



Response to the Announced Inspection:

Bandyup Women's Prison 2020

November 2020

The Department of Justice welcomes the draft report of the inspection of Bandyup Women's Prison.

The Department has reviewed the report and noted a level of acceptance against the 15 recommendations.

Attachment A contains comments for your attention and consideration.

Response to Recommendations

- 1 The Department should undertake a comprehensive review of infrastructure and develop a plan to prioritise and address deficiencies, with particular attention to the areas identified in Table 1 (refer p.11 of report) and discussed throughout this report.**

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

Response:

The Department incorporated a number of items identified in Table 1 into the Custodial Infrastructure Plan 2021-2023, including:

- Bandyup being identified as a high priority site for maintenance to be undertaken.
- Planning for the sub-acute mental health facility for females.

Further items may be considered upon completion of the Prison Services Evaluation under the Network Design Project.

- 2 Develop a solution to address the issue of cell temperatures, particularly in winter.**

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported
Responsible Division: Corporate Services
Responsible Directorate: Procurement, Infrastructure and Contracts
Proposed Completion Date: N/A

Response:

The Department provides additional bedding/blankets to prisoners that are affected by the cold as standard practice.

The Department notes that retrospectively, installing any level of temperature control into the existing facilities is exceptionally expensive and problematic.

The use of small electric heaters in cells presents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of staff and prisoners primarily due to the fire hazard.

3 Bandyup should offer choice for all lunch and dinner meals, including a vegetarian option.

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

Response:

Bandyup's kitchen operates at capacity within the existing infrastructure limitations. All women are provided with two meal options for lunch and dinner and have a choice between salad and bread roll or a hot meal.

Prisoners with dietary and/or cultural requirements are catered for according to their requirements.

4 The Department should provide dedicated safe single-bed accommodation options with appropriate amenities for pregnant women with different needs.

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

Response:

The accommodation needs of pregnant prisoners are managed on a case by case basis. Predominately, Unit 6 is utilised to house pregnant women, as it is air-conditioned and has in-shower facilities. Where possible, pregnant women will be placed in these cells by themselves, however, it should be noted, some prisoners request to be placed in a shared cell arrangement.

5 Establish a permanent coordination position for mothers-to-be, mothers and babies at Bandyup, and negotiate with the Department of Communities for an extension of the Family Links Service across all the women's facilities in Perth.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Women and Young People
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2021

Response:

Provisions have been made to establish a coordinator for mothers and babies at Bandyup. The current Family Links Service provided by Department of Communities and funded by the Department of Justice will continue in its current form. The facilities within the women's estate work collaboratively together to manage mothers and babies as appropriate.

6 Build in and implement a stronger Aboriginal focus as part of the culturally safe model of health care in consultation with Aboriginal community-controlled health services.

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

Response:

Health Services is guided by the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 that identifies key guiding principles; strategic directions and priority areas for the next 15 years, to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

The Department has approved the creation of additional Aboriginal Health Workers, pending funding and FTE allocation. This has been considered at all sites including Bandyup. Once created, the filling of a position at Bandyup will be dependent on recruitment outcomes, noting there is a limited pool of people within the community to draw from to fill these positions.

Aboriginal prisoners are offered referrals to Derbal Yerrigan, other Aboriginal Medical Services or another health care of their choosing when they are released from Bandyup. Medical information is then provided once a consent to release information is signed.

7 Provide better access to preventative and restorative dental care.

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

Response:

The Department of Health's Dental Health Services (DHS) is responsible for providing dental care to prisoners. The dental care is commensurate to that provided to the general community, however there is no charge for routine treatment. The service provides routine dental care focused on relief of pain and alleviation of infection.

Services include preventative and restorative options, such as dental examinations, oral health advice, extractions, fillings, x-rays, root canal treatments and in some cases dentures.

The Department will continue to work with DHS to explore options to provide better access to dental care at Bandyup in line with community standards.

8 Consider options, such as increased staffing in the Crisis Care Unit, to provide a more therapeutic unit routine with an optimal level of socialisation and activity for its residents.

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

Response:

A dedicated Sub Acute Mental Health Unit is currently under construction at Bandyup Women's Prison with part of the project development including an additional Officer to support service delivery.

Once the Mental Health Unit is operational, the Crisis Care Unit will be purpose specific to accommodate women in crisis and deemed at risk.

9 Strengthen training and support for the Peer Support Team and maintain effective Aboriginal participation.

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

Response:

There are currently 11 members on the Peer Support Team at Bandyup with one vacant full time position. The composition of the team is reflective of Bandyup's cohort with four full time positions allocated to two Aboriginal women and one Vietnamese woman with the other role currently being recruited to. There are another eight voluntary members each from a diverse background.

The current training for Peer Support Workers is Gatekeeper training, however, there have been challenges in securing facilitators to deliver this training. Whilst there are members of the MHAOD branch that are qualified as Train the Trainers, a clinical trainer is required to co-facilitate and the MHC have not been able to secure a provider for this.

The MHC have advised that Gatekeeper training is not the best fit for Peer Support as it is too structured. Following a review of the training available, MHC have advised that Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) would best suit the needs of our cohort. ASIST is a 2 day (15 hour) program that can be presented by 2 trainers who have completed the Train the Trainer Course.

The MHAOD Branch have submitted a proposal for 3 members of Prison Support Services to become Train the Trainers. Once this has been endorsed, it will be actioned as a priority.

10 Take steps to address shortages in access to education and training.

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date: N/A

Response:

Funding does not exist to support expansion of education and training opportunities for women at Bandyup Women's Prison.

11 Explore opportunities for prisoners to have in-cell electronic devices to ensure access to digital education resources to facilitate study beyond education centre hours.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2021

Response:

Opportunities can be explored upon the release of the new COPP 3.1 and 3.2 which it is understood will support the use of electronic devices to be used for education studies in cells.

12 Ensure consistent staffing of the assessments team to prevent a backlog developing.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date: 31 December 2021

Response:

The Department has already put in place additional assessment resources to address the number of overdue initial IMPs. Further, the Department is implementing a long term sustainable solution to prisoner assessments, including structural change, improving professional governance and training and establishing appropriate staffing resources. It is anticipated that this will ensure consistent assessment staffing levels being maintained at Bandyup to effectively manage their ongoing workload.

13 Implement an effective, holistic system of case management for women prisoners.

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

Response:

The Bandyup Superintendent initiated a targeted campaign to encourage staff at the facility to receive training and engage in Case Management. The purpose of this campaign was to upskill staff in Assessments and Case Management, develop a more versatile workforce and support a reduction in the IMP backlog.

The system of case management at Greenough was designed initially to support the capacity of the female unit within a predominately male facility. The Greenough model is not adaptable for a facility with a capacity of 352 women without significant funding and infrastructure investment.

Bandyup provide a Case Management system which is tailored for female prisoners within WA Facilities. A Case Management Review and the implementation of Commissioner's Operational Policies and Procedures are currently underway as whole of Corrections projects and it is anticipated this will enhance case management outcomes for both male and female offenders.

14 Revise program delivery methods and extend program delivery for women in custody.

Level of Acceptance:	Not Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Proposed Completion Date:	N/A

Response:

There has been a decrease in program delivery that coincides with the opening of Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison. During 2019 programs were cancelled due to insufficient demand and prison officer availability. The Department considers that Bandyup Women's Prison is currently providing sufficient programs to meet the demand for the current cohort.

The 2020-21 program schedule includes seven programs to be delivered at Bandyup Women's Prison, with places available in all programs:

- 2x Choices, Changes and Consequences; 5 places still available on course;
- 4x Pathways; 39 places still available on course; and
- 1x Think First; 9 places still available on course.

15 Review options for improved and updated scanning and surveillance equipment at Bandyup, including internal CCTV coverage, use of body worn cameras, and non-intrusive body scanning technologies.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Operational Support
Proposed Completion Date:	31 December 2022

Response:

The Department acknowledges the additional investment in Body Worn Cameras (BWC) would significantly complement CCTV capability throughout the custodial estate. BWC have been trialled throughout the custodial estate with varying results. The Department is supportive of introducing BWC utilising methodologies and lessons learned from the Western Australia Police Force given their successful implementation of BWC.

The Department is committed to surveying new scanning technologies and assessing their viability within the corrections environment. The Drug Detection Unit (DDU) recently completed a tender process to procure new trace detection devices. DDU are currently developing Standard Operating Procedures prior to deployment. The new device is expected to be operational at Bandyup Women's Prison (Bandyup) by mid-November 2020.

The Department are also currently considering the use of X-ray body scanning technology. This technology utilises low-dose radiation to discreetly search prisoners and detainees for contraband. Preliminary legal advice indicates legislative change may be required to ensure this specific practice constitutes a search under the Prisons Act 1981. Bandyup would be a priority location for deployment of this technology should its implementation be legislatively supported.