



# **Response to the Announced Inspection:**

## **Bunbury Regional Prison 2020**

**December 2020**

The Department of Justice welcomes the draft report of the inspection of Bunbury Regional Prison (Bunbury).

The Department has reviewed the report and noted a level of acceptance against the 11 recommendations.

Attachment A contains comments for your attention and consideration.

## Response to Recommendations

### **1 The Department must provide support for local management in their efforts to have the identified Unit 6 defects addressed and fixed.**

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

#### **Response:**

The outstanding defects have been addressed and rectified, namely issues relating to water ingress through windows, grilles, and ventilation assembly affecting the cell call units. The contract on these identified defect items have separate Defects Liability Period extended to a further six months.

### **2 Reinvigorate the Aboriginal Services Committee to increase accountability and confidence in its processes.**

<b>Level of Acceptance:</b>	Supported
<b>Responsible Division:</b>	Corrective Services
<b>Responsible Directorate:</b>	Offender Services
<b>Proposed Completion Date:</b>	31 December 2021

#### **Response:**

The Department is currently undertaking state-wide Quality Improvement (QI) works for all ASCs. The QI works commenced in late July 2020.

In line with the QI works plan, a revised ASC reporting framework and Terms of Reference have been developed. The focus of the revised ASC documentation is to deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal people in custody. The revised reporting framework includes Service Plans that will require critical items discussed in ASC meetings to be actioned accordingly.

An ASC Pilot program has been established and approved to test the revised ASC documentation across three sites: Banksia Hill Detention Centre, Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison and Wooroloo Prison Farm. Pilot program activities are currently in progress. At the completion of the Pilot, a review and program evaluation will be completed.

Subject to approval, the revised ASC documentation will be implemented across all custodial estates in early 2021.

### **3 Provide more opportunities and support for foreign national prisoners.**

**Level of Acceptance:** Not Supported  
**Responsible Division:** Corrective Services  
**Responsible Directorate:** Offender Services  
**Proposed Completion Date:** N/A

#### **Response:**

The Department is not able to provide legal or immigration advice to prisoners. Prisoners are contacted by the appropriate federal agency when their case is being considered and when decisions are made. Prisoners' communications with federal agencies and consular support are facilitated by the Department.

### **4 Develop and implement a specific strategy to improve the quality of life for long term prisoners.**

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

#### **Response:**

The Department supports that its strategies should consider the needs of each cohort, and will include an assessment of long term prisoner needs on the policy development schedule of each relevant policy. This will allow wider discussion with a consultation group, and an assessment of needs, issues and implementation requirements if required.

With regard to health assessments, an annual health assessment is performed on prisoners who do not have any chronic conditions. Prisoners with any chronic health conditions are seen as by health staff as required or they can request an appointment as required commensurate with community standards.

### **5 Engage with Dental Health Services to improve consistency of dental coverage.**

**Level of Acceptance:** Supported in Principle  
**Responsible Division:** Corrective Services  
**Responsible Directorate:** Offender Services  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed

#### **Response:**

The Department of Health's Dental Health Services is responsible for providing dental care to prisoners. The Department works with the Dental Health Services to ensure that dental care, at a minimum, is commensurate to that provided to the general community and there is no charge for routine treatment. The service includes routine dental care focused on relief of pain and to alleviate infection; 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 Dental Health Services to improve dental care for prisoners.

**6 Ensure sufficient resources are available to complete outstanding treatment assessments at Bunbury and to ensure these are kept up to date into the future.**

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

**Response:**

The Department has already put in place additional temporary assessment resources to address the number of overdue initial IMPs. This has resulted in a reduction of the overall number of overdue IMPs by 60%.

The IMP Project Steering Committee (PSC) has finalised its recommendations. To ensure a long term sustainable solution to prisoner assessments the PSC proposed structural changes, improving professional governance and training and establishing appropriate staffing resources.

The proposed structural, governance and resource change recommendations made by the PSC are subject to executive approval and funding allocation.

The Department however will continue to monitor the number of outstanding treatment assessments at Bunbury.

**7 Provide adequate training and support for all programs staff to ensure confidence in, and the integrity of, the programs being delivered.**

**Level of Acceptance:** Supported  
**Responsible Division:** Corrective Services  
**Responsible Directorate:** Offender Services  
**Proposed Completion Date:** Completed

**Response:**

The Department programs staff are provided with adequate training. During 2019-20, training in group work, case formulation, Medium Intensive Program (MIP) and Pathways has been delivered.

MIP training now includes Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) training, which enables facilitators to deliver the Stopping Domestic Violence Program.

During 2019-20, staff have also been provided with training opportunities in risk tools for assessing general offending (LSRNR), violence (VRS), domestic violence (DVSIR) and sex offending (DSP).

Specific sex offender program training has not been delivered to staff in 2019-20 as the current suite of programs are outdated and currently subject to review through the Offender Programs Review.

**8 Re-consider the good working relationship with TAFE providers at BRP with the aim of using all allocated SCH each year, and explore the possibility of using other training providers.**

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

**Response:**

The Department and South West Regional TAFE have negotiated a yearly training plan for Bunbury, which will lock in service delivery dates each term. Service delivery under the yearly training plan will be monitored by both the Department and TAFE.

**9 Invest in more digital literacy opportunities for prisoners including internet access, email, and additional computers.**

**Level of Acceptance:** Supported  
**Responsible Division:** Corporate Services  
**Responsible Directorate:** Knowledge, Information and Technology  
**Proposed Completion Date:** 30 June 2021

**Response:**

The Department is currently developing the Long Term Custodial Technology Strategy that will set the direction for technology to support prison operations for the next 5 to 10 years.

The items identified in this recommendation are being considered in this strategy for implementation for the short to medium term.

This strategy is scheduled for completion in December 2020, and implementation will be subject to funding.

**10 Resource initiatives to increase the scope and capacity of industries at Bunbury to provide more opportunities for meaningful employment for prisoners.**

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

**Response:**

The Department acknowledges the benefit in providing meaningful employment for prisoners and continues to consider all opportunities to increase prisoner employment across the estate.

Any expansion plans for Bunbury's industries will be subject to the outcomes of the Department's current projects, including the Long Term Prison Industries Plan (LTPIP) under the Prison Services Evaluation (PSE) Project.

The purpose of the LTPIP is to establish the long-term strategic planning direction for the expansion and commercialisation of Western Australia's (WA's) Prison Industries. Stage one of the LTPIP proposes a 10-year end state model for WA's Prison Industries.

Funding to implement the PSE Project is subject to budgetary consideration and endorsement by Treasury.

**11 Provide additional resources to support the reintegration team.**

<b>Level of Acceptance:</b>	Supported
<b>Responsible Division:</b>	Corrective Services
<b>Responsible Directorate:</b>	Offender Services
<b>Proposed Completion Date:</b>	Completed

**Response:**

A full-time Reintegration Project Officer position has been created and filled as a result of the Bunbury expansion.

Casual part-time assistance to drive prisoners to PEP activities off-site and undertake other administrative duties has been established to support the Employment Coordinator.

Contract variations have been put in place to increase the re-entry and accommodation and parenting advice and support services in alignment with the prison expansion.

### Attachment A: Inaccuracies and Comments

OICS Reference	OICS Information	DOJ Comments
Page 27, Paragraph 3	<i>Negotiations to have a medication assistant included in the team have also been successful, and recruiting for this position was underway. This position would provide valuable assistance in collating and distributing medications, which will free nurses to focus on their core work.</i>	The part time (0.5 FTE) medication assistant position has been filled.
Page 27, Paragraph 7	<i>Nurses were trying to juggle up to 20 appointments each day. With only two nurses on shift each day, this was a considerable load. And in amongst these appointments, they had to try and find time for their other essential responsibilities, including health promotion and keeping on top of chronic disease care plans. And despite the increased GP coverage, the waiting time for a doctor's appointment was still between four and six weeks. We heard from the nurses and the GP that even more resources are required for the health services team to be able to provide the level of service they aspire to.</i>	The Department acknowledges that there is a demonstrated need for additional consultation rooms which will increase Health Services access time to patients.