



Department of Corrective Services
Government of Western Australia



An opportunity for
a new beginning

Banksia Hill



Juvenile Detention Centre



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What is Banksia Hill?

Banksia Hill is Western Australia's only juvenile detention centre for young people aged from 10 to 18 years.

Banksia Hill is a secure centre set in 16 hectares of land bounded by a security wall and monitored by electronic surveillance.

The centre has a range of accommodation and special programs catering for up to 120 male and female offenders who have been sentenced to detention by the courts for a few months to several years.

Rights and responsibilities of parents

The Department of Corrective Services believes that responsible citizenship (the way a young person behaves with others and stays away from trouble) starts and grows in the family.

Even though a young person has come into contact with the justice system, parents still have first responsibility for the way their child grows up.

The Department has two jobs: it assists parents to encourage their child in law abiding lifestyles and ensures that any court orders are carried out.

At Banksia Hill, we help young people develop a strong sense of responsibility and self discipline. This means the young person understanding how what they do, or don't do, affects other people.

Banksia Hill staff prepare detainee progress reports at regular intervals and these are discussed with the young person, their family and other relevant persons. Positive input from parents and/or caregivers (the people who normally look after the young person) can help detainees make the most of their plans.

Each detainee is expected to follow their individual plan and meet a set educational, training or work timetable – just as they would in the community.

Where do detainees live?

Detainees at Banksia Hill live in modern compact cells and self-care living units, which are like a normal house.

Each cell has a shower, toilet and basin, with room for a television and radio – but these are privileges that must be earned.

Self-care units contain separate bedrooms and one shared cell, if required, shared facilities including a kitchen, dining, bathroom and toilet, and are located away from other units. Self-care accommodation is an incentive for good behaviour and work, and allows greater freedom as a transition back into the community.

All units and cells have an intercom (like a telephone) to call staff at any time.

Males and females are housed separately.

Meals at Banksia Hill are prepared in a central kitchen and detainees in each unit heat and serve the food. In self-care units, detainees may prepare their own meals. Each unit is also responsible for its own laundry and cleaning.

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The centre has a gymnasium, basketball courts and a recreation oval for use by detainees committed to making the most of their time, developing and improving themselves.

If detainees break the centre's rules they may lose recreation and other privileges, or be removed from the normal program.

All cells and self-care units are locked from 8pm to 8am, with quiet time at 10.30pm, Sunday to Thursday.

This means that TVs and radios may be left on provided the noise does not affect others. On Friday and Saturday nights, quiet time may be later.

Self-discipline and personal responsibility are skills that are taught and encouraged at Banksia Hill. Each detainee is expected to take responsibility for their own presentation and actions and are required to do a range of chores around the centre.



What do detainees do at Banksia Hill?

All detainees have individual 'case management plans' which map-out the education, training, employment, counselling or other activities they will do while in the centre, to work towards their return to the community.

From 9am to 3pm, everyone takes part in learning programs including TAFE, employment, school and personal development courses. All young people aged 15 and under must go to school.

Banksia Hill runs a range of TAFE-accredited courses teaching older detainees trade and other work skills. These include kitchen and food-handling courses, horticulture, carpentry, metal work, automotive, computer skills, grooming and deportment and more.

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Every effort is made to provide detainees with programs that will help them obtain employment on release.

Other work is carried out around the centre with professional tuition in gardening, library, canteen service, cleaning and laundry work.

Programs are also run to help with specific issues, such as substance use and anger management, as well as a sex offender treatment program and other counselling. Detainees can earn up to \$3 each weekday by taking part in programs and activities like cleaning, gardening, sport and art and craft.

They can spend this money at the canteen which sells soft drinks, lollies, books and cards or use it for extra phone calls. Detainees who refuse to work or participate in programs do not get paid.

In the afternoon, detainees have free time for sport, visits and to do art and craft or other activities before dinner in their units.

Visits

Visits are allowed in the afternoon every day. They must be booked in advance by calling 9333 2222 or the unit direct.

All detainees are allowed a maximum of four hours of visits each week.

Banksia Hill has a visits area with a small outdoor children's playground.

Friends and relatives must get written permission to visit from the detainee's parent or caregiver.

Visitors under 18 must be approved by the detainee's parents and their own parents and be accompanied by an approved, responsible adult. Detainees may not have more than four adult visitors at any one time. Visitors are not allowed to take anything into the visits area – lockers are available.

Approved items, like school books or clothes for court, must be given to reception before the visit. For security reasons, nothing else will be accepted.

4 Banksia Hill provides clothing and all personal items and, if detainees have special needs, staff will assist to make sure these are met.

All visitors are expected to dress and behave appropriately.



Telephone calls and letters

Detainees can make phone calls to a range of approved numbers at recreation times during the day.

A parent or caregiver must give permission for calls to anyone other than themselves.

Banksia Hill allows four free calls per week to relatives and friends but extra calls must be paid for with the money earned by detainees around the centre.

Extra phone calls are allowed to lawyers, field officers or to deal with an urgent family crisis.

A visitor and phone call permission record is maintained for each young person.

Detainees can receive and send a reasonable amount of weekly mail for free. Letter writing is encouraged as a way of keeping in contact with family and friends.

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How to get there

Banksia Hill is on the corner of Nicholson and Warton Roads, Canning Vale, with entry from Warton Road.

Visitors can reach the detention centre by bus or a combination of bus and train.

Buses leave the Cannington Train Station for a 30 minute trip to the detention centre.

Further details are available from Transperth on 13 62 13.

Contact details

Postal address

Banksia Hill Detention Centre
PO Box 1512
Canning Vale WA 6155

Telephone

9333 2222

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Community and Juvenile Justice
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