

2025

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Office of the ACT Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) Healthy Centre
Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre 2024 - Government Response**

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September 2025**

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Introduction

The ACT Government welcomes the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre 2024 (the Review), provided out of session at the ACT Legislative Assembly on 9 December 2024.

The *Custodial Inspector Act 2017* (CI Act), previously the *Inspector of Correctional Services Act 2017*, establishes the independent statutory authority and systematic review framework to facilitate a preventative regime to oversee correctional centres, including youth detention places, in the ACT. Section 18(1)(a)(ii) of the CI Act requires the OICS to examine and review correctional services at least once every 3 years.

This is the second healthy centre review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), with the first being tabled in 2021. This review was a proactive review conducted by the OICS due to legislative requirements of the CI Act and was not in response to an incident at Bimberi or issues raised regarding practices at Bimberi.

The Inspector of Custodial Services, Ms Rebecca Minty advised the ACT Government on 18 December 2023, the Review would be undertaken in 2024. This review was a proactive, ‘whole-of-centre’ review of Bimberi, measured against the *ACT Standards for Youth Detention Places* (the Standards).

The methodology for the Healthy Centre Review included interviews with young people, a staff survey, consultation with oversight bodies and other stakeholders, data and information gathering from Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) – previously the Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate (EDU) and Canberra Health Services (CHS), and 2 onsite inspections by the review team on 3 May 2024 and 3 to 7 June 2024.

During the onsite inspections and extended review period the OICS was given unvetted access to Bimberi and all young people in detention; staff from Bimberi, Murrumbidgee School (EDU) and Justice Health Services (CHS) and access to review Bimberi and CHS records.

The Report was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 9 December 2024. The Report makes 15 recommendations for government; including 14 new recommendations and 1 recommendation (5a-c) that outlines 13 recommendations from previous reviews that are ongoing or require further consideration from government.

The Report made 15 new recommendations (14 recommendations with 1 recommendation in two parts), of which the government response as:

- Agreed to 5 recommendations
- Agree-in-principle to 5 recommendations
- Note the remaining 3 recommendations.
- 2 recommendations have been marked complete.

With respect to recommendation 5a-c, this included 13 previous recommendations from 3 previous reviews of Bimberi. The ACT Government has reconsidered these recommendations and has:

- Agreed to 6 recommendations
- Agreed-in-principle to 1 recommendations
- Not agreed to 1 recommendation
- Noted 2 recommendations
- 3 recommendations have been marked complete.

A table summarising the ACT Government response, including proposed actions for those recommendations that are agreed or agreed-in-principle can be found at [Attachment A](#).

Government Response

Bimberi is the ACT's only youth justice centre and only one part of the ACT's youth justice system, playing a critical role in providing a safe, secure and rehabilitative environment for young people in custody in the ACT. Bimberi's goal is to support vulnerable young people to grow and develop, preparing them to successfully participate in the social and economic life of the ACT Community.

Since the first Healthy Centre Review in 2020, the ACT Government has worked determinedly, internally and externally, to ensure young people in the ACT youth justice system are safe, strong and connected. This has included raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, the introduction of a Therapeutic Support Panel legislated in the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, and the creation of a new Branch of the Community Services Directorate – the Youth Justice and Adolescent Services Branch to ensure government can better deliver specialised, evidence-based programs and services in Bimberi and the broader community.

The 2024 Healthy Centre Review identifies that much of this hard work is paying off, including the greater cross-Directorate collaboration being undertaken across government, a strong commitment from Bimberi staff to therapeutic outcomes and the quality of education and health services at Bimberi (p. 12).

The ACT Government is committed to using the recommendations of the 2024 Healthy Centre Review and previous reviews to create long lasting and systemic change. The ACT will work collaboratively with young people, government and non-government organisations to develop an ACT Youth Justice Strategic Plan. The plan will be aimed at strengthening the youth justice system and delivering on government commitments to improve outcomes for young people.

The plan would establish a 5-year roadmap for the ACT's youth justice system, mapping our ongoing commitment to youth justice reform. It aims to improve the wellbeing of young people who are at risk of offending or are already involved in the youth justice system. At its core is a commitment to Closing the Gap, specifically Target 11, which aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031. It will also be used to consider the findings from the important Jumbunna Report (2025) related to young people and their interaction with the youth justice system.

The ACT Government acknowledges the inherent tensions for youth workers and Bimberi as raised in the 2024 Health Centre Review – “the role of developing a therapeutic relationship based on trust, whilst having to discipline young people or at times use force and restrain young people” (p 37.). It is within this context that government responds to the findings and recommendations of this Review – one in which detention should only be used as a ‘last resort’ option with the human rights and safety, welfare and wellbeing of young people promoted to the greatest extent possible.

The report presents findings and recommendations against a series of themes:

- Safety
- Respect and Dignity
- Purposeful activity
- Rehabilitation and preparation for release.

Each of these themes is addressed below.

A table with a full response for each recommendation, and proposed actions for those recommendations that are agreed or agreed-in-principal, can be found at [Attachment A](#).

Safety

The Review Chapter 2 is focused on the theme of Safety. The chapter highlights the complex balance between ensuring safety in Bimberi for all young people, staff and visitors and fostering a therapeutic environment for young people. This balance is part of the tension of the Centre in the dual roles as therapeutic support and the legal agent to ensure safety. Alongside this tension is the complexity of managing appropriate operational matters like institutional design, transport management, health assessments and incentives programs.

A critical exploration for the ACT Government over the next 12 months will be better articulating the strategic purpose for Bimberi and the corresponding model of care (Recommendations 1 and 2). The government notes the discussion about the Diagrama model presented in the report and will consider alternative models of youth detention as part of discovery work.

The review of Bimberi's model of care will consider the breadth of concerns raised in the Healthy Centre Review including, but not limited to:

- The processes for induction and the first hours a young person arrives at Bimberi
- The physical environments of induction and residential spaces
- Opportunities for enhanced collaboration between Justice Health Services, ACT Policing, ACT Corrective Services and the Health and Community Services Directorate to ensure timely health assessments
- More nuanced approaches to supporting community engagement and leave
- Workforce development options, including the representations of the 'Youth Worker' position title, the opportunities for further youth work training, and exploring the possible separation of roles between therapeutic and security staff
- Contact arrangements between young people and their families and legal representation
- The classification structure
- The incentives program, and
- Searches.

This is a significant piece of work for government. The review of Bimberi's model of care will need to be holistic and will therefore take time to complete. Reviewing Bimberi's model of care is just one piece of work being undertaken by the ACT Government to strengthen the youth justice system in the ACT.

The ACT Government notes the Review's recommendation to introduce a formal use of force review committee to review every use of force, which includes written terms of reference that focuses on reflective practice about whether the use of force complied with policy and procedures and opportunities for any other improvements (Recommendation 9).

Bimberi has a comprehensive review process for the review of incidents, including the review of every use of force. This includes debriefing of staff, seeking input from involved young people, and review of the incident by a Unit Manager, Operations Manager, Centre Manager, Executive Branch Manager and the Public Advocate. To improve practice and maintain quality assurance, feedback from these reviews is shared with individual staff, and/or the Training Officer as appropriate. Further work will be undertaken to consider a Use of Force committee aligned with a new model of care.

Respect and Dignity

The Review Chapter 3 is focused on the theme of Respect and Dignity. The ACT Government strives to uphold rights of young people at Bimberi, treating them with human dignity, keeping them safe from harm and ensuring their privacy is respected.

The government acknowledges the significant work undertaken by HCSD, EDU and CHS staff to provide young people with a respectful and dignified detention experience. As the report acknowledges, Bimberi meets the health, disability, cultural and spiritual needs of young people who attend the centre.

However, the ACT Government recognises several key areas, as outlined in the Review, where continued improvements can be made.

The ACT Government will continue the comprehensive maintenance program at Bimberi to ensure the living conditions and physical environment are the highest quality possible. In particular, the government notes the importance of condition improvements like the inclusion of chairs in young people's rooms where safe, the maintenance of heating and cooling systems to manage the variability of Canberra's weather and the upholding of privacy rights (including through physical design) wherever possible. In the second half of 2024, purpose designed ottomans arrived at Bimberi, providing each young person with a safe seating option for their room.

Similarly, the ACT Government will continue to consider young people's views about the food and nutrition options at Bimberi. The government acknowledges opportunities to improve the timing and variety of meals and will continue to meet the dietary needs of young people at the centre.

An area where there is opportunity for improvement is in the feedback and complaints mechanisms. Young people reported consultation mechanisms at Bimberi felt ineffective, that their voices were ignored, or that they did not lead to change. The ACT Government wishes to uphold a culture of respect, honesty and transparency and this will be an area of focus between now and the next healthy centre review.

Cultural connection is another key area of improvement for the Centre. The ACT Government acknowledges the OICS' commentary about:

- the use of cultural safe spaces at Bimberi
- the development of a cultural competency framework for staff
- support for culturally and linguistically diversion young people to communicate in their native languages
- access to appropriate cultural and religious leaders and pastoral care

The ACT Government will continue to work closely with the Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation sector, and the ACT Aboriginal community to strengthen cultural opportunities for young people in Bimberi. As part of the review of Bimberi's model of care outlined above, the ACT Government will further consider opportunities to strengthen cultural and religious supports for young people during their time at Bimberi, and through transition planning.

In parallel the ACT Government will continue to explore a health service partnership at Bimberi with culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, whether this be at the centre, or through increased community engagement.

The ACT Government will continue to consider access to allied health services and health education through a formalised budget process. In the meantime, government will consider how it collects and uses information about young people with disability, including the development and implementation of reasonable adjustments for young people at Bimberi.

This will be considered through the review of Bimberi's model of care.

Purposeful activity

The ACT Government notes that OICS identified detained young people have a structured daily routine. In particular, the ACT Government wants to acknowledge the hard work of Bimberi staff, including staff at the Murrumbidgee School for providing quality education and training to young people while in Bimberi.

Positively, a joint services group has been established to provide cross-directorate collaboration and decision making in relation to programs and services at Bimberi, to maximise engagement and throughcare opportunities for young people. In addition, the EDU has implemented an internet platform with the Murrumbidgee School, providing young people access to online education materials and supports.

The ACT Government also acknowledges the concerns raised by the OICS, in particular the young people not being permitted to mix on safety and security grounds, and the use of lockdowns after emergency codes.

It is critical to note that Bimberi does not lockdown the Centre after every emergency code. The Bimberi Chief Warden undertakes a dynamic risk assessment throughout every emergency code to determine if a partial or full lockdown of the Centre is required. Work is underway to develop functionality within the Incident Report functions of CYRIS, the Centre's client information system, to record the Chief Warden's decision making in responding to incidents at Bimberi.

As the OICS reports, peer mixing and positive peer interaction is a key opportunity to develop and put into practice conflict resolution skills between young people. As part of the review of Bimberi's model of care, the ACT Government will consider best practice approaches to ensure an appropriate balance between the safety and security of the Centre, alongside the benefits of shared recreation time, centre leave and group education.

Rehabilitation and preparation for release

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring that Bimberi plays its role in providing a safe, secure and rehabilitative environment for young people in custody in the ACT. Critically, the government acknowledges the ongoing work required in strengthening throughcare support for young people transitioning from Bimberi.

The ACT Government acknowledges that supporting young people as they transition from detention back into the community is crucial for reducing recidivism and promoting rehabilitation.

At present, case practitioners from the Youth Justice and Adolescent Services branch provide case management, including throughcare support to young people in the ACT youth

justice system, with the support of the young person's care team. However, as outlined in the Review, a therapeutic and community-based throughcare model would be of benefit to young people transitioning from Bimberi. This continues to be a key area of focus for the ACT Government.

As the Healthy Centre review recognises there are several challenges facing young people transitioning from Bimberi back into the community and impacting on the ability of care teams to support these young people. The indeterminate length of remand periods hampers the ability to conduct timely assessments and develop effective exit strategies.

Compounding these issues is the shortage of appropriate housing and support services tailored to the needs of young people exiting detention. This gap increases the likelihood of instability and recidivism.

A focus on better support for young people's transition from detention back to the community aligns with two domains of the Australasian Youth Justice Administrators National Standards: domain 3 (family and community) and domain 4 (partnerships). This focus will come through the model of care review and will be a key strategy in the ACT Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

It is also critical to note the concerns raised about reinstating the practice that all young people are entitled to physical contact with visitors, unless an individualised risk assessment has been undertaken that considers all relevant factors and human rights. As of December 2024, Bimberi has transitioned to a proactive approach for visits, with families and young people able to engage in physical contact during visits.

Conclusion

The government is committed to working with the OICS and other oversight mechanisms to ensure Bimberi continues to provide services that are human rights compliant, adaptive to contemporary youth justice practice and responsive to the individual needs of young people in detention.

The government welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Report and its 15 recommendations. The government will provide an update to the OICS regarding the implementation of recommendations as requested and look forward to future work together as the government seeks to continue to improve the experience of young people at Bimberi.

Number	Recommendation	Lead	Government position	Government Response
1	The ACT Government articulate a strategic purpose for Bimberi, and a corresponding model of care. This should be publicly available and developed through a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive consultation process.	HCSO (Strategic Policy and CYF)	Agreed	The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSO) will undertake discovery work in 2025-26 to identify national and international models of care in youth detention settings. This work will inform legislative and policy reform.
2	Bimberi develop risk assessment tools informed by its model of care, and emphasise that safety, rehabilitation, therapeutic interventions and dynamic security complement and reinforce each other.	HCSO (Strategic Policy and CYF)	Agreed	This recommendation will be considered as part of a model of care for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Recommendation 1).
3	Bimberi improve compliance with its obligations under the Human Rights Act 2004 by: a) Amending its decision-making processes to ensure human rights considerations are central to all key decisions involving detained young people. This recommendation is informed by findings on use of restraints, searching, Special Management Directions, loss of privileges arising from behaviour management, visits, and young people mixing. b) Work with the ACT Human Rights Commission to develop a strategy to embed a greater human rights culture at Bimberi over the long term. The strategy should include indicators that enable impact to be measured.	HCSO (Strategic Policy and CYF)	Agreed in principle	a) Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is compliant with human rights within the legislative context of the Children and Young People Act 2008. The ACT Government has an ongoing requirement to review and update legislation. Within this context HCSO will consider this recommendation inline with its legislative reform program and future reviews of the Children and Young People Act 2008. This will be a phased approach and this work will be considered within this phased timeframe. b) HCSO will further discuss this recommendation with the Human Rights Commissioner and consider the capacity of both agencies to meet this recommendation within existing resources.
4	The ACT Government develop and fund a cross-Directorate strategic approach to young people accessing programs and services while at Bimberi, linking with a comprehensive youth justice throughcare program.	HCSO - Bimberi CHS (JHS) and EDU (FE)	Agreed in principle	A joint services group has been established to provide cross-directorate collaboration and decision making in relation to programs and services at Bimberi. This group includes representation from HCSO, the Education Directorate and Canberra Health Services. This group considers the principles of successful throughcare in their decision making and co-ordination of programs and services for young people in detention. Funding for a dedicated Youth Justice Throughcare Program is subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process.
5(a)	Healthy Centre Review 2020 - Recommendation 1 that the ACT Government remove sections 163 and 190 from the Children and Young People Act 2008, which relate to security classifications.	Rec 1 - HCSO (CYF)	Not Agreed	<i>2020 response - This recommendation is contrary to recommendations made by the Muir Review and WorkSafe ACT in response to the August 2019 critical incident. In response to the critical incident Bimberi developed a full-time Intelligence and Classifications Officer position to ensure the Bimberi Classification System is implemented as intended. Bimberi will review the Classifications System, including timeframes and dynamic risk factors, to ensure it remains consistent with best practice in youth justice but is opposed to removing classifications from the Children and Young People Act 2008.</i> HCSO completed a review of the Classification System to incorporate comments made in the Healthy Centre Review 2020 and best practice in youth justice.

5(a)	Healthy Centre Review 2020 - Recommendation 13 that Bimberi Youth Justice Centre arrange for the spiritual centre and the fire pit to be used for regular yarning circles to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detained young people with their community and culture.	Rec 13 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed	<p><i>2020 response - The spiritual centre and fire pit are utilised by young people and community visitors. Bimberi will continue to ensure young people and community know that they can request to utilise the spiritual centre and fire pit for its intended purpose.</i></p> <p>The spiritual centre and fire pit are utilised by young people and community visitors. The Joint Services Group (referred to at recommendation 4) will continue to work closely with the Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) sector, and the ACT Aboriginal community to strengthen cultural opportunities for young people in Bimberi.</p>
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5(a)	Healthy Centre Review 2020 - Recommendation 14 that the Community Services Directorate develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Framework specifically for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre that ensures that all aspects of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre's services are culturally competent and safe, including through appropriate staff training.	Rec 14 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed	<p><i>2020 response - Training options to increase cultural competency are being investigated and will become part of the Bimberi youth worker induction program from the first induction program in 2022. A Cultural Competency Framework for Bimberi will be included on Children, Youth and Families' future work plan and will be developed when appropriate resources are identified and available.</i></p> <p>A comprehensive four-part Cultural Development Program has been embedded into the induction process for youth workers at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, ensuring that new staff are equipped with foundational knowledge and skills in cultural awareness, trauma-informed practice, and human rights. This reflects a commitment to creating a culturally safe and responsive environment for all young people.</p> <p>As part of broader reform efforts a Cultural Competency Framework is currently under development. This framework aims to guide staff training, service delivery, and organisational practices to ensure cultural competence is embedded across all aspects of care.</p>
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5(a)	Healthy Centre Review 2020 - Recommendation 15 that the Community Services Directorate provide ongoing funding for allied health services in Bimberi	Rec 15 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed in principle	<p><i>2020 Response - An allied health pilot was trialled in Bimberi between June 2020 and January 2021. The ongoing funding for allied health services in Bimberi will be subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process.</i></p> <p>Access to allied health professionals are currently provided on a case-by-case basis. The 2020-21 Bimberi Allied Health Pilot showed that there are benefits to having in-posted allied health practitioners at the Centre. The use of allied health practitioners at the Centre will be considered as part of the model of care review, with ongoing funding for allied health services in Bimberi subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process.</p>
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5(a)	Healthy Centre review 2020 - Recommendation 21 that the Education and Community Services Directorates establish an appropriate restricted internet platform to support the education of detained young people has not been completed.	Rec 21 - Education	Complete	<p><i>2020 Response - The Education Directorate is working with Shared Services ICT to develop a safe and secure learning platform, commonly called a 'Sandbox'. Sandbox will allow classroom teachers to plan and deliver digital content that can be deployed securely to students in their classrooms, whilst ensuring no communication with external parties. Sandbox will empower learners to engage with their learning subject and expand their knowledge and understanding of general ICT skills, noting this can be a barrier for young people upon exiting Bimberi. The Murrumbidgee School Board have endorsed this project and the Education Directorate continue to work closely with Shared Services ICT and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Management to actualise the final stages of the project.</i></p> <p>Complete - 2 levels of internet access is available to young people in Bimberi, through the Murrumbidgee School.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendation 2 regarding communication between young people and their lawyers.	Rec 2 - HCSD (CYF)	Complete	<p><i>2023 Response - Young people are now attending court in person for their first appearance. Screens for audio-visual links and a phone are available for young people in the Coree (admissions building) interview room for young people to make confidential calls to their legal representative. As soon as possible the contact details for legal representatives are added to the young person's phone account.</i></p> <p>Complete - Bimberi continues to monitor concerns that arise for young people and contact with their legal representatives and work with the Bimberi Oversight Group to address and resolve any associated systemic issues.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review: Recommendation 3 that young people are only ever isolated with legislated, legal safeguards such as access to review process.	Rec 3 - HCSD (CYF)	Noted	<p><i>2023 Response - The most appropriate legal safeguards to protect young people's rights when subject to segregation and separation will be further considered by Government.</i></p> <p>The Children and Young People Act 2008 provides the legislative framework for the management of young people in detention in the ACT and provides the legislative framework for the segregation and separation of young people from others, while in Bimberi. This includes legal safeguards such as access to review processes.</p> <p>This recommendation is being further considered in the review of Bimberi's policies and procedures that is currently underway.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendation 4 that Community Services Directorate ensure compliance with the Bimberi Emergency Operating Plan.	Rec 4 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed	<p><i>2023 Response - CSD is working to develop functionality within the Incident Report functions of CYRIS to record the Chief Warden's decision making in responding to incidents at Bimberi.</i></p> <p>The Health and Community Services Directorate is compliant with the Bimberi Emergency Operating Plan. To more accurately demonstrate this compliance, HCSD has developed functionality within the Incident Report functions of the Child and Youth Record Information System (CYRIS) to record the Chief Warden's decision making in responding to incidents at Bimberi. This ensures HCSD can clearly demonstrate continued compliance over time.</p>

5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendation 10 that Bimberi provide young people a chair in their room.	Rec 10 - HCSD	Complete	<p>2023 Response - Bimberi has commenced investigating chair options for young people's rooms.</p> <p>Complete - all young people have access to an ottoman or chair in their room.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendation 11 that Bimberi remove radicalised symbols.	Rec 11 - HCSD	Noted	<p>2023 response - Bimberi has a preventative maintenance schedule to maintain young people's rooms, common areas and the visits centre; with work prioritised based on the level of risk to safety and security. The funding of additional resources to maintain the physical environment of Bimberi to the standards recommended by the OICS will be subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process.</p> <p>As above.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendations 12 that the Community Services Directorate develop and maintain a consolidated register of Bimberi lockdowns of all categories, duration, location, reason, and number of children and young people affected, gender and Aboriginality on each occasion; and conduct regular compliance checks; to facilitate accountability and regular review by Bimberi senior management, and to allow effective external monitoring of the use of these restrictive interventions; and conduct regular compliance checks; to facilitate accountability and regular review by Bimberi senior management, and to allow effective external monitoring of the use of these restrictive interventions.	Rec 12 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed	<p>2023 response - Bimberi's registers meet the legislative requirements of the CYP Act. These registers are monitored monthly by the Public Advocate and can be review by the OICS. CSD will explore options to develop a consolidated register, however meeting this recommendation is dependent on the ability to enhance CYRIS functionality.</p> <p>HCSD is developing functionality in CYRIS that will capture when a young person is secured in their room, the reason why they are secured and the duration.</p> <p>The August 2025 CYRIS Update included functionality to record when and why a young person is secured in their room. A future update (October 2025) will allow staff to record when a young person is living alone in a unit, and why this is the case.</p> <p>The second stage of this work will be exploring options for presenting this data in a consolidated register.</p>
5(b)	2023 NPM Isolation Review - Recommendation 13 that the ACT Government publicly report on time out of cells as a service delivery output as an indicator of governments' objective of providing a safe, secure and humane youth detention environment.	Rec 13 - HCSD (CYF)	Agreed	<p>2023 response - This recommendation will be further considered alongside Recommendation 12.</p> <p>As above.</p>
5(c)	c) ACT Human Rights Commission's 2019 Report: • Recommendation 13a that there be a review of AOD services with a view to improving rehabilitation and counselling options for young people.	CHS and HCSD	Agreed	<p>2019 response - ACT Health and CSD will examine the need and type of services required to enhance the provision of ongoing alcohol and other drug education for clients of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.</p>
6	That the Community Service Directorate update the Custodial Inspector publicly every six months from the date the government response is tabled, on actions taken on each recommendation that has been agreed to, until the Inspector is satisfied the recommendation is closed.	HCSD	Agreed	<p>Six monthly updates will be provided as part of the Bimberi Headline Indicators Report tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on a bi-annual basis.</p>
7	Canberra Health Services work with ACT Policing to devise a funded model which ensures a clinician assesses whether the health care needs of all young people coming through the Watch House can be met at the Watch House or Bimberi, or they should be taken to another facility such as a hospital. (see Health care Assessment in Custody at 2.2.2)	HCSD and ACT Policing	Noted	<p>This will be considered as part of the Bimberi Model of Care review in partnership with ACT Policing, and subject to a future business case.</p>

8	That the Memorandum of Understanding between Community Services Directorate and Court Transport Unit should be reviewed and updated, including to address finding 10 in this Review.	HCSO (CYF) JACS (CTU)	Complete	A Memorandum of Understanding between the HCSO (Bimberi) and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (including the Court Transport Unit) has been in place since 2020. This MoU is reviewed at least every 2 years, with a review currently underway.
9	Bimberi introduce a formal use of force review committee to review every use of force, which includes written terms of reference that focuses on reflective practice about whether the use of force complied with policy and procedures and opportunities for any other improvements. The Committee should include senior management and operational staff, as well as the Principal Practitioner and Training Manager. This Committee should seek views of detained young people involved in the use of force, with appropriate support from external agencies.	HCSO (CYF)	Agreed	<p>Bimberi has a comprehensive review process for the review of incidents, including the review of every use of force. This includes debriefing of staff, seeking input from involved young people, and review of the incident by a Unit Manager, Operations Manager, Centre Manager, Executive Branch Manager and the Public Advocate. To improve practice and maintain quality assurance, feedback from these reviews is shared with individual staff, and/or the Training Officer as appropriate.</p> <p>This process is currently under review as part of a wholesale review of Bimberi's policies and procedures. As part of this review, HCSO will also consider whether a systemic review mechanism is required to ensure consistency in incident responses over time, in partnership with the ACT Chief Practitioner.</p>
10	<p>In relation to searching, the ACT Government:</p> <p>a) Repeal s246 of the CYP Act, thereby preventing any form of body/cavity search involving a child or young person.</p> <p>b) Expedite the procurement of body scanner technology at Bimberi, ACT Watch House and ACT court cells, and prohibit the use of strip searches in legislation.</p>	HCSO - (Strategic Policy)	a) Agreed in principle	a) This recommendation will be considered as part of future legislative reform of the <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i> .
		HCSO, JaCS and ACT Police	b) Noted	b) The procurement of body scanner technology at Bimberi, ACT Watch House and ACT Court cells will be considered by Government and will be subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process. Prohibiting the use of strip searches will be considered as part of future legislative reform of the <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i> .
11	<p>That the ACT Government provide further resources to the Principal Practitioner's team at Bimberi to:</p> <p>a) Develop Support and Engagement Plans for the majority of young people detained in Bimberi (whose detention is longer than a few days)</p> <p>b) Ensure greater linkages with NDIS supports; and</p> <p>c) Provide enhanced allied health support to young people.</p>	HCSO	Agreed in principle	The inclusion of an allied health team at Bimberi is required to meet this recommendation. Funding for allied health services in Bimberi will be subject to future consideration as part of the whole of government budget process.
12	ACT Government commit to work with an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation to further progress a culturally safe and competent service at Bimberi.	HCSO	Agreed in principle	The Government supports this recommendation in principle and are committed to working closely with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations. Any service partnership at Bimberi would be subject to additional funding availability and close partnership with an AACHO.
13	Bimberi cease the practice of locking down the Centre after every emergency code.	HCSO - (CYF)	Noted	Bimberi does not lockdown the Centre after every emergency code. The Bimberi Chief Warden undertakes a dynamic risk assessment throughout every emergency code to determine if a partial or full lockdown of the Centre is required. HCSO is working to develop functionality within the Incident Report functions of CYRIS to record the Chief Warden's decision making in responding to incidents at Bimberi.

14	Bimberi reinstate the practice that all young people are entitled to physical contact with visitors, unless an individualised risk assessment has been undertaken, which properly balances all relevant factors and gives proper consideration to human rights.	HCSO - (CYF)	Complete	Since December 2024, Bimberi has transitioned to a proactive approach for visits, with families and young people advised of their ability for physical contact at visits.
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15	The Community Services Directorate should ensure there is a clear framework to prioritise the development of transition plans, whether through the Care Team meeting or other forums. There should be clear accountability measures.	HCSO - (CYF)	Agreed	<p>The establishment of the Youth Justice and Adolescent Services Branch within Children, Youth and Families strengthens case management support for young people on youth justice orders, including the improved integration of services and referral pathways necessary for transition planning.</p> <p>Government is also considering outcomes from the co-design throughcare projected completed in 2024.</p>
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