

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM ON 11 November 2025

Annual Report 2024-25

Inspector Eamon Ryan released his Annual Report 2024-25 today underlining the important oversight work his Office has completed over the past financial year, and the custodial pressures observed through that work.

As with 2023-24, Mr Ryan has again highlighted the significant challenges brought about, in part, by the ongoing growth of the prisoner population this year. He explained:

There was a 15% increase in the average prisoner population between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. This year we saw that figure increase again by another 12%. But that does not provide the true story. On 1 July 2024, the adult population was 7,800. On 30 June 2025, that number was 8,475. This level of growth is unsustainable, and if all those people were to be placed in one prison, it would be the fourth largest in Western Australia.

The Annual Report also highlighted the compounding impact short staffing has had on the rising prisoner population. Staffing shortages occurred in both custodial and non-custodial business areas and consequently impacted every aspect of a person's custodial journey.

When the prison population is as high as it has been, coupled with insufficient staffing, time in custody is simply not as rehabilitative and reintegrative as it should be. People spend too much time in cell, and often with more people than the cell was designed to accommodate.

Their access to therapeutic programs to address their offending behaviours is limited. Their access to other opportunities, like education and employment which build skills to help their chances to reintegrate, are also curbed. They get minimal access to recreational pursuits to burn off steam and better their physical and mental state. And the quality and quantity of their contact with family is also reduced because everyone is competing for the same phones and visit sessions.

These are real frustrations, and they can result in some worrisome safety and security issues. Unfortunately, this was borne out over the past year with an increased number of attempted suicides, and prisoner-on-prisoner assaults.

Mr Ryan acknowledged Corrective Services' efforts to develop a strategic plan setting priorities and actions to address some of the concerns his Office has raised in 2024-25. But he also conceded the challenge ahead would be securing the necessary resources to put these plans into action.

Eamon Ryan
Inspector

For Further Media Information

The Inspector, Mr Ryan, will be available for comment from 2.00 pm 11 November 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).