

Response to Recommendations

1 Establish a departmental position that limits strip searching in line with international standards.

Response:

The development of the new searching policy under the Custodial Operational Policies and Procedures Project is currently underway. The review will consider legislation, international standards, the Women's Standard, and safety and security impacts in the development of a Departmental position on searching, including strip searching.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Operating Standards and Procedures
Proposed Completion Date: April 2019

2 Improve the complaints management system to provide the ability to effectively interrogate the data.

Response:

The current system utilised (OSSCAR) to record ACCESS (complaints/compliments/suggestions) matters has been identified by Operating Standards and Procedures (OSP) as an ageing system with limited reporting capabilities. OSP is working with Knowledge and Information Technology and Business Intelligence and Reporting to improve the reporting of complaints management from data extracted from OSSCAR to the data warehouse.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Operating Standards and Procedures
Proposed Completion Date: April 2019

3 Develop an agreement with an external agent to conduct strip searches of departmental staff.

Response:

Western Australia Police (WAPol) have advised the Department that they are not willing to strip search prison staff in the circumstances that a suspicion has been formed that a staff member may have contraband in their possession or control and is suspected of attempting to traffic such an article into a prison. Duly authorised prison staff already have the legislated authority to undertake this action without the assistance of WAPol. It is impractical to expect another external agent to conduct timely and legal strip searches of Departmental staff.

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported
Responsible Business Area: Regulation and Operational Services

Proposed Completion Date: N/A

4 Do not use strip searching as a deterrent.

Response:

Strip searching will be used to maintain the good order or security of a prison. Searching will be undertaken in line with the new policy which is being developed under the Custodial Operational Policies and Procedures Project. This review will consider legislation, international standards, the Women's Standard, and safety and security impacts.

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported
Responsible Business Area: Adult Justice Services
Proposed Completion Date: N/A

5 Do not use strip searching to punish or control prisoners.

Response:

There is no evidence to suggest that this is occurring. Strip searching is conducted in line with Policy Directive 26 – Searches and not to punish or control prisoners.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Adult Justice Services
Proposed Completion Date: February 2019

6 Ensure strip searching policy and practice align with the Women's Standard.

Response:

The development of the new searching policy under the Custodial Operational Policies and Procedures Project is currently underway. The review will consider legislation, international standards, the Women's Standard, and safety and security impacts in the development of a Departmental position on searching, including strip searching.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Operating Standards and Procedures
Proposed Completion Date: April 2019

7 Monitor the impact of local search strategies to ensure they do not result in excessive strip searching.

Response:

Adult Justice Services will monitor the impact of searches at a local level as a first tier of assurance on an ongoing basis. The Monitoring and Compliance Branch provides a second tier of assurance by continuing to undertake compliance reviews of searching activities in accordance with the Monitoring and Compliance Framework on an ongoing basis.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Operating Standards and Procedures and Adult Justice Services
Proposed Completion Date: N/A

8 Phase out the routine strip searching of prisoners.

Response:

Strip searching will be used to maintain the good order or security of a prison. Searching will be undertaken in line with the new policy which is being developed under the Custodial Operational Policies and Procedures Project. This review will consider legislation, international standards, the Women's Standard, and safety and security impacts.

Level of Acceptance: Not Supported
Responsible Business Area: Adult Justice Services
Proposed Completion Date: N/A

9 Do not routinely strip search visitors.

Response:

Visitors are only searched where this is sufficient intelligence to support the strip searching of a visitor. Strip searching results obtained from TOMS will be reviewed to ensure data has been entered accurately.

Level of Acceptance: Supported
Responsible Business Area: Adult Justice Services
Proposed Completion Date: June 2019

10 Use new technology to reduce the reliance on strip searching.

Response:

The Department has previously committed to exploring new technologies, however, is acutely aware of the limitations experienced in the custodial setting. Until such technology is available and financially affordable, the Department is unable to commit to this recommendation.

Level of Acceptance:	Not Supported
Responsible Business Area:	Security and Response Services
Proposed Completion Date:	N/A