

19/300 Government Response to the Commission Initiated Review of the Allegations regarding Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Report

Summary of impacts

- The report documents the ACT Human Rights Commission’s (the Commission) investigations, as per section 48 of the Human Rights Commission Act 2005, into a range of allegations and concerns about the treatment of young people at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi) in the period from 2014–17.
- The Commission’s investigation began on 11 April 2017, with the Terms of Reference for the report further widened on 11 September 2017. The scope of the Report was increased in part due to further media reporting surrounding alleged incidents at Bimberi and concerns raised by staff.
- The report was released on 16 April 2019.
- The report investigated 24 allegations and made 15 recommendations.
- All recommendations have either been agreed or agreed in principle.
- Bimberi was the first youth justice facility in Australia to operate within a Human Rights Framework.
- Actions undertaken in-line with the Government Response will ensure that the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre continues to evolve in providing a safe and secure environment for young people that ensures the Human Rights of the young people are protected and embedded in practice.
- The Commission’s investigations did not reveal an entrenched culture of violence or disregard for the human rights of young people at Bimberi.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral, Green – positive.

Social

Justice and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Response has been prepared with careful consideration of the strong legal and policy context supporting the rights of children and young people in the ACT. • The Government Response references work that will be undertaken to strengthen Bimberi’s compliance with Human Rights through revision of policies and procedures and ongoing training and support of staff. • The Government Response references areas where consistency in practice can be strengthened to ensure that all young people are able to participate in educational programs including while in segregation.
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Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding options were considered as part of the 2019-20 Budget to strengthen security and CCTV facilities at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and ensure a safe and secure environment for young people in custody, staff and visitors.
Skills and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment strategy referenced in the Government Response will likely reduce the impact of staffing fluctuations on the management of the Centre and provide staff with further opportunities for skills development in the workplace.

Environmental

Nil impact.