

MEDIA RELEASE

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Big changes to managing corruption risks in WA's prison system

The Corruption and Crime Commission has tabled a report in State Parliament that outlines the improvements made by the Department of Justice to mitigate the risk of serious misconduct in the State's prison system.

Over the past six years the Commission conducted numerous investigations in cooperation with the Department of Justice and the WA Police Force. The investigations exposed a large number of unmanaged risks including poor governance, conflicting policies, lax supervision and deceptive and deficient use of force reporting.

In 2018, the Commission tabled six separate reports and 51 recommendations. The Commission has previously reported on the Department of Justice's response to 37 of the recommendations.

This report details the actions taken in response to the final 14 recommendations.

Some of the latest positive changes made by the Department of Justice include:

- reinvigorated and strengthened staff training;
- a new process to deal with staff who are subject to disciplinary action and working in custodial settings;
- updated security screening policies and procedures;
- internal system upgrades to make it harder for officers to collude;
- a new search and screening policy and local procedures;
- a new drug and alcohol testing regime; and
- the creation and implementation of Integrity and Ethics Committees across the custodial estate.

The Commission acknowledges the substantial progress made by the Department of Justice over the past four years. There is always ongoing potential for serious misconduct in the prison system but the Commission's reviews outline significant improvements made by the Department of Justice to identify, manage and, where possible, mitigate the misconduct risk.

ENDS

Read the report

[Report on the balance of recommendations arising out of previous Commission reports on the Department of Corrective Services](#)

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