

EXTRACT
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John Oxley Reference Library Southbank

Teens handcuffed: MP

Tranquillisers and handcuffs were being used at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre at Wacol, Labor MP Anne Warner said yesterday.

She said upset staff had called her last week to say a 15 year-old girl had been heavily sedated with drugs usually reserved for psychotics.

Mrs. Warner said staff also told her a youth had been handcuffed and left overnight in an enclosed yard.

"The indication is that management cannot adequately control the young people, so they were resorting to drugs and handcuffs," she said.

Mrs. Warner said staff were still settling down after a riot early in March.

During the rampage, which resulted in thousands of dollars of damage to the centre, teenagers wielding a pipe and a baseball bat threatened to pack-rape a female staff member.

Mrs. Warner said it was time to review security at the centre and ensure proper procedures were carried out when controlling unruly behaviour.

The centre's executive director Mr. Ian Peers, admitted handcuffs had been used on Tuesday after a boy and girl refused to settle down and began throwing stones.

"They were handcuffed and placed in the enclosure for a few hours under staff supervision," Mr. Peers said.

Staff at the centre were in control of the situation and would not consider the use of drugs as a form of behavioral control, he said.

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