

OBSERVATION LEVELS

LEVEL	REASON	DESCRIPTION
<p style="text-align: center;">BASE No current risk of harm to self or others identified</p>	<p>All young people in custody who have not been designated to a medium or higher level of risk of harm (observation form is not required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active ongoing supervision; frequent positive interactions with unit staff • <i>Malmsbury</i> - young men to be formally sighted every 30 minutes during the day and as a minimum at night. • <i>Parkville Precinct</i> - young people to be formally sighted every 30 minutes at a minimum at night and regular counts conducted during the day.
<p style="text-align: center;">FREQUENT Low to medium level risk of harm to self or others</p>	<p>Where there is some level of concern about the young person, but they do not require constant or 5 minute checks. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first 24 hours following the admission of a young non-Aboriginal person • Young people who have previously been on a higher level of observation, which can now be decreased, but where some level of monitoring is still required • Young people who have instigated or contributed to an incident that has had an impact on themselves or others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal interaction and observation three times each half hour with a maximum interval of 15 minutes • Observation includes interaction and conversation with the young person to ascertain their mood and progress • Observation form updated at each check
<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSE Medium to high risk of harm to self or others</p>	<p>Should be used when there is a medium to high level of risk of harm but constant observation is not indicated. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first 24 hours following the admission of a young Aboriginal person • Young people with history of self harm or suicide attempts or mental health issues, but no identified risk of immediate self harm – for example, no plan to self harm • Young people who are substance affected • Young people who have been a victim of bullying or other distressing experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with the young person and observation of their mood and presentation conducted every 5 minutes • Observation form updated every 5 minutes
<p style="text-align: center;">CONSTANT High to extreme risk of harm to self or others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate risk to the young person's safety, most usually when a young person has self harmed or attempted suicide or made a statement that they may do so • Young people showing signs of mental health problems that may put them at immediate risk of harm (related to their behaviour and / or mood) should also be placed on this level while mental health treatment or placement is sought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant physical presence of the staff member and frequent supportive interactions • This should be a short term intervention with frequent re-assessment and an individual care plan developed • Undertaking constant observation is the staff member's sole responsibility • The observation form should be updated at a prescribed interval, with detail provided about the young person's presentation