

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM ON 20 MAY 2025

### Report 159: 2024 Inspection of Greenough Regional Prison

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The Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan, has today released the report for the 2024 inspection of Greenough Regional Prison. This is the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services' eighth announced inspection of Greenough – a prison that holds both men and women of all security classifications.

The inspection found Greenough had a future focussed leadership team who had shown agility in a challenging period of unprecedented population growth across the custodial estate. Population pressures had led to the prison's cohort evolving, including an influx of off-Country First Nations men who required additional cultural supports, and the relocation of women from their purpose-built accommodation.

With the pressures of an increased population, Greenough was struggling to provide people in custody a meaningful daily routine. Employment opportunities were lacking, there were delays in delivering offender treatment programs, and there were limited recreational opportunities within the accommodation areas. Infrastructure limitations and staffing shortfalls contributed to this challenge.

Lines attributable to the Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan:

"Greenough's management and staff were future focussed and optimistic. There was a growing appetite for change and improvement was evident across many of the areas we inspected".

"However, record increases in the Western Australian prison population have had a significant impact at Greenough – particularly for women and off-Country First Nations men. Up to 20% of the male population were from the Pilbara or Kimberley regions. They shared their experience of loss being away from home".

"Women were moved out of their specialist women's precinct in early 2024, before returning to Unit 5 at Greenough. Despite the efforts of local staff, Unit 5 does not offer the same level of amenity or access to services that was available in Unit 4".

"Women and off country men in Greenough are the face of system wide pressures and should remain at the forefront of efforts to improve their situation".

**Eamon Ryan**

Inspector of Custodial Services

#### For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 2pm on 20 May 2025 and can be contacted on 0421 480 925.

The full report will be available on the Inspector's website ([www.oics.wa.gov.au](http://www.oics.wa.gov.au)).