

1)Ms LAWRENCE: To be clear, though, the recommendations for basic amenities—for toilets and running water—are not going to be provided for in that facility; they're on an as-needs or request basis. There are no plans to seek funds to modify the higher care accommodation as per the recommendations of the ombudsman and others? The facility itself will remain as a soft room?

- No applications have been received to introduce additional amenities (such as toilets or running water) within YHIDC's 'soft room'. Should such applications be received, they would not be prioritised for progression, as the associated risks do not compare to other WHS risks which the Department is managing via its capital works program.
- The 'soft room' is used exclusively as a transition placement for detainees requiring unplanned closer supervision and engagement, subject to strict conditions under DM-626 – Detainee Placement – Closer Supervision and Engagement of High Risk Detainees. Placement is for the shortest practicable time (maximum three hours) to de-escalate heightened or agitated detainees in a low stimulus environment.
- Detainees in transition placement are always escorted to amenities (bathrooms, kitchen, outdoor areas) as requested; access to amenities is never denied. Staff maintain continual physical line of sight and audio-visual monitoring, with active engagement and observation.
- There is only one 'soft room' at YHIDC, which does not have amenities in the room. However, the ten High Care Accommodation Units (HCA1 and HCA2) each have shower and toilet facilities, all recently upgraded as part of the HCA Anti-Ligature Project.
- The Department partially agreed with the Ombudsman's Recommendation 1 to cease use of the soft room until guidelines are finalised. However, due to operational necessity, the soft room remains available as a transitory space under strict conditions, with guidelines under development and due for release in Q1 2026.

2)Ms LAWRENCE: The other issue was that there was a lack of guidelines in the use of that facility. Are you saying that the guidelines are now in place and are operational?

- Following recommendations from the Commonwealth NPM Post Visit Summary, the Department commenced a review of DM-626, which now includes the use of "transition spaces" such as the YHIDC soft room.
- The use of transition spaces as set out in the revised DM-626 is consistent with legal advice, including the lack of amenities typical of these spaces.
- The review is nearing completion, with consultation complete and legal clearance provided. Consolidation of legal feedback is underway, with publication targeted for Q1 2026.