

# Appendix

# Responses to open-ended questions

This appendix presents the responses provided to the survey's open-response questions. The responses have been grouped into underlying themes. Responses have been duplicated where they cover multiple themes.

## What makes you feel safe (in the detention centre)?

There were 82 responses, grouped into the following themes:

### **Supportive staff and environment (42 responses)**

- All my mates and the staff.
- Being with friends from \*\*\*\*\*, Youth workers and teachers.
- Caseworker.
- Cause it is good and safe and they look after us.
- Consistent rules. Share a room with a mate.
- Eat well, sleep well, youth workers look after me.
- Feel safe and not picked on by police.
- Good programs, good food, lot of fun in here, play football here.
- Good teachers and friends and some youth workers.
- I can talk to staff, they look after me, they listen to me.
- Indigenous staff make me feel safe but no one else.
- Islander and Murri staff.
- It's a safe structured environment.
- It's better because of youth workers.
- Knowing that they are here to help.
- Locked up, with friends. The carers in here.
- No one can get hurt, there's A&TSI staff here.
- No one is here to hurt you and you always sort out your conflicts with others.
- People around me and I get a lot of help in detention.
- Staff. (6 responses)
- Staff are helping me a lot making some new friends on the inside – better friends than on the outside.
- Teacher support, staff support, I know how to look after myself.
- That I know that they take good care of you.
- The environment.
- The EQ [Education Queensland] staff and the youth workers.
- The good staff.
- The staff and my bedroom.
- The staff are good to me.
- The way they treat us.
- The workers.
- The youth workers keep me safe.
- The youth workers/teachers.
- They look after us and we get fed well.
- Youth worker and caseworker.
- Youth worker help.
- Youth workers.
- Youth workers and being used to the system.

### **Contact with friends and family inside and outside detention (19 responses)**

- All my mates and the staff.
- Because I have cousins and friends here.
- Because some friends.
- Being with friends from \*\*\*\*\*. Youth workers and teachers.
- Consistent rules. Share a room with a mate.
- Good teachers and friends and some youth workers.
- Friends. (3 responses)
- Know some people in the detention centre.
- Knowing the young people, other relations in detention.
- Locked up, with friends. The carers in here.
- Lots of mates.
- Mates, someone knowing where I am all the time.
- My friends and family.
- My sister.
- People round me and I get a lot of help in detention.
- Staff are helping me a lot making some new friends on the inside – better friends than on the outside.
- To have my own space and time with family and friends.

### **Personal attributes and familiarity with the centre (11 responses)**

- Because we have to look after ourselves. People say it's a camp here but really it is pretty f\*\*\*\*d in here!
- Been in here to many f\*\*\*\*\*n' times.
- I just feel safe anywhere.
- Just acting like myself.
- Just being me.
- Just got no worries.
- Myself. (2 responses)
- Self-pride and dignity.
- Teacher support, staff support, I know how to look after myself.

- Youth workers and being used to the system.

### **Having basic needs met and being "looked after" (9 responses)**

- Cause it is good and safe and they look after us.
- Eat well, sleep well, youth workers look after me.
- Food in here.
- Get food and bed.
- Good programs, good food, lot of fun in here, play football here.
- I can talk to staff, they look after me, they listen to me.
- Locked up, with friends. The carers in here.
- That I know that they take good care of you.
- They look after us and we get fed well.

### **Security measures (7 responses)**

- Being watched 24/7 makes me feel safe.
- It's secure.
- Mates, someone knowing where I am all the time.
- No one can get hurt, there's A&TSI staff here.
- The amount of guards.
- The fence.
- The walls.

### **Self-protection (4 responses)**

- I'm locked up.
- I'm safe and I can't do the wrong thing.
- Keep out of trouble.
- Keep you out of trouble.

### **Other responses (8 responses)**

- Because.
- Don't know. (4 responses)
- Everything.
- Just feel safe.
- Nothing.

## What makes you feel unsafe (in the detention centre)?

There were 48 responses, grouped into the following themes:

### *Interactions with other young people (11 responses)*

- Because you get into fights and you get blamed for things you didn't do.
- Kids.
- Living with total strangers.
- No friends, making you feel unwelcome.
- Not having friends.
- People pick on you or when they fight.
- People standing behind me or talking about me.
- People want to fight me.
- Sharing a room with someone you don't know. Being in front of cameras 24/7.
- Some of the workers and some of the boys.
- Staff talking s\*\*t to us and other kids p\*\*s me off.

### *Behaviour of staff (9 responses)*

- Corrupt staff. (2 responses)
- Have staff near you all the time.
- Problems communicating with staff.
- Some of the workers and some of the boys.
- Staff members do not get drug tested or train for this specific job. Boys being assaulted and abused.
- Staff talking s\*\*t to us and other kids p\*\*s me off.
- The staff!
- When the staff get hungry and then I feel unsafe.

### *Personal problems (3 responses)*

- Cause if I am by myself I might get into trouble.
- My mind seeing things and hearing things. I do silly things.
- Myself.

### *Nothing (20 responses)*

### *Other responses (7 responses)*

- At night when I can't see the staff! Have the night light on always.
- Cultural stuff.
- Don't know.
- I don't like this place.
- I feel unsafe when I go to court.
- Police harassment.
- The food served.

## Are there any other activities you would like to do in here?

There were 32 responses, grouped into the following themes:

### *Sport, gym or fitness activities (18 responses)*

- Beading and gym.
- Bike riding.
- Boxing.
- Fitness, art and craft and bead making. Indigenous painting during school.
- Gym. (3 responses)
- Indigenous art, dancing school, craft (indigenous), cultural dancing, fitness program. More cultural stuff. More indigenous staff!
- Intensive fitness program. More of cultural arts and crafts and dance.
- Just keep going with the gym.
- More football.
- More gym.
- No, but I want more gym sessions but they won't let me have any more.
- Rodeo, fishing, biking.
- To do gym during the structured day. Girls should be considered the same.
- While we do heaps of sports we don't get any gym. (2 responses)
- Yes, gym and hospitality.

### **Artistic activities (8 responses)**

- Art, on centre.
- Beading and gym.
- Ceramics, print making, music.
- Fitness, art and craft and bead making. Indigenous painting during school.
- Hip-Pop.
- Indigenous art, dancing school, craft (indigenous), cultural dancing, fitness program. More cultural stuff. More indigenous staff!
- Intensive fitness program. More of cultural arts and crafts and dance.
- Singing lessons.

### **Work and life skills activities (7 responses)**

- Cooking. (2 responses)
- Like mechanics course.
- More leatherwork.
- Small engines.
- Want to do personal grooming course. Apparently they run the course on weekends but only take four people at a time and it is based on a good behaviour system.
- Yes, gym and hospitality.

### **Cultural activities, particularly art-based activities (5 responses)**

- Cultural activities and elders.
- Fitness, art and craft and bead making. Indigenous painting during school.
- Indigenous.
- Indigenous art, dancing school, craft (indigenous), cultural dancing, fitness program. More cultural stuff. More indigenous staff!
- Intensive fitness program. More of cultural arts and crafts and dance.

### **Other responses (2 responses)**

- I would like to speak with counsellors more.
- Sex education.

## **Is there something no one is listening to you about?**

There were 24 responses, grouped into the following themes:

### **Lack of support and information, particularly on court matters (6 responses)**

- Child Safety is not helping me while I am in here. They do not try to send photos of my baby and family.
- Court matters.
- I need a phone number for my girlfriend and my caseworker says I can't get it. It's very important.
- Long wait until court.
- My solicitor is not listening to me about wanting bail.
- When I ask for my next court date.

### **The variety of activities available and access to existing activities (6 responses)**

- Fitness, art and craft and bead making. Indigenous painting during school.
- I would love to do more woodwork.
- Letting us in the gym.
- School.
- Us girls getting fat and not being able to go to the gym because the boys hog it. We're only asking for like one day a week so how hard is that? And the food is disgusting and it's making us fat.
- Yes, I hate being in music.

### **The food, facilities and rules in the centre (5 responses)**

- Fixing the phones and having a new system for the phones. New caseworkers, more transitional officers. Why no coffee when we are allowed to drink Coke which is just as bad and they have coffee in other detention centres. How come all the units are getting locked down at 7:30 pm for a two-week period. This means that some of the young people will miss out on the phone calls which they are entitled to every day.
- Nobody will listen to me. I want to leave now. They won't let me smoke.

- The food isn't good, it's making us sick.
- Us girls getting fat and not being able to go to the gym because the boys hog it. We're only asking for like one day a week so how hard is that? And the food is disgusting and it's making us fat.
- Wanting to move units.
- Only a couple of staff members and a couple of close friends of mine.
- School work, I liked going to school.
- So used to being here.

### ***Difficulties staying out of trouble and complying with conditions (5 responses)***

- Community service – hard work.
- Couldn't stay out of trouble.
- Doing bail program.
- It was too hard to go on the bail conditions – had to be close to Mum.
- Thinking about being good and staying at school and stop stealing cars and sniffing. But when I think about it, it puts pressure on me.

### ***Difficulties getting settled outside detention (4 responses)***

- Having nowhere to live and not being able to see my girl.
- Having to get my life back on track.
- Talking to people.
- To get away from all the kids. They want to fight all the time.

### ***Other responses (7 responses)***

- Being away from loved ones.
- Boyfriend, school, TAFE.
- Don't know. (3 responses)
- I knew I was coming back.
- Not getting all my property together.

### ***The atmosphere in the centre (4 responses)***

- My cultural needs. Racism in the centre.
- Racism. The way we are spoken to just because we have made a mistake in the community and now we are detained in a detention centre. It does not give anybody the right to treat us like s\*\*t!
- We are criminals, don't treat us like little kids.
- Too many people pick on you.

### ***Other responses (4 responses)***

- Everything. (2 responses)
- No, not at all.
- No one listens to me.

## **If you have been in detention before, what was the most difficult thing about leaving last time?**

There were 44 responses, grouped into the following themes:

### ***No difficulties (18 responses)***

- Happy to leave. (4 responses)
- Nothing. (14 responses)

### ***Leaving behind friends and a familiar environment (10 responses)***

- Being away from the people who care for me.
- Friends that were good to me there.
- Leaving my best friends in BYDC.
- Leaving my brother.
- Leaving my cousin behind.
- Leaving people I know in here.
- Not wanting to leave friends I made.