

MEDIA RELEASE
REPORT NO INSPECTION REPORT 143 - COURT CUSTODY CENTRES AND FIONA STANLEY
HOSPITAL SECURE FACILITY
EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:00PM ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

The inspection of court custody centres in WA has always been a complex exercise due to the multiple locations, diverse environments, and the number of providers, contractors and sub-contractors involved in delivery.

In his most recent report, the Inspector of Custodial Services has found that despite these complexities, the services within the centres was generally being well delivered to a good standard.

Inspector Eamon Ryan said whether operated by the Department of Justice or the contractors, overall there had been improvements to governance and the use of technology and a continuation of the generally high level of professionalism and dedication from staff.

'What we have consistently found during our custody centre inspections over time has been the efforts of staff and the professional way they manage those in custody,' Mr Ryan said.

The inspection had found staff had been under increasing pressure, however, caused by COVID restrictions and the difficulty in recruiting enough staff in the subsequent tight employment market.

'As with many industries, and particularly in regional areas, services were being stretched by the difficulty in recruiting enough staff to consistently deliver services.'

The report also noted the lack of consistency in custodial infrastructure and security mechanisms across the state. Mr Ryan said consistency was needed to maintain security and quality of service delivery.

'It was pleasing to see that the Department of Justice supported our recommendation about reviewing infrastructure and security at all custodial court facilities across the state to ensure a consistent high standard and level of service,' he said.

Mr Ryan also noted that this inspection did not examine the delivery of transport services provided under the same contract as court custody services. He said that the Office was currently conducting an inspection of regional transport services, and the report from this work would be tabled in the first quarter of 2023.

Eamon Ryan
Inspector

For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 2:00pm on Tuesday 20 September 2022 and can be contacted on 0421 480 925.