

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM ON 22 JULY 2025

Report 162: Follow-up inspection of Hakea Prison

The Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan, has today released the report for the 2025 follow-up inspection of Hakea Prison. This inspection re-visited areas of concern identified during the 2024 inspection of Hakea Prison, where a Show Cause Notice was issued due to concerns prisoners were being held in inhumane conditions.

The inspection found conditions at Hakea had slightly improved but remained entirely unacceptable. With the creation of the Hakea Safer Custody Taskforce efforts have been made to address the concerning prisoner conditions and staffing shortages, but this is slow progress. Despite this, men at Hakea – most of whom are unsentenced and being held on remand – are being held in conditions that fail to meet basic standards.

Lines attributable to the Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan:

“The conditions observed at Hakea Prison reflect a broader, systemic issue affecting prisons across Western Australia. The prison system is operating beyond its capacity, placing immense strain on staff, infrastructure, and prisoner welfare. These pressures are undermining the effectiveness of prison operations and having a significant toll on both staff wellbeing and the humane treatment of prisoners.”

“Ultimately, for the majority of adult prisoners effective rehabilitation is simply not happening.”

“While I acknowledge the commitment of those managing Hakea to drive improvement, the evidence available to me does not demonstrate that the scale of reform required – both at Hakea and across the wider system – is currently being achieved.”

“This report yet again highlights the unacceptable conditions at Hakea – a prison holding individuals held on remand who have not yet been convicted. It is deeply concerning that in a modern justice system, people are sleeping on floors beside toilets, denied daily access to showers, cannot get access to clean clothing, have immense difficulty contacting family, and are deprived of fresh air. These conditions fall well short of community expectations and international standards.”

“For these reasons, I have recommended that the Government initiate a formal inquiry into the operations of Hakea Prison. Such an inquiry is essential to identify practical solutions that uphold the rights of prisoners and ensure a safe, sustainable working environment for staff. The responsibility to act on this recommendation now lies with the Minister and the Government.”

Eamon Ryan
Inspector

For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 2pm on 22 July 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).