

MEDIA RELEASE

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CCC says action within WA prison system is overdue

To address and reduce serious misconduct risks in prisons, the Corruption and Crime Commission has called for a wholesale change of culture, simplified policies and procedures and improved technology. It says that time is passing and action within our prison system is overdue.

The Commission has made another 20 recommendations on top of dozens of others which date back to 2012. Many have still not been acted on.

The disturbing failure to respond to recommendations to improve the management of prisons and prisoners in Western Australia is detailed in [‘Report into misconduct risks in WA prisons’](#) tabled in State Parliament today.

Although the response has been positive in some areas, in others, the Department of Justice has failed to sufficiently identify and manage corruption risks. It has now reached a critical point.

The most recent report is the result of more than a year’s work with the Department to identify misconduct risks and jointly investigate allegations of serious misconduct.

The key issues and themes, addressed in the Commission’s 20 most recent recommendations include:

- the Department of Justice’s lack of a corruption prevention framework;
- an inadequate process for identifying misconduct risks, and the lack of corruption prevention strategies;
- a poor reporting culture;
- inappropriate relationships and criminals grooming officers.

The Commission has referred 23 matters to the Department for investigation since August 2016 and has been actively overseeing how it deals with these matters. The report notes that the Department’s engagement with the Commission has, at times, been disappointing.

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The report acknowledges recent initiatives to address serious misconduct risks within the prison system and the resolve of the current Department leadership – as well as the range of other urgent issues confronting the Department in straitened financial circumstances.

Download the report – *Please note, as a result of prison security concerns raised by the Department of Justice when provided with a draft copy of the report, some sections of the report have been redacted (sentences and paragraphs removed) for public release. An unredacted version has been provided to the Minister for Corrective Services for action as he sees fit.*

Report – [‘Report into misconduct risks in WA prisons’](#)

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