

# **Response to the review:**

## **The birth at Bandyup Women's Prison in March 2018**

**October 2018**

The Department of Justice welcomes the review into the birth at Bandyup Women's Prison in March 2018 and acknowledges the review findings;

- There is not enough appropriate accommodation for women in the late stages of pregnancy.
- Communication was poor.
- Staff were slow to act.
- Record keeping and incident reporting was flawed.

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

## Response to Recommendations

### 1 Increase the accommodation for pregnant women and mothers at Bandyup.

#### Response:

While the Department acknowledges the value of mothers and babies residing together, it is required to manage prisoners with multiple and complex needs. A scope of work is currently being confirmed to equip a third house for accommodating mothers and residential children at Bandyup, while allowing for fluctuating population demands. Unit 6 has been designated for accommodation for pregnant women. This is a single story unit with air-conditioned cells and in cell shower facilities.

**Responsible Business Area:** Bandyup Women's Prison  
**Proposed Completion Date:** 31 December 2019  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported

### 2 Build an infirmary in the women's prison estate.

#### Response:

The Department has further progressed development of the Custodial Infrastructure Plan and will include options to incorporate an infirmary facility for the female estate in this planning process.

Recurrent operational as well as capital funding will be required.

**Responsible Business Area:** Infrastructure Services  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Not Available  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported in principle

### 3 Implement a strategy for addressing the culture at Bandyup to improve staff response to distress and pain management.

#### Response:

Bandyup is providing trauma informed training to all staff. The objectives of this training include assisting staff to promptly identify trauma and support required, and ensure that prisoners feel safe. Bandyup has also provided training sessions to staff regarding professional standards, integrity, working as a team, and communication.

Last year, the Department also introduced training for trauma informed approaches into its entry level training package, and will continue to provide this to all new prison officers.

**Responsible Business Area:** Bandyup Women's Prison  
**Proposed Completion Date:** 30 June 2019  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported

#### **4 Log all cell calls as required by Local Order 24.**

##### **Response:**

A Superintendent's Notice was issued as a result of this incident to remind staff regarding the requirement to log all cell calls and ensure information is correct. To ensure ongoing compliance with this requirement, Bandyup will undertake random audits of call logs. Additionally, the Department's Monitoring and Compliance will consider incorporating such audits within Compliance Review activities.

**Responsible Business Area:** Bandyup Women's Prison  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported

#### **5 Implement strategies to ensure staff on night shift have the skills and confidence for the role.**

##### **Response:**

In line with the outcomes of the Department's review into this incident, Bandyup has completed or commenced implementation of the following:

- The night OIC is based within Unit 2, providing a senior presence and point of call for staff;
- Radio Code training for staff;
- Staff to work a set number of days shifts per roster, to ensure training and skills are current;
- Senior Officers to ensure that all staff are rotated through the night shift to ensure they are given the opportunity to work in all operational areas and units;
- Ongoing training for emergency response and reporting requirements.

Whilst nursing staff are not required to have a midwifery qualification, they are aware of the limitation of their scope of practice. A clear instruction has been issued that any unscheduled presentation of a pregnant woman (at any gestation and for any symptom) is to be discussed with a GP or with the unit at KEMH.

**Responsible Business Area:** Bandyup Women's Prison  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported

#### **6 Improve incident reporting and classification.**

##### **Response:**

The Department acknowledges issues in relation to the accurate and timely classification and reporting of this incident.

DCS Prisons Order 10/2016 sets out the primary details that are required to be reported to the Operations Centre when providing verbal incident reports and briefs,

which allows a proper classification assessment to take place against the categories of Critical Incidents as described in Policy Directive 41.

With regard to prison based reporting, senior management at Bandyup (Principal Officer and Asst. Super Operations) will ensure ongoing training and compliance to support accurate reporting.

Principal Officers will also undertake quality assurance of all incident reports daily, and provide information sessions to Senior Officers to re-inforce reporting requirements.

**Responsible Business Area:** Operations Centre  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported

## **7 Implement strategies to ensure prisoners feel safe at Bandyup.**

### **Response:**

The Department agrees it is essential that prisoners feel safe at Bandyup, and all other facilities, and there are processes in place to assist with this.

Prisoners can report any concerns to various business areas within the Department such as ACCESS, Prisoner Counselling Services etc. as well as to external parties for consideration and action e.g. State Ombudsman, Independent Visitor Service, and OICS etc.

With regard to the effects of this incident, while the report states that it is unlikely the Department gave sufficient support to those affected by the birth, prisoners within the unit were offered assistance from the Prison Counselling Service.

As outlined previously Bandyup is providing trauma informed training to staff. The objectives of this training include assisting staff to promptly identify trauma and support required, and ensure that prisoners feel safe.

**Responsible Business Area:** Bandyup Women's Prison  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed  
**Level of Acceptance:** Supported