



# 2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates

**Report No. 60, 55<sup>th</sup> Parliament**  
**Legal Affairs and Community Safety**  
**Committee**  
**August 2017**

## **Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**

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### **Acknowledgements**

The committee thanks the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and the chief executives, departmental officials and Parliamentary Service staff who assisted in the inquiry process.

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## Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible Ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. This was undertaken through the questions on notice and public hearing process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and their departmental officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates process, and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process.



Duncan Pegg MP  
**Chair**

August 2017

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Role of the committee

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament, which commenced on 27 March 2015 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee's areas of responsibility are:

- Justice and the Attorney-General
- Training and Skills
- Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- Corrective Services.

The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner, the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor and the Electoral Commissioner.<sup>1</sup>

On 13 June 2017, the Appropriation Bill 2017 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.<sup>2</sup>

On 20 July 2017, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, as well as other witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed at: [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LACSC/inquiries/current-inquiries/Estimates2017](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LACSC/inquiries/current-inquiries/Estimates2017)

#### *Aim of this report*

The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- budget papers
- responses to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- responses to questions on notice taken at the hearing.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received and published.

Answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice; documents tabled during the hearing; answers and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing; and minutes of the committee's meetings are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6.

<sup>2</sup> Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

## **1.2 Other members participation**

The committee gave leave for other Members to participate in the hearing. The following Members participated in the hearing:

- Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Member for Clayfield
- Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Mr Steve Dickson MP, Member for Buderim
- Ms Di Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba
- Mr Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba
- Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
- Mr Ian Walker MP, Member for Mansfield

## 2. Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

**Recommendation 1**

That the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the Legal Affairs and Community Safety's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### 3. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills

#### 3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

The Honorable Yvette D'Ath MP, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Attorney-General), has primary responsibility for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). DJAG has five service areas:

- Justice Services
- Legal and Prosecutions
- Youth Justice
- Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading, and
- Corrective Services.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the Attorney-General is responsible for eight statutory authorities:

- Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
- Crime and Corruption Commission
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Office of the Information Commissioner
- Prostitution Licensing Authority
- Electoral Commission of Queensland
- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, and
- The Public Trustee of Queensland.

The following table compares the appropriations for DJAG for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>Budget 2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,380,136	1,565,592
equity adjustment	(93,894)	(8,738)
<i>Administered Items</i>	363,352	382,547
<b>Vote</b>	<b>1,649,594</b>	<b>1,939,401</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 10.

Budgeted capital expenditure for DJAG for 2017-18 is \$203.9 million.<sup>4</sup> The major capital measures for 2017-18 include:

- \$7.5 million of the \$200 million budget over four years to expand the Capricornia Correctional Centre with an extra 164 beds to provide additional prisoner capacity
- \$42.1 million of the \$126.9 million budget to complete the recommissioning of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre
- \$26.8 million of the \$76.6 million budget for the Perimeter Security Upgrade Program
- \$20.1 million allocated to upgrade the Rockhampton, Beenleigh, Townsville and Kingaroy courthouses

<sup>3</sup> The Minister responsible for corrective services is the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 1.

<sup>4</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 28.



- \$16.9 million to support the transition of 17 year olds into the youth justice system and \$15.8 million to upgrade the security management system at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.<sup>5</sup>

The department's key priorities and initiatives are:

- continuing to implement justice system initiatives in response to the *Not Now, Not Ever* report into domestic and family violence in Queensland
- implementing initiatives in response to the Queensland Parole System Review Report (the Sofronoff report)
- transitioning 17 year olds from Queensland's adult justice system to the youth justice system
- implementing the government's response to the Independent Review of Youth Detention in Queensland to improve practices and services pivotal to the safety, wellbeing and rehabilitation of young people in youth detention
- managing the Social Benefit Bond contract with Life Without Barriers, to reduce re-offending rates for young people
- addressing recidivism and the underlying causes of offending through specialist courts and court diversion programs, early intervention initiatives, restorative justice programs, and offender programs and re-entry services, and
- enhancing service delivery and access to justice services for vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders such as victims of crime, adults with impaired capacity, children in need of protection, people with disability, and people overrepresented in the justice system.<sup>6</sup>

2017-18 budget highlights for DJAG are:

### ***Justice Services***

- providing funding of \$55.1 million over four years (including \$20 million capital over two years) and ongoing funding of \$8.5 million per annum across Justice Services and Corrective Services service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to continue the specialist domestic and family violence court in Southport and expand to Beenleigh and Townsville (by establishing specialist civil lists) with circuits to Mount Isa and Palm Island
- managing the contract with Life Without Barriers on behalf of the government to deliver Queensland's second Social Benefit Bond. Up to 600 young people over five years will be referred to the program by Youth Justice
- providing funding of \$16 million capital over two years to upgrade and maintain courthouse infrastructure across Queensland, including increased funding of \$7.5 million for repair work at the Rockhampton courthouse
- providing funding of \$31.6 million over five years (\$6.3 million for 2021-22) reducing to \$4.2 million per annum, ongoing from 2022-23, to expand and upgrade existing audio visual capability in the criminal justice system
- providing funding of \$22.7 million over four years (including \$500,000 capital) and ongoing funding of \$6.5 million per annum across Justice Services and Corrective Services service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to reinstate the Drug Court and to provide referral and support services to help people address issues associated with their offending

<sup>5</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 28.

<sup>6</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 4.

- providing funding of \$6.8 million over two years and reprioritised funding of \$500,000 in 2017-18 to continue with the whole-of-government's critical intervention strategies under the Community Youth Response initiative in Townsville
- providing funding of \$186.1 million over four years (including \$16.9 million capital) and ongoing funding of \$44.8 million per annum across Justice Services and Youth Justice service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to transition 17 year olds from Queensland's adult justice system to the youth justice system
- providing funding of \$331,000 in 2017-18 to support the coronial inquest into the deaths at Dreamworld
- responding to justice issues arising from the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse including Working with Children Checks
- developing and implementing the government's response to the Queensland Child and Family Commission's review of Queensland's Blue Card system
- continuing the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit to support the State Coroner in its role of Chair of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, including the development of its first Annual Report on activities and recommendations made with respect to its review of these types of deaths
- finalisation of new contractual agreements with funeral directors for the conveyance of human remains and the provision of services under the *Burials Assistance Act 1965*
- providing funding of \$33.3 million over three years for legal assistance services for vulnerable and disadvantaged people delivered by Queensland Community Legal Centres, and an additional allocation of \$565,000 interim funding to support Queensland Community Legal Centres to maintain staff and services for three months while decisions are made about the allocation of the restored Commonwealth funding over 2017-20
- rolling out a further three High Risk Teams to Cairns, Brisbane and Ipswich to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence
- continuing with digitising paper services and evaluating new commercial technologies for potential benefits in reducing the impact of increasing demand on Justice Services, and
- continuing to roll out funding to community justice groups in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to tackle domestic and family violence in their communities with a further eight groups to receive funding.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Legal and Prosecutions***

- providing funding of \$1.8 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$514,000 per annum for litigation to confiscate the proceeds of crime under the *Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002*
- establishing an independent Crime Statistical Body to deliver independent, transparent and authoritative Queensland criminal justice statistics, research and evaluation
- continuing to deliver domestic and family violence related policy and legislative reforms relevant to the justice portfolio

<sup>7</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney General, pp 5-6.

- implementing the Queensland Law Reform Commission recommendations about expunging historical homosexual convictions as reflected in the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017
- implementing certain recommendations under the Queensland Parole System Review Report
- responding to justice issues arising from the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse including Working with Children Checks
- developing and implementing the government's response to the Queensland Child and Family Commission's review of Queensland's Blue Card system
- developing Bills to implement other government legislative priorities in the areas of civil law, criminal law and justice services
- finalising the statutory reviews of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009*
- continuing to work with other government agencies to monitor and reform counter-terrorism laws efficiently and effectively considering matters referred for prosecution or confiscations proceedings ensuring fair, timely and transparent outcomes. Upholding the fundamental principles of justice in relation to victims of crime and their families will continue to be a key focus for the ODPP, and
- efficiently and effectively dealing with child protection matters referred by the DCCSDS to ensure fair, timely and consistent outcomes for the protection of children, only taking action that is warranted in the circumstances.<sup>8</sup>

### **Youth Justice**

- providing funding of \$186.1 million over four years (including \$16.9 million capital) and ongoing funding of \$44.8 million per annum across Justice Services and Youth Justice service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to transition 17 year olds from Queensland's adult justice system to the youth justice system
- providing funding of \$26.2 million over four years, and ongoing funding of \$6.8 million per annum to implement the government response to the recommendations of the Independent Review of Youth Detention in Queensland, to improve practices and services pivotal to the safety, wellbeing and rehabilitation of young people in youth detention
- providing funding of \$6.8 million over two years and reprioritise funding of \$500,000 in 2017-18 to continue with the whole-of-government's critical intervention strategies under the Community Youth Response initiative in Townsville
- providing \$7.75 million of the \$23.6 million over four years to further enhance the Restorative Justice program and the reinstated court ordered youth justice conferencing
- providing \$2.5 million of the \$5 million over two years to expand and enhance the Transition to Success program (T2S). T2S provides alternative education and vocational training to young people in the youth justice system, or who are at risk of entering the youth justice system
- continuing to upgrade the security management system at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, and
- rolling out a further three High Risk Teams to Cairns, Brisbane and Ipswich to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney General, pp 12-13.

<sup>9</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 14.

### ***Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading***

- working with the Commonwealth, states and territories to implement outcomes of the national review of the Australian Consumer Law
- working with other regulatory agencies to ensure occupational training in the security industry is appropriately delivered, ensuring licensees have relevant skills
- supporting the successful delivery of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, particularly in the provision of security and fair trading practices
- preventing consumer detriment to vulnerable communities, particularly from door-to-door sales, scams and from emerging consumer-directed care services
- continuing implementation of key legislative components of the government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence policy including mandatory ID scanning
- continuing increased inspections of licensed venues by liquor licensing officers during peak trading periods
- continuing to support safe night precinct local boards to implement place based management solutions to minimise alcohol and drug related harm
- continuing to process licensing applications for liquor and gaming applicants
- progressing the Queensland Household Gambling Survey, the results of which will be used to monitor trends in gambling behaviour, develop evidence-based policy initiatives and assess the impact of interventions aimed at minimising gambling-related harm
- continuing to work with the Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee to explore ways to enhance Queensland's self-exclusion regime
- assessing potential impacts of recommendations to improve the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* made by the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre of the Queensland University of Technology as part of its review of Queensland property laws, having regard to the views of community titles sector stakeholders
- continuing the not-for-profit legislation review to identify ways to make legislation governing the sector contemporary and responsive, as well as reducing regulatory burden, and
- continuing participation in an interjurisdictional working group to develop options and refine details of a proposed nationally consistent framework of harm minimisation and consumer protection standards for online wagering.<sup>10</sup>

### **3.2 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland**

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) is an independent statutory body established by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. It contributes to the government's objectives by managing complaints received under that act, delivering training to business, government and the community, assisting communities to develop the capacity to protect human rights, and promoting public discussion on human rights.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 16.

<sup>11</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 42.

The budget comparison for 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the ADCQ is shown below.<sup>12</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland	5,478	5,564

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General page 45.

The strategic direction of the ADCQ focuses on 'its vision of a fair and inclusive Queensland where the benefits of social cohesion and diversity flourish'.<sup>13</sup> During 2017-18, the ADCQ will focus on:

- protecting Human Rights - developing processes to enhance social cohesion with a focus on the Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay and the Gold Coast; developing tools to measure the success of strategies employed to improve social cohesion; partnering with the Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner to assist institutions to develop skills to prevent and respond to racism and discrimination and promote social cohesion; delivering a participatory leadership workshop to a range of government, non-government and community members to develop skills in addressing challenging community issues; maintaining a responsive and accessible complaint management service
- promoting Human Rights - co-hosting Mabo Oration celebrating 25 years since the High Court decision; organising, promoting and facilitating Human Rights Month; conducting and participating in public forums; analysing proposed legislation and making submissions in order to draw attention to human rights issues; providing information about human rights using a variety of platforms, and
- understanding Human Rights - delivering free information session as part of the government Youth Strategy and the Age-Friendly Community Strategy; maintaining high quality training and information services.<sup>14</sup>

### 3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is an independent agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* with the key objective of reducing the incidence of major crime and corruption in Queensland.<sup>15</sup>

The budget comparison for the CCC for 2016-17 and 2017-18 is shown below.<sup>16</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Crime and Corruption Commission	56,196	55,878

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 51.

The CCC focus in 2017-2018 will be to:

- target high threat criminal networks active in the methylamphetamine illicit commodity market in Queensland

<sup>12</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>13</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 42.

<sup>14</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 42.

<sup>15</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 48.

<sup>16</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

- use crime hearings to continue to monitor outlaw motorcycle gangs in Queensland and to gain a broader understanding of organised crime that poses a risk to Queensland
- target industry professionals who facilitate the activities of people engaged in major crime
- pursue corruption involving excessive use of force, misuse of confidential information and fraud
- collaborate with key stakeholders to implement a program of reform of the police complaints and discipline system
- assist units of public administration in developing robust corruption prevention strategies
- continue to improve organisational performance by focusing on developing workforce through targeted leadership development programs including workforce mobility, mentoring and talent management initiatives, and
- implement an integrated case management system.<sup>17</sup>

### 3.4 Legal Aid Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland provides frontline legal services to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders. These services include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, court and tribunal representation and dispute resolution.<sup>18</sup>

The budget comparison for 2016-17 and 2017-18 for Legal Aid Queensland is shown below.<sup>19</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Legal Aid Queensland	143,184	150,772

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 59.

During 2017-2018, Legal Aid Queensland expects to:

- continue to provide quality and cost-effective legal services state-wide
- improve the availability of child protection legal services
- align services with Youth Justice reforms
- enhance Farm and Rural Legal Service, and
- continue to support the government in its response to domestic and family violence.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 48.

<sup>18</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 56.

<sup>19</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>20</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 56.

### 3.5 Office of the Information Commissioner

The Office of the Information Commissioner has a statutory role to assist in the achievement of more open, accountable and transparent government by:

- providing independent, timely and fair review of decisions made under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (external review)
- providing an independent, timely and fair privacy complaint mediation service
- improving agency practices in right to information and information privacy
- promoting greater awareness of right to information and information privacy in the community and within government, and
- assisting agencies to achieve compliance with the privacy principles.<sup>21</sup>

The budget comparison for 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the Office of the Information Commissioner is shown below.<sup>22</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Office of the Information Commissioner	6,384	6,468

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney – General, page 71.

In 2017-18 OIC will support greater openness, accountability and integrity through initiatives to improve right to information (RTI) and information privacy (IP) practices, and managing application and complaint demand, including:

- enhancing its strategic audit planning process to transition to conducting more strategic and complex audits and reviews, supported by a stronger audit methodology
- reporting on the compliance review of a local government entity, and conducting a cross-sector audit of RTI application handling practices to identify systemic issues
- engaging with internal audit functions in government departments to raise awareness of audit tools available on OIC website
- continuing to engage with Queensland government agency leaders to improve awareness and support critical changes to practices for strong culture of openness, transparency and privacy safeguards
- promoting awareness of the important role of right to information in transparent and accountable government and in fostering community trust, particularly on Right to Information Day on 28 September 2017
- continuing to provide expert advice about emerging issues regarding the proactive release of information and appropriate privacy practices to safeguard personal information
- continuing to focus on timely finalisation of external review applications and privacy complaints
- engaging with stakeholders to promote greater awareness of the requirements and benefits of RTI and IP, including the development of a formalised communications and engagement strategy to further engage remote communities and agencies

<sup>21</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 66.

<sup>22</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

- implementing recommendations of the Strategic Review of the Office of the Information Commissioner, including a formal training and engagement needs analysis and engagement strategy, and developing and implementing a career progression strategy, and
- recommending and commenting on changes, including as part of the 2016 Consultation on the Review of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009* to improve the administration of these Acts, including to ensure the legislative framework supports the future requirements of good practices for RTI, privacy, government administration, service delivery, information sharing and use of emerging technology.<sup>23</sup>

### 3.6 Prostitution Licensing Authority

The Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) is a licensing and regulatory agency established under the *Prostitution Act 1999*. The objective of the PLA is to ensure that licensed brothels and prostitution advertising are regulated in accordance with statutory requirements and in the community interest.<sup>24</sup>

The PLA's established statutory functions include deciding applications for brothel licences and for approved manager's certificates, and monitoring the provision of prostitution through licensed brothels. The PLA's activities contribute to the government's objectives for the community by:

- ensuring an effective and efficient brothel licensing framework that operates in accordance with community expectations and statutory requirements
- promoting the health and safety of sex workers and clients
- limiting the impact of prostitution on the community, and
- impeding the infiltration of organised crime and official corruption in licensed brothels.<sup>25</sup>

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Prostitution Licensing Authority for 2016-17 and 2017-18.<sup>26</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Prostitution Licensing Authority	1,683	1,640

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 78.

During 2017-18 the PLA will:

- continue to rigorously scrutinise the operations of licensed brothels and promote high standards of health and safety
- continue to work with the Queensland Police Service and other agencies to keep licensed brothels free of the influence of organised crime, and
- continue to regulate licensed brothels to ensure that workers are not exploited.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 66-67.

<sup>24</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 75.

<sup>25</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 75.

<sup>26</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>27</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 75.



### 3.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 1992*. Its functions include conducting state, local government and industrial elections and by-elections, undertaking reviews of electoral districts, promoting public awareness of electoral matters, encouraging persons to enrol as electors and maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls.<sup>28</sup>

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the ECQ for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Electoral Commission of Queensland		
• controlled	24,727	55,277
• administered	4,429	1,980

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 89.

A higher level of appropriation revenue in 2017-18 is a result of the conduct of the next State General Election. Employee expenses in 2017-18 are significantly higher in comparison to 2016-17 as the Commission will be required to engage temporary and casual officers to deliver the upcoming State General Election.<sup>29</sup>

An amount of \$6.3 million has been deferred from the 2016-17 capital works program to 2017-18 to replace the Commission's elections management system.<sup>30</sup>

The following table compares the appropriations for the ECQ for 2016-17 and 2017-18.<sup>31</sup>

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled items</i>		
Departmental services	24,697	55,247
Equity adjustment	6,269	6,269
<i>Administered items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>30,966</b>	<b>61,516</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 12.

Major activities of the ECQ in 2017-18 will include:

- informing affected electors of the recent redistribution process to state electoral boundaries
- preparation for the conduct of the election for Queensland's 56th Parliament
- management of Queensland's electoral role in collaboration with the Australian Electoral Commissions
- continuation of the Strategic Elections Management System replacement project
- continued delivery of the Electronic Disclosure System, including associated procedures

<sup>28</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 84.

<sup>29</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 99.

<sup>30</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 91.

<sup>31</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

- continued delivery of the Commission's community and awareness program to increase electors' awareness of how to enrol and the mandatory requirement to vote
- continued administration of political party registration and financial disclosure requirements
- conduct of industrial elections, as well as protected action ballots as required under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*, and
- continued delivery of voting systems and processes to enable vision impaired electors as well as remote electors to cast their vote in secret.<sup>32</sup>

### 3.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The work of the Queensland Ombudsman is to improve fairness in public administration and, through better decisions by agencies, lead to better services for Queenslanders. The purpose of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman is to fairly and independently review public sector administrative actions and work with agencies to improve their decision-making.<sup>33</sup>

The budget comparison for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 is shown below.<sup>34</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	8,650	8,880

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 105.

The following table compares the appropriations for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	8,216	8,484
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>8,484</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 13.

The Ombudsman's capital expenditure in 2017-18 will be \$170,000 for plant and equipment and to commence the upgrade of the complaints management system.<sup>35</sup>

The key priorities for 2017-18 are:

- continuing to provide timely assessment and investigation of complaints
- engaging more with agencies and the wider community to increase awareness about the Office's investigative role and ensure equitable access to its services

<sup>32</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 85.

<sup>33</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 102.

<sup>34</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>35</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 107.

- building greater knowledge in the community about how to make an effective complaint about public agency action and when to contact the Office
- supporting individuals to make effective complaints by providing greater access to complaint management information and services
- redirecting premature complaints to agencies' complaint management systems
- working with public agencies to rectify unfair and unjust decisions and poor administration
- identifying systemic weaknesses in public agency decision-making and recommending improvements to practice
- improving the knowledge and skills of public sector agency officers in decision-making and complaints-handling
- enhancing the oversight function under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* by reviewing the PID Standard and developing education and information resources for agencies, and
- improving systems and processes focused on client needs and consistency of services.<sup>36</sup>

### 3.9 Public Trustee of Queensland

The Public Trustee of Queensland provides financial, trustee and legal services to the people of Queensland, through a network of 16 regional offices and is supported by the Queensland Government Agent Program. The Public Trustee's services aim to:

- ensure prudent management of the financial assets of members of the community
- ensure an orderly succession of property between generations, and
- assist the Queensland community by making wills free of charge and enduring powers of attorney at an affordable cost.<sup>37</sup>

The key priorities for 2017-2018 include:

- providing ongoing financial management for Queenslanders with impaired financial decision-making capacity
- continued provision of a range of Community Service Obligations at no cost to government
- investment in the enhancement of technology and continual review of service delivery models and locations
- investment in upgrading facilities at regional offices to better service clients
- enhancement of frontline service delivery in response to client survey outcomes
- implementing the recommendations of the end to end review of deceased estate management
- undertaking an end to end review of financial management activities to identify opportunities for improvement, and
- providing services to the philanthropic sector.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>36</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, pp 102-3.

<sup>37</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 116.

<sup>38</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 116.

The budget comparison for 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the Public Trustee of Queensland is shown below.<sup>39</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Public Trustee of Queensland		
• controlled	87,255	88,061
• administered	3,925	3,320

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 121.

The total capital budget for the Public Trustee in 2017-18 includes:

- \$8.8 million for building improvements and refurbishment in existing offices
- \$3.9 million for plant and equipment including computer hardware, and
- \$800,000 on software.<sup>40</sup>

### 3.10 Issues raised at the public hearing – Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

The committee raised the following issues with the Attorney-General:

- government policy concerning trade unions
- funding for the Youth Offender Support Program and the Skilling Queenslander for Work program
- actions the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland has taken to improve community cohesion and social inclusion
- the use of private email addresses in the exercise of ministerial functions and duties
- government policy on alcohol fuelled violence, including details surrounding the introduction of ID scanners and lockout laws
- the government's budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the number of compliance officers over the next four years
- number of charges of strangulation that have been lodged since the specific offence was created
- number of charges that have been noted by the courts as having occurred and committed in a domestic violence context
- the staged rollout of the specialist domestic and family violence courts, the government's rationale for expanding the domestic and family violence court models and the evidence base informing this decision
- additional funding and resources for the Land Court
- government's investment in reinstating the Drug Court
- maximum level of capacity across the youth detention system and how many youth detainees are currently in detention
- the number of 17 year olds set to transition into the youth detention centres and when that transition is going to occur

<sup>39</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>40</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 122.

- details of the new facilities and how many extra beds will be available after the budgeted capital injection of \$16.9 million
- details concerning the redaction of a paragraph in a government tabled report and the cost of crown law advice regarding the redaction
- how the new Murri Court and Queensland court referrals are achieving positive outcomes for Queensland communities
- the government's commitment to improving infrastructure in the state's courthouses including improvements in courtroom audio-visual capabilities
- the reimbursement of costs incurred by not-for-profit organisations who tendered for the now withdrawn youth offenders support program
- capital works completed, underway and planned for Townsville Court House
- capital works planned for the Rockhampton courthouse
- actions taken and proposed to be taken by the government to provide equal treatment and protection for LGBTI Queenslanders
- details about the independent body to publish crime statistics
- details of the \$1.2 million spent on the Drug Court and related matters
- the effectiveness and efficiency measures that have been developed for the new Office of the Director of Child Protection Litigation and whether the amount of \$7.464 million set out in the 2016-17 budget was fully allocated and the budget details for 2017-18
- the FTE count for the Office of the Director of Child Protection Litigation and related matters
- the measures introduced as part of the Victims of Crime Assistance Amendment Act 2017 to assist victims of violent crime in Queensland
- the equitable briefing policy
- progress of the Transition 2 Success project
- the impact that youth justice initiatives are having on the lives of young offenders
- actions taken by the government to curb alcohol fuelled violence
- number of convictions that have been achieved under the government's new laws which have been in place since November last year
- cost of the Sentencing Advisory Council in 2016-17 and, in particular, the Judge for Yourself program.

### ***Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)***

- reduction in budget for the CCC and the amount of extra funding being sought for the off-site storage of data
- 2016-17 estimated budget and actual figures for the CCC
- CCC's role in the investigation of Minister Bailey's deletion of email accounts and other related matters
- CCC's actions, in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service and other agencies, in investigating cold-call investment fraud schemes and related organised crime activity

- CCC's role in investigating the leak of cabinet documents, including CBRC material from the prior government pertaining to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- activities the CCC has undertaken in investigating child exploitation and any emerging challenges and concerns
- role of the government in supporting the CCC to tackle and disrupt high-threat criminal networks trafficking in ice and other drugs
- decline in the percentage of targeted criminal entities disrupted as a result of CCC investigations.

***Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)***

- implementation of the new electoral real-time disclosure system
- activities that the ECQ will be undertaking to update Queensland electors affected by shifts in electoral boundaries
- Strategic Elections Management System and related matters
- appointment of a Deputy Electoral Commissioner.

## 4. Training and Skills

The Attorney-General is the Minister responsible for training and skills in Queensland.

Training and Skills is a service area of the Department of Education and Training. The Minister for Training and Skills is also responsible for TAFE Queensland and Jobs Queensland.

The department's focus is on improving the skills profile of Queensland through targeting funding for the delivery of vocational education and training (VET) that leads directly to employment opportunities. The department also provides information, advice and support to VET providers, employers, students, apprenticeships and trainees.<sup>41</sup>

Key initiatives for 2017-18 include:

- investing \$60 million, of \$240 million over four years, to deliver the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 8,000 Queenslanders (up to 32,000 over four years) to return to work
- supporting eligible jobseekers to gain required skills for employment in regional Queensland communities through additional training under the Back to Work Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost
- collaborating with Jobs Queensland to gather strategic industry advice on skills demand and workforce planning
- allocating funding of \$9 million over four years for the Regional Skills Investment Strategy to provide a local focus on training opportunities to develop skills for Queenslanders looking for work
- providing funding of \$10 million over two years for the Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy to support Queenslanders looking for work to develop skills for jobs in demand
- developing Advancing skills for the future, a strategy for vocational education and training in Queensland to ensure Queensland has the skilled population to attract investment and encourage job creation
- embedding a comprehensive and systematic approach to quality through the Queensland VET Quality Framework incorporating five key components: program design, supplier entry requirements, information and support, market performance and oversight, and compliance
- strengthening pre-qualified supplier entry requirements before registered training organisations can access state funding
- supporting public providers for training services with funding of approximately \$203 million in 2017-18 under the State Contribution Grant
- preparing a strategic training infrastructure plan to manage investment in over 40 training campuses of varying condition, age and size across the State
- continuing to allocate at least 10 per cent of total labour hours on eligible projects to be undertaken by apprentices and/or trainees, and
- developing strategies to provide services to better inform students and employers about qualifications, study options and training providers suited to their needs, including a partnership with TAFE Queensland to provide up to 10,000 state school students with personalised information about potential career and training pathways.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 11.

<sup>42</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 11

#### 4.1 TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland is a statutory body established by the TAFE Queensland Act 2013. TAFE Queensland delivers practical, industry relevant training that reflects the diverse skilling needs across Queensland from foundation skills and entry level workforce qualifications to higher education degrees. In 2017-18, TAFE Queensland will focus on strengthening its efforts and working alongside the Queensland Government to improve the quality of, access to and affordability of VET for all Queenslanders.<sup>43</sup>

TAFE Queensland's objectives for 2017-18 are to continue to:

- refining program offerings in response to skills demand and jobs of the future
- building the capability of all staff to deliver quality student experiences and satisfaction
- embedding a safety culture that promotes and recognises safe practices for staff and students
- building the skills of the workforce for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games by providing specific training programs to enhance the skills of the 15,000 Games volunteers
- renewing information and communication technology systems including a new Student Management System to improve functionality and performance, and
- leveraging resources to maximise commercial opportunities in new and existing markets and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of TAFE Queensland's services and activities.<sup>44</sup>

The following table provides a comparison of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets for TAFE Queensland.<sup>45</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
TAFE Queensland	657,623	616,928

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, page 49.

#### 4.2 Issues raised at the public hearing relating to Training and Skills

The committee raised the following issues with the Attorney-General in relation to her role as Minister for Training and Skills:

- the use of private email addresses in the exercise of ministerial functions and duties
- the strategic training infrastructure plan relating to TAFE
- the reduction in the completion rate compared with the previous year in relation to apprenticeships, traineeships, school-based apprenticeships and completions
- the success of the Rescuing TAFE package, in particular the provision of second-chance funding to Queenslanders
- the industry collaborations and TAFE Queensland
- the importance of a strong TAFE Queensland as the premium provider of VET in Queensland
- the work of TAFE Queensland as the training partner for the 15,000 volunteers for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games
- budget cuts in relation to TAFE

<sup>43</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 46.

<sup>44</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 46.

<sup>45</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.



- current student numbers and the potential growth within the Alexandra Hills campus of TAFE Queensland
- the state government's commitment to ensuring continued funding to training and skills in Queensland
- the forms that potential trainees and students need to fill out at the TAFE Queensland South West campus in Bundamba which require personal and financial information
- the cost and affordability of TAFE courses.

## 5. Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, has ministerial responsibility for a public safety portfolio that comprises the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA), and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM). Each of these areas is discussed below. Hon Ryan MP also has responsibility for corrective services.

### 5.1 Queensland Police Service

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is the primary law enforcement agency for Queensland. The QPS supports the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, particularly delivering timely, high quality and efficient policing services and building safe, caring and connected communities. In support of these, the key services of the QPS include:

- protecting personal safety and preventing, detecting and solving offences including homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery
- protecting property and preventing, detecting and solving offences including unlawful entry, other property damage, motor vehicle theft and other theft, and
- maintaining public order and safety including during major events and disasters and addressing public space enjoyment, street and nuisance offences, liquor licensing issues and environmental design to reduce crime including alcohol fuelled violence.<sup>46</sup>

The key priorities for the department during 2017-18 include:

- construct a contemporary Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Centre at the Westgate Police Academy
- continuing to tackle serious and organised crime across Queensland, including through implementation of the *Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Act 2016*, the establishment of an Organised Crime Gangs Group, and building intelligence capability across the State
- delivering a safe and successful 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games
- continuing to deliver Project Booyah in nine locations across Queensland to intervene early in the lives of at-risk young people to reduce their involvement in crime and improve their education, health, and employment prospects
- continuing to support the implementation of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report and the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy in collaboration with the community and other sectors of government, and
- an additional 30 Counter-Terrorism police officers, 20 police officers for priority areas of need to tackle crime and improve community safety, and 20 police officers for the Townsville Rapid Action and Patrols Group.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 5.

<sup>47</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 5.

The following table compares the appropriations for the QPS for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,783,627	1,915,871
equity adjustment	19,903	7,932
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>1,803,530</b>	<b>1,923,803</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 15.

Most capital initiatives to support the QPS are provided by the PSBA. These include police accommodation facilities, motor vehicles, vessels, information technology and construction of the Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Centre at the Westgate Policy Academy. In 2017-18, the QPS will invest \$23.7 million in capital purchases. Program highlights include:

- \$602,000 for operational equipment and vehicles to improve counter-terrorism capability and capacity
- \$3.7 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment, and
- \$19.4 million for other property, plant and equipment which will include the replacement of operational assets.<sup>48</sup>

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the QPS for 2016-17 and 2017-18.<sup>49</sup>

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
Queensland Police Service		
- controlled	2,248,940	2,370,191
- administered	13,205	13,583

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 12.

## 5.2 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is the primary provider of fire and rescue and emergency management programs and services throughout Queensland. QFES encompasses fire and rescue services, disaster management services, the Rural Fire Service (RFS), the State Emergency Service (SES) and also supports other volunteer groups providing emergency response to Queenslanders.<sup>50</sup>

Key objectives of QFES during 2017-18 include:

- ensuring QFES continues being an inclusive, respectful and diverse organisation for staff and volunteers
- increasing focus on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities
- embedding the QFES Governance Framework to guide decision making, operations and overarching strategic direction, and

<sup>48</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, page 15.

<sup>49</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-17 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>50</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 28.

- integrating the QFES Policy Framework to support good governance and enable the growth of strategic capabilities implementing the organisational realignment to support service delivery and meet community needs.<sup>51</sup>

The following table compares appropriations for QFES for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	80,272	81,068
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>80,272</b>	<b>81,068</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 15.

2017-18 service area highlights for QFES include:

- commence implementation of the Accelerated Rural Fleet Program to provide fit for purpose vehicles, consistent with brigade risk profiles, to volunteer rural fire brigades in rural and regional areas
- continue to enhance volunteer operational capability by ensuring alignment with community needs and development of sustainable policies and programs to support fire and rescue services and disaster management services across the State
- augment approaches for recruitment, development and retention of volunteers
- focus on reducing bushfire risk and improving community safety awareness and knowledge in relation to severe weather risk including safety precautions, and preparation activities
- continue to deliver the Road Attitudes and Action Planning (RAAP) program in high schools, a practical lifesaving road safety awareness program for young drivers, facilitated by operational firefighters
- continue to provide the Fight Fire Fascination program, which supports parents to educate their children about the dangers of playing with fire and teaches them the necessary skills to prevent harm to property or lives
- continue to promote the home fire safety message to educate Queenslanders about the importance of smoke alarms and fire escape plans, the If It's Flooded Forget It campaign to highlight the dangers of flooded roads and the Bushfire Safety campaign educating Queenslanders on how to prepare, act and survive
- continue to develop QFES's operational capability and support for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games to ensure public safety, and
- continue engagement program to support the implementation of the changes to smoke alarm requirements.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>51</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 28.

<sup>52</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets for QFES.<sup>53</sup>

Agency	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	675,568	663,802

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 33.

Most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support QFES operational capability are delivered by the PSBA, including fire and emergency services facilities appliances and communications equipment. In 2017-18, QFES will invest \$6.2 million in operational plant and equipment and provide \$900,000 in capital grants to Rural Fire Brigades and State Emergency Services Groups.<sup>54</sup>

### 5.3 Public Safety Business Agency

The role of the Public Sector Business Agency (PSBA) is to provide:

- information and communications technology (ICT), financial, procurement, asset management, human resources and other corporate services to the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
- ICT services to the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Corrective Services, and
- Queensland Government Air services.<sup>55</sup>

In 2017-18, the agency will focus on the following key priorities and initiatives:

- delivering services to targets in Service Agreements
- enhancing the agency's risk management systems and practices
- improving methods for measuring client satisfaction and responding to feedback
- developing agency culture and staff capability
- Queensland Government Air transitioning to an Air Operator's Certificate for fixed wing aircraft
- delivering \$244 million of capital initiatives to support the operational capability of the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Government Air, and
- completing multi-year ICT investment planning with client agencies.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>53</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-17 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>54</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 36.

<sup>55</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 45.

<sup>56</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 45.

The following table compares the appropriations for the PSBA for 2016-2017 and 2017-18.

<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	409,014	317,750
equity adjustment	3,994	63,872
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>413,008</b>	<b>381,622</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 14.

The following table outlines a comparison of the Public Safety Business Agency budgets for 2016-2017 and 2017-18.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
Public Safety Business Agency	536,763	458,996

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements –Public Safety Business Agency, p 49.

In 2017-18 the department's capital program provides an investment of \$244 million in capital purchases to support the delivery of essential frontline public safety services. This investment will fund capital works, information technology and departmental aircraft maintenance to support the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Queensland Ambulance Service.<sup>57</sup> Program highlights include the delivery of the following initiatives:

### ***Queensland Fire and Emergency Services***

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services related program highlights include:

- \$19.2 million to replace auxiliary-staffed fire and rescue stations in smaller towns and communities across the state
- \$17 million to replace or upgrade, permanently-staffed fire and rescue stations, operational, communications
- specialised and air operations response facilities in major regional centres and the greater-Brisbane area, and
- \$47.1 million for replacement, upgraded and additional fire and rescue (urban) and rural appliances and specialised vehicles across the state.<sup>58</sup>

### ***Queensland Police Service***

Investments to replace or upgrade stations, specialised policing facilities, vehicles, vessels, equipment and information and communications systems in major regional centres and towns to enhance coordination and delivery of policing, community safety and emergency incident response services and improve community accessibility, including:

- \$23.9 million to replace or upgrade police stations, watch houses and associated facilities in regional centres, smaller towns and communities across the state
- \$13.2 million to replace or upgrade, specialised policing response and operational facilities in a regional centre and the greater-Brisbane area, and

<sup>57</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 52.

<sup>58</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 52.

- \$36.8 million for replacement, upgraded and additional police vehicles, vessels and specialised response vehicles across the state.<sup>59</sup>

### ***Public Safety Business Agency – Other Departmental Capital***

Other Departmental capital investments for 2017-18 include:

- \$6.1 million for aircraft maintenance, and
- \$8.3 million to support the Queensland Ambulance Service information and communication technology.<sup>60</sup>

## **5.4 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management**

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) was established provide independent assurance and advice to government, stakeholders and the community in regards to Queensland's emergency management arrangements.<sup>61</sup>

The Office of the IGEM will progress a range of strategies and initiatives in 2017-18, including:

- promoting a coordinated strategic direction for emergency management in Queensland
- undertaking targeted reviews and system analysis that identify risks and prioritise improvements on the basis of community outcomes
- designing, applying and embedding contemporary assurance frameworks, activities and tools that are valued by stakeholders and enable improved performance, evaluation and reporting
- providing system oversight and assurance that enables key stakeholders to deliver their responsibilities and achieve performance outcomes across emergency management
- seeking and harnessing trusted partnerships that promote collaboration, community-centric engagement, leadership and resilience
- connecting and engaging with key stakeholders and partners through flexible and transparent platforms, systems and processes that enable interoperability, open communication and good governance
- leveraging contemporary research and analysis to inform evidence-based policy, practice and advice across all phases of emergency management, and
- providing clear and timely information and advice that builds capability and empowers key stakeholders to effectively meet their emergency management accountabilities.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>59</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 52.

<sup>60</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 52.

<sup>61</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 62.

<sup>62</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 67.

The following table identifies the appropriations for the Office of the IGEM for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	3,911	4,307
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
<b>Vote</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>4,307</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, page 13.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets for the Office of the IGEM expenses.<sup>63</sup>

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2016-17 \$'000</b>	<b>2017-18 \$'000</b>
The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management	4,653	4,968

Source: State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 66.

## 5.5 Corrective Services

Corrective Services is the ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. DJAG is the responsible administrative unit.

Corrective Services contributes to a fair, safe and just Queensland by managing government and privately operated custodial facilities and supporting the rehabilitation of offenders within and outside its facilities. It assists crime prevention through the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of offenders in correctional centres and in the community.<sup>64</sup>

In 2017-18, the department will continue to contribute to the government's priorities of safely managing prisoners in custody and offenders in the community and ensure Queensland's record of preventing escapes from secure prisons is maintained by:

- providing funding of \$250 million over six years, as part of the government's total package of \$265 million over six years, to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Parole System Review. This includes:
  - establishment of a new, independent and professional parole board, including the appointment of a new Parole Board President
  - implementation of a new dedicated Parole and Assessment Unit
  - expanding the use of GPS monitoring for better surveillance of parolees
  - recruiting additional staff and strengthening the Probation and Parole Service, enabling it to provide more effective case management and supervision of parolees
  - expanding rehabilitation and re-entry services for prisoners to address the causes of crime, including drug addiction and mental health issues, and
  - expanding the opioid substitution treatment program to all Queensland prisons, starting in North Queensland

<sup>63</sup> The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-17 is an adjusted budget figure.

<sup>64</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.



- providing funding of \$200 million over five years (\$14.5 million for 2021-22) for an extra 164 beds to provide additional prisoner capacity at the Capricornia Correctional Centre
- providing funding of \$12.5 million over two years and reprioritise funding of \$3.5 million in 2017-18 to deliver infrastructure for additional beds at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre
- recommissioning the remaining 244 secure cells at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre to ensure safety of prisoners and complete the safe cell upgrades to the 492 bed facility
- providing funding of \$55.1 million over four years (including \$20 million capital over two years) and ongoing funding of \$8.5 million per annum across Justice Services and Corrective Services service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to continue the specialist domestic and family violence court in Southport and expand to Beenleigh and Townsville (by establishing specialist civil lists) with circuits to Mt Isa and Palm Island. This forms part of the government's total package of \$69.5 million over four years to rollout specialist domestic and family violence courts and includes \$40.4 million over four years provided as a whole-of-government contingency for this measure in the 2016-17 budget.
- providing funding of \$22.7 million over four years (including \$500,000 capital) and ongoing funding of \$6.5 million per annum across Justice Services and Corrective Services service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to reinstate the Drug Court and to provide referral and support services to help people address issues associated with their offending
- continuing to upgrade perimeter security at correctional centres across Queensland to maintain community safety
- supporting local initiatives to deliver safe workplaces for staff, with zero tolerance for violence, in both custodial and probation and parole environments
- continuing to explore opportunities to increase reparation to the community through supervised community service and work camps for low risk prisoners, and
- rolling out a further three High Risk Teams to Cairns, Brisbane and Ipswich to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence.<sup>65</sup>

## **5.6 Issues raised at the public hearing – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services**

Issues discussed by the committee with the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services included:

### ***Queensland Police Service***

- use of personal email for ministerial business
- appointment of the next Police Commissioner
- consorting offences
- Taskforce Maxima
- outlaw motorcycle gang membership
- a new counter-terrorism facility
- Queensland Police Service counter-terrorism initiatives
- the Special Emergency Response Team Titan robot

<sup>65</sup> State Budget 2017-18, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.

- tackling crime in Townsville
- presence of the Comancheros on the Gold Coast
- the number of contracts issued by the Public Safety Business Agency
- a school based police officer to be shared between Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School and Elanora State High
- weapons licensing
- a new police station in the Ormeau-Pimpama region
- Project Booyah
- Taskforce Orion and Taskforce Argos
- body cameras for police
- Ipswich police communications centre
- police liaison officers

***Corrective Services***

- forecast prison population size increase
- bunk beds in correctional facilities
- additional prisoner capacity, including at the Capricornia Correctional Facility
- prison overcrowding, including at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre
- the number of front-line officers in prisons
- body cameras for prison officers
- closed circuit television cameras in correctional centres
- management of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre
- provision of televisions in correctional centres
- attendance at a funeral by a prisoner on remand
- diversity on the Parole Board
- work camps
- strategies to reduce prison overcrowding and recidivism

***Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)***

- Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association
- disaster management training measure
- review of disaster management effectiveness
- the impact of new transport rules on rural fire brigade trucks
- QFES preparation for the 2016-17 season and its response to Cyclone Debbie
- Bundamba fire station
- new state deployment station
- Jimboomba Rural Fire Brigade
- response times to fires in the Jimboomba area
- training for volunteers
- an election volunteer at Deception Bay
- planned activity in relation to smoke alarms

- cladding at the Princess Alexandra hospital
- overtime budge for permanent full-time firefighters in 2016-17
- QFES recruit training
- Road Attitudes and Action Planning program
- the 'If It's Flooded, Forget It' program

## 6. Statement of Reservation

The Palaszczuk Labor Government promised a jobs bonanza but gave Queensland a jobs crisis and a budget con job.

The details exposed in the Palaszczuk Labor Government budget proves that Queensland under Labor faces higher unemployment, higher costs of living, less projects started and delivered, and more and more job-stifling red tape.

Queensland is stagnating, the community is crying out for leadership and we have a government stuck in neutral.

Labor's softly, softly approach is failing Queenslanders, doing nothing is not working and the economy is hurting.

Families and businesses are paying more through higher taxes and increased living costs and much needed infrastructure across Queensland is not being built.

Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, Queensland is falling behind the other states. Labor has failed to meet its own employment projections, meaning 80,000 less jobs will be created over the next three years. Youth unemployment is out of control and above 20 per cent in many parts of Queensland and up to 50% in the Outback.

Under Labor debt is increasing over \$80 billion for the first time in Queensland's history, equating to almost \$16,000 of debt for every man, woman and child in Queensland. Business investment has fallen by \$23 billion and the state's domestic economy is \$6.5 billion smaller than when Labor came to office.

There are serious problems that need to be solved. Labor under Annastacia Palaszczuk is afraid to make difficult decisions. With more than 200 reviews, committees and inquiries the Government is delaying every decision that needs to be made.

**The greatest risk Queenslanders face today is job insecurity.** We lost 30,000 jobs last year alone. Queensland's economy is ranked below Tasmania - despite the advantages we enjoy in tourism, agriculture and resources, the creative talents of Queenslanders and population growth. Under Labor we are the leading state for business bankruptcies and union strike action.

### **Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills**

We learnt from estimates that the Attorney-General was another member of the Palaszczuk Labor Ministry who uses her private email account for ministerial business, following the corruption scandal engulfing Minister Bailey.

Compared with the last year, apprenticeship, traineeship and school-based apprenticeship completions all reduced under Labor. Despite appearing to blame everyone else for her own failures, the Minister did not admit that commencement rates, under her watch, have also declined.

The Minister was very evasive on details of when the Strategic Training Asset Management Plan (STAMP) will be publicly released. This is a plan that has been years in the making, has cost almost \$1 million to develop and enables our training assets to be more flexible where there are underutilised facilities – like the situation with the Gympie campus. It seems that it is being hidden from Queenslanders, ahead of the next state election.

The Minister also confirmed that the staffing projections for TAFE Queensland, provided in the budget, were apparently out of date already.

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) Chairperson, Mr MacSporran confirmed that the budget for the CCC is reducing in the year ahead – an astonishing fact given the need to be vigilant on cracking down on major crime and corruption risks. He also noted that this reduction flew in the face of the Commission's request for increased funding.

Non-government members also pursued allegations against Minister Bailey and the media statement by the CCC released on the day prior to estimates, that they had determined a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct against the Minister, and referring the matter back to the State Archivist for further investigation.

Of concern is the fact that the CCC was not consulted on the development of the initial terms of reference for the investigation, by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Non-government members pursued the bungled implementation of ID scanners in late night entertainment venues in Queensland – which only occurred following a major backflip on the 1am lockdown policy.

Despite the fact that the Premier has announced a review into the implementation, the Minister continued to claim that the policy is working.

For the second year running, estimates revealed that the budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation was decreasing across the forward estimates, as is the projected FTE allocation. This makes a mockery of the so-called commitment by the Premier that Labor was determined to crack down on alcohol-related violence.

In relation to youth justice and youth detention issues, the transition for seventeen year olds from adult prisons to youth detention centres is due to commence in mid-November. Despite 'sobering statistical predictions' about youth detention centre capacity and the issues involved with transferring seventeen year olds over, the Attorney-General could not advise the Committee what the \$16.9 million capital allocation provided in the budget, would provide in terms of how many additional beds would be provided with this funding. Astonishingly, it is still being worked out. There was mention of an additional 12 beds, which was clarified to 16 beds at a later date, but it is unsure how that is being funded. The Attorney-General also refused to release a 2015 youth justice report into capacity issues.

The Committee learnt that the cost of the Crown Law advice that lead to the extraordinary amount of redactions from the initial report into the Independent Review of Youth Detention cost taxpayers \$26,000. Money not well spent.

The independent crime statistics body finally has a model or structure, but no actual body – despite being an election commitment, which was supposed to be a priority – according to the Attorney's ministerial charter letter. Two and a half years later, about \$31,000 spent and by anyone's standards it's been a snail's pace implementation plan by a dithering Attorney-General.

Similarly, the re-establishment of the Drug Court has cost taxpayers almost \$1.2 million to date and has never heard a case. It is allegedly due to be opened by the end of the year – almost three years after it was promised. Another faltering election commitment implementation.

The Office of the Director of Child Protection Litigation still has no service standard measures and we have concerns that the office is over-run, under budgeted and poorly structured. The lawyers who run those cases have an extremely important, but difficult job and they need more support.

Finally – despite the Attorney-General not being able to bring herself to utter the words, the much promised serious and organised crime laws, which have been in operation for almost 8 months have led to just one conviction. This was later clarified to be five. It should be noted that 1 conviction is for habitual consorting and the other 4 are for what criminal gangs members have worn in a public place – ‘wearing or carrying a prohibited item in a public place’. Hardly major offences. When they were introduced, the Premier said she wanted more convictions. By anyone’s measure the new laws have been seriously underwhelming, which is why there have been numerous media reports that criminal gangs are re-establishing themselves in Queensland once again.

Labor is soft on crime and innocent Queenslanders always pay the price.

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services**

In relation to the important process of appointing the state’s most senior police officer – the Commissioner – the Minister could not bring himself to answer the simple question of whether the process for the position will go through an open, merit-based selection process – as the Premier promised Queenslanders. The contract of the current Commissioner expires in October this year.

Despite having just one conviction, it seemed alarmingly difficult for the Minister and the Commissioner to try and explain how the new consorting laws are implemented by police on the frontline. That’s because they are difficult laws to police and we have concerns that they weaken the ability of police to prevent and detect organised crime.

It was also clear that the levels of disassociation levels by organised crime gangs has significantly reduced under Labor’s laws – since November 2016, than under the LNP laws which were in place since October 2013.

Concerns were also raised about the treatment of law abiding firearm owners by weapons licensing branch. Two examples were raised about category H licence holders, both upstanding members of their community, who have been denied their tools of trade by overzealous licensing officers. Both these licence holders have held their licence for 30 years.

Despite our projected prison population set to increase from 8467 to around 9300 in the next 12 months, Labor have only committed to an additional 164 beds, which won’t actually be fully completed until July 2021 and 450 new bunk beds that cost approximately \$2888 per bed.

We have concerns that the charter between the Government and the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association (QAFA), which expired in May, has not been renewed and won’t be officially renewed, despite the Minister’s assurances.

This comes at a time when the United Firefighters Union have taken action against QAFA to have them deregistered.

### **CONCLUSION**

Queensland deserves better.

**A Tim Nicholls** led Liberal-National government will **Build a Better Queensland**. The LNP’s **Plan** will create jobs, support small business, invest in education to raise standards and we will provide better services for families and retirees.

We will restore business confidence and get investment flowing to **create jobs throughout all of Queensland**.

An LNP Government will **reduce the risk to our economic security** by focusing on six drivers to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy. The six drivers are:

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Resources
- Construction and Manufacturing and
- Services, Science and Technology and
- Education

Without a strong economy, Governments can't provide better services in our hospitals, a better education for our children or invest in new technology and equipment to help police protect our communities.

The LNP has a four-point plan to help get young Queenslanders working. It includes a \$5,000 Queensland Apprenticeship incentive for small business; a \$500 Tools for Tradies vouchers; a \$4,000 Job Start Incentive; together with discounts on Work Cover premiums for small business.

An economy can't grow if it's weighed down by high costs and one of the biggest costs is electricity. **We'll make sure that Queensland's energy security is not put at risk** and that we don't end up like South Australia with blackouts and industry shutting up shop. A 50% renewable energy target in Queensland will mean higher prices and we won't stand for it.

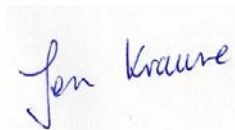
The LNP is committed to leading a government that is better for Queensland. **More government isn't the answer to our problems – better government is.**

The LNP will be a common sense Government which listens, plans and acts to build a better Queensland.

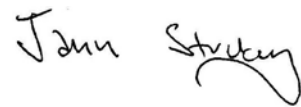
**Only by Building a Better Queensland** – will we deliver the jobs needed and restart our economy.



Michael Crandon MP  
Deputy Chair  
Member for Coomera



Jon Krause MP  
Member for Beaudesert



Janet (Jann) Stuckey MP  
Member for Currumbin