

Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.2: Accommodation of Young People

1. Policy Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the placement and accommodation of young people in detention.

2. Authority / Responsibility

- 2.1. This policy applies to all staff of a detention centre.
- 2.2. The Superintendent is responsible for the management of this policy determination.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Young people should be accommodated in an environment that is safe and which will support their wellbeing and development.

4. Placement in Detention

General Principles

- 4.1. When available and appropriate, young people in detention will be provided with single room accommodation. However, if a young person in detention is identified as having a specific need, the staff member determining accommodation placement must consider whether the young person's needs are best supported by being placed in single room accommodation or in accommodation with company.
- 4.2. All decisions regarding accommodation of young people in detention must be made on a case by case basis. Staff should evaluate information regarding young people in detention who may need to be separated from others.
- 4.3. A young person must not be placed in accommodation in company, if their behaviour or offending history indicates that this may cause any risk to another young person in detention.
- 4.4. A young person must not be placed in accommodation in company, if their behaviour or offending history is of a sexual nature.
- 4.5. If a young person entering detention is identified as 'at risk' by court order or a Youth Justice Officer the 'At Risk Procedure' must be initiated. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 5.1: Young People At Risk](#).

Female Young Person

- 4.6. Young females in detention require special attention as to their personal needs and requirements. Female young people must be accommodated separately from male young people in detention, to ensure the safety and protection of all young people.
- 4.7. Staff are to refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.5: Supporting Girls and Young Women](#).

5. Process

- 5.1. On admission, a member of staff should complete an Individual Risk Needs Assessment (IRNA), which brings together information from police, courts and IOMS (previous

escape/attempted escape history) to determine the most appropriate accommodation for the young person.

- 5.2. Accommodation decisions are made after consideration of the young person's:
- (1). Age;
 - (2). Peer relationships;
 - (3). Mental health;
 - (4). Substance abuse/withdrawal issues;
 - (5). Physical or intellectual disabilities;
 - (6). Cultural needs;
 - (7). Sexuality and gender identification;
 - (8). Risk of self-harm or suicide;
 - (9). Risk of harm from other young people in detention; and
 - (10). Risk of harming other young people in detention.

6. Minimum Living Conditions

- 6.1. The Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent must ensure the following minimum living conditions for young people are provided within a place of detention:
- (1). Sufficient suitable underclothing and outer clothing that is laundered regularly;
 - (2). Suitable clean, hygienic and reasonably private facilities for personal hygiene;
 - (3). Clean, comfortable and reasonably private beds and bedding; and
 - (4). Access to daily open air and exercise.
- 6.2. The young person's minimum entitlements must not be affected by action taken under the positive behaviour support framework, for example, through the withdrawal of privileges.
- 6.3. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.8: Positive Behaviour Support](#).

Legislative Basis and Related Documents

[Youth Justice Act](#)

[Youth Justice Regulations](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.5: Supporting Girls and Young Women](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.8: Positive Behaviour Support](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 5.1: Young People At Risk](#)

Current Version v1.2

Approver:	General Manager, Youth Justice on:	4 April 2019	Active from:	5 April 2019
Update:	Removal of Transfer instructions into 2.6 Escorts and Transfers			
Review due:	April 2021	Maintenance:	TF.YouthJusticePolicy@nt.gov.au	

Previous Versions:

Version	Active from:	Update
Version 1.1	January 2018	Insert information on transfers, update to position titles and policy determination references
Version 1.0	January 2018	New Youth Justice Policy Determination approved by Deputy Chief Executive Officer Operations