



Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services

Our Ref: 65-10815

Hon Adele Farina MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Chair

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REPORT 29 – CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY OFFICE HOLDERS

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2019 in relation to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration's (the Committee) Report 29 – Consultation with Statutory Office Holders (the Report) tabled on 15 October 2019.

This letter details my response as Minister for Corrective Services to the Committee's recommendations which pertain to the portfolio of corrective services.

Recommendation 1: The 30 day time period provided by section 35 of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2003, for the tabling in Parliament of documents under section 33 or 34 of that Act, be reviewed.

The Minister notes the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendation 2 and section 2.57 to section 2.58: A clear government policy governing the transfer of pregnant women from Melaleuca Remand Reintegration Facility to Bandyup Women's Prison.

The Department of Justice – Corrective Services (the Department) advises that currently the policy which governs the management of transferring pregnant women from Melaleuca Remand Reintegration Facility (Melaleuca) to Bandyup Women's Prison (Bandyup) is managed by the child care committee at Bandyup. This committee is chaired by the Assistant Superintendent Operations and the recommendation of the committee is endorsed by the Superintendent of Bandyup.

Melaleuca are members of the committee and a file note of all pregnant women at Melaleuca is tabled at each meeting.

It is not mandatory for pregnant women to be transferred from Melaleuca to Bandyup. Only those women who are eligible to have care of their child in custody or due to medical advice are recommended for placement at Bandyup.

The Child Care Committee meetings are conducted in accordance with Policy Directive 10 (PD10). I attach PD 10 for reference.

Recommendation 3: Expand the accommodation for mothers and residential children at Bandyup.

The Department advises that Bandyup has two four bedroom mother and baby houses with the capability of extending to an extra four beds if required. These houses can accommodate up to 12 residential mothers and their children.

Recommendation 4 and section 2.71 to section 2.73: A subacute unit at Bandyup to be established and proposal to build an infirmary at Bandyup.

The Department's Long Term Custodial Infrastructure Plan has highlighted that there is a need to provide an infirmary and sub-acute mental health unit for women. The Infrastructure Plan has three stages of expansion, and expansion for women is part of stage two.

The details of the Prison Network Design and a funding submission for this infrastructure will be put forward to a future budget process. Timing of this will be determined by demand projections.

Section 2.69 – impact of the practice of double-bunking on the provision of emergency medical care at Bandyup.

As at 29 October 2019, 44 cells are double occupancy.

The Department has a number of risk mitigation strategies associated with double bunked cells. Each prisoner is assessed for their suitability for upper bunk occupancy and placed accordingly. Prisoners with medical issues or health have a 'not to share cells' alert on their file.

In case of an emergency, Bandyup will use a height adjustable wheeled stretcher and spinal board stretchers with velcro strapping to assist.

Section 2.43 Clarification on the availability of short-term programs to remand prisoners.

The Department offers programs that assist with services immediately on entry to the prison, such as Centrelink support, maintenance of family connections, financial literacy and debt managements and connection with community Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services.

In addition, the contracted parenting and family support service provider delivers ongoing parenting programs to remand prisoners.

Prisoners on remand have access to short duration targeted training opportunities while in custody.

The Department's Health Services undertake an initial assessment and referral from reception and accept self-referrals from offenders. Clinicians follow a standard withdrawal regime prescribed by Medical Practitioners for those who enter the prison on remand and are deemed to be at high risk of withdrawal.

Opiate Substitution Therapy will be offered either as a continuation of Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy or commencement on the program if a remand prisoner displays objective opiate withdrawals and accepts this form of treatment.

In the absence of eligibility for clinical treatment programs, Health Services provide an AOD Group called PAST Brief Therapeutic Intervention.

The indeterminate period a person will be on remand makes it difficult to schedule and coordinate criminogenic and therapeutic programs according to need, particularly as remandees are not yet convicted of the alleged offences.

However, the Government's response to the Western Australian Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Report has given in principle support to recommendation 39 which states:

"The Department of Justice ensures that all persons in custody, including remanded and sentenced offenders, are assessed for alcohol and other drug use, including methamphetamine, and are provided with intervention and treatment to meet the needs identified".

Section 2.26 Progress in relation to the Premier's announcement, regarding alternative options for detaining young people – Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (the Strategy).

Throughout 2019, the Department has consulted with high level stakeholders in the Kimberley including local government, Aboriginal peak organisations, non-government organisations and State Government agencies to develop and gain support for the Strategy.

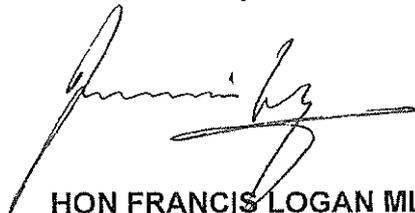
A key feature of the Strategy is the co-designing of place-based services for young people in contact with the justice system. To assist in this process, the Department approached the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre who identified and consulted with the most culturally appropriate organisations and community members across the Kimberley.

The next stage of the Strategy's co-design process involves the identification of potential infrastructure and culturally appropriate locations in the Kimberley to host programs.

A comprehensive plan detailing the recommended co-designed services for young people in the Kimberley is still underway.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely



**HON FRANCIS LOGAN MLA
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

11 DEC 2019