



Response to the Announced Review:

SnapShot Series: Older Prisoners

April 2021

The Department of Justice welcomes the draft report on the snapshot series review into older prisoners.

The Department has reviewed the report and noted a level of acceptance and provided a response against the three recommendations.

Response to Recommendations

1 Create a strategic framework or policy specific to the age-related needs of older prisoners.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported in Principle
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Operational Support
Proposed Completion Date:	31 December 2022

Response:

The Department supports in principle the need for a strategic framework or operational policy for the management and treatment of older prisoners. This will however require extensive research, nationally and internationally, to determine a future model that will provide optimal solutions to accommodating older prisoners. The Department is committed to undertaking such research.

2 Ensure all staff who interact with older prisoners are trained in age-related physical and mental health decline.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported in Principle
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Operational Support
Proposed Completion Date:	31 December 2022

Response:

An assessment of training requirements will be undertaken once the research into the management of older prisoners is completed and a future model for housing such prisoners is ascertained.

3 Ensure a balanced approach to the ligature minimisation program so accessibility adjustments and aides can adequately assist prisoners where they are required.

Level of Acceptance:	Supported in Principle
Responsible Division:	Corrective Services
Responsible Directorate:	Operational Support
Proposed Completion Date:	31 December 2022

Response:

It is expected that the research into the management of older prisoners will inform future infrastructure design and drive any changes to the ligature minimisation program for older prisoners, including those with mobility and mental health issues (e.g. dementia), taking into consideration associated ligature risks.

The expansion of Casuarina Prison incorporates plans for an Assisted Care Unit that will improve placement options for older male prisoners. Although a much smaller cohort, future planning will also take into account older female prisoner placement options.