



16 MAR 2015

MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Ms Claire Mallinson
National Director
Amnesty International Australia
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Dear Ms Mallinson

Thank you for your letter dated 8 January 2015 raising concerns about the conditions at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre (DDYDC). Please find a response to your concerns below.

The transfer of detainees from Holtze Youth Detention Centre (HYDC) to Berrimah, in particular relocating to Berrimah prior to the completion of the Review of the Northern Territory Youth Detention System Report.

The relocation to Berrimah prior to the release of the Review of the Northern Territory Youth Detention System Report (the review) was necessary due to further security breaches at HYDC. While this was prior to the review, recommendation 14 supports the establishment of the DDYDC at Berrimah. You may view the full report at <http://www.correctionalservices.nt.gov.au/YouthJustice>.

Circumstances preceding the incident of 4 January 2015.

The Department of Correctional Services' Professional Standards Unit investigated this incident. As standard practice the Department does not release information that may affect the security and good order of a correctional facility.

The use of a former prison facility as a detention centre.

I refer to my letter to you dated 22 September 2014, where I have previously addressed this issue.

The need for an independent mechanism to monitor Berrimah.

Following the review, a cross government and non-government committee has been established to guide the implementation of the 16 recommendations. I also refer you to my letter of 22 September 2014 in which this issue was addressed.

An update of the former Children's Commissioner, Dr Howard Bath's Own Initiative Investigation following the incident on 21 August 2014.

I respectfully request that you contact the Office of the Children's Commissioner for an update on the former Children's Commissioners' Own Initiative Investigation.

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