



Media release: The Inspector of Custodial Services releases a report on Parklea Correctional Centre

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The Inspector of Custodial Services (ICS) Fiona Rafter has released a report on Parklea Correctional Centre.

The inspection found that Parklea CC carries high risk due to several factors: size, ageing infrastructure, high population, high turnover, short stays and a high proportion of unconvicted inmates detained on remand. The report highlights the challenges of this difficult and complex site, and the risks associated with its role and function. It makes 40 recommendations aimed at improving the centre's operation and enhancing inmate access to health and other essential services.

This is the second time Parklea CC has been inspected by the ICS. Parklea CC is one of three large correctional centres in New South Wales (NSW) currently managed by private operators. It is important to clarify that even when it enters contractual arrangements for services for prisons within NSW, the NSW Government through Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) retains the ultimate duty of care and responsibility for all inmates within NSW.

Since the ICS first inspected Parklea CC, the centre has experienced considerable changes. Although it has retained its primary function as one of two metropolitan reception and remand centres for male inmates in Sydney, its capacity has increased substantially. It also has a new minimum security area outside the secure perimeter of the original centre. Significant construction works have taken place onsite over an extended period to provide the additional new accommodation and facilities. It also went through a change of private operator in 2019, and a change of health service provider. This was not an easy transition and less than a year later the COVID-19 pandemic was declared.

The ICS was established in October 2013 to provide independent oversight of the NSW custodial system. The ICS is required to inspect each adult custodial facility in NSW once every five years and report findings to parliament.

The report is 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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