

# Appendix 1

## THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE 2011 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Acceptance Level/Response
1. Reconfigure the minimum security cells to ensure each cell is provided with adequate temperature control.	<b>Not Supported</b> At this point there is no intention to make significant changes to these cells.
2. Upgrade the gatehouse and lobby area to create a more functional entrance to the prison incorporating an upgrade of the key control system to an electronic key safe.	<b>Not Supported</b> The West Kimberley regional Prison (Derby) is soon to commence operations and will be accommodating prisoners from the Kimberley region. Therefore current expenditure and resource allocation to the Broome prison is presently being evaluated to ensure future operations at the prison are commensurate with the expected role and responsibilities of the prison. There is no intention to upgrade the gatehouse and lobby at this point in time. The move to an electronic type key issue system is not supported as this is in accordance with the current direction of key management.
3. Clarify the relationship and boundaries between PEP and section 95 of the <i>Prisons Act 1981</i> and ensure that Policy Directive 68 does not operate in a manner that restricts external activities by prisoners.	<b>Supported</b> The Department will clarify the relationship and boundaries between PEP and Section 95 of the <i>Prisons Act 1981</i> and ensure that Policy Directive 68 does not operate in a manner that restricts external activities.
4. Develop a range of Kimberley-specific offender programs in anticipation of the opening of the new Derby prison.	<b>Supported in Principle</b> The program schedule for the Kimberley region (Broome Regional Prison and West Kimberley Regional Prison (WKRP)) is established according to the expected demand for programs. The schedule reflects the demographic/offending patterns in the region. As the WKRP develops opportunities to enhance program delivery will be explored. <sup>115</sup>

115 This response is very disappointing. Two of the avowed objectives of the new West Kimberley Regional Prison were innovation and the development of culturally specific initiatives in conjunction with Kimberley Aboriginal people. These objectives are not met by this response.

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5. Ensure that there is additional staff coverage in reception Monday to Friday.	<b>Supported – existing Departmental initiative</b> Sufficient staffing regimes are at the final stages of implementation and therefore additional staff numbers are not required. <sup>116</sup>
6. Re-introduce education services to the prisoners in the secure section.	<b>Not Supported</b> The configuration of the secure area and prisoner's length of stay does not make this a viable proposition. <sup>117</sup>
7. All bunk beds be made compliant with the Department of Corrective Services' standards, with all ladders, rails and roll protection for the top bunks secured to the beds in a manner that prevents their removal by prisoners.	<b>Supported</b> The West Kimberley Regional Prison (Derby) is soon to commence operations and will be accommodating prisoners from the Kimberley region. Therefore current expenditure and resource allocation to the Broome prison is presently being evaluated to ensure future operations at the prison are commensurate with the expected role and responsibilities of the prison. <sup>118</sup>
8. The women prisoners at Broome Regional Prison be transferred to the new prison in Derby as early as possible after its opening.	<b>Supported – existing Departmental initiative</b> It is already planned for this cohort to be relocated to the new purpose built units within the West Kimberley Regional Prison as soon as is considered operationally viable following the new prisons opening.
9. The Women's Support Officer's position be made full-time and a roster be implemented to include attendance on weekends and evenings on a regular basis.	<b>Not Supported</b> Refer to Recommendation 8. <sup>119</sup>

116 The report did not recommend extra FTE. It recommended additional coverage utilising existing FTE.

117 It is not accurate to say that the configuration of the secure area and the prisoners' length of stay make the recommendation unviable. For a considerable period of time, education services were being provided by a male tutor. However, he has left and prison management does not consider it appropriate for a female tutor to deliver the service.

118 The response suggests that resource allocation will be considered when the future of Broome is known. But deferring action to an unknown date places prisoners and the Department at risk. Securing the bunk beds through welding could be undertaken by an in-house maintenance crew with minimal cost.

119 It would be critical to ensure the appointment of a full-time Women's Support Officer at the West Kimberley Regional Prison. The response contains no such commitment to this.

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<p>10. Improve recreation opportunities for the women prisoners at Broome.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b>            In line with the Department's decision to transfer all female prisoners from Broome Regional Prison to West Kimberley Regional Prison (WKRP) as soon as practicable after the commissioning of the new facility this recommendation is considered obsolete. A female Recreation Officer has been appointed and tasked with addressing recreational deficiencies with a renewed focus. Improvements to scheduling and increased recreation opportunities have already been implemented. These will remain in place until the female prisoners are transferred to WKRP in the second half of 2012.</p>
<p>11. Adequately staff Wyndham Work Camp to maximise prisoner numbers.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b>            The staffing at Wyndham Work Camp reflects current prisoner placements. The Department is assessing the criteria for placement at work camps with the view to maximise numbers and staffing levels will be commensurately amended.</p>
<p>12. Clarify the criteria for prisoners to be placed in a work camp. Placement decisions should be based on individual risk assessments, not on general policies with respect to specific groups of prisoners.</p>	<p><b>Supported – existing Departmental initiative</b>            Generally, placement decisions are based on an individual risk assessment. The Department is assessing the criteria for placement at work camps.</p>
<p>13. Re-establish a library in an area which is easily accessible and of a suitable size.</p>	<p><b>Supported in Principle</b>            The West Kimberley Regional Prison (Derby) is soon to commence operations and will be accommodating prisoners from the Kimberley region. Therefore current expenditure and resource allocation to the Broome prison is presently being evaluated to ensure future operations at the prison a commensurate with the expected role and responsibilities of the prison.</p>

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<p>14. Explore all avenues to decrease the cost of funeral escorts in order to maximise eligible prisoners' attendance.</p>	<p><b>Supported in Part</b> The Department has commenced negotiations in relation to transportation costs, however, the provision of funeral attendance must be managed within a specified budget allocation. The Department is also exploring alternatives to attending funerals to provide prisoners with meaningful options that allow the expression of their grief and respect for family and community.</p>
<p>15. Use Skype to supply an additional service to those prisoners who are not able to attend a funeral.</p>	<p><b>Supported – existing Departmental initiative</b> As outlined in response to Recommendation 14, the Department is exploring alternatives to actual attendance and this includes the use of technology. However, the technology is dependent on the availability of equipment and signal strength and in some regional/remote areas this may prove to be a challenge.</p>
<p>16. Undertake remedial work to prevent mould growth in the health centre.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b> The Department is considering different options and how this issue can best be managed.</p>
<p>17. Provide training in mental health first aid and drug and alcohol issues to all custodial staff. Ensure that all health centre staff receive training in mental health.</p>	<p><b>Supported in Principle</b> The Department provides custodial personnel with the essential training to undertake their role and to respond from a safe, secure and decent perspective to situations inclusive of health and well being situations. Health Services personnel receive mental health first aid training.<sup>120</sup></p>

120 Although the Department supports this recommendation in principle, there is no indication whether it believes additional training is required, as found by the inspection.

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<p>18. Increase the number of General Practice sessions and spread more evenly throughout the month.</p>	<p><b>Supported in Part</b>            Whilst the Department supports this recommendation the current level of GP sessions provided to prisoners at Broome is sufficient to meet the muster and acuity of prisoners. The Department will endeavour to spread the sessions more evenly throughout the month subject to local GP availability.</p>
<p>19. Review procedures to ensure that the health centre is open each day.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b>            The Health Centre is open each day however staff may not be deployed to the area for periods where prisoners are not required to be in attendance. A review of operations has been completed and a process of notification has been implemented to enable the deployment of staff to meet operational needs.</p>
<p>20. Negotiate with Broome Regional Mental Health Service for access to the new secure psychiatric beds.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b>            Historically the prisoner demographic at Broome Regional Prison has demonstrated limited need for specialist psychiatric care. However, the Department will negotiate for increased access should the need arise.</p>
<p>21. Source and engage external agencies to provide in-reach drug and alcohol rehabilitation for prisoners.</p>	<p><b>Not Supported</b>            The Department currently employs a co-morbidity nurse at Broome Regional Prison who is working towards a degree in Addiction Studies. The nurse undertakes both group and individual counselling for the prisoners at Broome, which provides prisoners with the opportunity to address their addiction issues prior to release. Community referrals are made for those prisoners requiring further treatment post release in the community as and when required. The Department continues to utilise the current services provided by Milliya Rumurra.</p>