

Appendix 1

THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE 2012 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Acceptance Level/Response
1. Provide the new health, educational and industrial facilities the prison has identified as necessary to the performance of its functions.	<p>Supported in Principle</p> <p>The Department has completed both building condition reports and reviewed the infrastructure needs of the site in regards to its current population. Government funding will be required to undertake any construction program.</p>
2. Operate all four accommodation units with sufficient staffing and resources to meet the prison's complex mix of functions.	<p>Supported in Principle</p> <p>The units are a key part of the wider prisons estate and will continue to be utilised in balance with the operational demands of the system and resource limitations.</p>
3. Ensure the consistent provision of all mandatory staff training. In addition provide language and cultural awareness training, and First Aid Mental Health Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.	<p>Supported in Part</p> <p>Albany Regional Prison consistently maintains high levels of completion for mandatory staff training.</p> <p>Cultural Awareness training is provided as part of the initial ELTP training for all officers commencing with the Department. Existing staff who had not undertaken the current curriculum of the ELTP have previously been provided with Cultural Awareness training as a separate training course.</p> <p>It is the Department's view that the level of training is commensurate with the need of the Albany prisoner population. Mental Health First Aid training is periodically facilitated by a local NGO service provider (Mens Resource Centre) and as stated in the report, a high number of staff have applied for and received this training.</p> <p>Provision of language training will be actively explored, however, it is important to point out that considerable effort has been made at the prison to provide policies, procedures and daily routines translated in Indonesian. The Inspection found the relationship between the Indonesian prisoners and the prison team to be positive.</p>

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<p>4. Provide an Aboriginal Arts workshop.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle This will be considered in the overall demand on infrastructure and a decision made on priority basis. The Department will continue to encourage Aboriginal prisoners to participate in a variety of activities including other industry areas.</p>
<p>5. Develop and Implement proactive strategies to ensure improved access for Aboriginal prisoners to minimum security placements including socially and culturally appropriate work camps.</p>	<p>Not Supported The Department conducts a prisoner assessment process for all prisoners, which includes the placement of suitable prisoners at work camps. It is not appropriate to have a separate classification system for Aboriginal prisoners.</p>
<p>6. Employ an Aboriginal Education Worker.</p>	<p>Not Supported The Education Centre has a number of strategies to specifically target Indigenous engagement in education and training, as demonstrated by the high Indigenous enrolments at the prison.</p>
<p>7. Engage appropriate support (including a focus on language and cultural needs) for displaced Aboriginal prisoners accommodated at Albany.</p>	<p>Supported – existing Departmental initiative The opening of West Kimberley Regional Prison and the new prison in the Eastern Goldfields, as well as new initiatives such as the Roebourne workcamp will provide greater opportunities for prisoners to remain 'in country' and in prisons where greater support for Aboriginal prisoners is available.</p> <p>The issue of specific prisoners that are out of country is well recognised by the prison, and every effort is made to meet their needs within the system, including regular contact with family, for this small cohort.</p> <p>From time to time, prisoners will be 'out of country' for legitimate reasons.</p>

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<p>8. Develop and implement policies and processes to ensure the appropriate and consistent treatment of foreign national prisoners, including enhanced peer support services and relevant training for peer support officers.</p>	<p>Supported – existing Departmental initiative Work is under way to review and enhance policies and procedures as highlighted by the Inspector.</p>
<p>9. Improve the Department's language services policy and operational practices, including interpretation and translation services.</p>	<p>Supported The Cultural Consultancy Project has been involved in a review of the implementation of the Department's Language Services Policy. Operational considerations will be undertaken in the custodial settings following the outcome of the review.</p> <p>Albany Regional Prison has spent significant time and resources in sourcing a local Indonesian interpreter and translator. Notices and forms have been redrawn in Indonesian to assist everyday operational needs.</p> <p>Please also refer to Recommendation 8.</p>
<p>10. Ensure that all foreign national prisoners are able to use a portion of their gratuities for sending remittances to support their dependents.</p>	<p>Noted This is still subject to ongoing discussions with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Federal Government.</p>

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<p>11. Ensure sufficient and substantively appointed health centre staff , including nurses, a GP, and an Aboriginal Health Worker</p>	<p>Supported The recruiting efforts in place at the time of the inspection have since resulted in an Aboriginal Health Worker commencing at Albany Prison in on 3 January 2012. The Department has recently employed a General Practitioner (GP) at 0.4 FTE at Albany Regional Prison on a fixed term contract basis and is in the process of increasing the position to 0.6 FTE. The Department has also recently completed a GP recruitment process and it is envisaged the GP position at Albany will be filled at 0.6 FTE permanently from this process. Nursing staff levels have been recently reviewed and a business case is being prepared regarding an increase in nursing staff at Albany.</p>
<p>12. The Department must ensure the provision of an adequate dental service, including emergency and acute care (whether provided by Dental Health WA or an alternative service)</p>	<p>Supported As the Inspectorate is aware, there has been difficulties in sourcing dental health specialists. Every effort is being made to source an appropriate level of service and recent indications are positive.</p>
<p>13. Actively seek and obtain comprehensive health information about foreign national prisoners on their transfer from immigration detention or other Commonwealth facilities.</p>	<p>Supported – existing Departmental initiative This issue has been raised formally with federal authorities and will continue to do so until a satisfactory resolution is received.</p>