

# Youth detention centre

## OPERATIONAL POLICY

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**Title:** YD-1-3 Youth detention – Structured day and program delivery

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### **Policy statement:**

The department will ensure young people in youth detention are provided with opportunities for rehabilitation through daily routine and program delivery.

Daily routine will provide structure, clear expectations and a framework for young people to access programs that assist to address their offending behaviours and successful reintegration back into the community by promoting their social, behavioural, educational and vocational development.

### **Principles:**

#### **1. General principles of structured day**

Youth detention centres will ensure:

- 1.1 A schedule of daily activities that permits young people to be out of their rooms for a minimum period of 12 hours per day (in accordance with section 22 of the *Youth Regulation 2016*) unless they are separated:
  - because they are ill
  - at their request
  - for routine security purposes (defined in Direction YD/13/01) not exceeding four hours per day (day refers to during structured day and does not refer to overnight lockdown, see definitions for more information)
  - at the recommendation of their suicide prevention plan
  - to protect themselves, another person or property or to restore the order of the centre refer to [Policy 3-8: Use of separation in response to an incident](#).
- 1.2 A schedule of daily activities that maximise opportunities for young people to engage in meaningful developmental and offence focused interventions.
- 1.3 Daily activities reflect the normal daily activities of young people in the wider community, including attending educational and vocational programs during school hours and participation in housekeeping and maintenance duties at a level commensurate with young people's:
  - age
  - experience
  - physical ability
  - cognitive development
  - maturity level.
- 1.4 A schedule of daily activities that provides young people with regular meal, beverage and hygiene breaks.
- 1.5 Structured day activities are coordinated with partner agencies, the Department of Education and Training (DET), and the Hospital and Health Service (HHS).

## 2. General principles of program delivery

Youth detention centres will ensure:

- 2.1 Young people have access to a range of offence-focused and developmental programs, including educational, vocational, behavioural, social, recreational and cultural programs, services, mentoring and activities.
- 2.2 Programs are designed and tailored to be culturally appropriate.
- 2.3 Programs are designed to meet young people's individual needs, characteristics and learning styles. This will include consideration of: the use of visual teaching aids; group work; gender and cultural background of instructors as relevant; and the needs of young people who have difficulty communicating in English or are hearing impaired.
- 2.4 Wherever possible, programs are identified and developed so that young people can continue to attend following their release from youth detention.
- 2.5 Agreements are maintained with external program providers outlining the governance arrangements for the service provision.
- 2.6 Records are maintained about young people's attendance and participation at programs and assessment as relevant.
- 2.7 Program evaluations are conducted to determine whether program objectives were met.

## 3. Programs delivered by Department of Education and Training

In partnership with DET, youth detention centres will ensure:

- 3.1 Young people are provided education and training programs and services five days a week for 40 weeks per year.
- 3.2 Programs and services are tailored to the needs of young people.
- 3.3 Integrated case discussions identify programs and support to be prioritised for each young person.
- 3.4 Young people are provided access to specialist support personnel as needed, including guidance officers, visual teachers, speech pathologists and occupational therapists.
- 3.5 Transition arrangements for ongoing education and/or training support are put in place prior to a young person's release from detention.
- 3.6 Young people are provided advice about careers, employment and skill development opportunities and programs available on release.
- 3.7 Transitional arrangements are put in place that support young people through existing regional and local infrastructure including TAFE institutes and other publicly-funded registered training organisations.
- 3.8 Regular interagency meetings (such as the Local Program Advisory Committee) are facilitated to promote a shared strategic vision relevant to the youth detention centre and to support the objectives of this policy and the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and DET.

## 4. Programs delivered by Hospital and Health Services

In partnership with HHS, youth detention centres will ensure young people are provided access to:

- 4.1 A comprehensive range of health care and health promotion programs.
- 4.2 An alcohol and other drugs service, including assessment, education and intervention.

## 5. Engagement and participation in programs

- 5.1 Young people are expected to participate in all programs offered to them.
- 5.2 If a young person refuses to participate in a program, wherever possible, an alternative program is to be offered to the young person. If they continue to refuse to participate, guidance should be sought from the section supervisor, shift supervisor or school principal about the most appropriate course of action.

- 5.3 If a young person is being disruptive in the classroom, they may be removed from the classroom.
- 5.4 Program refusal is classified as misbehaviour and consequences may be applied through the behaviour development framework.
- 5.5 If a young person is subject to a behaviour development plan which places restrictions on program participation with the general youth detention population, program resources must be made available to the young person in another suitable location.

### **Objectives:**

This policy governs the daily routine and delivery of programs to young people sentenced or remanded to a youth detention centre.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to the delivery of youth justice programs, services and activities to young people in youth detention centres in accordance with section 263(3) (a) and (b) of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. It is to be read in conjunction with:

- Policy YD-1-1: Casework
- Policy YD-1-2: Behaviour development
- Policy YD-1-6: Provision of medical and other health services
- Directive YD/13/01: Separation for routine security purposes – contact Practice, Program and Design
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Education and Training
- Chapter 1 – Care and management of young people, Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual
- Appendix 0-2 Philosophy of youth detention services

### **Roles and responsibilities:**

- Executive director and deputy director– ensure daily activities and programs are developed and implemented in accordance with this policy, ensure youth detention staff understand policy obligations, liaise with school principal at interagency meetings.
- DET curriculum coordinator – prepare structured day timetable in conjunction with relevant departmental staff.
- Programs coordinator – develop, implement and evaluate programs, activities and services to ensure that they meet the needs of young people, ensure processes outlined in the Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual are adhered to.
- Program deliverers/providers, caseworkers, psychologists and team leader – deliver programs, activities and services to young people, maintain records associated with the delivery of programs, activities and services.
- School principal – ensure DET programs are delivered in accordance with this policy, assist in the resolution of program refusal issues, liaise with the executive director at interagency meetings.
- HHS staff – ensure services as outlined in this policy and the SLA are provided.
- Structured day coordinator – assist DET curriculum coordinator to prepare structured day timetable, ensure SIYP requirements are met, allocate staff to supervise programs.
- Youth worker – respond appropriately to young people refusing to participate in programs, supervise young people during structured day activities.

### **Authority:**

*Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*  
*Information Privacy Act 2009*

Youth Justice Act 1992  
Youth Justice Regulation 2016

## Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Term	Definition
Behaviour development plan	A behaviour development plan documents a specific intervention plan in response to misbehaviour. It facilitates an individualised, focused, multi-disciplinary approach to the management of a young person's misbehaviour.
Executive director	The director of the youth detention centre.
Routine security purposes	Separation for routine security purposes is authorised for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regular staff breaks</li> <li>• regular staff meetings</li> <li>• regular and as required searches of the detention centre</li> <li>• for processing of a child on admission to or release from a detention centre</li> <li>• for routine search of a child on admission or return to the detention centre in compliance with the legislation in relation to searches</li> <li>• regular shower and hygiene breaks for young people</li> <li>• the night shift.</li> </ul> Refer to Directive YD/13/01 for more information.
Structured day	The structured day timetable outlines a schedule of activities for young people which is designed to replicate, as close as possible, the 'normal' daily living routine of most adolescents while providing access to educational, vocational, developmental, offence focused, cultural and recreation programs.  Structured day begins at 7:00am and ends at approximately 7:30pm.

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**Office:** Youth Justice Practice, Program and Design

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## Links:

[Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators \(AJJA\) service standards for juvenile custodial facilities](#)  
[United Nations Rules for the Protection of Young People Deprived of Their Liberty 1990](#)  
[Youth Justice policies](#)