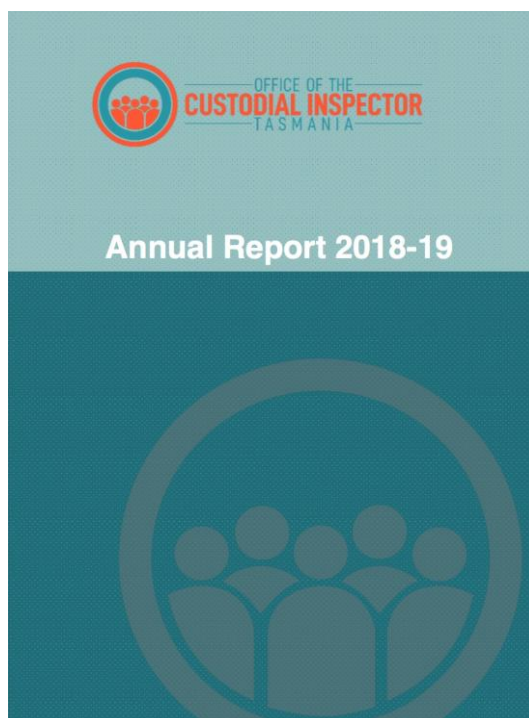
Draft reports covering the suite of Rehabilitation and Reintegration standards with preliminary findings will be completed shortly. The Annual Report notes that the AYDC Families, Community and Partnerships inspection draft report had been completed with preliminary findings delivered to Communities Tasmania for consultation.

Mr Connock has published details of the stakeholders' responses to the recommendations contained in the inspection reports relating to Care and Wellbeing for adult and youth custodial services. These inspection reports were tabled in Parliament in November 2018.

[The Custodial Inspector Annual Report 2018-2019](#)

Custodial Inspector finalised reports 2018-2019 includes:

- [Inspection of Adult Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2018](#)
- [Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2018](#)
- [Inspection of Youth Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2019 - Equal Opportunity Inspection Report](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Inspection of Ashley Youth Detention in Tasmania, 2017](#)



- [Care and Wellbeing Inspection of Adult Custodial Services in Tasmania, 2017](#)

More information and reports by the Custodial Inspector are available [here](#).

Media enquiries: Natalie Geard 0407 862 135 contact@nataliegeard.com

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Our mailing address is:

Custodial Inspector
GPO Box 960 Hobart TAS. 7001

custodial.inspector@custodialinspector.tas.gov.au