

## Media release



14 October 2025

### **PRISON STAFF GO ‘ABOVE AND BEYOND’ TO HELP PEOPLE RELEASED LATE IN THE DAY**

Tasmanian Custodial Inspector Dr Grant Davies has highlighted the positive actions of Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) staff when helping people in custody integrate into the prison system and with their release.

He said in some cases, particularly when people in custody from the north and north-west of the state are released from custody in Hobart late in the day, staff go ‘above and beyond’ to ensure they have a way to get home or a safe place to stay.

The Office of the Custodial Inspector’s *Custody: reception to release inspection report 2025*, which was deemed table in Parliament today, has made eight recommendations in relation to custodial standards at TPS facilities throughout the state.

“The report makes clear that TPS staff are dedicated to assisting people in custody from when they first enter custody to the day they are released,” he said. “Newly remanded people are often agitated, anxious and can be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. This may mean they don’t take in or remember information provided to them on induction.

“The custody report found that in addition to conducting standard induction processes, staff at Hobart and Launceston reception prisons check in on people newly in custody regularly to ensure they have understood their induction.

“These actions are a positive reflection of TPS staff commitment to ensuring people entering custody are aware of the routine in custody, such as mealtimes, and how legal and personal visits are organised.”

Dr Davies said the report found prison staff were at times going ‘above and beyond’ to help people who were released late in the day or evening, including working later to facilitate the release of property and/or finances, waiting with recently released people in the dark while family drove from other parts of the state to pick them up, or trying to find last-minute crisis accommodation. The report found that in the 12 months from 1 November 2021 and 31 October 2022, just over half of the releases from TPS facilities were to addresses in the north and north-west of the state. While no specific records are kept of late releases, the report found anecdotal evidence of about 3-4 late releases (after the facility’s nightly lockup) each month.

“While I commend these staff for their efforts to help people released outside of business hours, this is not a long-term solution,” he said. “And while often in these cases the timing of these releases rests with the courts and is outside the TPS’s control, there is an interim solution that would at least ensure people have a choice not to be released without somewhere safe to stay or a way of getting home.”

One of the recommendations in the report is to amend the Corrections legislation to enable people in custody to request to stay beyond their release date if there is sufficient reason to justify it, such as a lack of transport.

Other recommendations made in the report included:

- improving induction information for people admitted into custody;
- increasing the transparency of the classification process, including providing for those in custody to be more actively involved; and
- strengthening the process and confidentiality for people in custody contacting the Integrity Commission, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and the Independent Regulator.

*While the inspections into custodial standards in TPS facilities across the state were conducted in December 2022, Office of the Custodial Inspector staff continued to monitor conditions in the period between then and the report's release, including liaising with TPS and Department of Justice staff to ensure the report is as up to date as possible.*

*This report was due to be tabled in Parliament in June, before the retirement of former Custodial Inspector Richard Connock, who presided over the inspections and the report. However, due to the July 19 State Election, tabling has been delayed until October 2025. Consequently, Custodial Inspector Dr Grant Davies, who was appointed in July 2025, has read and provided comment on the report for the purposes of its release, but is unable to be quoted from the report itself.*

**Issued by Paula Catchpole on behalf of the Office of the Custodial Inspector. Contact: 0472 832 514**