



21 February 2024

Statement

REFURBISHMENT OF ALICE SPRINGS YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

NT Children's Commissioner Shahleena Musk welcomes the opening of the newly refurbished Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre (ASYDC) in line with recommendations from the 2017 Royal Commission.

"I am currently attending a National meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ANZCCG) so unfortunately can't be present at today's opening." Ms Musk said. "I look forward to visiting the new facility once it is fully operational, and speaking with the children there about the improvements and how these are meeting their needs".

"While detention must be used as a last resort for children, the upgrades to this facility are important to ensuring young people from Central Australia who are detained can stay connected to family and community. It is important that children can access the right care and supports including health, education and therapeutic programs without having to be sent thousands of kilometres away to Darwin."

"The updated ASYDC provides new opportunities to implement the youth justice model of care, finalised in 2022 and to facilitate a therapeutic, trauma informed, culturally secure service which gives our young people the opportunity to address their complex needs underlying their offending behaviour. I look forward to this more therapeutic model of care being applied in all Youth Detention facilities in the Northern Territory."

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