

Media release: The Inspector of Custodial Services releases four reports

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The Inspector of Custodial Services (ICS) Fiona Rafter has released four reports into four custodial facilities and inmate transport in New South Wales (NSW).

The *Inspection of Goulburn Correctional Centre and the High Risk Management Correctional Centre 2021* report details the findings of an inspection of the Goulburn Correctional Complex in March 2021. The report highlights the operational challenges of the 1800s-era custodial infrastructure of Goulburn Correctional Centre's maximum security area and the impact of this on inmate wellbeing and rehabilitation. It also examines the difficulties of managing inmates with a range of different risks and needs in the high security regime of the High Risk Management Correctional Centre. It makes 36 recommendations aimed at improving the operation of each facility, enhancing inmate access to health and other essential services, and increasing opportunities for inmates to engage in work, programs, and education.

The *Inspection of Inmate Transport* was announced in October 2019 before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Inmate movement occurs every day and requires the safe and secure transportation of people between courts, hospitals and custodial facilities. The inspection considered why inmates are moved and where, and how they are transported in NSW. It also considered the impact of COVID-19 on the transportation of inmates and how technology has been used to reduce the need to transport inmates. The report makes 14 recommendations aimed at ensuring that inmate transport takes place in a safe and secure manner that has regard to the welfare and dignity of persons in custody.

The *Inspection of Emu Plains Correctional Centre* report makes 18 recommendations focused on improving the treatment and conditions and enhancing services and programs for women in custody. Emu Plains Correctional Centre is the only minimum security women's correctional centre in NSW and has a Mothers and Children Program.

The *Inspection of Lithgow Correctional Centre* report details the findings of an inspection of Lithgow Correctional Centre, a maximum security men's centre in regional NSW. The report makes 18 recommendations focussed on improving custodial practice and the treatment and conditions of inmates at the centre.

The ICS was established in October 2013 to provide independent oversight of the NSW correctional system including Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and Youth Justice NSW.

The ICS is required to inspect each adult custodial facility in NSW once every five years and report findings to parliament. CSNSW and the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network were consulted as part of the inspections.

The reports are available at the following link:

<https://www.inspectorcustodial.nsw.gov.au/inspector-of-custodial-services/reports-and-publications/inspection-reports/adult-reports.html>

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