

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 16 JUNE 2026
2025 Inspection of Casuarina Prison

The Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services has tabled its latest inspection report on Casuarina Prison, identifying ongoing and increasing pressures at Western Australia's largest correctional facility.

The inspection, conducted in October 2025, found issues identified in previous inspections had persisted and intensified, with population growth, infrastructure limitations, and staffing shortfalls placing sustained pressure on daily operations.

Since 2022, the prison population has increased by around 600 people. Casuarina is regularly operating above capacity, with measures such as triple bunking and floor mattresses in use. Approximately two-thirds of prisoners are held on remand, many for extended periods, despite the prison being intended for sentenced people.

Overcrowding, ageing infrastructure, and workforce shortages were also reducing access to key services, including health and mental health care, recreation, family contact, and rehabilitation programs. Delays and limited access to education and employment were also constraining rehabilitation outcomes.

Notwithstanding these pressures, at the time of the inspection, the prison was found to be stable and generally well-managed, supported by strong leadership and staff.

The report makes 23 recommendations to improve conditions, service delivery, and outcomes, reflecting broader system-wide pressures across Western Australia's custodial estate. While recent investment and expansion are welcomed, the report highlights the need for services and infrastructure to keep pace with population growth.

Lines attributable to the Inspector of Custodial Services, Mr Eamon Ryan:

"The pace of population growth has significantly outstripped capacity, placing ongoing strain on prisons across the system."

"At Casuarina, the impacts of sustained population growth are placing significant strain on infrastructure and daily operations. The prison is stretched to capacity and struggling to cope."

"Ongoing staffing shortages are limiting the ability of prisons to safely and effectively manage increasing prisoner numbers."

After the October 2025 inspection of Casuarina Prison, the Office's ongoing monitoring found that conditions had worsened. There was increased use of lockdowns, driven by ongoing staff shortages and a growing prison population. Similar deterioration was also observed at Hakea Prison and Melaleuca Women's Prison.

In response, the Inspector of Custodial Services issued a Show Cause Notice under section 33A of the *Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2003*, as outlined in the report tabled in Parliament last week.

The Office will continue to monitor all three facilities to assess progress in restoring a safe and stable daily routine for both prisoners and staff.

Eamon Ryan
Inspector

For further media information: The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 1pm Tuesday 16 June 2026 and can be contacted on 0421 480 925. The full report will be available on the Inspector's website: www.oics.wa.gov.au