



Response to OICS Draft Report:

Follow-Up Hakea Inspection

May 2025

Version 1.0

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Response Overview

Introduction

Following the announced inspection of Hakea Prison (Hakea) in 2024, the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) conducted an unannounced night visit to Hakea in February 2025, and an announced day visit in March 2025, to examine what progress has been made to both the conditions at the facility and quality of life for prisoners residing within the facility.

On 5 May 2025, the Department received the draft follow-up inspection report for review, which contained six recommendations, and has provided individual responses to the recommendations below.

Response to Recommendations

1 The Government should undertake a formal inquiry into the operations of Hakea Prison to identify solutions that will restore the rights of prisoners, implement a normal daily routine at the prison, and create a safe working environment for staff.

Level of Acceptance: Noted
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons

Response:

Noting this recommendation is directed to the State Government and calls for an independent inquiry into Hakea's operations, the Department is unable to respond.

In September 2025, the Department initiated a "Hakea Safer Custody Taskforce (HSCT)" which is aimed at identifying strategies to improve conditions at Hakea for both staff and prisoners in our care. The HSCT is attended by a multidisciplinary team from the Department and there have been a number of positive initiatives implemented since its inception and the HSCT will continue to work on opportunities to improve conditions.

2 Ensure all prisoners at Hakea have access to at least one hour of exercise in the open air each day, weather permitting.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons

Response:

Providing prisoners with adequate time outside remains a priority for the Department. The custodial estate continues to be faced with an unprecedented rise in prisoner population which impacts the ability to provide prisoners with consistent outside recreation while maintaining necessary security standards.

Local options to increase prisoners access to exercise have been fully implemented including:

- the suspension of social visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays in order to ensure staff are available to supervise outside recreation;
- negotiation with the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union (WAPOU) for a revised Staffing Level Agreement to safely manage the increased population; and
- the establishment of the Hakea Safer Custody Taskforce to examine all aspects of Hakea's operations and identify improvements where possible.

Back-to-back recruitment campaigns are ongoing in addition to accelerated courses for people with prior custodial experience.

Hakea, in negotiation with WAPOU, are commencing the development of a new structured day with an aim to remove Adaptive Routine C and are currently in the process of recruiting a lead to take carriage of this project.

3 The Department should establish a high-level committee to strategically manage capacity pressures in custodial facilities across the estate, with authority to determine contentious prisoner movements.

Level of Acceptance: Supported – Current Practice / Project
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons

Response:

In April 2025, the Department initiated the establishment of the Adult Prisoner Population Coordination Working Group (APPCWG) to provide strategic oversight and management of the prisoner population through the development of future focused strategies relating to infrastructure, service provision and resourcing within the adult custodial estate. The APPCWG aims to ensure Corrective Services is operationally prepared to accommodate the projected prisoner population growth across Western Australia.

In addition, the Superintendent Administration has assumed ownership of the Population Management function for Corrective Services with the authority to drive initiatives and instructions in respect to prisoner movements.

Where movements are considered contentious, the Superintendent Administration has the authority to escalate decisions on movements to the APPCWG for a high-level determination.

Supported by an Assistant Superintendent and a Senior Project Officer, the Population Management function includes:

- Monitoring both Department and contractor facilitated movements statewide (e.g. inter-prison transfers, intakes from court, discharges, hospital sites etc.);
- Forecasting potential population spikes, both across the custodial estate and for individual facilities;
- Provision of prevention strategies to manage the prison population; and
- Weekly liaison with Superintendents and the Western Australia Prison Officers' Union to provide updates on prisoner movements.

All facilities provide daily briefings on their capacity, including the number of cells that are double, or triple bunked. This information is then considered to enable informed decisions to be made in respect to prisoner movements.

4 Ensure all showers are in working order and prisoners have access to a daily shower.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons

Response:

The Department is committed to ensuring prisoners have access to daily showers, including sufficient time to maintain their personal hygiene.

Since the inspection, the Department has conducted an audit of shower facilities across all custodial facilities and raised maintenance requests to address identified issues.

Whilst damaged showers may have been identified during the onsite site-visit, Hakea has processes in place to raise maintenance requests as and when required.

5 Ensure all prisoners at Hakea have adequate access to clean clothes.

Level of Acceptance: Supported in Principle
Responsible Division: Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate: Adult Male Prisons

Response:

Since the release of the follow-up report, Hakea has reviewed clothing supply issues and several issues have been identified that are impacting the supply of clean clothing and linens at Hakea, including:

- Clothing is frequently taken by prisoners when transferring out of Hakea to other facilities. With approximately 100 transfers occurring weekly, stock replenishment at Hakea is required much more frequently compared to other facilities; and
- Hakea's laundry cannot keep up with demand being designed for approximately 600 prisoners, well below the current average daily population for Hakea being 1,187 prisoners.

As a local action, Hakea will commence the process of auditing prisoner clothing during cell checks, both for cleanliness and to ensure prisoners do not have excessive clothing stored within their cells.

Prison Industries are aware of these issues and are actively exploring options to ensure facilities maintain sufficient stock of clothing - such as the re-issuing of used and unspoiled clothing in accordance with public health guidelines for re-using clothing materials.

It should also be noted that while clothing orders are issued by Casuarina Prison, all clothing and linen textiles are ordered via a third-party supplier and Casuarina is reliant on the timely receipt of materials from the supplier in order to fulfil orders to other facilities. Where large orders are submitted, the supplier often faces difficulty in fulfilling the orders which results in delays in meeting demand.

6 To ensure compliance with the Prison Regulations 1982, increase access to in-person and e-visit social visits.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported in Principle
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Adult Male Prisons

Response:

The Department acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to the provision of social visits.

Hakea are currently reviewing the social visit advanced booking timeframe of four weeks to determine whether a reduction to this timeframe, e.g. to two weeks, may provide more equitable access to social visit bookings.

In addition, Hakea have revised the social visit schedule to ensure the first session of each day are reserved for e-visits in an attempt to reduce the level of disruption visitors may experience should visits be cancelled.

The inadequacy of Hakea's visits centre infrastructure is acknowledged and will be considered as part of future infrastructure planning.

Back-to-back recruitment campaigns are ongoing in addition to accelerated courses for people with prior custodial experience.