



# Youth detention centre OPERATIONAL POLICY

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**Title:** YD-1-7 Youth detention – Food provision and nutrition services

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## Policy statement

The department will improve the health and wellbeing of young people in youth detention centres (YDCs) by:

- providing a variety of nutritious and safe food at all mealtimes in sufficient quantities
- ensuring meal choices cater for complex dietary requirements, including religious and medical needs
- facilitating young people's preferences about menus and portion size (within nutritional guidelines)
- ensuring healthy food and drink options are available for young people during breaks and through the buy-up scheme.

## Principles

### 1. General principles

- 1.1 Food is a basic human right. Deprivation of food will never be used as a punishment or behaviour management method.
- 1.2 Menus will be developed using evidence-based Australian and government national nutrition guidelines.
- 1.3 Kitchen staff and detention youth workers will be trained as necessary to ensure safe food preparation and handling.

### 2. Menus and food provision

- 2.1 Menus will be evaluated and revised as necessary on a biennial basis with an accredited dietician.
- 2.2 Non-standard meals and recipes will be developed to meet nutritional, religious, cultural and medical requirements within budget while maintaining the same quality as the standard meal.
- 2.3 Dates that hold religious or cultural significance as well as traditional festivals or special occasions will be celebrated in YDCs, dependent on the population of young people and at the discretion of the executive director (ED).
- 2.4 Young people will be invited to provide feedback on their satisfaction with meals at least once a year using a method designed to result in a high response rate from young people. Changes, in response to the feedback, will be made to menus within nutrition guidelines and at the discretion of the ED.

## Objectives

The department is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of young people in youth detention. Accordingly, this policy aims to ensure that:



- nutritious food is provided to young people in YDCs
- individual dietary requirements are met.

## Scope

This policy is part of a suite of policies and processes developed to ensure that the provision of food and nutrition services meets the requirements of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*, including:

- Policy YD-1-2: Behaviour support
- Policy YD-1-5: Provision of medical and other health services
- Chapter 1 – Care and management of young people, Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual.

Policy YD-1-5 – Provision of medical and other health services is particularly relevant in relation to determining a young person's therapeutic dietary needs.

## Roles and responsibilities

- All YDC staff:
  - ensure young people receive meals provided
  - facilitate the provision of snacks outside of standards meal times.
- Chief cook:
  - work with an accredited dietician on a biennial basis to prepare a summer and winter menu that complies with relevant nutrition guidelines and caters for any complex dietary requirements, including religious and medical needs of young people
  - annually review the food safety plan.
- Manager, business support services:
  - work with the chief cook to ensure food services are delivered to relevant standards
  - ensure the food safety plan is reviewed annually and developed in accordance with relevant guidelines
  - ensure that kitchen staff are provided with food handling and safety training.
- ED:
  - approve the food safety plan and changes to menus
  - ensure an accredited dietician is engaged on a biennial basis
  - ensure staff understand obligations under this policy
  - ensure practice, training and learning resources comply with this policy
  - contribute to policy reviews.
- Director, Statewide Intel and Secure Services Support:
  - review and update policy as required
  - provide practice advice to support compliance with this policy.
- Training team:
  - Ensure detention youth workers are trained in safe food handling practices
  - ensure training content complies with relevant policies and procedures
  - contribute to policy and procedure reviews as required.

## Authority

*Youth Justice Act 1992*

*Youth Justice Regulation 2016*



## Delegations

Position	Delegation
Deputy Director-General Assistant Chief Operating Officer Senior Executive Director Executive Director, Youth Detention Centre Director, Youth Justice Regional Operations Director, Statewide Intel and Secure Services Support	<i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> Section 263 (2) – Issue directions, codes, standards and guidelines for the security and management of detention centres and the safe custody and wellbeing of children in detention.
Deputy Director-General Assistant Chief Operating Officer Senior Executive Director Executive Director, Youth Detention Centre Deputy Director, Youth Detention Centre Assistant Director, Youth Detention Centre Director, Learning and Development Principal Inspector	<i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> Section 263 (4) – Monitor operation of detention centres.
Deputy Director-General Assistant Chief Operating Officer Senior Executive Director Executive Director, Youth Detention Centre Deputy Director, Youth Detention Centre Assistant Director, Youth Detention Centre Director, Youth Justice Regional Operations Director, Statewide Intel and Secure Services Support	<i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> Section 263 (5) – Comply with youth justice principles.

## Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Term	Definition
Buy up scheme	Buy ups are items available to young people for purchase on a weekly basis. Young people can use their own money and/or the government issued weekly allowance of \$6.40 (jointly funded by Commonwealth, via Centrelink, and State governments) to purchase items.  Access to buy up items are linked to the incentive scheme. Positive behaviour provides greater access, while misbehaviour restricts access.
Meal times	Meal times refers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breakfast</li> <li>• morning tea</li> <li>• lunch</li> <li>• afternoon tea</li> <li>• dinner</li> <li>• supper, if requested by the young person</li> </ul>

## Human rights compatibility statement

Youth Justice is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), Youth Justice has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with and properly considers human rights. When making a decision about the care and management of young people, decision-makers must comply with that obligation.



## Multicultural Queensland Charter

Youth Justice supports the [Multicultural Queensland Charter](#), established under the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016* (Qld). The Charter seeks to promote Queensland as a unified, harmonious and inclusive community.

## Child safe standards

The Royal Commission into Institutionalised Responses to Child Sexual Abuse developed several national [child safe standards](#) for institutions and organisations working with children. Youth Justice is cognisant of these standards when considering operational practice guidelines and service delivery in community and youth detention centres.

## State disability plan

Youth Justice will work with our partners to build a fairer, more inclusive Queensland where people with a disability, their families and carers are able to access the same opportunities, on the same basis as everyone else. We will take actions to progress the priorities of the [All Abilities Queensland: opportunities for all](#) state disability plan and support improved access to services for Queenslanders with disability.

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## Communication strategy

- publish on intranet
- publish on internet
- advise staff to read
- supervisors discuss with direct reports



## Links

[Queensland Health Food Safety Program](#)

[Australasian Youth Justice Administrators \(AYJA\) service standards for youth custodial facilities](#)

[United Nations Rules for the Protection of Young People Deprived of Their Liberty 1990](#)

[Human Rights Act 2019](#)

[Queensland Human Rights Commission](#)

Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual

Youth Justice delegations

Youth Justice policies

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Bob Gee  
Director-General