

Video transcript: Correctional Services for People with Intellectual Disability or an Acquired Brain Injury

About this audit

We audited the Departments of Justice and Community Safety (or DJCS) and Families, Fairness and Housing (or DFFH) to see if the corrections system meets the needs of prisoners with intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury.

Historically, these people often return to prison. They need support to be safe and to prepare them for life back in the community.

What we concluded

We concluded that the system doesn't fully meet these prisoners' needs.

DJCS doesn't know how many prisoners have intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury, or how many need specialised support.

Both departments have long waiting lists for their specialised services for these prisoners. And they don't have enough specialised beds.

This means some prisoners will miss out on the clinical services and support they need.

We identified 3 key reasons for this.

Key reason 1

First, DJCS doesn't adequately govern its services for prisoners with intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury.

Responsibilities are split over different teams, which means prisons don't deliver services consistently and some services are under-resourced.

As a result, these prisoners don't all have the same chance of getting support.

Key reason 2

Second, DJCS doesn't monitor if prisons meet all its requirements for supporting prisoners with disability.



Key reason 3

And third, DFFH has 19 specialised beds for offenders with intellectual disability. But this is not enough.

Offenders who miss out on these beds may not get the best chance of successfully going back into the community.

What we recommended

To address these issues we made 13 recommendations to DJCS and 2 to DFFH.

We made 13 recommendations to DJCS about:

- · improving its processes
- monitoring and overseeing services
- · advising government about demand.

We made 2 recommendations to DFFH about:

- evaluating its services
- advising government about demand.

More information

To read our full report or download a transcript of this video please see our website.