



Response to the Announced Inspection:

West Kimberley Regional Prison 2020

November 2020

The Department of Justice welcomes the draft report of the inspection of West Kimberley Regional Prison.

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

Attachment A contains comments for your attention and consideration.

Response to Recommendations

1 The Department and WKRP should take urgent steps to engage AVS and local community Elders to support Kimberley Prisoners.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Offender Services
Proposed Completion Date:	30 June 2021

Response:

The Department supports the recommendation and has undertaken the following in response to the recommendation:

- An AVS visitor commenced employment on the 24 August 2020 on a casual basis, working three days per week who provides support to at-risk, vulnerable prisoners.
- The Elders Program was established in March 2020 as part of the Kimberley Offender Management Program and consists of 10 Elders representing the vast areas across the Kimberley. The Elders are currently visiting WKRP intermittently, however it is envisaged that an Elder will attend WKRP fortnightly with the Program's Community Corrections Officer to attend induction meetings as well as spending time in the Cultural centre. Elders are currently restricted to being escorted and supervised until the Department has received a full screening clearance for them and Departmental Identification is provided. This will allow the Elders to visit WKRP unsupervised and not requiring an escort.

2 Culturally appropriate training at WKRP should equip all staff to comprehensively support Kimberley Aboriginal prisoners.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Adult Male Prisons
Proposed Completion Date:	30 June 2022

Response:

The Department currently provides generic cultural awareness training through the Training Academy. This training is delivered to all new recruits as part of the Entry Level Training Program.

A cultural immersion training package that embraces the culture and traditions of the Kimberley region is being developed by WKRP in consultation with AVS, locally employed Aboriginal staff, local Elders and the Training Academy. This is being modelled around the recently developed training for Broome Regional Prison.

It is expected that the training, once developed, will be provided to new staff and also incorporated into the training schedule for existing staff.

In addition, the Academy will work with WKRP to convert the training package into an online training module for staff to access as required.

3 Improve the Orientation process to ensure that every prisoner receives a comprehensive orientation to the prison.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2021

Response:

The concerns raised by the Inspector in relation to the orientation process for prisoners at WKRP are acknowledged.

WKRP will continue to review the orientation process to ensure consistency with policy and the involvement of peer support prisoners, and the Women's Support Officer for female prisoners.

4 WKRP should have a second Life Skills Officer position to support self-care.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2021

Response:

The addition of a second Life Skills Officer will be considered in the next review of WKRP's Staffing Level Agreement.

5 Subject to risk assessments and supervision, provide better opportunities for male and female prisoners at WKRP to mix, including opportunities for friends and families to grieve together.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons
Proposed Completion Date: Completed

Response:

WKRP acknowledges the importance of male and female prisoners integrating, and allowing friends and family members to provide support to each other.

This is generally achieved subject to a risk assessment and with appropriate supervision. Joint activities include:

- Opportunities are provided for male and female prisoners, including family members, to grieve together;

- Monthly sessions for family members to spend time together;
- Kinship groups, especially around cultural, kinship ceremony or sorry business;
- All major events, such as NAIDOC, mental health week, and sporting/special events; and
- Other interactions that are assessed as safe for the operations of the prison.

6 Develop and deliver culturally appropriate offender treatment programs for men and women at WKRP.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date:	30 June 2022

Response:

Offender Programs have two FTE for program delivery at WKRP. The two programs with the greatest demand are addressing FDV and AOD for males – this demand is met with the facilitation of Pathways, and Not Our Way (NOW) or Connect and Respect (C&R). NOW and C&R are Aboriginal specific.

The Department supports the delivery of programs to females at WKRP, however, there are insufficient females with similar program needs to justify the scheduling of a criminogenic needs program.

In 2019 the Department conducted an independent review of all criminogenic needs programs. This review highlighted the need to source gender specific and more culturally responsive programs across the state. A three year implementation plan has been developed and recently commenced, which will see improved responsiveness in the suite of programs available state wide

7 Industries at WKRP should be developed to support more employment.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Adult Male Prisons
Proposed Completion Date:	30 June 2022

Response:

WKRP currently has a number of VSO vacancies impacting the delivery of industries. Recruitment processes have commenced to fill these vacancies.

It should be noted that recruitment and retention to regional and remote areas remains challenging for the Department. This has been raised in previous responses to OICS reports, e.g. Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison 2020.

8 Increase the life skills support and opportunities for external employment for the women.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Women and Young People
Proposed Completion Date:	Completed

Response:

Female prisoners have resumed working in the main kitchen on Sundays to prepare meals for the homeless, and an additional position for a female prisoner to work within the administration area.

While the Department supports female prisoners undertaking external employment through s.95 activities, it is not always practical at WKRP due to prisoner levels and eligibility. As at 27 October 2020, WKRP has one female approved for external activities. It would not be viable nor practical to send one prisoner out with one VSO on an s.95 activity. It should be noted that during the course of the year, WKRP had seven eligible females participating in s.95 activities four days per week.

As outlined in the response to recommendation 4, the requirement for an additional Life Skills Officer will be considered through a review of WKRP's SLA. Progress on the addition of a second Life Skills Officer will be tracked through the outcome of recommendation 4.

9 WKRP needs better Departmental oversight of the Kimberley re-entry service provider contract.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date:	Completed

Response:

In early 2020, the Contract Manager (CM) increased the level of monitoring and liaison with WKRP and Centacare to ensure regular feedback on the service delivery of Centacare was being obtained, and performance issues were being identified as early as possible.

As of September 2020, issues that were raised early in the year have been addressed and no further issues or concerns have been raised either by WKRP or Centacare in relation to service delivery. Furthermore, Centacare commenced the delivery of an additional program in October 2020, Parenting Advice and Support Services (PASS).

The CM will continue to monitor the service delivery of Centacare to ensure performance issues are addressed in a timely manner.

In addition, the WA Office of Crime Statistics and Research (WACSAR) has commenced an evaluation of all Adult Rehabilitation and Reintegration contracts on

behalf of the Department to inform decision making regarding the Contracts. It is anticipated that the WACSAR report will be finalised by December 2020, and will further guide the Department in the management of its rehabilitation and reintegration contracts.

10 Ensure that lessons learned from the WKRP build are considered in the planning of a new Broome prison.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corporate Services
Responsible Directorate:	Procurement, Infrastructure and Contracts
Proposed Completion Date:	Completed

Response:

The Department has developed a list of issues identified with the build of WKRP for consideration in the planning and development of a new Broome Regional Prison.

It should also be noted that the architects and consultants engaged in the design of the new Broome Regional Prison will have knowledge of the local climatic conditions of the region.