

Minister for Children and Youth
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Finance

Level 5/4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: 03 6165 7670
Email: minister.jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au



29 NOV 2024

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Joint Sessional Committee
Commission of Inquiry Recommendations Scrutiny Committee

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 November 2024. In response to the matters taken on Notice at the hearing:

1. Please provide the expected timeline for future progress milestones of the southern youth justice detention facility as it is taken through the planning and approvals process.

As advised during the Hearing, timeframes in relation to this project will be provided when resolved.

2. In relation to senior roles at AYDC:

- a. How long has the Acting Director of Youth Detention role at AYDC been held in an Acting capacity?

The role has been held in an Acting capacity for 16 months.

- b. Is the permanent role for Director of Youth Detention currently being recruited?

The recruitment process for the permanent position is in progress.

- c. Are there currently other senior roles at AYDC which are held in an Acting capacity?

No.

- d. If so, please provide the details of those roles, the length of time they have been held as 'Acting' and the current status of permanent recruitment for the roles?

Not applicable.

3. How many complaints or allegations have young detainees or remandees made about staff at AYDC since the final report of the Commission of Inquiry was handed down, and how were these resolved?

The following complaint data is from the period 26 September 2023 (the release date for the Commission of Inquiry report) to 14 November 2024 (the day of the Col Scrutiny Hearing at which this information was requested).

Complaints about staff conduct range from minor matters such as complainant not agreeing with an operational decision, e.g. not to allow access to an activity at a specific time, to serious allegations.

Complaints or allegations in relation to the conduct of AYDC staff are referred to Workplace Relations based on Incident Review Committee recommendations or where

there is any evidence to form a belief that the Code of Conduct may have been breached.

Note: All the following data is for the period 26 September 2023 to 14 November 2024.

Total number of complaints about staff conduct from young people at AYDC

Complaint numbers	2023-2024	2024-2025	Total
Total	53	7	60

How complaint was resolved

Outcome type*	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Not substantiated	19	0	19
Partially upheld	6	0	6
Upheld	2	1	3
Not upheld	9	1	10
Informally resolved	5	3	8
Withdrawn	2	0	2
Unresolved	1	0	1
Referred to WR**	9	2	11
Total	53	7	60

Complaints referred to Workplace Relations

Action	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Preliminary assessment			
• <i>No formal action - not upheld</i>	1	0	
• <i>No formal action - not substantiated</i>	3	0	
• <i>No formal action – no Code of Conduct breach determined</i>	3*	0	
• <i>Ongoing</i>	0	1	
Preliminary assessment total	7	1	8
ED5 investigation	2	1	3**
Total	9	2	11

*Informal follow-up actions such as additional training and supervision requirements were identified in all of these matters.

**ED5 investigations that relate to young people's complaints are included in the 12 ongoing ED5 investigations in Question 4.

4. Similarly, have there been any further code of conduct/ED5 investigations or dismissals of staff subsequent to the final report of the COI, that deal with staff and matters not raised with the COI?

Since the final report of the COI was published on 26 September 2023 12 ED5 investigations have commenced involving staff at AYDC and are on-going:

- 6 of these ED5 investigations involve historical allegations.
- The other 6 ED5 investigations involving staff do not involve allegations of child sexual abuse.

5. Is there an exit survey or interview that takes place with children exiting AYDC to help measure cultural change?

While there is no exit interview with young people to monitor culture change, consideration is being given to appropriate means of measuring culture change. The Col recommendations will be implemented by the due date.

6. Please provide detail related to the recruitment of the AYDC of the Cultural Change Lead.

A statement of duties for the Cultural Change Lead within Services for Youth Justice had been finalised.

The position is scheduled to be advertised on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

7. Please provide the following information in relation to the JCP Youth organisation:

- a. Is JCP a child-safe accredited organisation?

JCP Youth has policies addressing child protection and safety, as well as a 'Child Safe Code of Conduct' that aligns with the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework.

JCP Youth's policies have specific information regarding how to safeguard young people and how to manage instances where a young person reports misconduct or harm.

- b. Does JCP use a therapeutic model in its services? If so, what is the model?

JCP Youth uses a model that focuses on non-punitive behaviour management and role-modelling appropriate behaviour.

The program is highly adaptable to respect the diversity of young people, particularly in terms of their cultural backgrounds, personal experiences, and complex needs.

All camps, programs, and engagements are designed with flexibility, ensuring that they are catered specifically to the participant. A young person may choose to engage in the program on an individual basis, rather than with others, if this suits their personal development or if their complex needs require it. This individualised approach allows for voice and choice, enabling participants to shape their own journeys within the program. The program acknowledges and embraces the diversity of the participants and makes appropriate accommodations.

Program participation is agreed only following the informed consent of a young person.

Behaviour change is through positive mentorship rather than clinical interventions. JCP facilitators are not clinically trained and therefore do not directly provide clinical interventions.

- c. What is the evidence-base for the model of care used in JCP programs?

The JCP Program includes the principles of:

- Role modelling positive attitudes and behaviours
- Providing safe and supportive environments for young people
- Using non-punitive methods to address young people's behaviour
- Building strong authentic relationships using mirror imaging practices
- Activities to promote growth and resilience

- d. Has the JCP Beast program ever been independently evaluated? If so, please provide details of that evaluation and any report detailing the findings?

No, refer also to Part g.

- e. What are the roles and qualifications of JCP staff delivering services to children and young people?

JCP Youth employees that directly provide services to children and young people are called 'facilitators'. JCP Youth employees have a variety of qualifications. Many have specialised qualifications in:

- Child Protection,
- Operational Safety,
- First Aid, and
- Mental Health.

All JCP Youth employees undergo thorough training in trauma-informed practice over 5 weeks. This includes two key Lifeline courses including, introduction to trauma and a tailored trauma-informed package specifically designed for JCP Youth's program.

Through this training, facilitators learn how to guide participants through debriefs, ensuring the process remains sensitive to their emotional and psychological needs.

Employees also receive training on JCP Youth's 24-hour Youth Response Model.

- f. Does JCP provide overnight accommodation to young people, and, if so, where is that accommodation provided?

JCP Youth offers Emergency Respite Accommodation in Launceston for participants of their BEAST program. Young people stay in Emergency Respite Accommodation for a maximum of 3 nights.

JCP Youth also run camps and outdoor recreation programs throughout Tasmania.

- g. What will be the departmental oversight mechanisms for JCP Youth contracted services?

Specific Departmental oversight for JCP Youth contracted services will form part of the Grant Deed which is currently being negotiated. This will include reporting timeframes and key performance indicators, data collection and evaluation of service outcomes

8. Can you please provide a detailed list of external/non-government service providers who are currently providing services to young people detained in AYDC, including name of organisation, service provided, and frequency of service?

The non-governmental services that provide programs for young people in detention are as follows. All providers have Working with Vulnerable People Registration.

Name of Organisation	Service Provided	Frequency of Service
54 Reasons	Transition from detention and assisted bail programs	As referred
Anglicare	The Supported Youth Program for individual young people and other psychosocial programs for young people including drug and alcohol education	As referred/Monthly for some programs
Australian Childhood Foundation	Therapeutic interventions for young people as referred	3 days per week
Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation	Psychosocial education programs	3 times per year
Dean Crabtree	Music instrument lessons	As booked during school holidays
Drop in Skate School	Skating lessons	As booked, during school holidays
Drug Education Network	Drug education programs	2 times a year
Erika Palmer	Tie dye art programs	As booked, during school holidays
Father Ben	Pastoral support	Weekly
Friends of Ashley	Support for young people	Every 3 weeks

Hoops 4 Life	Sports, radio and mentoring programs	Weekly
James Cowan	Spray painting program	As booked, during school holidays
Jason Stewart	Fitness programs	3 times a week
JCP Youth	Behaviour management and mentorship program	As referred
Jeremy Stingel	Music recording programs	As booked, during school holidays
Keith Sanderson	Cooking programs	Regular sessions during school holidays
Mission Australia	The Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) program	As referred
NGO's Connected to the NDIS	Disability support and coordination for eligible young people	As needed for eligible young people
ParaQuad Disability Sports	Wheelchair basketball	As booked, during school holidays
PPEP TALK	Periods, Pain and Endometriosis program	1 time a year (with plans to increase the number of sessions per year)
Sarah Van Est	Trauma sensitive yoga	Weekly
Social Circus Program	Arts programs	As booked, during school holidays
Support Information Strength (SIS)	Trauma-informed support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people	2 times a year

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service	Legal support and awareness programs	Quarterly
Taz Dance	Dance programs	As booked, during school holidays
Tony Moore	Basketball, radio and DJ programs	Weekly
Ujjayi Yoga Tasmania	Somatic yoga program	Weekly
YFCC	Health and wellbeing programs	Monthly
Youth Family and Community Connections	Psychosocial education programs	Monthly

Yours sincerely



Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Children and Youth