



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Justice**

Response to the announced inspection:

Wooroloo Prison Farm

The Department of Justice welcomes the inspection of Wooroloo Prison Farm as part of the Inspectors announced schedule of inspections for 2017/2018.

The Department has reviewed the report and noted a level of acceptance against the 10 recommendations.

Appendix A contains a number of comments for your attention and consideration.

Response to Recommendations

1 The Department must invest in and deliver more therapeutic programs.

Response:

While it is the Department's goal that all offenders recommended for a program are able to access that program prior to release, and where possible, as close to their earliest release date, this is not always achievable for a number of reasons, including:

- Length of sentence being too short to access the program.
- A security rating or an alert prohibiting participation in a program at a certain facility.
- Appealing a sentence.
- Deferral of the program to participate in another therapeutic activity.
- Medical or mental health status making it unsuitable to participate in a program.
- Non-English speaking status.
- The refusal of the prisoner to participate or transfer to the prison offering the program.
- Prioritising primary treatment program over other less intensive programs recommended

The Department has already completed or committed to the following strategies that will assist in ensuring we are maximising the number of prisoners receiving their recommended programs as early as possible and certainly prior to release:

- Conduct regular analysis of program demand at prison locations to determine what programs are needed and at which prisons, enabling us to be more targeted in our use of resources and flexible with our program schedule.
- Review how we book prisoners to programs to ensure prisoners are able to access programs as early as possible.
- Review assessment processes and provide clinical supervision to those carrying out treatment assessments to ensure prisoners are not being over prescribed programs and that they are being recommended interventions that are best suited to their treatment needs.
- Invest in our NGO providers to maximise the number of programs we can offer.
- Review current resourcing models to ensure that we are working efficiently and to capacity.
- Invest resources into other types of treatment for those who aren't suitable to engage in programs.

Responsible Business Area: Offender Management

Proposed Completion Date: N/A

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported

2 The Department should increase Wooroloo's transitional management capacity.

Response:

At the commencement of the new reintegration service agreements, a position was funded for 12 months to employ a Reintegration Project Officer that would assist the Transitional Manager and Employment Coordinator.

This was in response to a similar recommendation in the OICS Review into Transitional Services in WA, and to acknowledge the additional support required to build up and embed the new external reintegration services within the prison system. This model also allows a more integrated approach to reintegration, sharing of workload and relief during leave.

Responsible Business Area: Offender Management

Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Level of Acceptance: Supported in principle

3 In the absence of the Good Beginnings program, Wooroloo must ensure that prisoners can keep in contact with their children.

Response:

The Department's new Community Services contracts commenced on 1 April 2018. The Reset consortium deliver a "Mens parenting program" at Wooroloo. Reset are also providing support and resources for father and children Family Days. Skype sessions between father and child/ren with the Department of Communities in attendance are also being arranged on a case by case basis. Skype session times are being reviewed with a view to increase the contact opportunities between the prisoners and their families

Responsible Business Area: Superintendent

Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Level of Acceptance: Supported in principle

4 Wooroloo must put strategies in place that increase the number of Aboriginal prisoners at desirable workplaces, and at high gratuity levels.

Response:

The prisoner population is supported with the provision of education and vocational training in line with their needs to aspire to higher gratuity levels.

Skills sets of the prisoner population needs to be taken into consideration for workplace placements.

Responsible Business Area: Superintendent

Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Level of Acceptance: Supported – existing Departmental initiative

5 Revitalise recreation services at Wooroloo, and ensure that recreation officer positions are filled on a daily basis.

Response:

Wooroloo has on four occasions in the past two years, most recently in January 2018, attempted to recruit a third recreation officer. Each time has been unsuccessful with no applicants expressing an interest in the position.

The Local Procedure is currently being updated to reflect additional activities and an increase in the accessibility to recreational services.

Responsible Business Area: Superintendent

Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Level of Acceptance: Supported in principle

6 Prisoners must have better access to a professional counselling service.

Response:

Referrals for Wooroloo are monitored on a daily basis to identify priority referrals, and manage the waitlist for general counselling requests. Staff from other metropolitan sites have been providing services to Wooroloo.

Staff are sent to Wooroloo as needed for priority referrals. Demand on site has primarily been for general referrals. Prisoners at all sites are waitlisted for general counselling services as priority referrals need to be addressed in the first instance.

The Prison Counselling Service is in the process of appointing new staff to fill current vacancies which will be resolved by the end of 2018. This will provide additional resourcing for counselling within the metropolitan area, including Wooroloo.

Responsible Business Area: Offender Management

Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2018

Level of Acceptance: Supported in principle

7 The Department must ensure continuity of the full range of primary health care services for eligible prisoners at Wooroloo.

Response:

The invitations for tender submissions for the provision of in-reach allied health services (Podiatry and Physiotherapy) closed on 19 and 24 July respectively.

The Department's Procurements branch is currently leading the evaluation process in order to award services.

It must be noted that there is an existing overarching Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health to provide secondary and tertiary care. This MOU captures WA Country Health Services of which Northam Hospital is a party to.

WA Health have previously advised Health Services that allied health services will no longer be provided to patients referred from any primary care settings (including

prisons) as these services are limited to patients accessing secondary and tertiary health services.

Responsible Business Area: Offender Management
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2018
Level of Acceptance: Supported in principle

8 To improve relational security, Wooroloo management should require custodial officers to engage positively with prisoners more frequently.

Response:

Relational security is reinforced at regular staff meetings and weekly staff safety briefings.

Responsible Business Area: Superintendent
Proposed Completion Date: Completed
Level of Acceptance: Supported

9 Wooroloo should be funded for more MPCs, or be supported to devise alternative behaviour management strategies.

Response:

There is no evidence to suggest that there is a need for additional multi-purpose cells at Wooroloo. The rates of incidents or severity have not increased.

Responsible Business Area: Superintendent
Proposed Completion Date: N/A
Level of Acceptance: Not Supported

10 The Department should support Wooroloo farm to operate a replacement schedule for agricultural machinery and equipment.

Response:

The Department has a robust process in place for replacement and/or new agricultural machinery and equipment. Prisons that require such equipment complete a Request for Specialist Equipment (Commercial and Mobile Plant) (SAS0011). All requests received are reviewed, risk rated and prioritised on their own merits on an annual basis for allocation of funding for Commercial Equipment.

Responsible Business Area: Infrastructure Services

Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Level of Acceptance: Supported – existing Departmental initiative