

## **Statement from Serco Australia in response to Croakey questions**

Clarence Correctional Centre's inmate population is dictated by the needs of the wider NSW prison network.

The centre currently accommodates around 1,040 inmates, including 745 male maximum- security inmates, 155 female inmates and around 140 male minimum-security inmates.

As of March 2021, around a third of inmates at the centre identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Clarence Correctional Centre acknowledges the importance of Aboriginal inmates maintaining a connection to culture and provides culturally specific programs as a priority.

We have formed partnerships with the local Aboriginal community to facilitate a variety of support services and programs for Aboriginal inmates, including traditional music, dance and art programs.

All staff are provided with cultural awareness training and can seek guidance from on-site cultural and religious advisors regarding practices.

Inmates from linguistically diverse backgrounds are supported by interpreter services via phone or video conferencing. High-demand community languages also have access to a range of translated information and materials.

People often enter custody with a range of complex needs including illness, physical and cognitive disabilities and mental health issues.

All NSW prisons, including Clarence Correctional Centre, seek to meet the physical and mental health needs of inmates and consideration is given to these needs when placing inmates at correctional facilities.

Clarence Correctional Centre has an on-site medical clinic that provides a variety of primary health services to inmates, ranging from general medical treatment to psychology, psychiatry, physiotherapy, dentistry, optometry, radiology and pharmacological services.

On-site general practitioners also provide additional mental health support and drug and alcohol counselling.

Correctional and health staff work together to ensure the physical, cognitive, security and medical needs of those inmates are met through the development of comprehensive case plans.

Acute mental health cases or those with complex treatment needs are cared for at specialist units within the wider NSW prison network, including at Long Bay Hospital.

Custodial patients made up less than 0.5 per cent of total emergency presentations to Grafton Base Hospital in 2020.

As inmates approach the end of their sentence Clarence Correctional Centre works closely with community health and other services to ensure they are supported post-release.

Centre staff also work in collaboration with Community Corrections, referring inmates to a range of appropriate health and community services in the NSW communities they are returning to.

Clarence Correctional Centre also delivers a range of life-skill programs addressing relationship-building, parenting skills and domestic violence, as well as self-awareness and confidence-building to help reduce the rate of reoffending upon release.

## **COVID-19**

Clarence Correctional Centre adheres to the same COVID-19 operations and restrictions as all NSW prisons.

In-person and social video visits are currently running in NSW correctional centres.

All visitors are screened and temperature-checked prior to entry and are required to wear a surgical mask supplied by the correctional centre worn for duration of the visit.

All visiting areas are cleaned after each session.

## **Mothers in custody**

Of the female offenders who entered custody in NSW during 2019/20, 59 per cent had children. Of those women, 16 per cent were living with their children prior to entering custody.

## **Public transport**

Any questions in regards to public transport would need to be referred to Transport for NSW and the local council for a response.