



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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Media Release – CYDC inspections prove damage and lack of focus

Released more than eight (8) months after inspections were undertaken, the latest Summary of inspections at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre illustrate ‘at least 3 major issues’ according to Shadow Minister for Police, Dale Last MP.

“The latest report shows that the Youth Justice system is failing and that the people who are paying the cost for that are taxpayers and staff,” Mr Last said. “It is plainly obvious now why the report was kept under wraps for as long as possible.”

“The increase in capacity has obviously been insufficient because the reports states they regularly reach maximum capacity. Multiple rooms are being damaged every day putting even more pressure on the centres and delaying upgrades and scheduled maintenance.”

“It’s blindingly obvious that the rights of the offenders are the foremost concern and the fact they are damaging taxpayer funded facilities is basically mentioned in passing.”

Mr Last said that, just like the government’s proposal to monitor the rights of prisoners in adult jails, one vital group was overlooked.

“I’ve looked through the last 12 months’ worth of reports that are available and the staff are basically ignored in these reports,” Mr Last said. “In fact, the only mention of staff is the fact that they were short-staffed.”

“Staff are being attacked frequently and yet, when the Minister comes to town, she basically gives them the cold shoulder. It’s as if the Minister doesn’t want to know what is really going on.”

“I’d like to see the reports expanded to cover the health and safety of staff. After all, the staff are the people that work every day to keep the community safe from these offenders and it is the staff that do their best to rehabilitate the offenders for the benefit of everyone.”

“It really is a thankless job in a lot of ways and the least we owe those staff is to ensure someone is monitoring their health and their safety. After all, the Minister really doesn’t seem to be concerned.”



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