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Mr Ryan Quinn
A/Director Reviews
Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services
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Dear Mr. Quinn

DRAFT REPORT - PEOPLE IN CUSTODY WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft report, *People in Custody With Intellectual Disabilities*. At Acacia Prison, we have been adjusting our service delivery to the needs of the increasing cohort of prisoners with disabilities. To this end, we welcome the report and agree in principle with the recommendations, notwithstanding our comments below:

- Recommendation 1. We agree with the concept of an overarching model for the management of prisoners living with a disability. In practical terms, this might be built into a review of existing policy and manuals.
- Recommendation 2. We agree with the recommendation for further resources being funded in the Disability Coordination Team with the commentary that both an assessment and services focus would be important
- Recommendation 3. We agree with this recommendation however suggest it is linked to Recommendation 1.
- Recommendation 4. We agree that there is opportunity to place more information on TOMS around management tips and guidance for individuals living with disability. Currently, the 'Disability' flag on TOMS may or may not provide a level of guidance to staff on managing individual prisoners, depending on the writer. A formatted guide that provides practical considerations may be of more use for correctional officers.
- Recommendation 5. Agreed.
- Recommendation 6. Agreed.
- Recommendation 7. Agreed.

- Recommendation 8. Agreed. Noting that that we currently include prisoners with intellectual disability into our programs and Acacia facilitators are experienced at individualising program content. We also note that WA currently has limited programs tailored for prisoners living with intellectual disability. Provision of interventions for prisoners living with intellectual disability is an area that Acacia is exploring with Edith Cowan University.
- Recommendation 9. Agreed. Acacia is currently exploring the most suitable accredited vocational training courses for prisoner carers in order to provide the best level of care, due diligence and prisoner outcomes.
- Recommendation 10. Acacia has a positive history of finding meaningful work for prisoners living with severe impairment. We would be nervous about a 'disability pension' being an easy out as an engagement solution for such prisoners. To this end, we tentatively agree however any such policy should make it reasonably onerous for a prisoner to be afforded such a gratuity.

Yours sincerely



John Harrison
Superintendent
Acacia Prison