

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 August 2026
2025 Inspection of Roebourne Regional Prison

The Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services has tabled its latest inspection report on Roebourne Regional Prison, finding the installation of air-conditioning in all prisoner accommodation areas had led to significant improvements in prisoner wellbeing. However, the prison continues to face challenges relating to staffing shortages, population growth and ageing infrastructure

The installation of air-conditioning has had a positive impact on prisoner wellbeing and behaviour and represents a significant achievement after more than 20 years of recommendations made by this Office to address extreme heat at the prison.

While custodial and non-custodial staffing shortages continued to affect service delivery across the prison, the report recognises efforts to bolster recruitment and improve operations in a challenging regional environment.

The report also found ageing infrastructure and population growth were placing increasing pressure on the prison, limiting opportunities for employment, out-of-cell time and recreation. Women prisoners remained disadvantaged, with reduced access to programs and services compared with male prisoners at the facility.

Positive findings included strong partnerships with local organisations and a peer support program that plays an important role in supporting vulnerable prisoners.

Lines attributable to the A/Inspector of Custodial Services, Ms Jane Higgins:

"The installation of air-conditioning in all prisoner accommodation areas is a significant and long-awaited improvement at Roebourne. Staff and prisoners told us it had made a real difference to prisoner wellbeing and their general behaviour within the prison."

"This improvement demonstrates the important role independent oversight can play in identifying issues, sustaining attention on them, and holding the Department accountable to take reasonable steps to address them."

"Women remain marginalised and disadvantaged at Roebourne and need dedicated facilities, staffing, programs and services to ensure they have equitable access to opportunities for rehabilitation and care that meet their unique needs."

Jane Higgins
Acting Inspector of Custodial Services

For further media information: The Acting Inspector, Ms Jane Higgins, will be available for comment on Wednesday 12 August 2026 on 6551 4200 or at media@oics.wa.gov.au. The full report will be available on the Office's website: www.oics.wa.gov.au