



Western Australia

## **Youth Justice Reform Bill 2023**

## **Explanatory Memorandum**

The *Youth Justice Reform Bill 2023* (the Bill) aims to address the ongoing youth justice crisis within the state of Western Australia. It is a holistic governmental reform which is long overdue. The Bill brings a whole-of-government approach to an issue which is not specifically grounded within criminal justice.

Western Australia has one of the highest incarceration rates of juveniles across the nation. As a large criminal justice jurisdiction, it faces unique challenges which vary across regions and communities within the state. Juveniles incarcerated in Banksia Hill are highly likely to return within six months of release. Furthermore, in 2020-2021, Western Australia had the highest rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth detention in the nation. Juveniles who are incarcerated typically face a variety of barriers which contribute to their offending, including mental and cognitive impairment, a history of abuse and violence and poor socio-economic status. However, in Western Australia it should never be inevitable that a child facing these barriers will participate in the criminal justice system.

The Bill is a scaffolding system which aims to address the critical needs of young people without diverting them to criminogenic responses.

Part 1 of the Bill addresses the administrative requirements.

Part 2 of the Bill allows government agencies to coordinate programs and information sharing towards providing young people the support they need before engaging with the criminal justice system. It provides a duty on these agencies to act in good faith with each other and ensure that young people are kept out of the criminal justice system.

Part 3 aims to address the recruitment and retainment of social and youth workers who play a vital role in supporting communities and young people.

Part 4 puts the two together by expanding diversionary programs for juveniles at-risk of offending. It also establishes the Community Court of Western Australia which allows for culturally appropriate justice and sentencing mechanisms for those falling within its jurisdiction. The Community Court is established to mirror similar courts in other Australian jurisdictions which have been successful in reducing recidivism.

Part 5 addresses the legislative reforms which are necessary to implement youth justice reform. These include abolishing mandatory sentencing for young people and raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years old. The Bill also allows for more judicial review of juvenile offenders and implements effective separation of powers.

Part 6 addresses issues juveniles may face while incarcerated and provides for education opportunities during detention, with an aim to provide rehabilitative support and therapeutic care to ensure minimised likelihood of recidivism upon re-engagement in society.

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Western Australia

## **Youth Justice Reform Bill 2023**

**A Bill for an Act to reform the treatment of juveniles and young people within Western Australia's criminal justice system to ensure thriving futures and safer communities.**

## Part 1 — Preliminary

1. **Short title**

This is the *Youth Justice Reform Act 2023*.

2. **Commencement**

This Act commences on the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent (*assent day*).

3. **Terms used**

In this Act—

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elder* means an elder of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nation as determined by cultural laws and practices;

*appointment year* means the period beginning July 1 and ending on June 30 of the following year;

*approval of information sharing* means the process of submitting a petition to the YIAB for approval of information disclosure between supporting agencies;

*burn-out* means the syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed;

*CEO* means the head of a supporting agency;

*certificate* means certificate of qualifications attained through TAFE;

*Connected Youth Outreach Program* or *CYOP* means the official name of the program established under Part 4 Division 8 of the Bill;

***cooperation between supporting agencies*** means the duty for supporting agencies to cooperate with each other in the performance of their relevant functions, including providing reasonable assistance and support;

***correctional officers*** means officers employed at all detention centres;

***Corrective Services Division*** means the Department of Justice, Corrective Services Division;

***crisis*** means an emergency event taking place in a detention centre;

***custodial staff*** means staff employed to operate a detention centre;

***Department*** means the department of the public service principally assisting in the administration of this Act;

***Department of Education*** means the Western Australian Department of Education;

***detention centre*** has the meaning given in the *Young Offenders Act 1994* section 3;

***disclosure of information between supporting agencies*** means the sharing of information about a person covered by this Act between supporting agencies if necessary or conducive to the performance of their relevant functions;

***diversionary program*** means an alternative sentencing option that allows the defendant charged with certain crimes to avoid a criminal conviction;

***first responders*** means the individuals or organisations responsible for providing immediate assistance in emergency situation;

***foster care*** means the temporary custody or guardianship for youth under 18 whose parents are unable to look after them;

***Kimberley region*** means the northernmost part of Western Australia;

***Ministers*** means the two ministers appointed for the purpose of administering this Act;

***officer***, of a supporting agency, means—

- (a) an officer or employee in or of the agency; or
- (b) if the agency is the Police Force of Western Australia, a police officer;

***Salaries and Allowances Tribunal*** means the Tribunal established under section 5 of the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*.

***sentencing laws*** mean the laws and guidelines that govern the determination of sentences for offenses;

***SFP*** or ***Skilled Future Program*** has the meaning given in Part 5 Division 1;

***social worker*** means a person whose job is to help people in a particular area who have social disadvantages or personal problems;

***Social Worker Retainment Program*** means the program outlined in Part 4 Division 5;

***solitary confinement*** means preventing a detainee from socialising with fellow detainees for a period greater than 10 hours;

***strip search*** means requiring an individual to remove clothing to be searched;

***summary offence*** has the meaning given in the *Criminal Code Compilation Act 1913* section 1.

*supporting agency* means—

- (a) the Minister;
- (b) the Department;
- (c) the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (d) the Community Services Department;
- (e) a public sector body, or public office, prescribed for the purposes of this definition; or
- (f) a body or public office of the Commonwealth prescribed for the purposes of this definition.

*TAFE* means Technical and Further Education;

*YIAB* means Youth Information Access Board;

*YIAS* means the Youth Information Access Scheme;

*YIAS eligibility* means the eligibility criteria for individuals covered by this Act, including being a current resident of Western Australia, under the age of 18 and currently incarcerated in a state Youth Detention Centre.

## Part 2 – Holistic Government Approach

### Division 1 – Agency Collaboration

#### 4. Cooperation between supporting agencies

- (1) A supporting agency must cooperate with other supporting agencies –
  - (a) In the performance of its own relevant functions; and
  - (b) In their performance of their relevant function
- (2) The duty to cooperate includes a duty to provide reasonable assistance and support to other supporting agencies in connection with the exercise of their relevant functions.
- (3) Cooperation between supporting agencies in the performance of relevant functions may include –
  - (a) The development of multi-agency management plans for persons covered by this act; and
  - (b) Providing assistance and support to persons covered by this Act through joint programs.

#### 5. Disclosure of information between supporting agencies

- (1) For the purpose of cooperating under section 1, a supporting agency (the *disclosing agency*) may disclose to another supporting agency (the *recipient agency*) information about a person covered by this Act in the possession or control of the disclosing agency if the disclosure is, or could reasonably be expected to be, necessary or conducive to the performance of a relevant function of either agency in relation to the person.
- (2) If an officer of a supporting agency discloses information under subsection (1), as outlined to them as necessary under clause 8 -

- (a) No civil or criminal liability is incurred in respect of the disclosure; and
  - (b) The disclosure is not to be regarded as a breach of any duty of confidentiality or secrecy imposed by law; and
  - (c) The disclosure is not to be regarded as a breach of professional ethics or standards or as unprofessional conduct.
- (3) Information disclosed under this section must be treated as confidential by the recipient agency.
- (4) An officer of the recipient agency must not, directly or indirectly, record, use or disclose information disclosed to the agency under this section other than –
- (a) For the purposes of the performance of the relevant function in relation to the person covered by this Act; or
  - (b) As required under a written law

*Penalty for this subsection: a fine of \$2500.*

- (5) Subsections (3) and (4) do not apply to the recording, disclosure or use of statistical or other information that could not reasonably be expected to lead to the identification of a person to whom it relates.

## **Division 2 – Sharing of Information**

### **6. Youth Information Access Scheme**

The YIAS will be used to allow for information sharing between supporting agencies in reference to persons covered by this act. This will allow for –

- (a) Full transparency, where deemed necessary, between supporting agencies in regard to the treatment of persons covered by this act; and

- (b) To align state legislation in reference to persons covered by this act with current state legislation that does not include persons covered by this act.

#### **7. YIAS Eligibility**

*Persons covered by this act* refers to those who meet eligibility criteria –

- a) A current resident of Western Australia; and
- b) Under the age of 18; and/or
- c) Currently incarcerated in a state Youth Detention Centre.

#### **8. Approval of information sharing**

- (1) Where it is identified by supporting agencies that cooperation may be necessary, agencies must –
  - (a) Write up a summary including:
    - i. All parties involved; and
    - ii. Details for each; and
    - iii. Reasons for information sharing; and
    - iv. An urgency rating as outlined by clause 6; and
    - v. Any extra comments deemed valuable to case.
  - (b) Submit this as a petition to the YIAB, where it can be assessed.
- (2) Only proceed with information disclosure if approved by the board, under circumstances outlined by the board.

**9. Urgency rating**

Petitions will be assessed an appropriate rating, which matches one of the following –

- (a) Urgent – evaluation is necessary as soon as possible; or
- (b) Medium – evaluation is necessary within the month; or
- (c) Low – evaluation is necessary within 3 months.

**Division 3 – Youth Information Access Board**

**10. Title of Board**

The overseeing body of the YIAS will be known as the Youth Information Access Board.

**11. Scope of Proceedings**

- (1) Meetings of the YIAB will occur once every fortnight, to evaluate any new petitions. If no petitions are pending, the meeting will be voided.
- (2) Meetings will be set at a date and time as agreed upon by the board.
- (3) If the board cannot reach a decision that works for all 5 members, the Ministers will set the date and time.
- (4) The agenda for meetings will be arranged so that -
  - (a) Urgent evaluations begin; and
  - (b) Moderate evaluations follow; and
  - (c) Low evaluations conclude.
- (5) Evaluations will include –
  - (a) Assessment of petitions provided; and
  - (b) Decisions as to the necessity of petition; and

- (c) If the petition has been agreed to by the YIAB, an outline of what information has been decided to be necessary, as well as any information that must not be shared, must be provided to all supporting agencies involved.
- (6) Meetings will last a minimum of 2 hours, maximum of 4 hours. Any petitions not fully evaluated will be set at the top of the agenda of their respective urgency rating for the following meeting.

## **12. Composition of the Board**

- (1) The YIAB will be comprised of five members. These members must –
  - (a) Have at least 3 years of experience at a senior level in a supporting agency; and
  - (b) Be recommended by a CEO of a supporting agency.
- (2) The board will be overseen by the Ministers.

## **13. Recommendation to the Board**

- (1) A supporting agency CEO has the power to –
  - (a) Recommend 2 candidates to the YIAB; and
  - (b) Revoke this recommendation at any time prior to the Ministers' decision-making deadline.
- (2) When a supporting agency CEO is submitting a recommendation, the following information must be included –
  - (a) Contact details of the candidate; and
  - (b) Current WA resident address of candidate; and
  - (c) Details of experience in their respective field, relevant to their potential appointment to the board.

#### **14. Operational Procedure**

- (1) Recommendations to the YIAB from supporting agencies will be submitted to the Ministers.
- (2) The deadline for recommendations to the board will be set to the end of May 31<sup>st</sup> of an appointment year.
- (3) Board terms will last 2 years, beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> of an appointment year.
- (4) The Ministers together will assess the pool of candidates recommended by supporting agencies between April 30<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>. They will select 5 candidates, which will comprise a new board for the term listed in subsection (3) given that;
  - (a) The candidate does not reject their appointment to the board;  
or
  - (b) The candidate has not already served 2 consecutive terms on the board.
- (5) At the culmination of a YIAB term, the board will remain active until the decision-making deadline outlined in subsection (4).
- (6) The Ministers must assess the successfulness of the YIAB bi-monthly.

#### **15. Remuneration of Board Members**

Remuneration for the members of the YIAB will be determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

## **16. Replacement YIAB**

- (1) Where the Ministers have assessed that the current YIAB is not successful in achieving useful evaluations to allow for information sharing between supporting agencies of the YIAS, the Ministers can exercise their powers to –
  - (a) Remove selected members from their position as members of the YIAB, as agreed to by both Ministers; and
  - (b) Request 1 new recommendation from supporting agencies, to replace vacant positions in the YIAB within a timeframe of 1 month, given that –
    - i. No more than 2 positions are vacant; or
  - (c) Request 2 new recommendations from supporting agencies, to replace vacant positions in the YIAB within the timeframe of 1 month, given that –
    - i. 3 or more positions are vacant.
- (2) Where the Ministers have exercised their powers, decisions on new members of the board must be agreed to by both Ministers.
- (3) Replacement candidates will fulfil their role until the end of the original term, given that they meet the criteria outlined by clause 11, subsection (4a) and subsection (4b).

## **17. Board Membership**

- (1) During their active membership to the YIAB, members must, to the best of their ability, attend all meetings, in conjunction with their current role within a supporting agency.
- (2) Active members of the YIAB reserve the right to –
  - (a) Annul their membership, under reasoning deemed acceptable by the Ministers.
- (3) If membership is annulled, the process outlined in Clause 12, subsection (1b) and subsection (1c) will be utilised.

## **Part 3 — Building Effective Communities**

### **Division 1 — Effective Prevention Measures**

#### **18. Establishment of Recruitment Drive**

The relevant agency shall ensure increased efforts to recruit social workers to establish meaningful connections with juveniles and families who are at-risk.

#### **19. Aims of the Recruitment Drive**

The program has the following aims:

- (1) increase numbers of social workers in the department of child protection;
- (2) increase the retainment rate of social workers; and
- (3) reduce the likelihood that at-risk juveniles end up in the justice system.

#### **20. Inter-Agency Communication**

The program utilises inter-agency collaboration outlined in section 3 of this Act.

#### **21. Social Worker aims**

Social workers aim to:

- (1) Provide a supportive environment where youth can talk openly about concerns;
- (2) support fostering healthy relationships with peers by being explicit in acceptable behaviours and responsibilities; and
- (3) provide support to involve youth in positive community activities.

## **22. Recruitment Eligibility**

Social workers must meet the following requirements to be employed by the relevant agency:

- (1) hold at least a bachelor's degree in social work;
- (2) professional commitment to social work values and attitudes
- (3) advocacy skills to represent and argue for their clients and to connect them with needed resources and opportunities, when clients are vulnerable;
- (4) patience to understand the client's situation and avoid hasty decision-making;
- (5) cultural competence working effectively with clients from diverse backgrounds requires social workers to be respectful and responsive to cultural beliefs and practices; and
- (6) extensive training, background, and mental health checks, passed and completed before commencement of work by the foster-care justice division

## **23. Incentives to Obtain Employment**

The relevant agency can increase salaries for social workers and expand recruitment processes at the discretion of the CEO.

## **24. Retainmentment**

The relevant agency must ensure:

- (1) Supportive working environments for social workers;
- (2) Support for new social workers; including mentoring from senior social workers;

- (3) A reasonable limit on the number of clients allocated to every social worker
- (4) Prevent burn out by enforcing firm boundaries with clients and colleagues;
- (5) Ensuring mental health counselling after difficult cases to allow workers to receive professional help;
- (6) Make effort to retain experienced staff rather than allowing them to leave forcing constant replenishment of the workforce; and
- (7) honesty surrounding workloads understanding the time frame to complete pieces of work starting a caseload management system that accurately reflects the modern social workload

## **Division 2 — Monitoring Progress and Annual Reports**

### **25. Monitoring Progress**

- (1) Progress to be monitored by director general to test the effectiveness of connection between child protection and justice department
- (2) Regular assessments of job satisfaction for social workers to be conducted by director general
- (3) Regular assessments of at-risk youth to track movements to be conducted by social worker

### **26. Annual Reports**

Director general to meet with both departments and the end of the year to discuss yearly findings

The report must include—

- (1) Number of social workers joined the program including why they joined

- (2) Number of social workers who left along with the incident that made them leave
- (3) Percentage of at-risk youth that did enter the justice system
- (4) Percentage of at-risk youth that didn't enter the justice system

## **Part 4 — Expanding Diversionary Access**

### **Division 1 — Connected Youth Outreach Program**

#### **27. Diversion Partnership Program**

The Program shall be called the Connected Youth Outreach Program (CYOP).

#### **28. Aims of the CYOP**

The CYOP will use the information sharing scheme outlined in Part 2 to establish connections between first responders and WA Police.

#### **29. Engaging First Responders**

First responders will assist in the protection of young people suffering complex mental health needs by -

- (a) referring young people to access appropriate support and emergency services; and
- (b) providing insight into youth emergencies to assist organisations conducting youth outreach and case management programs or activities.

### **30. Key Priorities of First Responders and Social Workers in Intervention**

Youth justice social workers shall prioritise juveniles who have either -

- (1) a parent currently incarcerated;
- (2) parents have filed to terminate parental rights; or
- (3) no permanent home and aren't currently supported by another supporting agency.

### **31. Social Workers Aims**

Social workers engaging with youth as part of the CYOP shall:

- (1) provide a supportive environment where youth can talk openly about concerns
- (2) support fostering healthy relationships with peers by being explicit in acceptable behaviours and responsibilities
- (3) providing support to get youth involved in positive activities within the community like sports; and
- (4) support young people to be connected to the relevant supporting agency.

### **32. Reporting**

The agency is required to provide data on the following:

- (a) Number of young people engaged with;
- (b) Number of young people successfully connected with required support;
- (c) Number of young people who were held in detention within six months of engaging with the CYOP.

## **Division 2 – Establishment of the Community Court of Western Australia**

### **33. Establishment of Court**

The Court shall be referred to as the Community Court of Western Australia.

### **34. Powers of the Court**

The Court sits as a Division of the Magistrates Court of Western Australia.

### **35. Guiding Principles of the Court**

- (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders may sit with the Magistrate and assist with understanding culture.
- (b) The Court will provide a culturally appropriate manner of sentencing and justice.

### **36. Sentencing within the Court**

Sentencing laws under the Community Court are the same as application in other judicial courts within Western Australia.

### **37. Jurisdiction of the Court**

For a matter to be heard in the Community Court, the matter must satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) The accused must make or intend to make a plea of guilty;
- (b) The accused must consent to have the matter heard in the Community Court;

- (c) The accused must have committed the offence within the Kimberley region of Western Australia;
- (d) And the matter must be a summary offence.

## **Part 5 — Rehabilitation-Focused Justice**

### **Division 1 — Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility**

#### **38. Act amended**

This Division amends the *Criminal Code Compilation Act 1913* (*Criminal Code*).

#### **39. Section 29 amended**

In section 29—

- (a) amend “A person under the age of 10 years is not criminally responsible for any act or omission;” to “A person under the age of 10 years is not criminally responsible for any act or omission;” and
- (b) delete “A person under the age of 14 years is not criminally responsible for an act or omission, unless it is proved that at the time of doing the act or making the omission, he had capacity to know that he ought not to do the act or make the omission.”

### **Division 2 — Abolishing Mandatory Sentencing (*Criminal Code*)**

#### **40. Act Amended**

This Division amends the *Criminal Code*.

**41. Section 279 amended**

In section 279(5)—

- (a) delete subparagraph (b).

**42. Section 297 amended**

Amend section 297(6) to read: “the Court must consider all factors and make a decision as the court thinks fit.”

**43. Section 318 amended**

In section 318—

- a) delete subparagraph (2); and
- b) delete subparagraph (3).

**44. Section 401A amended**

In section 401A—

- (a) delete subparagraph (b)(ii); and
- (b) delete subparagraph (b)(iii).

**45. Section 401A amended – s 318**

In section 401A—

- (a) delete subparagraph (b)(ii); and
- (b) delete subparagraph (b)(iii).

**Division 3 — Abolishing Mandatory Sentencing (*Road Traffic Act 1974*)**

**46. Act amended**

This Division amends the *Road Traffic Act 1974*.

**47. Section 59 (4C) inserted**

After section 59 (4B) insert:

**4C. Application to Juveniles**

(1) For the purposes of section 59, this does not apply if the offender was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.

**48. Section 59A (4C) inserted**

After section 59A (4B) insert:

**4C. Application to Juveniles**

For the purposes of section 59, this does not apply if the offender was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.

**49. Section 60 (8) inserted**

After section 60 (7) insert:

**(8) Application to Juveniles**

(1) For the purposes of section 60, this does not apply if the offender was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.

**Part 6 — Fostering Reintegration**

**Division 1 — Establishment of the Skilled Future Program**

**50. Name of the Program**

The Program Shall be called the Skilled Future Program (SFP).

**51. Establishment of Program**

The Corrective Services Division shall establish and oversee the Skilled Futures Program that allows TAFE lecturers under supervision to deliver Certificate classes to youth prisoners at established detention centres.

**52. Inter-Departmental Collaboration**

The program shall be implemented in collaboration with the Department of Education.

**Division 2 — Eligibility and Supervision**

**53. Lecturer's Eligibility**

TAFE lecturers eligible to participate in the program shall meet the following criteria:

- a. Hold relevant qualifications and experience in the subject area they intend to teach.
- b. Possess appropriate knowledge and skills to work with youth offenders.
- c. Undergo a thorough screening process, including relevant background checks and assessments, to be decided by Corrective Services Division.
- d. Have 3 years of teaching course and unit at TAFE.

#### **54. Supervision of Lecturers**

Qualified correctional officers shall supervise TAFE lecturers participating in the program.

### **Division 3 — Curriculum Development and Delivery**

#### **55. Program Tailoring**

The Department of Education, in consultation with TAFE institutions, shall develop a tailored curriculum for the Certificate classes offered to youth prisoners.

#### **56. Methods**

TAFE lecturers shall follow the approved curriculum, adapting teaching methodologies to suit the needs and circumstances of the incarcerated youth, with consultation with established detention centres.

## **Division 4— Access to Certificate Classes**

### **57. Enrolment**

Detainees held in detention centres shall be allowed to enrol in Certificate classes voluntarily offered through the program.

### **58. Recourses**

The Corrective Services Division shall provide appropriate resources, facilities, and support to ensure the smooth delivery of the Certificate classes. The program shall ensure equitable access to education, regardless of

- a. gender,
- b. ethnicity,
- c. or other protected characteristics.

## **Division 5 — Progress Monitoring and Reports**

### **59. Monitoring Mechanisms**

- 1) The Department of Education shall establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

- 2) Regular assessments shall be conducted to measure the educational progress and vocational skill development of participating youth prisoners at the discretion of the Department of Education.

### **60. Annual Report**

The relevant agency shall provide an annual report to Parliament detailing the program's achievements, challenges, and recommendations. The report shall include statistical data on the number of youth prisoners participating in the program, course completion rates, and post-release outcomes.

## **Division 6 — Ending Harmful Practices**

### **61. Abolishment of Strip Searching and Solitary Confinement**

Juveniles held in detention shall not be subject to the following practices which subject harm to juveniles;

- (a) Use of strip searches shall be prohibited to protect youth prisoners at Banksia Hill from trauma unless;

- (i) there is probable cause for the youth prisoner to be in possession of an item that could physically harm themselves, other prisoners and workers at Banksia Hill Detention Centre; or
  - (ii) there is probable cause for the youth prisoner to be in possession of an item that could reduce the detainment capability of Banksia Hill Detention Centre.
- (b) Abolishment of solitary confinement as a form of punishment or control within the Intensive Support Unit at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

## **Division — Increased Support**

### **62. Diverse Response Options**

The diversity of juveniles at Banksia Hill and other state youth detention centres must be taken into account by the Department of Police and Justice when determining the support options provided to juveniles in detention.

### **63. Meeting Individual Needs**

- (1) Cultural needs of detainees must be given the highest priority.
- (2) All custodial staff must be made aware of and account for a detainee's diagnosed cognitive impairments or neurodiversity prior to any interaction with the detainee.

(3) Detainees held in remand in a detention centre must be provided with one-on-one consultation with a social worker. Detainees held on remand must be given the choice to refuse participation in consultancy or request to be assisted by a different social worker.

(4) In the event a detainee requests a change of social worker, the detention centre must attempt to communicate with the detainee's custodian or guardian to facilitate the change.

#### **64. Collaborative Crisis Resolution**

Crisis management response at detention centres shall be appropriately collaborative between detainees and staff.

(1) Following a crisis, detention centre staff must communicate response information to detainees.

(2) Articulation of policy and procedure as a response to crisis must be made clear to youth members.

(3) Prior to implementation of any action at the Intensive Support Unit, the detainee must be provided a social worker to communicate any grievances and special needs required.

(4) All communication amongst staff, youth members and support workers must be documented in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000* and agency practices.



YOUTH GOVERNOR OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**DECLARATION OF ROYAL ASSENT**

IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY, I assent to this Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ZPBZ', written over a horizontal line.

**His Excellency, Hon. Doug Jackson**  
Youth Governor of Western Australia  
16 October 2023