

Question on Notice

No. 1086

Asked on 13 September 2023

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

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QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) if there have been any inspections of detention services carried out by the Inspector of Detention Services to date and (b) if yes, how many and which facilities have been inspected?

ANSWER:

The Inspector of Detention Services (the Inspector) commenced on 1 July 2023 and is an independent statutory body established under the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022* (the IDS Act).

Under the IDS Act, the Inspector has functions to inspect any place of detention within its scope at any time – this includes youth detention centres, prisons, work camps, community corrections centres and watch-houses. The IDS Act provides for mandatory inspections of each youth detention centre annually, and inspections at least once every five years of each prison that is a secure facility and, as prescribed in the *Inspector of Detention Services Regulation 2023*, the Brisbane City and Southport Watch-houses.

It is a matter for the Inspector to determine its inspection schedule and how these inspections will occur.

I am advised that the Inspector's office has been undertaking work to support commencement of the Inspector's operations, including consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the development and publication of inspection standards for prisons and youth detention centres, preparing standards for inspections of watch-houses, developing inspection tools and processes, observing inspections by interstate detention inspectors, recruiting a team of officers, and establishing office facilities and corporate services.

I note that the Inspector's web page states that the first inspections will be of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre.

Following each review and mandatory inspection, the Inspector must prepare a report which may include recommendations about actions to promote the improvement of places of detention, changes to infrastructure at particular places of detention or changes to the law. These reports are provided to the Speaker for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

I note that the Inspector's web page further states that based on the experience of independent inspectors in other jurisdictions, the full inspection process can take at least 12 months from planning through to provision of a report.