



Patrick O'Brien
Secretary, Legal and Social Issues Committee
Department of the Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr O'Brien

Request for information about oversight activities

I refer to an email dated 21 September 2017 from Michelle Kurrle, Research Assistant – Council of Standing Committees, requesting further information about the increase in oversight activities that I referred to in my evidence to the Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria (the Committee).

I can advise that following my commencement as Principal Commissioner in April 2016, the Commission for Children and Young People (the Commission) increased its oversight of youth justice centres by:

- monitoring Category 1 incident reports related to children and young people in youth justice
- instituting a system of following up issues we became aware of through Category 1 incident reports by requesting CCTV footage, internal reviews of incidents and information about children and young people's access to lawyers, therapeutic support and offence-specific programs
- commencing an individual inquiry into the use of restraints that caused injuries to a young person in youth justice
- commencing a systemic inquiry into the use of isolation, seclusion and lockdowns in Victoria's youth justice centres. This inquiry resulted in the inquiry report *The Same Four Walls*
- improving the rigour of our system for reviewing and following up issues raised through our Independent Visitor Program (IVP)
- increasing our capacity for staff to conduct monitoring visits of youth justice centres, to supplement our IVP program where necessary.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria.

Yours sincerely


Liana Buchanan

Principal Commissioner

27/9/17