

Appendix 1

THE DEPARTMENT'S REPOSE TO THE 2014 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Acceptance Level/Risk Rating/Response
<p>1. With a particular focus on women prisoners, and without compromising public safety, the Government and the Department should examine efficiencies and introduce initiatives to reduce the number of prisoners. Options include improved bail co-ordination/support, better program delivery, and wider use of electronic monitoring/GPS tracking.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative As part of its reform program the Department is examining a range of diversion options to reduce the number of offenders entering custody. These initiatives are being progressed in cooperation with the Western Australian Police and the Departments of Treasury, Attorney General and Premier and Cabinet.</p>
<p>2. The Department should:</p> <p>(a) Identify and address key areas of need in the planning for new and additional accommodation for women. In particular, measures should be taken to improve mental health services, to meet the needs of young women, to reduce the number of minimum-security women being held in higher security facilities, and to develop relevant social, life and employment skills.</p> <p>(b) Set defined targets and measurable outcomes in each area of need and measure performance.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle As part of the current reform program the Department is evaluating the accommodation needs for all prisoner cohorts across the state. This will include the provision of health and other services specific to the needs of women. The measurement of performance indicators will also form part of the reform agenda.</p>
<p>3. In finalising its restructure, the Department should establish appropriate high level positions with responsibility for developing strategic policies for women and girls in custody and community justice services, setting targets, evaluating and improving outcomes, and a mandate to operationalise policies.</p>	<p>Not Supported The restructure of the Department has focused on aligning its structure with its strategy. For example, a single Deputy Commissioner has been put in charge of adult custody and adult community corrections, to improve the coordination and alignment of services for an offender's entire journey through the corrections system. This will enable a consolidated approach to developing priorities, setting targets, and evaluating and improving outcomes for all adult offenders, including women offenders.</p>

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<p>4. The Department should not:</p> <p>(a) Significantly expand the use of Greenough Regional Prison for women; or</p> <p>(b) Use units at male prisons such as Hakea or Acacia for women as they are not sufficiently autonomous or segregated.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department currently has no intention to either utilise the new units at Hakea or Acacia to hold female offenders, nor is there any intent to increase the numbers of females held at Greenough. The Department continues to explore and plan for the increasing female population.</p>
<p>5. The Department should:</p> <p>(a) Re-open the Roebourne Regional Prison women's unit;</p> <p>(b) Examine options for maximising Boronia's potential, including increasing the number of women accommodated, criteria for transfer to the prison and building additional accommodation;</p> <p>(c) Make use of existing housing assets as transitional accommodation;</p> <p>(d) Take account of the discussion in this report when examining the option of turning either the Bunbury Pre-release Unit or Wandoo over to women.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>a) The women's unit at Roebourne will be reopened in July 2014.</p> <p>b) An installation of an additional 12 beds at Boronia has already commenced.</p> <p>c) Use of the existing housing assets is under review.</p> <p>d) The Department will take into account this report when considering accommodation options for women.</p>
<p>6. The Department give a high priority to implementing plans to ensure there is adequate women centred custodial infrastructure. The planning should include consideration of the purposes of the wider prison estate, including the best use of all custodial facilities, including Banksia Hill Detention Centre.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>The Department acknowledges that the high number of women prisoners has put pressure on existing custodial infrastructure. The identification and implementation of options to alleviate the pressure within the women's estate is a priority for the Department and is driven by the Corporate Executive.</p> <p>A number of short-term initiatives have been put in place, including opening additional beds at Boronia and Roebourne, and a range of medium-term options are being developed for consideration by the Minister.</p>

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<p>7. Whenever the Department transfers female prisoners to prisons outside their home location due to population pressures, it should prioritise the needs and obligations of women as mothers, grandmothers and elders in assessing their appropriateness for transfer.</p>	<p>Supported – Existing Departmental Initiative It is recognised by the Inspectors Office that the initial concerns have been significantly reduced since the opening of the unit. The Department recognises the need to alleviate the distress related to moving female offenders, and in particular primary care givers, from their home and as such individual circumstances and needs are taken into consideration when assessing their appropriateness for transfer.</p>
<p>8. The Department should enact consistent operational policies and procedures for the management of prisoners across different prisons. Exceptions should be allowed only where the individual prison makes a specific and compelling case.</p>	<p>Supported The Department agrees and is currently reviewing all policies and procedures to ensure there is a consistent approach, including reducing the amount of Local and Standing Orders.</p>
<p>9. (a) The Department develop a funding model for all prisons that accommodates women which recognises the particular needs of women’s custodial management and enables greater equity of service provision. (b) Provide Greenough Prison with additional resources to deliver female-specific services more comparable to those at facilities accommodating a similar number of women.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle Each prison is required to formulate their own bids based on the needs of the prison on a zero based budget basis. This allows the prison to consider what they need to deliver all the services they need for the cohort of prisoner they hold. It is acknowledged that female offenders do have different needs to male offenders and these should be considered through each prison’s bid, such initiatives include the provision of a Women’s Support Officer to provide specific support to female offenders in mixed gender prisons and to coordinate additional gender specific services. No action is proposed as this is already factored in to the process. Equally the provision of staffing resources is currently under review through the 2014 staffing review process.</p>

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<p>10. Subject to individual risk assessments and appropriate supervision, male and female prisoners at all of the state's mixed gender prisons should be allowed regular, voluntary, meaningful and respectful interaction with each other.</p>	<p>Not Supported</p> <p>There are risks and safety issues related with this recommendation, which cannot be mitigated at certain sites. Where possible, the Department does allow regular, meaningful and respectful interaction at mixed-gender prisons.</p>
<p>11. Greenough Regional Prison be provided with the necessary infrastructure and human resources to allow health services to be provided to women within the women's unit or in a confidential area that does not require transit through the male zones of the prison.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The situation regarding the Health Services staff shortage should be resolved once the restrictions on recruiting staff as part of corrective budgetary matters imposed by the Government across the public sector are rescinded. Once the shortage is resolved, the issues OICS have raised will be addressed.</p>
<p>12. Increase the level of mental health and counselling services available for women (and consequentially also for men) at Greenough Regional Prison, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) additional psychiatric services; (ii) an additional Prisoner Counselling Service team member; and (iii) reinvigorated links with Chrysalis Support Services or other relevant service providers. 	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>Staffing numbers at GRP have increased from three to five in 2014. The staffing ratio includes three Prison Counselling Services/Senior Programs Officers and two Senior Programs Officers. Current staffing levels allows for effective service delivery of prison counselling services, treatment assessments and program delivery at GRP. The services of Chrysalis was suspended by the organisation in 2013. Following the recruitment of a new CEO in 2014, the Department is in current negotiations to develop a Service Level Agreement with Chrysalis which will see the resumption of in-reach counselling for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It is anticipated that service delivery by Chrysalis will resume in 2014.</p>

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<p>13. (a) The Department immediately introduce Skype (or other on-line technologies) at Greenough Regional Prison and at Bandyup Women's Prison for social and official visits; and</p> <p>(b) By the end of June 2015, the Department ensure that Skype or other on-line technologies are fully operational at all the state's prisons.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle</p> <p>The Department is committed to introducing e-visits to all facilities, based on funding.</p>
<p>14. Prisoners who are transferred from their local area prison due to overcrowding should be entitled to receive more generous remote telephone allowances to facilitate ongoing contact with children, family and friends.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p><i>Policy Directive 36</i> already provides for this arrangement. Greenough will review the Local Order to ensure it is compliant.</p>
<p>15. (a) Greenough should increase the number of women prisoners trained and appointed to be on the peer support team; and</p> <p>(b) The prison should consider establishing a female-only peer support team in addition to the whole of prison team.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>a) A third female Peer Support Officer has commenced at Greenough.</p> <p>b) Peer Support is run by the Prisoner Support Officer, there is no requirement for two teams.</p>
<p>16. (a) The Department should ensure that Aboriginal Visitor Scheme services or similar services, are available at all its prisons.</p> <p>(b) At prisons such as Greenough, where there has been a chronic problem in providing AVS services, consideration be given to alternative measures. These include the option of funding the prison to source and manage services from local agencies or service providers.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department is committed to the provision of AVS services at all prisons. The Greenough Superintendent has been tasked to explore alternative measures.</p>

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<p>17. Greenough should be supported to operate a canteen within the women's precinct which is run for and by female prisoners, and is linked directly to the development of employment skills.</p>	<p>Supported In Principle The Department will review options for providing a more equitable access to canteen services. This will include the possibility of relocating the current prison canteen from Unit Two to a more central location, providing direct access for all prisoners at Greenough. It will then be acceptable for women prisoners to operate the canteen and be linked directly to the development of employment skills.</p>
<p>18. The Department develop and deliver more programs specifically for women to address issues such as violence, sexual abuse and substance abuse. It should include programs that are culturally relevant to Aboriginal women from different communities across the state.</p>	<p>Supported The Department is currently reviewing its suite of programs and developing additional programs that are more relevant to women and Aboriginal people.</p>
<p>19. The Department should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Evaluate the Integrated Offender Management Committee (IOMC) process at Greenough; (b) If the IOMC process is successful, introduce this process across the women's estate; and (c) Examine the suitability of rolling out a similar process for male prisoners. 	<p>Supported The Department is in the process of reviewing the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and if the review endorses the process then the Department will seek to roll this out across the Women's estate. The Department has initiated a project that will scope the potential of Individualised Integrated Case Management (IICM) across the State for all offender cohorts.</p>