

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM ON 20 MAY 2025

### Report 160: 2023 Inspection of Court Custody Centres

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The Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan, has today released the report for the 2023 inspection of court custody centres. The report details the findings of the mandatory three-yearly inspection of court custody centres and prescribed lock-ups, as required under the *Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2003*.

A court custody centre is defined under the *Court Security and Custodial Services Act 1999* as a part of court premises, other than the dock in the court –

- a) That is set aside as a place where persons in custody are detained; and
- b) That is not accessible to members of the public without permission of the person in charge of the place.

Sentenced prisoners, people remanded in custody, or those arrested and charged with a crime may be held in court custody centres before appearing in court.

Twenty court custody centres and prescribed lock-ups were inspected across Western Australia.

Generally, the inspection found the conditions of these places and the treatment of the people held there were acceptable. However, the inspection reiterated previous findings relating to ageing and poorly designed infrastructure, and staffing shortages from court custody contractor, Ventia.

Recommendations were also made to revise strip searching policies to minimise the harm of this invasive practice, and to invest in body scanning technology to minimise its use.

Lines attributable to the Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan:

"Our inspection found that people held in custody were generally treated well, with staff demonstrating genuine concern for the care and welfare of the individuals in their custody. Similarly, court custody staff worked well with other key stakeholders such as police, court staff, and prison staff."

"Once again, our inspection identified varying standards of infrastructure across court custody centres, and these are documented in this report together with a recommendation to undertake an audit to identify priority areas in need of improvement."

**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)).