

**MEDIA RELEASE – EMBARGOED UNTIL 12NOON ON FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

**Report No. 109 – Wandoo Reintegration Facility**

The Inspector of Custodial Service’s latest report has found that Wandoo Reintegration Facility offers a positive and innovative blueprint for the rehabilitation and management of young men in custody.

Despite its success, the Inspector Neil Morgan said that the future of the facility is uncertain given the pressures of an increasingly overcrowded prison system and the new Government’s priorities. The current contract is due to end in November 2017.

Launching the report, Mr Morgan said:

‘Young people aged 18-28 return to prison at a high rate, and at a high cost to themselves, their families and the community. It was therefore sensible to target services at their needs.

Wandoo has been a success. It offers much to the Department in terms of how to manage young people in custody in a way that helps them to return to the community. And those lessons are relevant at the troubled Banksia Hill Detention Centre as well as at adult prisons.

The contractor, Serco, has met all reasonable expectations in its five years of operation. It has delivered a high quality, innovative service, and has been responsive when change has been needed.’

However, Wandoo’s future is uncertain, and the new government has said it intends to convert it to a drug rehabilitation centre for female prisoners. Mr Morgan said:

‘Given current levels of prison overcrowding and costs, the Government has no choice but to examine all options in relation to the use of Wandoo. And I strongly support a sharper focus on drug treatment as a way to reduce recidivism.

But I also urge the Government to expand, and not to wind back, the focus on young people, female as well as male. If we can reduce the rate at which young people return to prison, society will be safer and the state will achieve huge financial savings.’

The report found that Wandoo provided a positive, purposeful and safe environment. It offered a different way of doing business, and staff were on board with the philosophy and aims of the centre.

The key areas of success included:

- a multi-disciplinary approach that supported residents
- strong emphasis on personal responsibility
- targeted genuine partnerships with the not-for-profit sector
- real work opportunities leading to post-release employment
- responsiveness and willingness to change and improve

Mr Morgan said that Wandoo had also achieved the Department's goal of an integrated individualised management model for prisoners:

'Wandoo is a model of best practice in its focus on case management and reintegration. It is better than we have found at any other facility, adult or juvenile. So, if Wandoo is re-purposed, it is important to learn from this, and not to lose what has been achieved.'

Neil Morgan  
**Inspector**

For more detail, please see the Inspector's Overview to the Report and Key Findings (copies attached).

**For Further Media Information**

The Inspector, Mr Neil Morgan, will be available for comment from 12noon on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and can be contacted on 0427 426 471.

The full report will be available on the Inspector's website ([www.oics.wa.gov.au](http://www.oics.wa.gov.au)).