

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**REPORT NO 122 – 2018 INSPECTION OF COURT CUSTODY CENTRES**

**AND FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL SECURE FACILITY**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019**

Custodial and security services in Western Australia’s courts are generally being provided to a good standard, according to the latest report from the Inspector of Custodial Services.

Inspector Eamon Ryan said that the inspection of custody arrangements in the State’s metropolitan and regional court centres, as well as a secure facility at Fiona Stanley Hospital, revealed positive findings about the way staff were delivering the predominantly contracted services.

“Broadspectrum, which provides most of the services to custody centres, has staff that carry out their roles in a respectful way, with a focus on the safety and care of the public, court staff and those in their custody,” Mr Ryan said.

“Similarly, the District Court and Central Law Courts are well serviced by the other contractor, G4S.”

Mr Ryan said the most significant challenge for Broadspectrum was generally aged infrastructure at many centres, which varied widely across the State. While the courts in the central business district were of sound, mostly modern custodial design, some outer metropolitan sites were below that standard. He noted Armadale, one of the oldest metropolitan courts, as an example where the building was no longer fit for purpose and equipment often failed, although this is due for replacement in 2021.

One key inspection observation related to the management of the contracts by the Department of Justice. Prior to the Department of the Attorney General merging with Corrective Services, each had been responsible for different contracts – Attorney General for the central business district courts, and Corrections the remainder. Since their merger, two separate contract management teams have been maintained, each with different processes.

Mr Ryan said it seemed logical for the Department to streamline its management of the contracts with the different court custody service providers.

“We found that each of the contracts deliver very similar services, yet are managed by separate teams within the Department. There is an opportunity to improve consistency and efficiency in the management of these contracts within the Department,” Mr Ryan said.

The report highlighted a number of opportunities for improvement in the management and oversight of each contract. The Department was generally supportive of our six recommendations, accepting four and in respect of the other two, noting that they felt

existing processes were adequate and our recommendations would require additional resources.

The Office inspected all court security facilities between March and June 2018 being:

- Four centres in the CBD
- Six centres in metropolitan Perth
- Eight regional centres
- The Fiona Stanley Hospital Secure Unit
- Perth Children's Court (operated by the Department of Justice)

We also engaged the services of a contract management expert to assist in deciphering the various contracts with the service providers and how these are managed.

Eamon Ryan  
**Inspector**

For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 12 noon on Tuesday 11 June 2019 and can be contacted on 0421 480 925.