



MEDIA RELEASE

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ROUTINE SEMI-NAKED SEARCHES TO CEASE AT KURLANA TAPA YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRE

The introduction of full body scanners at KTYJC marks a significant milestone for protecting the dignity of children and young people detained in SA

Penny Wright, Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor congratulates the Minister and the Department for Human Services on the commencement of use of full body scanners at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.

“This really is a huge win for the rights and dignity of children and young people detained at Kurlana Tapa,” Ms Wright said.

“The use of these body scanners should result in the end of routinised semi-naked searches and bring South Australia into line with other states and territories.”

The Training Centre Visitor’s first inspection report *Great Responsibility: Report on the 2019 Pilot Inspection of the Adelaide Youth Training Centre (Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre)* was recently released and details that over a 12-month period, approximately 1087 semi-naked searches were conducted, which is an average of three per day. These searches include the controversial use of ‘squat and cough’ and requires children or young people as young as 10 years old to lift their breasts or scrotum for inspection. This practice is also especially culturally inappropriate for initiated Aboriginal men.

“Children and young people have told us that they find the semi-naked search traumatising, especially those who have experienced sexual or physical abuse.”

“As Training Centre Visitor, my staff and I have been working hard to see the use of this humiliating and undignified search method reduced, or abolished.”

“This one change will make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people detained at the Centre, and we look forward to ongoing discussions with the Department as they work to implement the 10 recommendations we made in our Inspection Report.”

The Department of Human Services has stated that the introduction of these scanners should mean that semi-naked searches will be now be used as a last resort.