

## Appendix F: Queensland Health submission



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Telephone: 3708 5574  
Our ref: C-ECTF-24/11319  
Your ref: 2024-00146(P1)

Queensland Health

Mr Anthony Reilly  
Queensland Ombudsman and  
Inspector of Detention Services  
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BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: [Inspector@ombudsman.qld.gov.au](mailto:Inspector@ombudsman.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Reilly

Thank you for your letter dated 10 July 2024, regarding the draft Cairns and Murgon Watch-houses Inspection Report, prepared under the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022*. I very much appreciate you taking the time or share with me a copy of this draft report and the opportunity to provide a formal response.

Queensland Health supports this review being undertaken by the Inspector of Detention Services and values the input Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service had in its development. Queensland Health acknowledges the importance of providing co-ordinated and effective health and mental health responses to young people who are detained in watchhouses across Queensland, and understands isolation and prolonged detention in watchhouses can have a negative impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing.

I note the report makes twenty-four recommendations primarily directed at the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice in their capacity leading the Government response to youth crime. Queensland Health looks forward to working collaboratively with these agencies as a key stakeholder to consider the recommendations, particularly where they intersect with the health portfolio and relate to the provision of general health and mental health services to this vulnerable cohort.

Please also note the Department of Health, through Clinical Excellence Queensland, is progressing a statewide review into the current models of healthcare in Queensland Police Services watchhouses, in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service. While not specific to the experiences of children and youth in watchhouse custody, this review aims to understand current healthcare workforce models of care in watchhouses, to see what is working well, where there may be opportunities for improvement, the escalation pathways in place when a detainee requires healthcare, and the optimal clinical governance framework to support the delivery of healthcare services to watchhouses.

Findings and recommendations from the review will be presented to the Queensland Police Commissioner in due course to determine next steps.

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Should you require further information, the Department of Health's contact is [REDACTED], Executive Director, System Policy Branch, on telephone 3708 5574.

Yours sincerely



Michael Walsh  
**Director-General**  
09/08/2024