

Youth Detention Reform Advisory Group (YDRAG)

Terms of reference

The primary objective of this committee is to provide the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services (NTDCS) with advice on detention centre reforms in the Northern Territory consistent with the recommendations of the *Review of the Northern Territory Youth Detention System: January 2015* (the review) by Michael Vita.

The objective of the Detention Centre Advisory Group will be to:

- act as a consultative committee for NTDCS to work through the action list associated with the review recommendations;
- provide a forum for ideas and discussion; and
- provide advice and options for NTDCS to respond to the recommendations.

Decisions on advice provided by the Detention Centre Advisory Group are to be made by the relevant executives and operational areas within NTDCS.

Terms of membership

- There will be twelve members of this advisory group.
- The Commissioner of Correctional Services will be the Chairperson of this advisory group.
- Members are to be at a senior executive level within their organisation.
- Members of the advisory group will be nominated from the following organisations;
 - NT Department of Correctional Services - Commissioner, Executive Director, Youth Justice and the Elders Visiting Program;
 - Department of Health;
 - Department of Children and Families;
 - Department of Education;
 - NT Police;
 - The Northern Territory Children's Commissioner;
 - North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA);
 - Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CALAAS);
 - Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission; and
 - an existing elected staff union representative from youth detention.
- The Chairperson of this group will be responsible for endorsing the nominee's appointment to the group.
- Members are appointed for a twelve month period, or until the annual review of advisory group membership.
- Membership is reviewed annually and the new list of members is reported to the Minister for Correctional Services.

Chairperson

The chairperson of the Detention Centre Advisory Group is the Commissioner of the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services.

Establishment and Duration

- The Detention Centre Advisory Group is established by NTDCS.
- The advisory group will operate until 12 months after the recommendations of the review have been implemented to ensure the recommendations have met their intended objectives and outcomes.

- The Chairperson may cease operation of the advisory group sooner should the implementation of recommendations be monitored through alternative structures with effective advice or if the group is no longer required.

Meeting Frequency

Meetings are held bi-monthly for the first twelve months. Meetings are to be conducted quarterly thereafter.

Reporting

- The advisory committee will table its advice to NTDCS through the Chairperson.
- NTDCS will provide advice to the Minister quarterly on the status of the implementation actions to address the recommendations of the review.
- NTDCS will report back to the advisory committee on the implementation of advice and progress of actions to address the recommendations.

Resources

- Secretariat support is provided by NTDCS staff.
- Sitting fees are not paid.
- This advisory group is funded from within existing resources.