

Appendix 1

THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO 2014 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Acceptance Level/Response
1. That TOMS be used effectively to capture the cultural background of Aboriginal prisoners and that EGRP management make better use of that information.	Supported Adult Justice will review the use of TOMS and other systems by the prisons and in consultation with Corporate Support (Business Intelligence and Reporting Branch) determine how cultural background of Aboriginal prisoners are best collected and recorded. Suitable training will be arranged on collection and extraction of such information.
2. That EGRP be resourced by the Department to engage effectively with remote and regional Aboriginal communities, in particular to: (a) gather social and cultural information to assist with the refinement of service delivery to Aboriginal prisoners; and (b) deliver timely and accurate information about departmental strategic direction, policy changes and operational procedure to members of those remote and regional communities.	Supported The Department remains committed to continuing and supporting this level of effective engagement. The Superintendent and management team are actively engaged and maintain regular contact with community reference groups, government and non-government agencies.
3. That EGRP develop connections with the Goldfields/Ngaanyatjarra Aboriginal community with the specific intent of reactivating the Aboriginal Visitor Scheme and establishing an Elders Visits process to assist and guide service delivery at the prison.	Supported AVS commenced working at EGRP in February 2014.
4. The Department provide custodial and non-custodial staff at EGRP with cross-cultural training specific to the Goldfields/Ngaanyatjarra region.	Supported In Principle The Academy currently offers the 2 day Working with Diverse Cultures for Departmental staff who work with Aboriginal clients, co-workers or communities in Western Australia. The Academy, in consultation with the local Satellite Trainer is liaising with the Goldfields Institute of Technology to develop a cross cultural awareness course specific to the Goldfields/Ngaanyatjarra region.

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<p>5. Accredited training should be available at the Warburton Work Camp.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle The capacity and utilisation of Warburton Work Camp is being reviewed in conjunction with other agencies to determine future use. The review will determine the practicality of providing accredited training. If the review determines practicality and subject to funding, accredited training will be provided.</p>
<p>6. Male prisoners in Unit 1 at EGRP should have equal access to education, training and employment.</p>	<p>Not Supported Unit 1 is the male secure unit where prisoners with a security rating of above minimum are accommodated on a short-term basis. Male prisoners with a security rating of higher than minimum are generally transferred to other prisons within three weeks. Equal employment and access to vocational skills opportunities will be afforded to prisoners of all security classifications in the new prison.</p>
<p>7. The Department should examine ways to increase the number of prisoners who are rated minimum-security as being eligible for work camp placement to ensure full use of the Warburton work camp.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle The Department is currently reviewing and examining opportunities to maximise the future use of the Warburton facility.</p>
<p>8. EGRP should be supported to deliver comprehensive rehabilitation and re-entry programs to prisoners of all security classifications and genders, to remand prisoners, and to those with short placements.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle The new prison has been designed to provide a range of programmes to all prisoners ranging from comprehensive programmes targeting offending and life skills programmes. In addition a number of female specific programmes will be available.</p>
<p>9. (a) Prisoners in all three units should have greater access to recreation facilities; and (b) Minimum-security prisoners in Units 2 and 3 should have access to musical equipment, and should be permitted to form musical bands.</p>	<p>Supported Use of local risk assessment applicable to female prisoners and their suitability to recreate in open areas appears to be satisfactory. Musical equipment was withdrawn due to malicious damage, this has subsequently been reinstated. The musical equipment is being used by the prisoners under the supervision of staff.</p>

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<p>10. Razor wire should be removed from Unit 3. Until razor wire is removed, extraction training and a rapid response capacity must be made available.</p>	<p>Not Supported</p> <p>A security review to remove the razor wire from Unit 3 was completed in 2013. The outcome of this review found that the removal of the razor wire presented an unacceptable risk to DCS.</p> <p>Fence retrieval training is not considered practical. The likelihood of a prisoner being caught in the razor wire is considered to be low; however, in the event that this should occur, local DFES staff will provide assistance in retrieving the prisoner.</p> <p>The new prison contains no razor wire as part of its internal or external security defence lines</p>
<p>11. All prisons in the state, including EGRP, should innovatively expand the use of Skype or other on-line technologies to facilitate family and community contact, official appointments, coverage of significant occasions and connection with communities.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>The Department is committed to introducing e-visits to all facilities, based on funding.</p>
<p>12. A second telephone, located out of earshot of the existing telephone, should be provided in Unit 3.</p>	<p>Not Supported</p> <p>Feasibility of providing a second telephone was completed in 2014 as part of a proposed increase in the female population; however, the installation costs of a second telephone could not be justified given the scheduled demolition of the existing prison in 2015.</p>
<p>13. EGRP to increase the opportunities for approved female prisoners to participate in Section 95 (community) work equivalent to those available for male prisoners.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>Suitably assessed females do participate in external activities as per Section 95 approved activities.</p>
<p>14. EGRP be supported to develop robust recruitment strategies to lift the proportion of Aboriginal staff across all positions at the prison.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department is committed to recruiting a staffing population that is representative of the community.</p>

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<p>15. EGRP should significantly increase its staff training completion rates, particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) compulsory officer courses and modules; (b) working with female offenders; (c) working with prisoners with mental health conditions; and (d) local Aboriginal cultural awareness. 	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>The Academy provides training in Working with Female Offenders (WWFO) both within the metropolitan and through local delivery within the regions. Local WWFO programs have been delivered on-site on three occasions in the past 12 months, providing good access for both prison and community-based staff.</p> <p>Two officers at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison have been provided the skills and tools to increase this local delivery capacity to the organisation.</p> <p>The Academy is working with the local administration to arrange local training specific to the Ngaanyatjarra region in cultural awareness (See Recommendation 4).</p> <p>The Academy through the support of the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison Satellite Training Officer and local trainers provides training in Operational Skills with a scheduled plan for the fiscal period that provides suitable levels of commitment and access to staff to attend and maintain their operational currency.</p> <p>The Academy can facilitate the provision of Mental Health First Aid training for EGRP. Further planning to address these needs will be conducted as part of the training requirements for the EGRP redevelopment. Access to training is dependent on the EGRP releasing staff to undertake training.</p>