

Appendix 1

THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE 2013 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Acceptance Level/Response
<p>1. Increase the number of administrative support staff in line with increases to other staffing groups.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative A Public Service Review Team has been formulated and is currently reviewing Adult Custodial PSGOGA Positions (Levels 1–7) across the state. All prisons will receive considerations depending the outcome of the review.</p>
<p>2. The use of the Drug Management Unit, and the means by which those subject to its regime are made identifiable, should be evaluated by early 2014.</p>	<p>Not Supported The management of drugs within the prison is continually reviewed and evaluated and business improvements are initiated as required. New prisoners are orientated about the drug management processes and receive written information regarding the prisons expectations.</p>
<p>3. Examine ways to address situations of extreme heat in buildings at Karnet used for prisoner work and accommodation.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative A range of actions have already been undertaken which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cells are fitted with fans, ventilation windows and block out curtains. • Fly screens have been installed in doorways to facilitate leaving doors open. • Work areas are subject to mechanical temperature control. <p>A review of work hours will be undertaken to explore options of operating outside hours of excess heat to reduce the level of OSH risk.</p>
<p>4. Pursuant to the recommendations in The Flow of Prisoners to Minimum Security, Section 95 and Work Camps in Western Australia and the findings of the Department's internal review, examine ways to increase the number of Aboriginal prisoners at minimum security, including Karnet and other re-entry prisons.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative The Department has commissioned a review to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the reasons for the disproportionately low numbers of Aboriginal prisoners at re-entry facilities in the south west - Wooroloo Prison Farm, Karnet Prison Farm, Bunbury Pre-release unit, Pardelup Prison Farm, and Boronia Pre-release Centre; and • develop strategies and opportunities to increase the number of Aboriginal prisoners entering these facilities.

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<p>5. Evaluate the current entry process for visitors to Karnet by early 2014 to determine whether visitor needs and security requirements are being met.</p>	<p>Not Supported Current procedures facilitate security screening of all visitors prior to entering the prison complex. The process provides highly improved access for persons with restricted mobility, improves security by encouraging visitors to adhere to visit times and reduces the Department's vulnerability to litigation by visitors due to accidents incurred while on prison property.</p>
<p>6. Finalise the policy regarding child visitation rights for sex offenders by July 2013.</p>	<p>Supported A process of assessment is currently being developed between the Department of Child Protection and the Department to enable such considerations to be made and the outcome to be determined considering the best interests of the child.</p>
<p>7. Foster a greater focus on preparation for release by linking the canteen and self-care unit to a supermarket system, similar to that which is operating at Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women and Bunbury Regional Prison Pre-release Unit.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative Karnet's existing canteen covers minimal floor space and as a result operates on a corner store principle. Within the scope of current infrastructure, operational requirements and best practice security measures Karnet can commit to review current supply processes for Self Care and explore budget management options in line with a contemporary online ordering system.</p>
<p>8. Progress the planned extension and refurbishment of the Health Centre in order to address its physical deficits, including the lack of space and storage.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative The planned extension of the Karnet Health Centre will address the current lack of space and storage and is in progress.</p>
<p>9. Establish a representative forum for prisoners at Karnet Prison Farm similar to those operating at Acacia Prison and Albany Regional Prison.</p>	<p>Not Supported Karnet conducts fortnightly Prison/Staff meetings chaired by the Unit Manager. Minutes from these meetings are provided to the Senior Management team, which will address concerns raised, where required. This is in line with the principles of unit management.</p>

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<p>10. Ensure that programs are delivered prior to the deadline for prisoners' parole applications.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle The Department makes every effort to meet demand within the constraints of the current resources. There are a range of issues why programs cannot be completed, many of which are outside of the Department's control, such as back dated sentencing, capacity and budget.</p>
<p>11. Evaluate the correctional outcomes achieved by the Sex Offence Deniers Course and ensure adequate communication with prisoners on the intent and purpose of the course.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle All programs are evaluated on a regular basis. It is important to note that attendance of programs is about addressing criminogenic needs. Staff and prisoner communication regarding the program outcomes will be reviewed to ensure no misunderstanding.</p>
<p>12. Revise the Department-wide budget for education and rehabilitative programs based on detailed population projections, and where necessary seek further funding.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle This next financial year the Department is introducing a zero based budget process whereby the business area must justify and prioritise all planned expenditures for the new business period before any resources are allocated.</p>
<p>13. Provide access to educational facilities after hours as Boronia Pre-release Centre does, with a particular focus on digital literacy.</p>	<p>Not Supported The Department has recently reviewed staffing levels throughout the state and there is no ability to extend resources within its current budgetary constraints. Karnet currently provides access to the Education Centre for selected students during term breaks utilising Uniformed Officers. Karnet's isolated location restricts access to volunteer facilitators and TAFE staff.</p>
<p>14. Ensure that education continues to provide a broad range of personal development opportunities in addition to those skills required for occupations identified by the State Priority Occupation List.</p>	<p>Not Supported EVTU identifies and prioritises the needs of prisoners. The available resources target re-entry within the scope of the operational brief which is to focus on accredited qualifications.</p>

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<p>15. Replace Karnet's abattoir in order to meet Department of Health requirements.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle A business case has been submitted to replace the abattoir. This is dependent on approval for funding. Should funding not be forthcoming, a review on the longer term viability will be undertaken.</p>
<p>16. Ensure any food produced at Karnet containing allergens is clearly labelled as such from the point of production, through to preparation and consumption.</p>	<p>Not Supported Under health regulations there is no requirement for Karnet to individually label products with contents as all products are for internal usage. Health inspectors attend Karnet daily and an audit is conducted bi-annually. Karnet constantly meets legislated storage and distribution foodsafe standards.¹⁰⁴</p>
<p>17. Ensure that the effluent ponds adjacent to prisoner accommodation are adequately maintained to minimise odour.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative A new biological drain management system "BioAmp" has been introduced. BioAmp is an environmentally friendly biological solution for waste water and drain systems and the new system has resolved the odour from the ponds. Regular testing by Chemsearch is carried out on the water quality and odour and any necessary adjustments to bacterial management dosage are made. In order to improve the aesthetics of the site the effluent ponds have been screened.</p>
<p>18. Ensure that all chemicals are accurately labelled and stored appropriately.</p>	<p>Supported Karnet supports this recommendation and has taken action accordingly.</p>
<p>19. Conduct Food Stars Pty Ltd One Star Level food safety and hygiene training of all self-care unit prisoners.</p>	<p>Supported Karnet has reviewed its processes and all self care prisoners identified as requiring training and any new intakes to Unit 3 will receive a minimum of Level One Food Star Training.</p>

¹⁰⁴ The food safety auditor reported that "[f]rom a food safety perspective the lack of food allergen management (at Karnet) is probably the greatest risk to prisoner's health and wellbeing." While there may be no regulatory requirement to label food as containing allergens in this case, there is however a moral obligation and duty of care to inform prisoners about the contents of the food they receive, as they may place the prisoner's health at risk.