

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM ON 12 August 2025

### Report 163: Inspection of Acacia Prison

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The Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan, released the report today for the 2024 inspection of Acacia Prison. This was the ninth inspection of the medium-security adult male facility, privately operated by Serco.

The inspection found a building sense of optimism at Acacia, following a turbulent period that included a contract renewal process, a change in leadership, a major riot which resulted in significant damage across the site, and a fire which destroyed the remaining industry workshops. There was much to be positive about, including:

- Improved management of people in custody and their diverse needs
- A well-functioning health centre, responsive psychological health services, and good access to dental care
- Significant improvement in support services, including innovative cultural supports
- Innovative attempts to maintain prisoner employment despite damage to industry workshops.

Despite these improvements, prisoners expressed concern about frequent lockdowns, poor food quality and quantity, and deteriorating living conditions. Staffing shortages also reduced access to education and programs.

Lines attributable to the Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan:

"Acacia Prison has weathered recent challenges relatively well, thanks to the dedication of its leadership, staff, and operational teams. Their hard work has kept the prison running and ensured essential services continued for inmates, who also deserve recognition for enduring restricted conditions."

"Our inspection found several areas needing improvement, including deteriorating living conditions, limited employment opportunities, reduced access to education and programs, and concerns about food and water quality."

"Despite these issues, we saw impressive new initiatives, many introduced in response to past incidents like the riot and fire. Notably, Acacia has developed strong cultural and support networks tailored to specific prisoner groups. These include services for young adults, Aboriginal prisoners, long-term inmates, veterans, and those with high needs, supported by peer mentors and community programs."

Eamon Ryan  
Inspector

For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 2pm on 12 August 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)).