

Youth detention centre

OPERATIONAL POLICY

Title: YD-1-7 Youth detention – Food provision and nutrition services

Policy statement:

The department will improve the health and wellbeing of young people in youth detention by:

- providing a variety of nutritious and safe food at all meal times in sufficient quantities
- ensuring meal choices cater for complex dietary requirements, including religious and medical needs
- facilitating young people's preferences about menus and portion size (within nutritional guidelines)
- ensuring healthy food and drink options are available for young people during breaks and through the buy-up scheme.

Principles:

1. Menus will be developed using evidence-based Australian and government national nutrition guidelines.
2. Menus will be evaluated and revised as necessary on a biennial basis in conjunction with an accredited dietician.
3. Non-standard meals and recipes will be developed to meet nutritional, religious, cultural and medical requirements within budget while maintaining the same quality as the standard meal.
4. Dates that hold religious or cultural significance as well as traditional festivals or special occasions will be celebrated in youth detention centres, dependent on the population of young people and at the discretion of the executive director.
5. Young people will be invited to provide feedback on their satisfaction with meals at least annually using a method designed to result in a high response rate from young people and changes responding to the feedback will be made to menus within nutrition guidelines and at the discretion of the executive director.
6. Food is a basic right and deprivation of food will never be used as a punishment or behaviour management method.
7. Kitchen staff and youth workers will be trained as necessary to ensure safe food preparation and handling.

Objectives:

The department is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of young people in youth detention.

Accordingly, this policy aims to ensure that nutritious food is provided to young people in youth detention centres and that individual dietary requirements are met.

Scope:

This policy is part of a suite of policies and processes developed to ensure that the provision of food and nutrition services meets the requirements of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Regulation 2003*, including:

- Policy YD-1-2: Behaviour development
- Policy YD-1-5: Provision of medical and other health services
- Chapter 1 – Care and management of young people, Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual.

[Policy YD-1-5 – Provision of medical and other health services](#) is particularly relevant in relation to determining a young person's therapeutic dietary needs.

Roles and responsibilities:

- All youth detention centre staff – ensure that young people receive meals provided, facilitate provision of snacks outside of standards meal times.
- Chief cook – work with an accredited dietician on a biennial basis to prepare a summer and winter menu that complies with relevant nutrition guidelines and caters for any complex dietary requirements, including religious and medical needs of young people, annual review of food safety plan.
- Manager, finance and administration – work with the chief cook to ensure food services are delivered to relevant standards; ensure food safety plan is reviewed annually and developed in accordance with relevant guidelines, ensure that kitchen staff are provided with food handling and safety training.
- Executive director – approve changes to menus, approve food safety plan, ensure practice complies with this policy.
- Director, Practice, Program and Design – provide practice support and advice to youth detention staff and youth detention management about issues relating to compliance with this policy.
- Director, Youth Justice Capability, Learning and Systems – ensure chief cook is trained in all competency units for food safety supervisors (health and community services); kitchen staff trained in basic food safety practice and youth workers trained in food handling.
- Youth Detention Governance Committee – engagement of accredited dietician on a biennial basis.

Authority:

Youth Justice Act 1992

Youth Justice Regulation 2016

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Term	Definition
Buy up scheme	Buy ups are items available to young people for purchase on a weekly basis. Young people can use their own money and/or the government issued weekly allowance of \$6.40 (jointly funded by Commonwealth, via Centrelink, and State governments) to purchase items. Access to buy up items are linked to the incentive scheme. Positive behaviour provides greater access, while misbehaviour restricts access.
Meal times	Meal times refers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast • morning tea

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lunch • afternoon tea • dinner • supper, if requested by the young person
Youth Detention Governance Committee	A committee including the executive directors, the director, Practice, Program and Design and the director, Capability, Learning and Systems.

Records file number: nil

Version number: 1.1

Date of approval: 16 November 2017

Approved by: 1.0 Director-General (23 September 2013)
1.1 Director, Practice Program and Design (16 November 2017)

Date of operation: 1 November 2013

Date to be reviewed: 16 November 2020

Office: Youth Justice Practice, Program and Design

Links:

[Queensland Health's Food Safety Program](#)

[Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators \(AJJA\) service standards for juvenile custodial facilities](#)

[United Nations Rules for the Protection of Young People Deprived of Their Liberty 1990](#)

[Youth Justice policies](#)