

Implementation Plan: Recommendations of the Children’s Commissioner own-initiative investigation report

“Services provided by the Department of Correctional Services to Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre”

| No. | Recommendation | Deadline | Action Plan | |
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| 1 | Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health maintain collaboration in reviewing and updating the ‘At Risk’ Procedures Manual and the Youth ‘At-Risk’ Procedures and associated service agreements to ensure operational effectiveness of managing young persons placed ‘at-risk’. | Dec 2016 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the youth detention ‘at risk’ procedures manual in comparison to the DoH ‘at risk’ manual. 2. Develop and implement a formal service agreement with DoH. | |
| 2 | Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health examine alternative options, other than the de-escalation rooms, for young persons placed ‘at-risk’. | Dec 2016 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct an assessment of operational facilities and resources. 2. Collaborate with the Department of Health and research to determine best practice responses and identify viable alternatives for accommodating at-risk young people. | |
| 3 | Department of Correctional Services to give written notice to the Office of the Children’s Commissioner, as soon as practicable, if a young person ‘at-risk’ has not been seen by a medical practitioner within 24 hours of being placed ‘at-risk’. | Oct 2016 | <p>Completed.</p> <p>Any situation where a young person is placed in isolation or at risk is now required to be elevated to the General Manager of Youth Justice to ensure a higher level of accountability. The General Manager will provide written advice to the Office of the Children’s Commissioner.</p> | |
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| 4 | Explore options for continuously monitoring a young person 'at-risk' that complies with the Emergency Management Protocol in the Youth Justice Regulations and is consistent with the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services At-Risk Procedures Manual and the Department of Health Youth 'At-Risk' Procedures | Dec 2016 | 1. Review the youth detention 'at risk' procedures. | |
| 5 | Conduct and record regular internal audits of all 'at-risk' clothing and bedding held at both Youth Detention Centres to ensure each item to be issued to a young person placed 'at-risk' is in a sufficient condition (no loose threads) and there are appropriate stocks to cater for all sizes. | Dec 2016 | 1. Establish the standard for at-risk clothing and bedding. 2. Develop an internal audit process and associated supporting documentation. 3. Implement an audit regime. | |
| 6 | Immediately prohibit the use of the 'Hoffman Tool' to strip clothing from a young person who is refusing to change into 'at-risk' clothing. | 2016 | Completed | |
| 7 | Develop policy and operational procedures to address the appropriate use of the Hoffman Tool to remove ligatures in Emergency Management/critical incidents. | Nov 2016 | 1. Develop a policy/procedure regarding the appropriate use of the Hoffman Tool in emergency situations. | |
| 8 | The use of the Emergency Restraint Chair is strictly prohibited. | Oct 2016 | Completed Legislation is being introduced into the October sittings that will prevent the use of a restraint chair. | |
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| 9 | Continue using 'Use of Restraints' Directive 3.2.1 until such point that the Youth Detention Restraint Practice Advisory Group develops evidence-based policy and operational procedures in restraint practices. | Oct 2016 | Completed. As part of the consultation to amend the legislation internal and external stakeholders to contributed to the review and refinement of the Use of Restraints Directive. | |

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| | | | Territory Families will be undertaking extensive consultation in the review of all Youth policies and procedures as part of the reform of Youth Justice. | |
| 10 | Development of policy and procedures to address the appropriate use of a spit hood. | Oct 2016 | Completed. Spit hood are not used within the Youth Justice Centres. | |
| 11 | Conduct a review of the High Security Unit to establish operational capacity to staff the unit 24 hours, 7 days a week. | Jan 2017 | 1. Undertake an exercise to examine the resource requirement for staffing the HSU 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. | |
| 12 | Conduct a review of staff planning processes to ensure that all current serving Youth Justice Officers have completed the Certificate III Correctional Practice (Youth Custodial) upon their confirmation of appointment. | 2016 | Completed All Youth Justice Officers have 12 months to complete the Certificate III Correctional Practice. The Certificate must be completed to be eligible for permanency. | |
| 13 | Introduce mandatory training days to include operational safety and tactics training, (such as restraint techniques and scenario training) and updates upon changes to legislation, policy and/or procedures. | Jan 2017 | 1. Review training being provided to staff. 2. Modify training as determined by the review. 3. Implement training for all Youth Justice Centre staff. | |
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| 14 | Identify an appropriate provider to incorporate training in complex trauma and its effect on young persons in | Jan 2017 | 1. Identify an appropriate provider to incorporate training in complex trauma and its effect on young persons in detention. | |

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| | detention. | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure all current staff receives this training. 3. Incorporate this training into the induction process. 4. Develop a refresher training schedule. | |
| 15 | Training to incorporate a more extensive focus on crisis de-escalation / negotiation / mediation training specific to young persons who are threatening self-harm, have attempted self-harm and/or have been subsequently placed 'at-risk'. | Jan 2017 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue delivering the CSCSAS402B - Manage threatening behaviour unit of the Certificate III Correctional Practice. 2. Identify training for Youth Justice in relation to de-escalation techniques, specifically in relation to managing at-risk young people. 3. Implement the training package. | |
| 16 | Consult with the Correctional Officer Training Department to include in training information on the obligations of Correctional Officers to young persons who are temporarily transferred to an adult correctional facility (with a focus on section 154 of the Youth Justice Act). | Nov 2016 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with the Correctional Officer Training Department. | |
| 17 | Incorporate training around the appropriate use of, and application of, the Hoffman Tool (to remove ligatures). | 2016 | <p>Completed</p> <p>Training is being provided to staff regarding the use of the Hoffman Tool to remove ligatures.</p> | |
| 18 | Incorporate into training the appropriate use of, and application of a spit hood. | Oct | <p>Completed</p> <p>Spit hood are not used within the Youth Justice Centres.</p> | |

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| 19 | Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health to develop a service arrangement for trained health practitioners to dispense schedule 4 and 8 medication to young persons. | Jan 2017 | 1. Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health to develop a service arrangement for trained health practitioners to dispense schedule 4 and 8 medication to young persons. | |
| 20 | Ensure that all cells are compliant with the minimum standards of detention outlined in the <i>UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty</i> (i.e. the 'Havana Rules'). | Feb 2017 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the requirements for cells under the Havana Rules. 2. Develop a checklist of cell requirements based on the standards. 3. Review cells within youth detention centres against the checklist. 4. Provide results in report form to General Manager Youth Justice. | |
| 21 | Develop a reporting system to ensure decisions to transfer young persons temporarily to adult facilities are recorded appropriately. | Dec 2016 | 1. Develop a reporting tool and a records-management system for decisions to transfer young persons temporarily to adult facilities. | |