



2019-20 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

**Report No. 44, 56th Parliament
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
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ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 1:

In reference to page 5 of the SDS can the Attorney-General provide an update on the work being undertaken by the Palaszczuk Government to update and modernise the Blue Card system and any associated complexities?

Answer:

Blue cards are one of a range of measures in place across Queensland to protect children. The blue card system mitigates risks to children through:

- screening people working with children and deeming people ineligible to be issued with a blue card where their known police or disciplinary information deems them a risk of harm to children;
- monitoring all blue card holders and applicants on a daily basis for changes in their Queensland police information; and
- requiring child-related organisations to implement policies and procedures to manage risks to children.

As at 31 March 2019 there were 756,143 current blue card applicants and holders in Queensland. That is almost one in six Queensland adults who hold a blue card. In addition, there are also more than 32,000 organisations that are part of the blue card system.

A review of the blue card system by the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) found that Queensland's blue card system is one of the strongest in Australia and has enhanced protection for children in regulated environments since 2001. The QFCC made 81 recommendations to further strengthen and streamline the blue card system, including a 'No Card, No Start' policy.

The Palaszczuk Government has broadly supported the intent of all 81 recommendations. The recommendations are broad and require careful implementation and consultation with a range of stakeholders.

On 16 May 2019, legislative amendments to facilitate the 'No Card, No Start' policy and other key safeguards recommended by the QFCC were passed by the Queensland Parliament.

However, implementation of 'No Card, No Start' requires not only legislation but also significant operational enhancements as well as the development of a range of accompanying resources, a stakeholder engagement and education campaign and change management strategy.



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The blue card system is a high volume processing environment and the current application process is paper-based and manual. As at 31 March 2019, Blue Card Services processed 255,080 applications and link forms (174,847 blue cards and 80,233 link forms).

In the 2018–19 Budget, the Palaszczuk Government allocated \$17 million over three years to deliver the necessary technical solutions required to effectively support the implementation of 'No Card, No Start' and reduce processing timeframes. The technical work required includes:

- developing an efficient online application that is integrated with an online payment portal, the blue card database and a third party identity check service;
- adding a digital photograph to the blue card;
- developing an online organisational portal which will enable organisations to manage their blue card obligations more efficiently and allows electronic communications between organisations and Blue Card Services; and
- infrastructure and services required to support the new solutions.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is partnering with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to leverage DTMR's identity verification services (both online and over-the-counter for those people who cannot use the online service) and the DTMR digital photograph library.

The delivery of the critical information technology infrastructure cannot be rushed and must be built with stakeholders in mind. This project has completed the initiation, planning, analysis and design phase. The project has passed two external project assurance checks indicating that the project is on track to achieve its objectives.

To inform the business requirements, customer journey mapping was undertaken with a number of organisations and individuals to understand their current experiences with the blue card system and to identify their expectations of future online services.

The project is now in the development stage. The solutions are being developed and tested iteratively using agile project methodology.

Upcoming work to be completed in the coming months includes consultation with stakeholders on solutions; testing and piloting of the technical solutions; and the on-boarding of organisations to the online organisational portal.

The project is running on time and within budget and is due to commence in early 2020.



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In addition, the impacts that a 'No Card, No Start' requirement may have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly those in remote communities, is being considered through the development of a specific strategy and action plan work to build greater cultural capability within the blue card system and improve engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A procurement process is in the final stages to engage an appropriately qualified consultant to lead this work and co-design the strategy with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group.



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Question No. 2:

In reference to page 93 of the SDS could the Attorney-General advise how the Public Trustee will be assisting individuals seeking to engage with the National Redress Scheme?

Answer:

As a response to the comprehensive recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (the Act) established the National Redress Scheme, which runs for 10 years with a commencement date (from which applications might be made) of 1 July 2018. Essentially the Scheme provides redress consisting of:

- a payment of up to \$150,000 in recognition of the wrong survivors have suffered;
- counselling and psychological services; and
- a direct personal response from the participating institutions responsible.

The Public Trustee (PT) has considered how the National Redress Scheme may impact its clients and committed resources to supporting clients who may have a claim under the Scheme. Those clients include:

- adults with impaired capacity for decision making who suffered sexual abuse in an institutional setting and may be entitled to redress under the Scheme (where the PT acts as financial administrator; and
- deceased persons who made an application for a redress payment before they passed away which may ultimately be paid (where the PT is acting as personal representative for a deceased estate).

The PT has previously considered the eligibility of clients under the Forde Redress Scheme and the National Disability Insurance Scheme; it is likely that similar processes will be adopted for National Redress Scheme matters.

For deceased estate matters, where an application has been made by a person who subsequently passes away, the Scheme operator must continue with the application as if the person had not died. The Commonwealth Government determines who should receive a redress payment in those circumstances by considering who is entitled to the property of the deceased person pursuant to their Will or a law relating to the disposition of property. That is, a redress payment



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may not necessarily be made to the PT as personal representative of a deceased estate – it may instead be made to the person entitled pursuant to the Will or upon intestacy.

To enable the PT to identify those clients who may be eligible to seek redress or bring a civil claim, now and into the future, the PT is currently recruiting a new position of National Redress Scheme Project Officer at Administrative Officer Level 7. The Project Officer will facilitate the necessary client services and stakeholder coordination to support the communication, review, implementation, monitoring and reporting of National Redress Scheme applications for clients who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse in institutional settings. The Project Officer will also be responsible for establishing frameworks, systems, policies and practice guidelines for the PT as they relate to the National Redress Scheme.

The PT is liaising with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Office of the Public Guardian to identify the most efficient process for obtaining information they hold that might assist the PT in identifying those clients who may have a redress claim and using the information in support of a claim.

The PT is also meeting with interstate and local representatives of knowmore (an independent service giving free legal advice to abuse survivors) to better understand the scope of the service available to the PT should the PT wish to bring a redress application on behalf of its clients.

The Palaszczuk Government is proud that the PT will be advocating for the interests of members of the community who would otherwise remain voiceless.



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Question No. 3:

In reference to page 6 of the SDS can the Attorney-General advise how the Palaszczuk Government is assisting the Coroner's Court in the timely resolution of matters within its jurisdiction?

Answer:

The coronial system in Queensland is governed by the *Coroners Act 2003*.

The timely resolution of coronial matters can be affected by a number of factors outside the control of individual coroners and outside the ambit of government funding measures. Deaths occur in a variety of circumstances often resulting in a coroner requiring the assistance of multiple government agencies, external agencies and independent expert medical advice.

The Palaszczuk Government is acutely aware of the complexities of the coronial jurisdiction and the impact this can have on the efficient delivery of coronial services and on grieving family members.

In the 2019–20 Budget, the Palaszczuk Government has provided an additional investment in coronial services to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) of \$2.9 million over the next four years. This forms part of the Government's total funding of \$3.9 million over four years including \$474,000 per annum ongoing allocated to DJAG, Queensland Health (QH) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to address immediate demand pressures and to support the implementation of recommendations made in a recent performance audit of coronial services undertaken by the Queensland Audit Office (QAO).

This performance audit identified that there are clear opportunities to improve the delivery of services to coroners and families across DJAG, QH and QPS.

The additional investment will support work across four priority areas:

1. enhancing triaging practices to divert non-reportable deaths from the system and ensure coronial resources are allocated to more complex investigations;



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2. strengthening the case management, legal and counselling support provided to coroners and families;
3. enhancing structural supports through improving the management of government undertaker contracts and administration of the Burials Assistance Scheme; and
4. driving system innovation, through developing a sustainable state-wide model for forensic pathology services, and a service delivery framework to guide how agencies deliver services to coroners and families.

Most significantly this includes the temporary establishment of a second Coronial Registrar up until 31 December 2020, to triage all apparent natural cause deaths reported by police, one of the largest categories of deaths reported to the Coroners Court.

As collaborative, multidisciplinary partnerships are a key tenet of effective triaging, the second coronial registrar will be supported by additional key positions within QH and QPS to ensure that an enhanced focus on triaging practices will not inadvertently impact agencies' capacity to correspondingly support coroners. Specifically this includes a:

- Coronial Registrar and two Coronial Services Officers in DJAG;
- Coronial Nurse and Forensic Physician in QH;
- Senior Constable in QPS.

Strengthening triaging practices through the establishment of a second coronial registrar aims to reduce immediate demand pressures, enabling coroners to focus on their more complex investigations, and minimises unnecessary contact for families with the coronial system.

Agencies will also continue their focus on improving the case management and legal assistance they provide to coroners and the counselling support provided to families, through the allocation of additional temporary staff within the CCQ and two new coronial counsellors within QH.

This will be enhanced by work that is currently underway across QPS, QH and DJAG to develop a set of shared agency protocols that seek to improve case prioritisation and address avoidable delays in the receipt of outstanding external reports.

Relevant to the timely resolution of matters within the Coroner's Court, the QAO recommended that DJAG implement a strategy and timeframe to address outstanding coronial cases.

A significant body of work is being undertaken within the Coroner's Court to deliver this recommendation which includes:



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- improving internal quality assurance practices to identify potential blockages and support more effective case management processes;
- undertaking an audit of pending files to identify systemic coding and reporting issues, follow up on outstanding external reports and inform continuous performance improvement activities; and
- strengthening the leadership, case management and legal support allocated to coroners to provide them with increased assistance for their often complex medico-legal investigations.

The Palaszczuk Government's additional investment in the 2019-20 Budget aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the coronial system for coroners and bereaved families.



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Question No. 4:

In reference to page 16 of the SDS could the Attorney-General please update the committee on the number of financial assistance applications granted by Victims Assist Queensland to assist victims and their families in their recovery from the impact of violent crime and domestic and family violence?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to eliminating the scourge of domestic and family violence in our community. One component of that commitment is ensuring that survivors are able to access financial assistance in light of the abuse they have had to endure.

The Queensland Government, through Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ), provides financial assistance to people affected by violent crime, including domestic and family violence, to assist them to recover from the physical and psychological impact of the crime.

In 2018-19, VAQ granted \$22.52 million in financial assistance to 3,415 victims and family members affected by violent crime in Queensland.

Of the \$22.52 million:

- \$19.64 million was granted to primary victims (i.e., those injured in an act of violence);
- \$2.12 million was granted to family members of a primary victim who died as a result of an act of violence;
- \$367,952 was granted to parents of child victims injured in an act of violence; and
- \$351,978 was granted to victims who suffered an injury as a result of seeing or hearing an act of violence.

The assessment, granting and final payment of financial assistance may span financial years leading to variation between annual amounts granted and paid. In 2018-19, VAQ paid in excess of \$15 million in financial assistance to victims, family members, or service providers on behalf victims.



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1,147 of the 3,415 victims who received assistance in 2018-19 were victims of domestic and family violence. In 2018-19, victims of domestic and family violence were granted \$9.10 million in financial assistance, including \$3.24 million in recognition payments (lump sum cash payments for special assistance based on the offence type for primary victims), \$3.60 million for counselling and medical expenses, \$383,479 for lost earnings, and \$1.72 million for other expenses required for their recovery such as relocation expenses or security upgrades to enhance their safety.

This assistance is incredibly important in assisting survivors break the cycle of violence and it is an assistance program that the Palaszczuk Government is proud to fund.



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Question No. 5:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS could the Attorney-General advise how many Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations are in Queensland and how the JPs in the Community Program is helping Queenslanders access witnessing and justice services across Queensland?

Answer:

As at 1 July 2019, Queensland has more than 87,000 Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations, who provide community justice services across Queensland.

Justices of the Peace (C.dec)	4,056
Commissioners for Declarations	40,360
Justices of the Peace (Qualified)	41,682
Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court)	701
Justices of the Peace	406
Total	87,205

During 2018-19, 2,600 Justices of the Peace (JPs) and Commissioners for Declarations volunteered over 130,000 hours of service to support the JPs in the Community Program (the Program). This Program significantly contributes to the administration of justice in our State. I thank all participating volunteers for their contribution.

The Program, established in 2003, has now grown to 247 sites across Queensland. The key achievement of the Program is the increased accessibility to competent and consistent witnessing services. The public can attend sites that have been established at shopping centres, courthouses, libraries, universities and hospitals across the State.

The JP Branch, located within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, provides all sites with the resources required to witness documents for the community. This includes stamps, manuals, logbooks, identification cards and volunteer polo shirts.

In 2018-19, 12 new sites were established at Annandale shopping centre Townsville, Access Community Services Logan Central, Beaudesert Library, Beenleigh Marketplace, Brisbane Arrest Courts, Coomera Police Station, Coomera Westfield, High Street Shopping Centre Toowoomba, Kalbar Civic Centre, Logan Hyperdome Library, Mackay Base Hospital, Parkhurst Town Centre and Strathpine Centre.



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Also during 2018-19, the JP Branch collaborated with the Public Trustee of Queensland to undertake multiple workshops across regional Queensland. These workshops provided valuable information on witnessing wills and enduring documents. Over 500 people have attended 12 workshops to 30 June 2019.



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Question No. 6:

In reference to page 13 of the SDS can the Attorney-General please advise what steps have been taken to simplify the management of noise for licensees?

Answer:

The Government is committed to working with the liquor industry to make it easier for licensees to provide customers with the entertainment options they are seeking, while continuing to minimise the chance the local community may be negatively impacted by noise.

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR), in consultation with technical experts and peak industry bodies, has developed a new *Commissioner Guideline 51: Preparing an Acoustic Report*.

The new guideline replaced *Commissioner Guideline 50: Acoustic Consultants* on 1 July 2019.

The guideline outlines how an acoustic engineer or consultant should prepare an acoustic report that sets noise levels that, if met, should prevent unreasonable noise impacting nearby residents and businesses.

Importantly, the new guideline allows for noise levels to now be set at locations external to venues, rather than at a short distance from the source of noise.

By having maximum noise levels set at external monitoring locations, licensees will have greater flexibility in how they manage their venues. A licensee who wants to increase the noise produced in their venue, on a temporary or permanent basis, will not need to seek a variation to their noise conditions if they are able to increase their noise mitigation measures to prevent the increased noise being detected at the external noise monitoring locations.

For some licensees, noise mitigation measures implemented while providing entertainment at the venue could be as simple as having all doors and windows closed and positioning entertainers/speakers in a way that minimises the amount of noise escaping the venue. In other instances licensees may also install permanent or temporary sound proofing.

To assist with the transition to the new guideline, the OLGR will continue to accept reports prepared under the old guideline until 31 December 2019. Licensees are not required to have a new acoustic report prepared unless they want to take advantage of the benefits of the revised methodologies, or are otherwise required to provide a report, for example, when seeking to vary current noise conditions.



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The Government will continue to explore ways to assist licensees in the area of noise management, while protecting the community from the impact that can be caused by unreasonable noise.



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Question No. 7:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS and the department's aim to deliver safe, fair and responsible communities could the Attorney-General please advise on the work being undertaken by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council?

Answer:

Since the Palaszczuk Government reinstated the Queensland Sentencing and Advisory Council (the Council) three years ago, the Council has been able to make invaluable contributions to community debate regarding the criminal justice system through its methodical and evidenced-based approach.

Sentencing advice

Since its re-establishment the Council has delivered two reports providing advice requested by the Attorney-General:

- *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes* (July 2017) and
- *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child* (October 2018).

Both of these reports have provided the basis for the Palaszczuk Government to undertake important evidence-based legislative reform. The *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child* report was integral to ensuring appropriate sentences were handed down to individuals guilty of child homicide and provided the impetus for the redefinition of the offence of murder.

With regard to the *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes* report, the Palaszczuk Government supports six recommendations and gives in principle support to eight, with one recommendation deferred pending further consideration and one which has been superseded. The adoption of the relevant recommendations will support the mental health of our dedicated Taskforce Argos police officers and ensure that criminals who view child exploitation material are receiving sentences that match the gravity of their serious crimes. The Palaszczuk Government will be bringing legislation to the Parliament and hopes that it receives bipartisan support.

Currently, the Council has before it a reference in response to the *Queensland Parole System Review Final Report* (Sofronoff Report). The reference requests the Council to review community-based sentencing orders and parole options. The review will also look at current sentencing and



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parole legislation, including the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* and the *Corrective Services Act 2006* to see if there are any laws that create inconsistency or constrain sentencing options available to a court.

Community engagement

The Council has sought to engage the broader community in a discussion regarding their expectations of what constitutes an adequate sentence. The Council developed the online community engagement tool *Judge for Yourself*, which invites participants to step into the shoes of a judge or magistrate in four real-life sentencing cases. The tool has been designed to raise awareness about the sentencing process and its many considerations. It was accessed 6,393 times between 1 July 2018 and 31 March 2019, and 820 individuals from the community or the secondary school system received a face-to-face session delivered by a Council or Secretariat staff member over that period.

The Council has developed a series of educational worksheets and posters to assist secondary school teachers to deliver legal studies curriculum relating to sentencing, which are available on its website. The Council published the *Queensland sentencing guide* in June 2018 to provide more detailed information about sentencing in the Queensland Court system.

Over the course of its operation, the Council has delivered a series of eight free public sentencing seminars, has issued a regular e-Alert series with information about the Council's work, and a sentencing podcast series with 13 episodes called *Sentencing matters*.

In July 2018, the Council published the research report *Child homicide in Queensland: A descriptive analysis of offences finalised by Queensland Criminal courts, 2005–06 to 2016–17*, which contributed to its advice on sentencing for these offences. The Council also undertook a series of 10 focus groups with members of the Queensland community to understand their views on sentencing of homicide offences. The findings of this original piece of research was included in the Council's child homicide report, and in the future the Council plans to publish a separate research report on this work.

In May 2019, the Council published the 'sentencing myths' series on its website; a series of short videos designed to challenge some of the common community beliefs about sentencing and provide additional information about the process.

Research

The Council issues the *Sentencing Spotlight* report series which has, to date, provided sentencing data and information on nine separate topics. The most recent in this series, published in May 2019, focused on the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, a new offence defined in section 315A of the *Criminal Code* introduced by the Palaszczuk Government following recommendations in the report *Not now, not ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* (2015). This type of research provides a framework to analyse the development of case law. It has highlighted two recent Court of Appeal cases that suggest there



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will be an upward trend in the length of sentences handed down for offences committed under section 315A in future.

Consultation

Consultation activities are strongly integrated into all the Council's advice to the Government about sentencing. From community summits and focus groups on sentencing for child homicide offences, to the legal stakeholder roundtable series for the Council's work on community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole, the Council has worked hard to determine the best ways of incorporating diverse views into its advice. This includes routinely seeking written submissions on any large reform projects.

In November 2018, the Council launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel (the Panel) to enhance its understanding of the impact of sentencing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities. The Panel met twice up until 31 March 2019 and has provided advice to the Council on the current project to review the sentencing framework in Queensland.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council has been an invaluable instrument in instigating law reform that aims to keep Queenslanders safe and secure. It has been able to balance an evidenced-based focus, whilst retaining a community minded approach.



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ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 8:

In reference to page 13 of the SDS could the Attorney-General please advise on the number of complaints received by the Office of Fair Trading, and the total amount of redress obtained on behalf of Queensland consumers?

Answer:

In 2018-19, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) received 15,583 complaints and achieved more than \$7.6 million redress for Queensland consumers.

Redress is the compensation, restitution or the in-kind value provided to a consumer to reimburse them for faulty goods or services, or to remedy the impacts of inappropriate trader conduct.

Consumers lodge complaints with the OFT seeking assistance to obtain remedies or enforce the law. Complaints lodged with the OFT cover the broad spectrum of goods and services available in the marketplace including whitegoods and electronics, clothing, jewellery, grocery products, beauty treatments, motor vehicles and residential property services.

The majority of complaints lodged with the OFT were handled via conciliation. Where no breach of enforceable provisions of consumer protection legislation has been identified, the OFT acts as an intermediary between a consumer and trader to try to reach a mutually agreeable outcome.

The OFT has no legislative power to force a business to provide an outcome and cannot make judgements or orders in a matter; only a court or tribunal can do this. Where conciliation attempts are unsuccessful, consumers are advised to consider lodging a claim with the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or obtaining their own legal advice should they wish to pursue the matter.

While the majority of redress was achieved through conciliation, redress was also obtained through court ordered compensation resulting from the OFT's prosecution of unscrupulous traders, and claims paid from the Claim Fund established under the *Agents Financial Administration Act 2014*.

In 2018-19, the OFT achieved redress of \$5.450 million through conciliation, \$1.134 million from investigations, \$401,151 through court ordered compensation, and \$650,866 via claims paid from the claim fund.



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Question No. 9:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS and the department's aim to deliver safe, fair and responsible communities could the Attorney-General advise how laws have been modernised to keep pace with technology, in particular in the non-consensual sharing of intimate images?

Answer:

Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images

The *Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Act 2019* (the Amending Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2019 and received Assent on 21 February 2019.

The Amending Act implemented the Government's 2017 State election commitment to create a new offence related to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images that would apply to sending, or threatening to send, intimate material without consent.

The non-consensual sharing of intimate images is often referred to colloquially as 'revenge porn'. This type of behaviour is a form of cyberbullying and technology-facilitated abuse that can have a devastating impact on its victims. The enactment of the Amending Act means it is now not only immoral behaviour, in Queensland it is illegal behaviour.

The Amending Act created the new offence of *Distributing Intimate Images* at section 223 of the Criminal Code. Section 223 now prohibits the distribution of an intimate image of another person without that person's consent and provides for a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

The definition of 'intimate image' in the Criminal Code inserted by the Amending Act deliberately includes images that have been digitally obscured or altered to ensure that digital tools cannot be used by offenders to escape liability under the offence provisions.

The Amending Act also acknowledged that some of the most damaging consequences of this kind of offending is caused by the making of threats to another person to share intimate images publicly on digital social media or by other means. The Criminal Code now provides that it is an offence to threaten distribution of intimate images or prohibited visual recordings without the consent of the person depicted in the image or recording. Those threat offences are also punishable by maximum penalties of three years imprisonment.



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Finally, the Amending Act empowers courts sentencing offenders for this type of behaviour to order that reasonable action be taken to remove, retract, recover, delete or destroy images or recordings. Offenders who do not comply with these orders will commit a further offence punishable by a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. These orders are an important tool which will allow sentencing courts to assist victims in regaining control of this material in order to minimise ongoing distress.

It is important that our Criminal Code be appropriately updated to recognise the role of technology in offending behaviour and also in the investigation of that behaviour.

I am advised that as at 25 July 2019 the following charges had been lodged:

Section	Offence Description	Magistrates Court	District Court	Total
223(1)	DISTRIBUTING INTIMATE IMAGES	12		12
227B(1)	DISTRIBUTING PROHIBITED VISUAL RECORDINGS	142	43	185
229A(1)	THREATS TO DISTRIBUTE INTIMATE IMAGE OR PROHIBITED VISUAL RECORDING	1		1
Grand total				198

The *Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Act 2016* introduced several new offences into the Criminal Code on 9 December 2016, in response to recommendations of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, about the impact of technology on the detection of serious offending behaviour.



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Question No. 10:

In reference to page 10 of the SDS can the Attorney-General advise how the Palaszczuk Government is supporting the independent Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown Law undertake their vital work in keeping Queenslanders safe?

Answer:

Crown Law provides legal services to the Attorney-General (AG) as first law officer and as chief legal adviser to Cabinet and the Executive Government. It also provides legal services more broadly to Queensland Government agencies on a fee for service arrangement.

For the protection of the community, Crown Law represent the AG in serious sex offenders' matters under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA), and in Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) proceedings involving mental health patients.

Queensland Government has committed an additional \$17.261 million over four years and \$4.493 million ongoing to assist Crown Law with demand pressures experienced due to increasing numbers of DPSOA and MHRT matters. It has also committed an additional five FTEs for Crown Law.

Crown Law also provides practical training, tailored to the specific needs of Queensland Government agencies. For example, the 2019 Crown Law conference provided insight into the new Human Rights Act.

Commencing from the 2019-20 budget, 56 temporary positions within the Office of Director of Public Prosecutors (ODPP) will be converted into permanent positions. These positions will assist with workload pressures in indictment presentation and boost response to serious organised crime. Twenty-two of the 56 positions established a new prosecution work unit in Brisbane CBD. Nine positions were allocated to provide additional support to existing chamber groups in Brisbane. Twenty-five positions are allocated to regional locations. The additional positions have significantly improved the ODPP's efficiency measure.

In relation to the National Redress Scheme (NRS), funding has been approved for a range of initiatives including additional temporary funding for three positions for the ODPP to respond to requests arising from the recommendations of the NRS. The positions consist of a Practice Manager/Crown Prosecutor and Legal Officer funded to 30 June 2022. A third position of Legal Support Officer is funded to 31 December 2020.



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The 2019-20 Budget also provided funding of an additional \$11.207 million over four years, which includes an extra 12 FTEs for the ODPP to assist with ongoing workload pressures.

The ODPP measures its performance through two performance measures:

- An efficiency measure, which reports on indictments signed within four months of committal and has a target of 60%.
- An effectiveness measure, which reports on the conviction rate of defendants who are prosecuted on indictment. The target is 80%.

The injection of additional positions and funding has had a significant impact on the ODPP's efficiency.

In relation to the ODPP's efficiency measure, during the 2018-19 reporting period (as at 31 March 2019), the percentage of indictments signed within four months from committal exceeded the 60% target at 70.6%.

In relation to the ODPP's effectiveness measure, during the 2018-19 reporting period (as at 31 March 2019), the conviction rate of defendants who were prosecuted on indictment exceeded the 80% target at 92.3%.



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Question No. 11:

With reference to pages 29 and 30 of the SDS which provides that on 1 July 2019, the Human Rights Act 2019 comes into force and the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland becomes the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC), can the Attorney-General (a) advise how much money has been allocated to facilitate the transition to the QHRC (b) guarantee that the remainder of the Human Rights Act 2019 will commence on 1 January 2020 (c) provide a list of all actions to be completed to ensure the remainder of the Act comes into force on 1 January 2020?

Answer:

The *Human Rights Act 2019* (the Act) is yet another election commitment delivered by the Palaszczuk Government, building on its record of standing up for the rights of all Queenslanders.

To clarify, the Act will commence in two stages to enable a smooth implementation, while fulfilling the commitment to provide human rights protections to Queenslanders as soon as possible.

Stage 1 commencement: 1 July 2019 – Queensland Human Rights Commission

Parts of the Act commenced on 1 July 2019, allowing for the commencement of the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC).

The creation of the first Queensland Human Rights Commission, formerly the Anti-Discrimination Commission, is a momentous occasion, and one of which every Queenslanders can be immensely proud.

With the 1 July commencement, the QHRC has begun its functions under the Act to provide information, education and to promote understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights.

Funding for the QHRC

The 2019–20 budget committed funding of \$5.062 million over four years (\$1.321 million ongoing) and 10 FTEs for the QHRC for implementation of the Act.

This is in addition to the funding of \$2.298 million over four years (\$0.6 million per year ongoing) committed by the Palaszczuk Government in the 2018-19 Budget.

The 2018–19 funding has been used to prepare for the transition of the ADCQ to the QHRC on 1 July 2019, including rebranding, preparation of communications and education materials (including both face-to-face and online material) and a new website; and to begin preparation for a new human rights complaints process to commence on 1 January 2020.



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The 2019–20 funding will be used to:

- recruit and train three new human rights officers to be located in the QHRC's regional offices (Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns) to perform complaint handling, training and community relations functions; and two lawyers and a policy officer to perform legal and policy functions under the Act, such as interventions, report writing and undertaking reviews;
- establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cadetship program employing three graduates a year to gain experience in the QHRC; and
- assist in the development of expertise in human rights among public entities.

Stage 2: 1 January 2020 (remainder of the Act)

The remainder of the Act, subject to Governor-in-Council processes, will come into force on 1 January 2020. This includes the commencement of the protected human rights; obligations on public entities; the interpretive role of the Courts; and the QHRC's ability to receive and conciliate human rights complaints.

This means that, from 1 January 2020, public entities (including Ministers and all government departments) will have a responsibility to respect, protect and promote the human rights of individuals, and to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights when delivering services and interacting with the community.

Implementation preparation across Government

A temporary Human Rights Unit (HRU) has been established within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to provide central leadership and coordination for implementation of the Act across the Queensland Government.

In preparation for the 1 January 2020 commencement, a range of activities are well underway across all departments and agencies to meet their obligations, including:

- a communication and awareness campaign for public service employees about their obligations from 1 January 2020;
- targeted human rights training, with a focus on policy and legislation, and the development of resources and guides;
- work on reviewing of all existing legislation, policies and procedures for compatibility with human rights; and
- communication with statutory bodies and authorities, and other government-related public entities about their obligations.

Our vision is for a modern, fair and responsive Queensland where we respect, protect and promote human rights.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to champion the human rights of individuals in all that it does, delivering fairer and more responsive services for the community.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 12:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS which relates to blue card services, will the Attorney-General outline how much of the \$7.2 million 'No Card No Start Initiative' was spent in 2018/19?

Answer:

As outlined in Question on Notice 993 asked by the Member for Toowoomba South on 13 June 2019, I am advised that the total expenditure incurred for the Blue Card Services 'No Card, No Start' project to 31 May 2019 is \$2.694 million.

The final expenditure for the Blue Card Services 'No Card, No Start' project for 2018-19 financial year cannot be provided until the Department's accounts, for the financial year, have been audited.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 13:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS which details the department's key priority of continuing to progress outcomes of the review of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, will the Attorney-General (a) advise how much has been spent on the review to date (b) provide an update on the government's response to review of property management laws and advise if there will be changes to body corporate regulation or legislation brought to the House in this term of government?

Answer:

I thank the committee for its questions.

(a) Costs of QUT property law review

The Commercial and Property Law Research Centre of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) undertook an extensive review of property laws for the Government. The QUT property law review canvassed seller disclosure in property transactions, the *Property Law Act 1974* (PLA), as well as consideration of a range of matters arising under the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* (BCCM Act) and other community titles-related legislation.

The total amount paid to QUT for all elements of the property law review was \$784,176 (including GST).

(b) Government response to QUT property law review

Community and industry consultation was fundamental to the QUT property law review, and continues to inform the Government's consideration of QUT's recommendations. QUT's consultation papers and final reports relating to the property law review are available on the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) website at: www.justice.qld.gov.au.

Body corporate legislation

In terms of the BCCM Act, QUT examined and made recommendations about body corporate lot entitlements, the making and enforcement of by-laws, termination of community titles schemes and debt recovery, as well as a wide range of administrative and procedural issues impacting on Queensland bodies corporate.



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The Government has carefully considered QUT's findings and recommendations about body corporate lot entitlements, which include recommendations for a new system for sharing body corporate expenses between lot owners in community titles schemes. However, consultation with stakeholders revealed a low level of support for QUT's lot entitlement recommendations and also highlighted little consensus on how costs should be shared in community titles schemes.

As a result, the Government has decided not to adopt QUT's lot entitlement recommendations. However, as part of the Government's assessment of QUT's recommendations relating to seller disclosure in property transactions, consideration will be given to options for improving information provided to assist prospective unit owners become better informed about the financial obligations they will take on as a member of a body corporate, if they buy a lot in a community titles scheme.

The Government is currently preparing approximately 700 pages of new regulations under the BCCM Act, which will incorporate a significant number of QUT's recommendations for addressing administrative and procedural issues affecting Queensland bodies corporate. DJAG will be consulting further with stakeholders on exposure draft versions of the new regulations later in 2019.

In addition, the Government is continuing to analyse and consider QUT's recommendations, and stakeholder views, on other governance issues impacting on bodies corporate including by-laws, debt recovery and termination of community titles schemes.

The Government is determined to ensure that any potential changes to the BCCM Act appropriately balance the sometimes competing interests of stakeholders on these complex issues. Accordingly, the timing and content of future amendments to the BCCM Act will depend on the outcomes of further stakeholder consultation on these matters.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 14:

With reference to page 66 of the Budget Measures which details the additional funding to administer the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 (DPSO Act), will the Attorney-General advise (a) the number prisoners between 2016 and 2019 who are serving a period of imprisonment for a serious sexual offence as defined in the DPSO Act (reported separately by year) (b) the number of supervision orders made under s 13(5)(b) of the DPSO Act between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year) (c) the number of continuing detention orders made under s 13(5)(a) of the DPSO Act between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year)?

Answer:

I have been advised that:

(a) the Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not hold information on the number of prisoners serving any form of term of imprisonment. This information is not within the purview of the Department.

In relation to parts (b) and (c) of this question, I am advised that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not hold data regarding orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSO Act) made by year. Queensland Corrective Services manages prisoners subject to the DPSO Act.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 15:

With reference to page 66 of the Budget Measures which details the additional funding to administer the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 (DPSO Act), will the Attorney-General advise (for each prisoner released on a supervision order under section 13(5)(b) of the DPSO Act between 2016 and 2019) the level of risk that the prisoner will commit another serious sexual offence if released from custody as indicated in each psychiatric report as required by s 11 of the DPSO Act (reported separately by year and prisoner)?

Answer:

I am advised that the information sought is not kept in a searchable format. To provide this information would require a search of every active *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* file between 2016 and 2019. As each report provides an opinion, the court ultimately makes a finding based on a range of factors including opinions.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 16:

With reference to page 11 of the SDS which details the funding for the legal and prosecution services, will the Attorney-General advise (a) the number of offenders convicted of the offence of rape between 2016 and 2019 to date (reported separately by year) (b) the number of offenders who have successfully relied on the 'mistake of fact' defence under s 24 of the Criminal Code in relation to a charge of rape between 2016 and 2019 to date (reported separately by year)?

Answer:

I am advised that:

- (a) The following numbers of offenders have been convicted of the offence of rape between 2016 and 2019:

Year	Total
2016	162
2017	179
2018	162
2019 (to 31 May 2019)	91
Grand Total	594

- (b) The Queensland Courts criminal case management system does not record details of the defence relied on by defendants when defending criminal charges.

I also refer the Committee to my announcement of 9 July 2019 where I indicated the issue of mistake of fact and consent in respect of sexual offences would be referred for examination to the Queensland Law Reform Commission.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 17:

With reference to page 13 of the SDS regarding Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading, can the Attorney-General outline the budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation in 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (reported separately by year) and the FTE allocation of inspectors for each of those years as well?

Answer:

The budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is:

- 2019-20 – \$31.066 million;
- 2020-21 – \$29.659 million;
- 2021-22 – \$30.363 million; and
- 2022-23 – \$31.050 million.

The budget figures exclude any allocation for corporate support.

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation has compliance officers in 13 locations across the State undertaking activities under liquor and gaming legislation administered by the office.

Compliance officer full time equivalents (FTEs) are:

- 2019-20 – 114.4;
- 2020-21 – 102.4;
- 2021-22 – 102.4; and
- 2022-23 – 102.4.

The FTEs exclude any allocation for corporate support.

The 114.4 FTEs for 2019-20 include 12 temporary FTEs engaged to assist in supporting the Government's Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence (TAFV) initiatives. Temporary compliance officer funding, which has been in place since 2014-15, was due to expire on 30 June 2019, but was extended for 12 months to 30 June 2020 pending the Government's response to an independent evaluation of the TAFV policy.

It should be noted that Queensland Police Service officers are also inspectors under the *Liquor Act 1992*.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 18:

With reference to page 13 of the SDS regarding Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading, can the Attorney-General outline the number of complaints made in 2018-19 about the Queensland funeral industry, the number of proactive inspections by OFT Inspectors in 2018-19 and the compliance plan for 2019-20?

Answer:

In 2018-19, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) received 11 complaints about the funeral industry. To put this into perspective, over the same period, OFT received 15,583 complaints in total.

The complaints relate to a variety of matters including allegations of excessive costs, the quality of services provided and memorialisation (plaques, headstones, and tombs). Although complaint numbers are relatively low, the OFT is aware of the potential impact of these issues on vulnerable consumers and of ongoing community interest in the funeral industry. To this end, a three phase funeral industry project was included in the OFT's 2018-19 proactive compliance program. The three phases were:

- industry research and engagement with stakeholders;
- provision of information and advice to businesses operating in the industry; and
- unannounced proactive compliance checks on industry participants.

The first phase of the project was undertaken from July to November 2018. It involved undertaking research, and working with stakeholders and industry to develop and publish guidance material for funeral service businesses, outlining how to comply with the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) and the *Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982* (FBBA).

The second phase was undertaken between January and March 2019. This phase involved providing funeral directors with information and advice about their obligations under the OFT's consumer protection legislation.

The OFT visited 72 funeral businesses across Queensland and engaged with 97 people within the industry, providing one-on-one information and advice, as part of this second phase. The OFT also presented information on requirements under the ACL and the FBBA to the Australian Funeral Directors Association and to other industry participants. This platform gave the OFT an opportunity to engage with 80 senior stakeholders in the funeral industry.



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The third phase of the project was undertaken from April to June 2019 focusing on compliance. The OFT conducted 43 unannounced compliance spot checks resulting in eight matters being escalated to an investigation. Of the eight matters: one minor issue was rectified immediately by the trader; five matters were dealt with through an educative approach with the traders; one trader was issued an official warning; and one investigation is ongoing.

The OFT conducts marketplace analysis and targets its resources towards industry sectors, licensees and traders most likely to cause harm, and to consumers most at risk.

While the funeral industry is not included as a scheduled operation in OFT's proactive compliance program in 2019-20, the OFT will continue to monitor the industry, receive and assess complaints, conciliate matters, and investigate issues where possible breaches of consumer laws may have occurred.

Any funeral services industry provider found to be in breach of their ACL or FBBA obligations will be subject to appropriate enforcement action by the OFT.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 19:

With reference to page 11 of the SDS which details the funding for the legal and prosecution services, will the Attorney-General provide (a) the number of appeals lodged between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year) (b) the total cost associated with appeals between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year) (c) the number of unsuccessful appeals between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year)?

Answer:

In Queensland, appeals by the Attorney-General are governed by section 669A Criminal Code. As the first law officer of this State, I firmly believe and practise the principle that appeals against sentence need to have a basis in law and must not be instituted for political convenience. In all matters referred to below, I have acted after giving careful consideration to the expert advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In the 2016 calendar year, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) lodged four appeals against sentence on behalf of the Attorney-General and lodged four references on points of law on behalf of the Attorney-General. Each of those appeals against sentence was dismissed by the Court of Appeal. Each reference was answered favourably.

In the 2017 calendar year, the ODPP lodged six appeals against sentence on behalf of the Attorney-General. Five of those appeals against sentence were allowed by the Court of Appeal. One was dismissed.

In the 2018 calendar year, the ODPP lodged seven appeals against sentence on behalf of the Attorney-General and lodged one reference on a point of law on behalf of the Attorney-General. One of those appeals against sentence was allowed by the Court of Appeal, four were dismissed, one was abandoned and one is awaiting judgment. The reference was answered favourably.

In the 2019 calendar year, as at 30 June, the ODPP has lodged three appeals against sentence on behalf of the Attorney-General and lodged one reference on a point of law on behalf of the Attorney-General. One appeal is awaiting judgment, one appeal was dismissed, and one appeal and one reference are listed for hearing.

The cost of preparing and appearing in appeals is not separately recorded by the ODPP.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 20:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS which details the funding for courts and tribunals - will the Attorney-General advise the number of court security breaches between 2016 and 2019 (reported separately by year and location) and (b) on how many occasions court staff or judicial officers were physically attacked?

Answer:

The safety of all users and occupants of our court buildings is a priority for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Actions that infringe policies, practices and procedures associated with court safety are a security breach. This includes violation of entry conditions to a courthouse and disruptive or aggressive behaviour within the courthouse.

Court Services are currently provided at 120 locations across the State. This is comprised of 87 court facilities, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal's leased office in Queen Street, Brisbane and 32 circuit court locations.

I am advised that no physical attacks on court staff or judicial officers have been reported to the Director-General over the period 2016-19. Each site is managed locally and according to its circumstances with electronic screening and monitoring of entrants to court buildings conducted in many locations.

**Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services***

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 1

QUESTION:

Page 3 of the SDS refers to this government's objectives for the community *Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities* by working to Keep communities safe and to Be a Responsive Government and I ask: will the Minister please advise the committee on steps and actions taken to ensure an effective approach to policing is met and maintained in the Upper Mount Gravatt area and to ensure that police have the equipment and resources they need to keep local communities safe?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), that the Service is constantly reviewing available options to ensure the best possible service is provided to the Queensland community.

The allocation of police resources is determined by the Commissioner following a detailed assessment of priorities.

QPS has advised that resource planning also seeks to ensure a fair, equitable and appropriate policing service is provided throughout the state, including Upper Mount Gravatt.

I am further advised that as at 31 May 2019, the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Division had an approved strength of 67 permanent police positions.

The duties of these officers include general duties and providing staffing resources to the Police Beats at Sunnybank Plaza and Garden City Shopping Centres.

QPS has advised that in addition to officers stationed within the Upper Mount Gravatt Police Division, the area has access to specialist police services within district, regional and centralised support functions including the Criminal Investigation Branch, Tactical Crime Squad, District Duty Officers, Road Policing Unit, Scenes of Crime, Crime Prevention Units, Police Liaison Officers and Intelligence Officers.

The Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station is resourced with:

- An approved fleet of six vehicles for operational use, including five marked sedans and one marked van
- Four marked vehicles for escort of wide loads are housed at the station
- 61 QLiTE devices
- 36 Body Worn Cameras

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MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 2

QUESTION:

Page 4 of the SDS refers to 2019-20 service area highlights and the Queensland Police Service focus on delivering the government's commitments to the Queensland community with an emphasis on keeping communities safe through the delivery of quality frontline services, and I ask: will the Minister please advise the committee on initiatives that are underway and ongoing in the Logan community to enhance safety for local residents?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring the Logan Police District has the resources it needs to keep communities safe.

This Government made a commitment to upgrade and refurbish the existing Logan Village Beat to provide a new, larger facility that will enhance policing capabilities in this rapidly growing area. The new Logan Village Yarrabilba Police Station will be completed by the end of next month and will include a new Officer in Charge position to service the local community.

I can further advise that there are plans in place to build a new police facility in Yarrabilba pending the future provision of a subdivided and serviced site by Lendlease. I am advised that this site will be made available at no cost to Government. The upgrade to the Logan Village police beat was an election commitment from this Government to provide more immediate support to police in the region.

There are more police in Queensland than ever before, and there are more on the way. The Palaszczuk Government committed to delivering an additional 535 police personnel, including 115 counter terrorism specialists by 2021-22.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) advises that they constantly review the allocation of police resources to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of policing across the Logan Police District. These reviews inform decision making around strategies and appropriate deployment of resources throughout the District to ensure optimum service is provided to keep communities safe.

The allocation of police resources is an operational matter determined by the Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, crime and safety issues, calls for service and any new or emerging issues. These requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

I am advised by QPS that there are currently more than 700 officers across the Logan Police District, including specialist police from centrally functioned units, such as the Road Policing Command, Dog Squad, Missing Persons Unit, Homicide Investigation, Drug Squad, and Disaster Management.

I am advised that the Logan District Police actively engage with stakeholders across government and non-government organisations to enhance the safety of persons affected by domestic and family violence (DV) in the community. Such as, the continued operation of Project Hera, where a specialist DFV support worker and the QPS DV Unit provide support and facilitate engagement of relevant support services and networks for victims.

I am advised by QPS that the Logan District Cross Cultural Liaison Unit continues to work with Logan's diverse community to provide a safer environment within Logan. Further, I am advised police are engaged in a range of initiatives to boost community safety in the area including, HOLLA (*Heart Of Love, Learning & Achievement*), a mentoring program operating in Shailer Park and Loganlea High Schools. The program engages, inspires and empowers students of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander background, to overcome barriers and to re-engage in learning.

Outside of the school environment, I am advised that the Street HOLLA program is focusing on engaging with youth who are loitering in targeted hotspot crime areas who have disengaged from community, employment, education and traditional services. Using an outreach framework, the Police Liaison Officers triage the disengaged youth, referring them onto support services, education and employment opportunities.

I am advised that police work with the local YMCA mentoring program by providing young people with information sessions and introductions to policing (*who we are and what we do*). The program's purpose is to remove barriers that prevent young people from having positive interactions with police and aims to reduce re-offending amongst youth within the community.

In the 2019-20 Budget, \$1.8 million was allocated for the highly successful *Project Booyah* initiative which is helping turn young lives around. Project Booyah is giving young people in Logan pathways to jobs, education and training.

QPS advises that the Logan Police District officers are actively engaged in road safety initiatives and strategies to keep communities safe such as the 'Drive 2n2' program. This initiative delivers interactive lectures, supported by a driving simulator that demonstrates the dangers of driving whilst distracted, to high school students who are in the process of obtaining their driver's licence.

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QUESTION 3

QUESTION:

I refer to SDS Page 3, which refers to Strengthening Relationships by fostering collaborative partnerships with government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups to maximise opportunity to prevent crime and enhance community safety, and I ask: will the Minister please inform the committee of work being undertaken in regional Queensland aimed at keeping communities safe?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that statewide partnerships between police, other government agencies, members of the community, businesses and other stakeholders are the foundation of modern policing.

Through the Cherbourg Heightened Response initiative, for example, I am advised that the QPS is working collaboratively with other government and non-government agencies, community members, business owners and local council to address youth reoffending in the Cherbourg and Murgon areas through early intervention programs and minimising the risk of young people engaging in criminal activities.

As a further example, the QPS advises that the Community Connect program in Mount Isa is a multi-agency initiative aiming to improve community safety and reduce youth offending. Further, the QPS advises that measures include delivering supportive early intervention methods, ensuring services delivered by government and non-government agencies are available at all times of need, with a focus on school and vocational training attendance.

Also, I am advised by the QPS that the Mental Health Intervention Program involves police working alongside Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Services to provide support to members of the community and their families living with mental illness. The QPS advises that under this program, agencies are working with community to minimise the risk of people living with mental illness from experiencing heightened mental health crises, and to access acute support.

The QPS advises that in the Ipswich Police District, the Mental Health Co-Responder initiative involves local police working with a clinical mental health nurse when attending calls for service involving mental health matters. This program was awarded the 'Pursuing Innovation' and 'Overall Award for Outstanding Achievement' awards during the Queensland Health Excellence Awards in December 2018. I am advised by the QPS that seven police districts currently have a mental health co-responder model.

Regional Queensland bore the impact of the devastating floods in early 2019. I am advised by the QPS that following these severe weather events, the Northern Police Region continues to work with local communities and councils in the development of disaster management protocols, ensuring resilience and capacity to respond to these types of events, through consultation, training, pre-planning and preparation.

The QPS advise that the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce is delivering innovative projects through community and whole-of-Government partnerships. I am advised by the QPS that one of their projects, 'Space and Place Activities for Youth in Cairns', is increasing the availability and choice of structured diversionary activities for young people. The program is committed to working with the community to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour.

I am advised by the QPS that the Townsville Stronger Communities Action Group commenced in 2016 and is made up of senior representatives from across government. QPS advises that the group is working with community to break the cycle of youth offending by addressing the underlying issues that drive some young people to offend. This may include poor school attendance, mental health concerns, drug and substance misuse, domestic violence and family dysfunction. I am advised by the QPS that through the coordination of the group, young people and their families are connected to a range of services across government and non-government agencies.

The QPS continues to implement proactive strategies and enhanced partnerships with key stakeholders to promote greater sharing of information and to keep our communities safe.

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QUESTION 4

QUESTION:

Page 4 of the SDS, under the heading 2019-20 service area highlights, refers to ongoing development of legislative, investigative, training and procedural responses in collaboration with other partner agencies to combat various forms of child sex offending, and I ask: will the Minister please outline steps and actions that are being taken to protect and safeguard vulnerable children in regional areas of Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to working with police to protect children and keep our community safe.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that there are over 500 Child Protection and Investigation Unit (CPIU) officers across the state, providing specialist policing capability dedicated to the protection of children.

To undertake these duties, I am advised that CPIU officers receive specialist training in child protection, including investigating online child sex offences.

QPS has advised that CPIU officers are centrally supported by the QPS Child Safety Director and the State Crime Command Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. The Child Safety Director is responsible for working with government and non-government agencies to provide a statewide coordinated response to child protection issues on behalf of the QPS.

The QPS works closely with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women on a number of initiatives including the recent *Child Protection Joint Response Team* and *Child Safety Officers in Police Headquarters* trials. The Child Protection Joint Response Team trial is a joint initiative that was implemented in trial sites across Queensland to prioritise and jointly respond to significant child protection concerns that meet the criteria for a joint investigation. The Child Protection Joint Response Team trial has facilitated regular communication between agencies to progress investigations. Due to the trial's success, work is underway to expand and permanently embed the trial statewide.

The Child Safety Officers in Police Headquarters trial is another joint initiative developed to streamline information sharing across the QPS and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. The trial consists of embedding child safety officers and a child safety senior team leader within Police Headquarters, working alongside a Detective Senior Sergeant, to complete requests for information made by child safety officers in select regional centres. Work is currently underway to develop a portal to facilitate the sharing of critical information between agencies.

The QPS is committed to implementing recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and is collaborating with partner agencies to ensure the criminal justice system supports victims of sexual abuse.

The QPS continues to monitor and take action against child sex offenders under the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* (Qld). I am advised that the QPS continues to prioritise activities to detect and prevent child sexual offending by reportable offenders. Disruption activities include conducting unannounced home visits, monitoring online and social media activities and conducting forensic examination of their digital devices.

This government introduced tough new laws to ensure child sexual offenders will continue to be monitored even after their supervision orders have expired. This government backed these laws with an over \$27 million funding boost for police surveillance and enforcement with \$5.72 million per annum ongoing.

Further, I am advised that these laws will make it easier for police to successfully apply for Offender Prohibition Orders. Under these orders, an offender can be forced to wear a GPS tracker and be ordered to reside at a particular address.

Taskforce Orion in conjunction with Taskforce Argos leads the world in hunting down on-line child sexual abuse predators. Commencing in 2016 after this Government provided funding to enhance investigative capabilities targeting technology facilitated sex offences against children, the QPS recruited two victim identification specialists who contributed to the identification, location and removal of over 400 children from potentially harmful situations across Queensland and elsewhere in the world.

I can advise that additional funding was allocated in the 2019-20 State Budget to make Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture in the QPS.

The QPS is committed to delivering programs to support and assist the most vulnerable members of our community. For instance, the Cairns Child Protection and Investigation Unit has developed and implemented the "Speak Up. Be Strong. Be Heard" program in Far Northern Indigenous communities. The program aims to increase community awareness about sexual abuse, encourage children to speak up about sexual abuse, and ensure appropriate action and intervention when issues are raised.

The Queensland Police Service, in collaboration with its partner agencies and the community of Queensland, will continue to work tirelessly to protect and safeguard our vulnerable children.

**ESTIMATES 2019
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QUESTION 5

QUESTION:

The 2019-20 service area highlights refers to the Queensland Police Service continuing to develop and enhance intelligence, preventative, investigative and research capabilities to target serious and organised crime gangs, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, and I ask: will the Minister please advise the Committee of proactive policing measures undertaken in the last financial year to keep communities safe and the results of these proactive initiatives, particularly on the Gold Coast and regional parts of the state?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has delivered a record Police Budget for 2019-20 including an extra \$5 million in capabilities aimed at targeting criminal groups, such as Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs).

Queensland has the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive anti-bikie gang laws in the country.

I am advised that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) will continue to work in partnership with the community and multiple agencies to address the threat of serious and organised crime gangs, including OMCGs.

QPS has further advised that these operations, tactics and strategies have been effective, with Queensland OMCG full patched membership decreasing statewide by 17 per cent since 2015.

I am advised by the QPS that last year, the Organised Crime Gangs Group arrested 1179 people on 3665 charges. This is the highest number of arrests in any year since Taskforce Maxima was formed.

The QPS has advised that since the inception of this Government's laws to 30 June 2019, 55 matters have been referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission for consideration of proceeds of crime action, and 41 restraining orders have been obtained over property worth over \$12.2 million.

I am advised that the QPS recently partnered with the Australian Institute of Criminology to undertake research with disaffiliated Queensland OMCG members to gain insight into the drivers of recruitment and gang disaffiliation. This research will shape future policy, tactics and equip our workforces with evidence-based education.

QPS advises that Project Kairos was initiated by the State Crime Command in 2018 to explore pioneering strategies to reduce OMCG recruitment and membership.

Project Kairos has developed a concept for Australia's first ever structured exit program for organised crime gang members who may elect to disaffiliate. I am advised by the QPS

that the project team is exploring the potential to case manage suitable disaffiliated members and coordinate services in education, support, mentoring and employment.

The QPS has advised that the State Crime Command is also leading the nation through a domestic and family violence strategy and undertaking research into the over representation of domestic violence in OMCGs. I am advised that the strategy has delivered significant results safeguarding vulnerable people and pursuing offenders. Further, the strategy and research has been showcased through the national Taskforce Morpheus, inspiring a national dialogue and policy approach.

In relation to the Gold Coast, I am advised by QPS that the Southport based Major and Organised Crime Squad, Gold Coast Rapid Action Patrols and district police work closely with interstate police to undertake cross border operations targeting the movement of organised crime gangs that pose the greatest risk to our community.

The QPS advises that in 2019, Operation Romeo Vigilant investigated the importation of Ice from the USA to the Gold Coast. In June 2019, 10 people were charged with 40 offences including trafficking and supplying dangerous drugs, money laundering and importing a border restricted drug. QPS advises that approximately 3 kilograms of Ice valued at more than \$1 million was also seized during this operation and taken off the streets.

The QPS has advised that in July 2019, the Southport Major and Organised Crime Squad seized 12 kilograms of Ice, five kilograms of MDMA and nine firearms as part of Operation Romeo Vatic, with seven people charged with 21 offences.

I am advised by the QPS that earlier this week, Taskforce Maxima and Maryborough Patrol Group arrested 20 people following a week of action targeting drug activity in the Wide Bay area. As part of Operation Romeo Doctrine, a tactical operation targeting various OMCGs, police executed 11 search warrants across Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

The QPS advise that the Major Organised Crime Squads across Queensland actively target and gather intelligence on the suppliers of Ice to vulnerable rural towns, as well as increase community awareness and resilience against the infiltration of organised crime groups into the industries that support rural communities.

An example is Operation Quebec Brazen, an investigation into a drug trafficking syndicate operating in South East Queensland, with links to western Queensland communities. The QPS has advised that search warrants executed in January 2019 resulted in eight persons arrested on 46 charges with seizures of Ice and cash.

Backed by this Government's strong laws, police remain relentless in their pursuit of organised crime including outlaw biker gang members.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 6**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

Page 10 of BP3 includes \$620 million towards an expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct. Will the Minister outline the major benefits and jobs created by this investment in regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

This Government has announced plans for a modern, evidence-based correctional facility, which will support safer communities through enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, with a focus on addressing the ice epidemic and its link to violent and property crime.

The development of the Stage 2 facility at the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton will deliver a massive economic boost to the Lockyer Valley.

I am advised the project will support more than 400 construction jobs over the three-year build and eventually deliver more than 500 permanent ongoing operational jobs, delivering significant financial benefits to local business.

This Government has allocated \$618.863 million in capital funding, held centrally, for construction of the facility which is planned for completion in 2023. Final funding for the project will be subject to competitive tender to ensure the best price and best outcome for Queensland.

Once completed, the Stage 2 expansion will deliver an estimated 1,000 beds for male prisoners, and importantly will mean that the government has delivered more than 4,000 extra beds for prisoners across Queensland since 2015.

I am further advised major benefits of this project also include improving the safety of custodial officers and prisoners by increasing custodial capacity which will support strategies focussed on enhancing community safety.

This project is about increasing custodial capacity, enhancing community safety, investing in regional jobs, and supporting regional businesses.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 7**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

Page 4 of the SDS notes \$143 million over four years to commission and operate the expanded Capricornia Correction Centre. Will the Minister outline the tangible benefits this investment in regional infrastructure will deliver to Central Queensland?

ANSWER:

This government's investment in Capricornia Correctional Centre will deliver local employment opportunities for Central Queenslanders and provide an economic boost for the region.

I am advised that in addition to the expansion of prison's accommodation capacity, additional ancillary facility options have been approved and will be delivered as part of this project. This means greater investment, more jobs, and greater economic benefits for people who live and work in Central Queensland.

There will be ongoing, long-term benefits for the region with opportunities for local businesses to provide supplies and services to assist in the operation of the Capricornia Correctional Centre.

Increasing capacity at the Capricornia Correctional Centre is a significant investment in regional Queensland and regional jobs. This government's \$241 million investment will add an additional 348 cells to the existing 410 cell correctional facility.

Construction commenced in late August 2017, several months ahead of the original project schedule. During the construction phase, the project will support more than 172 jobs in Central Queensland over the four year work program. I am advised that as of 31 March 2019, almost 193,000 hours of work has been completed, with 172,000 hours of that labour being completed by local workers. In other words, nearly 89 per cent of the work to date on this project has been completed by locals.

I am further advised that \$61 million of that work has been completed by local industry to date. The project remains on schedule, weather permitting, with commissioning of the new infrastructure to occur during 2020.

The expansion project will also provide significant training opportunities through the Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy. This policy requires contractors to employ apprentices and trainees and undertake other workforce training as a mandated component of being awarded work on eligible Queensland Government projects.

This government is actively working to ease the pressure on the system with short, medium and long term strategies to infrastructure and demand reduction initiatives. I am advised by 2023 the government will have delivered more than 4,000 extra beds for prisoners across Queensland since 2015.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 8**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

Page 6 of the SDS refers to the financial value of community service work performed by prisoners in low security facilities. Will the Minister outline the benefits of community service work to regional communities?

ANSWER:

This Government recognises that having a good work ethic and employment skills increases a prisoner's chances of a successful return to the community and desistance from offending behaviour – this is about keeping communities safe by working to ensure prisoners who are reintegrated from prison are less likely to reoffend.

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is a top-tier public safety agency at the forefront of rehabilitating prisoners through intervention programs, re-entry, education, vocational training and purposeful engagement in work and community service.

Community service provides an opportunity for low security prisoners to develop employment skills while making reparation to the community harmed by their offending behaviour.

I am advised that the first camp was established in 1990 to assist with the recovery efforts in the wake of the Charleville floods and the Work Program has been providing regional communities with a valuable source of labour since.

The Work Program provides assistance to Queensland communities devastated by floods, storms or other natural disasters, and I am advised that Low custody prisoners participated in recovery efforts across North Queensland, following the severe weather activity and flooding in the Townsville region and surrounding areas in February 2019.

I am further advised there are now 13 work camps that operate throughout Queensland – from Innisfail to St George – with low security prisoners working in local communities to deliver local benefits.

In 2018–19 prisoners on the Work Program completed 189,308 hours of community service equating to approximately \$3.583M worth of labour to support regional Queensland.

QCS works closely with the local communities and local councils to identify a program of work through each Community Advisory Committee for projects and work carried out that is unique to their location and community needs.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 9**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

Page 6 of the SDS refers to Re-Entry support for prisoners. Will the Minister provide the committee with an overview of how these programs keep communities safe?

ANSWER:

Keeping communities safe is at the core of Queensland Corrective Services' commitment to Queenslanders.

I am advised that Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is working with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and other key agencies, such as Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health and Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to develop and implement initiatives to enhance community safety.

This government's significant investment of over \$265 million to implement the sweeping reforms in the wake of the Sofronoff Review led to an increase in rehabilitation services, re-entry supports, and improved end-to-end case management.

Release from custody back into the community is a critical time for a prisoner. I am informed effective support at this time can greatly reduce the chances of re-offending and return to custody – this means our communities are safer.

I am advised enhanced re-entry services were implemented in 2016 to enable service providers to work with prisoners to assist in resolving barriers for a prisoner's return to the community.

Prisoners can have a number of critical needs upon release, including accessing appropriate identification documentation, securing appropriate accommodation, arranging income support and establishing links to community based treatment providers. The evidence shows that by assisting prisoners with each of these critical needs, a prisoner is less likely to reoffend.

I am further advised CREST, MARA and the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre through-care Service are three services operating in Queensland, which offer support to prisoners during their transition to the community.

CREST services provide in-prison information and referral services, pre and post-release through-care support for prisoners assessed as higher risk of re-offending or with complex re-entry needs, and crisis support for offenders in the community at risk of being returned to custody.

MARA was developed for female prisoners and offenders in South-East Queensland to prioritise their specific needs including reconnecting with their children, accommodation, domestic violence victim support, mental health support and gender-focused substance misuse intervention.

I am also informed, in keeping with the philosophy of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, there are on-site providers working closely with QCS staff to coordinate an individualised employment and education pathway and through-care services that provide ongoing support to the prisoner as they reintegrate into the community.

I am pleased to note that Re-entry services exceeded the Service Delivery Statement targets for 2018-2019 financial year.

I am further advised that during 2018-19, as at 31 March 2019, a total of 8,488 prisoners received re-entry services prior to release. Collectively, these prisoners had contact with re-entry services 23,040 times.

During 2018-19, as at 31 March 2019 a total of 3,277 offenders in the community received re-entry support, collectively having contact with re-entry services 13,705 times.

I am advised QCS has been able to exceed service delivery in partnership with our its non-government service providers by providing additional resources and implementing strategies aimed at streamlining service usage and reducing access to service barriers.

QCS is also working closely with other departments to identify broader demand management solutions, particularly the Department of Housing and Public Works, on a housing strategy for women on parole and other housing programs resulting from the Queensland Parole System Review Interdepartmental Housing Taskforce.

Investing in these demand management strategies is a focus of this government to address the underlying causes of offending.

Ultimately, a safer community is where people do not reoffend and are successfully reintegrated into the community upon their release as part of a continuum of rehabilitation.

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 10

QUESTION:

Page 21 of the SDS refers to the Prostitution Licensing Authority's commitment to regulate licensed brothels. Will the Minister detail the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Authority to achieve a better outcome for all Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

A critical function of the Prostitution Licensing Authority is to ensure that only suitable persons may operate and manage licensed brothels, which provides a barrier to the infiltration of organised crime, minimises opportunities for official corruption and mitigates the risk of exploitation of sex workers. All applicants for a brothel licence or an approved managers' certificate are thoroughly investigated and only granted a licence or certificate if they are found by the PLA to be suitable for involvement in the licensed sector of Queensland's sex industry. Whilst licensees and managers receive a licence or certificate valid for 3 years, that is not the end of the process. They are subject to an annual assessment by the PLA of their continued suitability for involvement in the sector.

I have been assured the operations of licensed brothels are carefully scrutinised. The PLA has a compliance program to monitor, review and make recommendations on the operational and relevant business standards of licensed brothels. Each of the State's 20 brothels are subject to a minimum of 1 audit and 1 unannounced inspection throughout the year, with further activities based on an assessment of risk. Audits and inspections are a way of monitoring compliance with regulatory obligations and identifying non-conformances. The PLA requires that any identified non-conformances are promptly remedied by licensees. The compliance unit also conducts targeted inspections of licensed brothels in response to complaints.

It has been the experience of the PLA that licensees are generally diligent in meeting their regulatory obligations and promptly remedy any non-conformances. If licensees are recalcitrant, the PLA has the option of requiring their attendance and reminding them of the expectations of the Authority and the importance of regulatory compliance. PLA officers are also authorised to issue penalty infringement notices for some breaches of the *Prostitution Act 1999* and the *Prostitution Regulation 2014*.

The PLA has prioritised the welfare, agency and autonomy of sex workers at licensed brothels. The Prostitution Act requires that licensees must have arrangements in place to ensure the safety of sex workers and brothels must be personally supervised by the licensee or an approved manager at all times when open for business. Recognising the fundamental importance of sex worker autonomy, the PLA has made it a condition of each brothel licence that sex workers must not be compelled to provide an introduction, to see a client, or to provide a particular service.

The sexual health of the community is of paramount importance to the PLA and is safeguarded by a range of methods. Sex workers and clients must use prophylactics for all acts of sexual intercourse or oral sex and brothel licensees and approved managers must take reasonable steps to ensure that prophylactics are used. Supplies of personal protective equipment, including condoms and dams, must be available to sex workers at brothels. Safe sex signage must be prominently displayed in the reception area of brothels, so that clients are aware of the requirement to use prophylactics from the outset. Sex workers at brothels must undergo regular sexual health examinations, at least every 3 months, and provide a current sexual health certificate of examination to brothel management before commencing work at the brothel. In addition, information about sexually transmissible infections must be provided to sex workers and made available to clients.

In terms of ensuring that sex workers are at least 18 years of age, licensed brothels are required to have a process in place to verify the person's age and make a record of the identification sighted. These records are routinely checked by PLA compliance officers.

Licensed brothels operate discreetly. There are restrictions on their location, which effectively confine them to industrial and semi-industrial areas of the State. They must have no more than 5 rooms available for prostitution, be unobtrusive in appearance and compatible with the character of the locality, have static lighting, and be designed to discourage loitering.

It has been the experience of the PLA that licensed brothels have no appreciable impact on community amenity. The PLA has never received a complaint about the impact on community amenity of any operating brothel. PLA compliance officers routinely assess external lighting, signage, client and staff parking arrangements and the state of the premises in accordance with the brothel's location.

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 11

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS which details the FTE staffing, will the Minister advise the total number of approved and actual police strength for the Queensland Police Service (reported separately) as at 30 June 2019 in a) Queensland b) each police district c) each police region?

ANSWER:

The allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to increasing police numbers by an additional 535 police personnel, including 115 counter terrorism specialists by 2021-22.

It is important to note that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that comparing the actual headcount at any particular point in time is ineffective because these numbers fluctuate with temporary vacancies, retirements, transfers and new recruits coming on line. Further, I am advised that the allocation of new First Year Constables and Second Year Constables is particularly influential with regards to these numbers.

The QPS has advised that as at 30 June 2019, the actual headcount for the QPS was 11,903 which exceeded the approved police strength 11,866 positions.

I am advised by QPS that the actual headcount and approved police strength for each police district as at 30 June 2019 is represented in the table below:

District	Approved Police Strength	Actual Headcount as at 30 June 2019
BRISBANE NORTH DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	1336	1350
BRISBANE SOUTH DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	1174	1174
CAPRICORNIA DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	547	556
DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	441	457
FAR NORTH DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	870	850
GOLD COAST DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	1015	1051
IPSWICH DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	454	473
LOGAN DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	714	714
MACKAY DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	364	360
MORETON DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	445	476

MT ISA DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	202	210
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	353	342
SUNSHINE COAST DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	542	557
TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	656	666
WIDE BAY BURNETT DISTRICT (including Central Functions)	491	499

I am also advised by QPS that the actual headcount and approved police strength for each police region as at 30 June 2019 is represented in the table below:

Region	Approved Police Strength	Actual Headcount as at 30 June 2019
BRISBANE REGION (including Central Functions)	2530	2548
CENTRAL REGION (including Central Functions)	1953	1981
NORTHERN REGION (including Central Functions)	1737	1735
SOUTH EASTERN REGION (including Central Functions)	1780	1816
SOUTHERN REGION (including Central Functions)	1702	1756

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 12

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS which details the FTE staffing – will the Minister advise the forecasted total number of approved police strength for the Queensland Police Service (reported separately) as at 30 June 2019 in a) Queensland b) each police district c) each police region?

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to the response to Prehearing Question on Notice 11.

With regards to the request for forecasted total numbers of approved police strength, it is noted that the Member has not included a forecast date in the request.

However, should the Member be referring to this government's election commitment, I can advise that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has confirmed that this government's commitment of 535 additional police personnel, including counter terrorism specialists by 2021/22 will be delivered on time. This includes the already announced additional police for the Gold Coast and Townsville.

The allocation of further police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 13

QUESTION:

With reference to page 117 of the Budget Measures which details the funding to supervise and support children in watch houses, will the Minister advise (a) the number of police officers and watch house officers (reported separately) who have taken (i) sick leave (ii) stress leave (iii) mental health leave in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (reported separately by leave type and year) (b) the cost to engage a police officer or watch house officer to cover all leave above in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

This Government is supporting police officers with appropriate work protections, support and organisational structures, including effectively implementing the Our People Matter Strategy for all Queensland Police Service (QPS) employees.

Through a range of programs and services the QPS aims to promote and support the psychological wellbeing and resilience of all QPS officers and staff. The Employee Wellbeing program provides a voluntary internal clinical and organisational consultancy service to enhance employee wellbeing, build individual and organisational resilience and reliability, and reduce the risk of psychological harm in the workplace.

The QPS advises that the number of police officers who took sick leave in 2017-18 was 163 and in 2018-19 was 169 and the number of Assistant Watchhouse Officers who took sick leave in 2017-18 was 116 and in 2018-19 was 118. I am advised by the QPS that the reference to "sick leave" includes: sick leave with and without a medical certificate; carer's leave; and leave attributed to the Sick Leave Bank.

I am advised by the QPS that QPS employees who access sick leave entitlements (either with or without medical certificates) are not compelled to provide specific details regarding the medical reason for the sick leave taken.

The QPS has advised that unplanned leave of police officers or Assistant Watchhouse Officers who are substantively attached to a watchhouse is irregular and spread across the state. As such, QPS advises that they are not able to determine the cost of covering leave during the requested period.

The QPS has advised that decisions on staffing requirements are based on operational needs and the number of offenders in their charge to ensure the functions of a watchhouse are maintained.

I am advised that Watchhouse Supervisors are able to utilise overtime or adjust rosters as required. The authorisation of overtime is an operational decision for responsible supervisors across the QPS. When any frontline staff members report sick for duty a suitably authorised officer assesses the operational needs of the affected establishment.

Should overtime be approved to supplement staff at a particular watchhouse or establishment, QPS advises that the authorising officer will make a notation of the approval. This information is not kept in a central register which would allow for the collation of the information requested.

The QPS has advised that these figures relate to police officers and Assistant Watchhouse Officers substantively attached to Watchhouse units in the employee payroll database, Aurion. Please note that some rotational arrangements exist for Watchhouse staff that are managed through rosters and not recorded on Aurion, therefore police have advised that the above information represents a subset of Watchhouse employees rather than the full cohort.

**ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

QUESTION 14

QUESTION:

With reference to page 117 of the Budget Measures which details the funding to supervise and support children in watch houses, will the Minister advise the number of work-related psychological or psychiatric disorder injury claims that have been approved for police officers engaged in the watch houses and watch house officers?

ANSWER:

This Government is working to ensure police officers have appropriate work protections, support and organisational structures, including effectively implementing the *Our People Matter* Strategy for all Queensland Police Service (QPS) employees.

Through a range of programs and services the QPS aims to promote and support the psychological wellbeing and resilience of all QPS officers and staff. The Employee Wellbeing program provides a voluntary internal clinical and organisational consultancy service to enhance employee wellbeing, build individual and organisational resilience and reliability, and reduce the risk of psychological harm in the workplace.

I am advised by the QPS that there were three psychological injury claims from police officers allocated to a watchhouse in 2018-19 that were processed by WorkCover.

Contact Officer:
Phone:

Position:
Mobile:

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 15

QUESTION:

With reference to page 117 of the Budget Measures which details the funding to supervise and support children in watch houses, will the Minister advise the allocated budget for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 to fund overtime costs to supervise children in watch houses (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

The number of young people detained in watch houses has decreased in the past week.

The Palaszczuk Government is taking action to reduce youth offending and keep young offenders out of custody.

This Government established a new standalone Department of Youth Justice that is focused on delivering more than \$332 million in youth justice initiatives.

I am advised that \$938,000 was allocated to the QPS in the 2018-19 financial year for the supervision and support of young people in watchhouses.

I am advised that overtime shifts in watchhouses are performed by QPS members outside their normal rostered shifts.

This ensures the operational capabilities of police, especially in relation to matters of community safety, are not compromised.

Details about the annual funding allocations for future years as requested by the Member will be available at the end of each financial year.

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 16

QUESTION:

With reference to page 117 of the Budget Measures which details the funding to supervise and support children in watch houses, will the Minister advise the total cost of repairs in all watch houses caused by adults and children (reported separately) in 2017/18 and 2018/19?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the records outlining the repairs carried out in watchhouses do not identify the age of offenders. As such, the QPS has advised that they are unable to break down costs incurred for repairs caused by adults or young offenders.

However, I appreciate the Member's request for information. As such, I am advised by the QPS that the cost for all repairs in Queensland watchhouses for the requested periods is as follows:

2017–18	\$1,141,630
2018–19	\$1,385,317

It is important to note that there are 58 watchhouses in Queensland and the amounts outlined above are for all repairs for all watchhouses.

I am further advised by the QPS that these costs also include works attributable to unplanned maintenance, such as leaking taps, repairs to windows and panels, electrical rectification works, air conditioning and lighting.

I am advised that planned maintenance is also included in the above figures and this includes the repair or replacement of facility systems, such air conditioning systems, CCTV equipment, fire protection systems, and condition assessments.

The QPS has advised that preventative maintenance is also included in the above figures and this includes legislated on-going servicing requirements of fire systems, air conditioning systems, generators and emergency lights.

Accordingly, it is also important to note that the amounts outlined above are not exclusively attributable to the costs of repairs for damage caused by offenders.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 17**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS which details the prisoner on officer assault rate, will the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) the number of prisoner on officer assaults for each prison in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (reported separately by year and prison) and (b) the number of prisoner on officer serious assaults for each prison in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (reported separately by year and prison)?

ANSWER:

This Government has zero tolerance for violence. The safety of every Queensland Corrective Services officer is paramount and great efforts are made to ensure every officer returns home safely at the end of their shift.

Even one assault against a Corrective Services officer is one too many.

Queensland Corrective Services assures me that whenever an assault takes place the Queensland Police Service is notified and each time the subsequent investigation provides sufficient evidence, charges are laid.

Prisoners who assault a Corrective Services officer face significant penalties including the potential for a further term of imprisonment.

Prisoner on Staff - Serious	2017-18	2018-19
Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre	1	2
Borallon Training and Correctional Centre	0	0
Brisbane Correctional Centre	1	1
Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre	1	0
Capricornia Correctional Centre	0	0
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre	2	1
Maryborough Correctional Centre	0	0
Southern Queensland Correctional Centre	0	1
Townsville Correctional Centre	1	0
Townsville Women's Correctional Centre	0	0
Wolston Correctional Centre	0	1
Woodford Correctional Centre	0	1

Prisoner on Staff – Assault	2017-18	2018-19
Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre	6	12
Borallon Training and Correctional Centre	0	23
Brisbane Correctional Centre	10	7
Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre	6	4

Capricornia Correctional Centre	2	2
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre	3	3
Maryborough Correctional Centre	6	1
Southern Queensland Correctional Centre	2	2
Townsville Correctional Centre	6	5
Townsville Women's Correctional Centre	1	6
Wolston Correctional Centre	3	6
Woodford Correctional Centre	4	7

Notes:

- Borallon Training and Correctional Centre was recommissioned with all accommodation completed in July 2018 meaning 320 extra beds commissioned bringing the total capacity to 736 beds. This allowed an increase of both prisoner numbers and staff at the centre.
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre transitioned from a male to female correctional facility in 2018-19. The transfer of female prisoners to Southern Queensland Correctional Centre commenced on 20 August 2018.
- Serious assaults are acts of physical violence resulting in injuries to the victim requiring medical treatment involving overnight hospitalisation in a medical facility or ongoing medical treatment, as well as sexual assaults.
- Assaults are defined as acts of physical violence resulting in a physical injury to the victim that may or may not require short-term medical intervention but do not involve overnight hospitalisation or ongoing medical treatment.
- Assaults classified as 'other' are not reported by the Productivity Commission or in the SDS, and are reported acts of a physical nature against staff or prisoners with no identifiable injury, such as shoving.

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 18**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS which details the purpose built bunk beds across Queensland correctional centres, will the Minister advise a) the average number of prisoners in each prison (reported separately) b) the design capacity for each prison (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

This government has taken major steps to ease the pressure on Queensland's prison population by investing more than \$1 billion in this year's Corrective Services operational budget – a 42% increase since we came to government in 2015.

In addition to the significant investment in capacity to date at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre and our bunk bed program, this government is continuing to make significant investment in further correctional capacity.

This includes \$618.9 million to expand the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct by an estimated 1,000 more beds which will support around 400 jobs during construction and more than 500 ongoing operational jobs when it's operational.

This government is also investing \$241 million to boost capacity at the Capricornia Correctional Centre with 348 new cells and 396 beds.

Importantly, by 2023, we will have delivered more than 4,000 extra beds for prisoners across Queensland since 2015.

I am advised that prisoner numbers (average) and built cells (design capacity) count by centre breakdown, as at 30 June 2019, is as follows

Custodial Locations	Built cells	Built beds	Average Daily State June 2019
Arthur Gorrie CC	890	974	1,167
Borallon Training and CC	492	736	718
Brisbane CC	560	722	773
Brisbane Womens CC	267	270	217
Capricornia CC	410	560	582
Lotus Glen CC	696	782	852
Maryborough CC	500	585	573
Southern Queensland CC	302	312	295
Townsville CC (Male)	503	657	720
Townsville Womens CC	154	178	170
Wolston CC	600	764	785
Woodford CC	1,008	1,146	1,292
Capricornia CC (Farm)	96	96	59
Helana Jones CCC	29	29	24
Lotus Glen CC (Farm)	124	124	116
Numinbah CC (Female)	119	119	96
Palen Creek CC	170	170	152
Townsville CC (Female Farm)	42	42	41
Townsville CC (Male Farm)	78	78	61
Male Work Camps	136	136	84
Female Work Camps	21	21	15

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2019
Question On Notice
No. 19**

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS which details the number of sex offender programs completed, will the Minister advise (a) the number of reportable offenders and adult sex offenders (reported separately) offered to complete a sex offender treatment program between 2014/15 and 2018/19 (reported separately by year) (b) the number of sex offender treatment program completions by reportable offenders and adult sex offenders (reported separately) between 2014/15 and 2018/19 (reported separately by year) (c) the number of sex offender treatment program refusals by reportable offenders and adult sex offenders (reported separately) between 2014/15 and 2018/19 (reported separately by year) (d) the number of offenders who refused a sex offender treatment program who re-entered prison for a sex offence?

ANSWER:

I am advised that all sentenced sexual offenders, who have sufficient time in custody to complete a program, are referred to programs based on a specialised risk assessment of sexual offending risk.

Where any prisoner refuses to participate in rehabilitation, efforts are made to motivate offenders to attend programs to reduce their risk of reoffending. Program referral is not made on the basis of victim type in accordance with recognised best practice.

I have been further advised that to access data regarding all sexual offenders sentenced to a custodial sentence and their victim type, and to match this with program offers and completion records across six years of data would require extensive manual checks of hundreds of prisoner files that could only be attempted by diverting QCS specialists from operational service delivery.

As such, QCS has further advised that the provision of this information is considered to be an unjustifiable use of resources. However, I appreciate the Member's request for information about treatment programs for sex offenders. Accordingly, I am advised by QCS that they have been able to provide program completion data for each of the requested years and numbers of sexual offenders who were offered a program place, completed a program, declined a program and did not complete a program for the 2016-17 to 2018-19 financial years when automated data reports were introduced.

	Offered Sexual Offending Program participation	Sexual Offending Program completions	Sexual Offending Program declines	Sexual Offending Program participants that did not complete a program
2014-15	*	395	*	*
2015-16	*	409	*	*
2016-17	566	425	98	43
2017-18	590	410	119	61
2018-19	633	453	135	45

*manual records held only

I am advised that while QCS does not routinely record data on sexual offenders who refuse programs and whether they re-enter prison for a new sex offence, evaluations of sexual offending programs have identified that offenders who complete a program, reoffend at a lower rate than sexual offenders who do not participate.

ESTIMATES 2019
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

QUESTION 20

QUESTION:

With reference to pages 10 and 31 of the SDS in relation to capital purchases for the Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, can the Minister outline why there was a significant underspend in both agencies, with reference to specific projects (including cost) that account for this \$26.835 million underspend?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) have advised that this amount represents a variance of \$22.362 million for the Public Safety Business Agency and a variance of \$4.473 million for the Queensland Police Service.

I am advised the variation between estimated actual spend and 2018-19 budget amounts reflects the nature and complexity of the projects being delivered.

Further, I am advised that there are a number of factors, including many outside the control of the QPS and PSBA, that have influenced the variation between the actual spend and the budget amount, including: suitable land acquisition issues; contractor delays; contractual disputes with suppliers; finalisation of project scope, costings and the tender stage; and delivery capacity issues experienced by contractors and builders.

Furthermore, I am informed that components of the property and ICT projects funded as capital expenditure were required to be accounted as operating expenditure, thereby contributing to the reported variations.

It is important to note that in many instances these variations reflect a **rescheduling only** of the timing of the relevant project's delivery.

The PSBA capital program funds capital works, information and communication technology, vehicles, vessels and other infrastructure for the QPS, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), and other agencies.

I am advised by the PSBA that during the 2018-19 financial year the "PSBA for QPS Capital" budget was varied by \$6.9 million mainly due to:

- \$9.3 million capital funding to operating for various ICT projects (due to projects that were initially expected to be capital expenditure but were subsequently deemed to be an operating expense in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards)
- \$6.2 million for the Wacol warehouse facility (due to savings achieved through the tender process)
- \$3.7 million for the Wacol Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre (due to a delay in the award of the tender)

- \$3.6 million for the West End facility (due to a rescheduling of the project and scope change as a result of finalising the West End State School master plan by the Department of Education)

These amounts are partly offset by increases of \$15.9 million for various other capital works for police facilities, vehicles and vessels.

I am further advised by PSBA that during the 2018-19 financial year the “PSBA for QFES Capital” budget was varied by \$12.8 million mainly due to:

- \$4.9 million for Rural Fire appliances and \$4.8 million for Fire and Rescue appliances
- \$2.5 million for the Charlton replacement regional QFES headquarters upgrade and new permanent fire and rescue station
- \$2 million for the Cairns QFES communications centre upgrade co-located with Queensland Ambulance Service
- \$1.6 million for the Mount Isa QFES complex upgrade
- \$1.4 million for the Rathdowney replacement QFES facility
- \$1.4 million for various other capital works for QFES facilities

These amounts are partly offset by an increase of \$5.8 million for the purchase of land for the Pinkenba replacement QFES mechanical workshop.

I am advised that during the 2018-19 financial year the “PSBA for Other Departmental Capital” budget was varied by \$2.8 million mainly due to:

- \$4.5 million capital funding to operating for various Queensland Ambulance Service ICT projects

This amount is partly offset by a \$1.7 million increase for various other Departmental capital projects.

QPS continues to be responsible for delivering operational equipment to maintain quality frontline services.

I am advised by the QPS that during the 2018-19 financial year the “QPS Capital” budget was varied by \$4.5 million mainly due to:

- \$2 million relating to the mobile capability application redevelopment (due to an intellectual property dispute which has now been resolved)
- \$2 million relating to the communications upgrade project (due to funds being transferred to the Public Safety Business Agency for delivery of building ICT improvements as part of the project)
- \$1.5 million relating to covert equipment (due to funds being included in the 2019-20 budget pending completion of an operational review of replacement equipment requirements)

These amounts are partly offset by a \$1 million increase to Camera Detected Offence Program equipment.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Fire and
Emergency Services*

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

QUESTION:

With reference to Page 3 of the QFES Service Delivery Statement, which lists a key priority of the department as incorporating technological solutions that enable effective and timely decision making –

Could the Minister please explain how QFES is using technology to meet the contemporary needs of the community?

ANSWER:

Strategy 2030 was developed as part of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' (QFES) commitment towards continuous improvement and being able to prepare for the evolving landscape of emergency services, to be agile, responsive and sustainable and ensure public value continues to be delivered over the longer-term.

Motivated by Strategy 2030, QFES also embarked on a Digital Transformation Program to embrace new ways of thinking and working using digital, social, mobile and emerging technologies.

Some key digital initiatives already underway include:

- A multi-agency project to examine the data requirements for disaster management and establish standards and systems data sharing.
- A proof-of-concept project to establish an 'Operational Centre of Excellence' incorporating leading-edge digital infrastructure.
- A proof of concept to provide a dedicated secure mobile network or state-wide Mission Critical communication capabilities, to enable QFES staff, volunteers and associates to work from anywhere, anytime.
- A project to facilitate the use of 'bring-your-own-devices' as a secure and reliable method to mobilise and dispatch Rural Fire Service (RFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers.
- A Common Operating Picture – which is a shared and connected framework of credible data, analytics and imagery to support joint tactical, operational and strategic decision making across participating government, non-government and community partners.

QFES may direct additional funds to the Digital Transformation Program based on requirements and business cases identified and developed during the Program.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

QUESTION:

Minister, Page 8 of the SDS references the Department's capital program. What will the budget mean in regard to new and replacement vehicles and equipment for our Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services 2019-20 vehicle capital program includes \$50.02 million for the purchase of new and replacement fire and rescue and rural fire appliances.

The fire and rescue program of work will deliver a number of significant projects, including \$18 million for seven combined aerial pumping appliances and three telescopic platforms, significantly modernising the existing aerial appliance fleet with world class capability. A further \$20 million is allocated for 63 replacement pumping appliances and \$7.7 million for support vehicles, urban tankers and rescue tenders.

The rural fire program of work will deliver two tankers, 13 medium attack appliances and 10 light attack appliances totalling \$4.3 million.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS which highlights QFES continuing to work in collaboration with local governments across Queensland to operate an effective SES. Could the Minister please explain how QFES plans to deal with LGAQ resolution 56 "that the LGAQ lobby the Queensland Government to wholly fund the SES from existing funds received from the Emergency Management Levy, with appropriate budget allocation and governance arrangements?"

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question

The Palaszczuk Government recognises and is extremely grateful for the efforts of the emergency management volunteers who work to protect the Queensland community.

The State Emergency Service (SES) is funded by state and local government, sponsors and community donations.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is working with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to consider the implications of a transition as outlined in LGAQ's Resolution 56.

On 11 March 2019, former Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Mike Wassing in his role as Deputy Commissioner and I met with Mayor Jamieson, President of the LGAQ. We had a positive discussion where it was agreed that we would continue to explore what might be done.

QFES has also been developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are signed by the SES and local governments.

These MOUs establish a collaborative approach between QFES and local councils for the management and support of the SES and detail the current responsibilities for funding and support arrangements.

This ensures the delivery of an effective emergency service which contributes to a safer, more resilient community.

As at 30 June 2019, 58 out of 75 councils have a signed MOU.

In addition, QFES representatives met with LGAQ Policy Advocacy Council on 28 June 2019 and confirmed QFES' intent to continue to progress Motion 56 and to play a bigger role in the funding, management and governance of the SES.

This is a complex issue and the current shared responsibilities have been in place for many years. However, this Government is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure an effective SES for all Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government greatly appreciates and recognises the valued partnership with local councils regarding the SES as well as disaster management operations.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS which highlights QFES implementation of the Accelerated Rural Fire Service Fleet Program. Could the Minister please advise:

- a) the total number of Rural Fire Brigades
- b) how many of these brigades are Primary Producer Brigades
- c) the number of these Rural Fire Brigades (excluding Primary Producer Brigades) who have a truck
- d) the number of these who have a station to house their truck?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question

The Queensland Government recognises and is greatly appreciative of the efforts of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers who are integral to effective fire management, mitigation and emergency response in Queensland.

This Government has provided a significant investment in the RFS with new appliances, capital works and other resources.

There are 1,403 Rural Fire Brigades (RFBs), across Queensland.

Brigade Classification	Number
iZone Brigade (urban-rural interface)	162
Village Brigade (a small populated community with a structural fire and/or bushfire risk)	173
Rural Brigade	318
Primary Producer Brigade (PPB)	741
Special Service Delivery Brigade (eg. industry, resorts and mines)	9

As at 30 June 2019, there are 559 RFBs (excluding PPBs) who have an appliance/s and of these, 487 have a station to house their appliance/s.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

QUESTION:

Page 16 of the SDS states that during 2019–20 the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management will facilitate knowledge sharing across the sector through a statewide network of disaster management officers. Can the Minister explain the purpose of the statewide network and how it will help keep Queensland communities safe?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring the best possible disaster management arrangements are in place in Queensland.

In support of this commitment, the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (the Office) has developed a network of disaster management officers from councils across the state.

Work to develop the network commenced five years ago with the purpose of connecting disaster management practitioners from councils across Queensland to share knowledge and resources; develop skills; learn from the experience of others; and identify and develop best practice disaster management arrangements.

This initiative is the first statewide network of disaster management practitioners from councils ever developed in Australia.

The network operates through an online platform, regular teleconferences and an annual three-day forum.

As of July 2019, the network has 112 members from 58 councils across the state, representing about 75 percent of Queensland's councils.

Network members, councils and their communities benefit from:

- facilitation and strengthening of relationships between councils
- enhancing individual members' skills and knowledge
- sharing valuable information and resources
- empowering network members to achieve important community outcomes such as collaborative strategies to address commonly experienced issues and
- driving sector access to coal-face staff from up to 58 individual councils when seeking collaboration on statewide initiatives.

The fourth annual network forum was held in early May 2019. This forum attracted 68 representatives from local councils across the State.

The network has also supported the engagement of local councils in key initiatives of the Office such as the recent refresh of the Emergency Management Assurance Framework and Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland, the ongoing program of capability reviews and current work to develop a sector-wide lessons management program.

Local perspectives and expertise form a critical part of the collective knowledge that underpins the State's disaster management arrangements.

Notably, the network won the Leadership Category at the 2017 Premier's Awards for Excellence.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

QUESTION:

Page 17 of the SDS refers to the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management conducting an annual capability review of a disaster district in Queensland. Has a capability review been conducted in the last 12 months, and if so, what were the findings?

ANSWER:

A capability review of the Mount Isa Disaster District was started in the past 12 months. It was suspended in December 2018 due to the emergent reviews of the bushfires and monsoonal floods in Queensland.

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (the Office) has a legislated function under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* to work with entities performing emergency services, departments and the community to identify and improve disaster management capabilities.

A series of district and local capability reviews form part of the Office's planned program of work. These reviews provide a high level of assurance about disaster management capability, measured against the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

Annual capability reviews do not assess past performance, but rather focus on strengths and areas for development in the context of the anticipated future risk environment for Queensland communities. The outcome is an integrated improvement strategy for the district, developed as part of the review process.

The Office commenced the Mount Isa Disaster District Capability Review in the 2018–19 financial year, focussing on the Mount Isa District Disaster Management Group and local disaster management groups in Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomadgee, McKinlay, Mount Isa, and Mornington Island.

The Mount Isa Disaster District makes up more than 21 percent of Queensland's geographic size.

The Mount Isa Disaster District Capability Review follows the comprehensive Townsville Disaster District Capability Review that was undertaken in the 2017–18 financial year.

At that time, the Townsville Disaster District was assessed as 'highly effective', demonstrating many examples of good practice that would benefit Queensland's disaster management sector. The monsoon trough rainfall and flood event earlier this year validated the findings of the Townsville Disaster District Capability Review.

The Mount Isa Disaster District Capability Review was suspended in December 2018. This enabled the Office to redirect its efforts towards reviewing the 2018 Queensland bushfires, and subsequently the 2019 monsoon trough rainfall and flood event that affected much of North Queensland, including some councils already involved in the Mount Isa Disaster District Capability Review.

The capability of the district and local disaster management groups was tested during the rainfall and flooding events of early 2019, with many communities experiencing record breaking flooding, periods of isolation and devastating loss of cattle and infrastructure.

The Office intends to progress the Mount Isa Disaster District Capability Review now that the 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review is complete. The district and local groups will be able to draw on experience and learnings from their preparedness, response, relief and recovery efforts in the monsoon trough event to provide further evidence of their disaster management capability.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, which highlights QFES focusing on improving community safety awareness and knowledge in relation to bushfire safety. How does QFES prepare our communities for bushfire season?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is actively preparing for the 2019 bushfire season.

Bushfire preparedness is a shared responsibility in Queensland, primarily resting with landowners and land managers for hazard reduction.

Activities such as hazard reduction burning are highly dependent on weather conditions, which is why QFES and its partners use multiple methods to treat bushfire risk.

QFES prevention and mitigation planning is further underpinned by the Area Fire Management Groups (AFMG) that are used to foster relationships with key land managers to work cohesively on mitigation activities. The planning work of the AFMGs informs mitigation activities during the Operation Cool Burn (OCB) period.

While bushfire mitigation is done year-round, it has an emphasis during the OCB period, which this year started on 1 April 2019 and should run through to 31 August 2019, depending on weather conditions.

In preparation for bushfire season, QFES continues to plan, exercise and engage with landowners and occupiers, local government and land management agencies. QFES also develops and reviews State and Regional Operational Plans and Air Operations Plans for the bushfire season.

QFES actively assesses Bushfire Preparedness Levels against local and regional risks and makes use of predictive tools such as fire behaviour simulations.

These activities are supported by mainstream and social media campaigns to support targeted activities and heighten community awareness of bushfires and the need to prepare for the upcoming season.

QFES delivers an annual Bushfire Safety campaign from August to October, the traditional early bushfire season in Queensland. A \$400,000 2019-20 bushfire safety campaign will prompt residents to visit QFES' new online mapping tool where residents can check their neighbourhood's potential exposure to bushfire. As users discover the widespread potential for bushfires to threaten properties state wide, they will be prompted to complete their household Bushfire Survival Plan.

QFES actively engages with the community to take steps to minimise the impacts of any bushfires through simple actions such as cleaning gutters, mowing lawns and preparing a bushfire survival plan. Bushfire Survival Plans can easily be prepared by following the simple links prominently displayed on the Rural Fire Service website.

Between 9 April to 17 July 2019, QFES issued 14 media releases on bushfire season preparation and awareness resulting in 171 media articles across print, radio and television. Three hundred and forty social media posts have also been published in this period, relating to bushfire season preparation and awareness messaging. Messaging posted on Facebook had a reach of more than 3.2 million.

QFES also provides educational resources for teachers to facilitate learning on programs such as Bushfire and Fire Education, Safehome, SafeSpace and StormSafe, in Queensland schools.

The report by the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) into last year's bushfire event has been tabled. This Government has accepted either in principle or in full all IGEM recommendations. One of the Review's key finding was that the way our emergency workers, communities and councils came together was exceptional.

Further to the IGEM review, QFES initiated a comprehensive debriefing program to capture the considerable learnings for bushfire management. This program has provided QFES with many valuable insights across multiple layers and QFES will continue to work through the learning and opportunities for improvement to inform the 2019 bushfire season.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

QUESTION:

Would the minister please advise the number of both (a) rural and (b) urban appliances delivered during the following years 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, and proposed for 2019/20?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Since the start of the 2012-13 financial year, 390 new rural fire and 254 new fire and rescue appliances have been delivered.

These numbers can be further broken down to:

- 33 rural fire and 28 fire and rescue in 2012-13
- 25 rural fire and 21 fire and rescue during 2013-14
- 42 rural fire and 39 fire and rescue in 2014-15
- 53 rural fire and 41 fire and rescue during 2015-16
- 53 rural fire and 28 fire and rescue in 2016-17
- 65 rural fire and 47 fire and rescue in 2017-18
- 119 rural fire and 50 fire and rescue during the 2018-19 financial year.

Fleet scheduled for delivery during the 2019-20 financial year are 25 rural fire appliances, 34 fire and rescue appliances, seven combined aerial pumping appliances and three aerial ladder Platforms. The total 2019-20 QFES fleet budget is \$50.02 million.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

QUESTION:

Page 3 of the SDS refers to QFES Keeping communities safe by designing and delivering services according to local risk and community need. Can the Minister please advise if the Blue Water Review Working Group has made a decision on the future of marine rescue in Queensland.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the enormity of the efforts of volunteers who protect our Queensland community.

That is why financial support is provided to about 3,500 volunteers through service agreements with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA).

A review of volunteer bluewater marine rescue services in Queensland was announced during the 2018 Estimates hearing.

The review report was released on 16 January 2019 and as a result, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner, established a Working Group, to provide recommendations for the improvement of bluewater marine rescue services in Queensland. The working group consists of blue water rescue volunteers, Queensland Water Police, Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Recreational Boating Council, Surf Life Saving Queensland and Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Working Group has formed a vision for the future of the volunteer marine rescue sector and recommendations are currently being considered by QFES which will provide advice to the Government.

The Working Group has held six engagement sessions with volunteers around the state.

The Working Group aims to have an Implementation Plan finalised by November 2019.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS which highlights QFES continuing to enhance volunteer operational capability. Can the Minister please advise the equipment and services provided to Volunteers to keep Queenslanders safe.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the enormity of the efforts of the volunteers who work to protect our Queensland communities.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) acknowledges the crucial role its volunteer workforce provides in delivering our vision of a connected and capable Queensland in the face of emergencies and disasters.

There are about 33,000 Rural Fire Services (RFS) and 5,300 State Emergency Services (SES) volunteers throughout Queensland. QFES supports both services through the provision of vehicles, funds, training, equipment and protective clothing, insurance and an overarching policy framework, that ensures the QFES workforce, both paid and volunteer, are provided with relevant information in relation to policies, related standards, procedures, work instructions and tools.

Rural Fire Service:

In 2019-20, the total RFS budget is \$39.1 million and in 2018-19, was \$38.7 million.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to frontline service delivery, the government provided a capital injection to accelerate the rural appliance build program. This replaced 65 RFS vehicles during 2017-18 and 119 RFS vehicles in 2018-19.

Since 1 July 2016, QFES has been providing up to \$3.8 million a year in support of RFS asset registered vehicles through the RFS fuel and maintenance funding.

This fuel and maintenance funding initiative includes vehicle servicing, annual safety inspections, repairs (other than insurance claims) and fuel requirements for RFS asset registered vehicles.

Vehicle maintenance ensure RFS appliances are ready when they are needed for front-line firefighting.

As another boost to our rural fire brigades, in 2018-19, QFES provided \$3.1 million in protective clothing and equipment, \$780,000 in plant and equipment and \$250,000 in radio equipment.

QFES also provided \$600,000 in 2018-19 for 76 slip-on units to improve firefighting capability for Rural Fire Brigades (RFBs) and \$357,000 in RFS grants for station construction, improvements and operational equipment.

In 2019-20, QFES is rolling out P3 masks to 590 RFBs over five years. This commitment of \$2 million a year is providing yet another layer of protection for our volunteers.

State Emergency Service:

In 2019-20, the SES budget is \$20 million and in 2018-19 it was \$19.6 million.

Funds provided to the SES in 2018-19 included:

- \$2.61 million for personal protective and operational equipment.
- \$712,000 to acquire and maintain facilities, vehicles and flood boats.
- \$2.06 million (made up of \$1.65 million from the Local Government Subsidy and \$411,000 from the SES Non-Recurrent Subsidy Program) in subsidies to local governments, to support the operation of their SES groups.
- \$426,212 for the management and delivery of training to SES volunteer members.

This Government is also investing \$4.25 million in 2019-20 to transition SES to the Government Wireless Network (GWN) in South-East Queensland, to support volunteers and local government and improve emergency responses.

QFES provides a range of support for QFES members and volunteers, to promote mental health and wellbeing, including peer support and counselling services for QFES.

QFES' volunteer training is considered world class and includes eLearning and traditional face-to-face learning.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Support Package:

In addition to support provided by QFES to RFS and SES volunteers, QFES also financially supports approximately 35,000 marine rescue and surf life saving volunteers through the Volunteer Marine Rescue Support Package (VMRSP).

Under the VMRSP, QFES has Service Agreements with Surf Life Saving Queensland, Royal Life Saving Society Queensland, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland, which will provide a total of \$9.1 million in 2019-20, for the provision blue water and white-

water services, including swim and survive programs, water safety programs, white water rescue and helicopter support, and blue water search and rescue capabilities.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

QUESTION:

In relation to page 4 of the SDS, under “staffing” can the Minister outline:

- a) the number of FTE frontline staff employed in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019;
- b) the number of FTE ‘support’ staff employed in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019;
- c) the number of FTE ‘media’ staff employed in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019?

ANSWER:

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) employs staff for a range of roles, including firefighters, emergency management experts, scientists, building fire safety engineers, communication officers, finance personnel, and staff welfare officers.

The below information is provided by financial year, as this is how QFES generally reports on staffing figures. The breakdown of QFES full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by year (as at 30 June) since 2016-17 is as follows:

2018-19

Frontline FTE*	2,786.85
Frontline Enabler (Support)	539.3
Media	11.70

2017-18

Frontline FTE*	2,747.63
Frontline Enabler (Support)	474.29
Media	11.70

2016-17

Frontline FTE*	2,780.63
Frontline Enabler (Support)	444.40
Media	8.10

* Auxiliary staff are 0.1 of an FTE.

Note: FTE expressed to two decimal places corresponds to the number of hours worked in relation to a position's full-time equivalent. For example, 0.63 represents 25 hours worked in a 40-hour full-time equivalent, due to flexible or part-time arrangements.

It should be noted that the QFES's FTE staffing figures are subject to ongoing fluctuation on account of attrition and recruitment.

I am advised that the increase in frontline enabler FTEs is primarily due to Machinery of Government changes which resulted in the transition of staff from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) to QFES. As a result of the Review of the PSBA, a total of 146 staff transitioned from the PSBA to QFES in 2016-2017.

In 2017, the Palaszczuk Government committed to providing an additional 100 firefighters over four years, from 2018-19 to 2021-22. The benefit of this election commitment is reflected in the increase in Frontline FTE figures in 2018-19 compared to the 2017-18 financial year.

While figures are included back to 2016 in order to address this Question on Notice in its entirety, reliable figures are only available from 2017-18. With the multiple changes to the Public Safety Business Agency in the earlier part of the decade, it has been impossible to ascertain consistent, usable figures relating to front-line and non-front line FTEs until 2017-18 due to changing methodologies of FTE allocations to that point.

The following table provides a breakdown of the workforce profile:

Workforce Profile	Description
Frontline	Staff who directly deliver QFES services to Queensland communities, including firefighting, emergency management, communications, risk mitigation, etc.
Frontline Enabler	Staff who contribute to frontline service delivery via provision of business or corporate support. It should be noted that a significant number of these staff adopt a frontline role in the event of a heightened activation.
Media	Includes Media Officers, Senior Media Officers, Media Supervisors and Media Managers.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, under “staffing” can the Minister please outline the following figures in relation to QFES in 2018/19:

- a) The overall number of complaints (bullying/sexual harassment etc.) specifically breaking down figures between urban, rural fire and SES
- b) The number of overall actions taken in response to these complaints
- c) Total number of hours taken off work (both with pay and without) as a result of these bullying/harassment actions?

ANSWER:

- a) The overall number of complaints (bullying/sexual harassment etc.) specifically breaking down figures between urban, rural fire and SES**

The number of complaints recorded in the Complaints Management System for 2018-19 was 351 and there were 360 allegations (some complaints contain numerous allegations).

Allegations are assessed using the Crime and Corruption Commission – Allegations and Subtypes. Below is a breakdown of all allegations by type.

There were only five alleged complaints of bullying and harassment. Three were substantiated.

Complaint Category	2018-19 Number of Complaints
Administrative Decision Complaint	17
Breach of Privacy Complaint	2
CaPE Category 1	107
CaPE Category 2	90
CaPE Category 3	43
Complaint against the Commissioner	1
Corrupt Conduct	15
Customer Complaint	21
General Public Complaint	55
Grand Total	351

Breakdown by Division	2018-19 Number of Complaints
Readiness and Response Services (RRS) – Fire and Rescue Services (FRS)	173
Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience (EMVCR) – Rural Fire Service (RFS)	87
EMVCR – State Emergency Service (SES)	58
Strategy and Corporate Services (SCS)	21
Other	12
Grand Total	351

b) The number of overall actions taken in response to these complaints

The table below categorises the data based on the Nexus Complaints Management module. These categories are Discontinued, Not Substantiated, Not Yet Determined and Substantiated.

Allegations	2018-19 Count of Allegation Number
Discontinued	17
Administrative Decision Complaint	2
CaPE Category 1	5
CaPE Category 2	4
CaPE Category 3	3
Customer Complaint	1
General Public Complaint	2
Not Substantiated	119
Administrative Decision Complaint	5
CaPE Category 1	42
CaPE Category 2	37
CaPE Category 3	12
Corrupt Conduct	15
Customer Complaint	7
General Public Complaint	1
Not Yet Determined	109
Administrative Decision Complaint	2
CaPE Category 1	25
CaPE Category 2	41
CaPE Category 3	22
Corrupt Conduct	16
Customer Complaint	2
General Public Complaint	1
Substantiated	115
Administrative Decision Complaint	1
CaPE Category 1	53

CaPE Category 2	40
CaPE Category 3	13
Corrupt Conduct	1
Customer Complaint	4
General Public Complaint	3
Grand Total	360

c) Total number of hours taken off work (both with pay and without) as a result of these bullying/harassment actions?

The number of hours taken off work as a result of these bullying/harassment actions cannot be quantified and isn't recorded in the Complaints Management System.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS in relation to QFES's role in conducting "effective prevention"— will the Minister advise the following (reported separately for 2015 to 2019):

- a) The total number of Hazard Reduction Burns operations carried out by QFES
- b) The number of permits to light fire approved by fire wardens
- c) The number of permits made to light fires by fire wardens
- d) The average time between application and approval of fire lighting permits

ANSWER:

I thank the member for the question.

a) The total number of Hazard Reduction Burns operations carried out by QFES

The role of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is to work with partners and the community to provide leadership and support in the shared responsibility of preparation for and prevention of bushfires.

Undertaking hazard reduction to reduce fuel loads is the responsibility of the landholder.

It is not QFES' responsibility to undertake hazard reduction burns. However, QFES does play a role in assisting landholders complete hazard reduction burning activity when requested to do so.

- b) The number of permits to light fire approved by fire wardens**
- c) The number of permits made to light fires by fire wardens**
- d) The average time between application and approval of fire lighting permits**

Because the vast majority of these permits are for remote and regional parts of Queensland, they are usually processed manually, which means the information is not held centrally. QFES is looking into an electronic permitting system.

QFES does however, capture data that relate to Permits to Light Fire that are activated. This data is captured when the permit holder contacts Firecom prior to

lighting their fire. For the calendar years 2015 to 2019, QFES advises data relating to total Permit to Light Fire activations reported was:

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019- to 30 June
Total number of Permit to Light Fire - Activated	28,655	27,907	26,178	27,005	10,569

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, under the departmental overview of the “Rural Fire Service”, can the minister outline the following in relation to the operation of Rural Fire Brigades in Queensland between and including 2015 and 2019 (reported separately):

- a) The total number of rural fire fighters utilised by QFES
- b) The total number of hours that rural fire fighters were used for each of these years
- c) The total number of rural fire stations in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

a) The total number of rural fire fighters utilised by QFES

The Palaszczuk Government recognises and greatly appreciates the efforts of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers who are essential to fire management, mitigation and emergency response in Queensland. These volunteers selflessly gift their time and life skills to protect life and property and prevent and fight fire across remote and regional Queensland.

As at 30 June 2019, there are approximately a total of 33,000 RFS volunteers, which covers every rank and position within a Rural Brigade.

Brigade numbers fluctuate and are fluid due to the data verification, people moving on, transitioning to other roles, economic sustainability, social economics of the community and work-life balance.

For the financial years 2014-15 to 2018-19, the number of RFS volunteers with rural fire-fighter rank are:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
RFS volunteers with rural firefighter rank	13,966	13,877	13,938	13,944	13,184

NB: To be granted the status of Firefighter and to wear the firefighter rank markings, members must complete Firefighter Minimal Skills (FMS) training.

b) The total number of hours that rural fire fighters were used for each of these years

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the total number of hours for rural fire-fighters attending incidents is currently not recorded.

QFES is currently undergoing a digital transformation, which aims to move QFES into a digital future ready state where users, technology and information gathering are better aligned.

c) The total number of rural fire stations in Queensland

The total number of rural fire brigades with a station is:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of brigades with stations	433	434	464	480	487

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, under QFES's requirement to manage staffing, volunteers and operational communications between emergency service groups, can the Minister outline the following in relation to management and operation of Human Capital Management Solution (Nexus):

- a) the number of days in which the Nexus program has not been operating at its full intended functionality since going 'live' in August 2018;
- b) The number of training certificates currently on the system that have not been able to be printed and provided to recipients;
- c) Any additional costs incurred by the department since outlined in QON No. 1239;
- d) Are there any plans to change or update the existing Nexus programs and if so, what timelines are expected?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- a) The number of days in which the Nexus program has not been operating at its full intended functionality since going 'live' in August 2018**

The Nexus program as it is still being rolled out. The department continues to work closely with the vendor to address matters that have arisen.

- b) The number of training certificates currently on the system that have not been able to be printed and provided to recipients**

Nexus is working to address this issue. The specific number has not been determined.

- c) Any additional costs incurred by the department since outlined in QON No. 1239**

The answer to Question on Notice No. 1239, which was tabled on 19 October 2018, states that \$16.056 million had been expended. An additional \$43,000 has been spent as at 30 June 2019.

- d) Are there any plans to change or update the existing Nexus programs and if so, what timelines are expected?**

QFES is taking a 'continuous improvement' approach to Nexus and will work with the vendor as each module is rolled out, the next being the performance, goals and workplace health and safety modules.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, under the departmental overview of the “State Emergency Service (SES)”, can the minister outline the following in relation to the operation of SES groups in Queensland between and including 2015 and 2019 (reported separately):

- a) The total number of SES volunteers
- b) The total number of SES groups
- c) The names of SES groups that ceased operations.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- a) **the total number of SES volunteers**
- b) **the total number of SES groups**

	Total number of Active SES Members	Total Number of SES Groups
2014-15	5,900	316
2015-16	6,200	311
2016-17	5,600	309
2017-18	5,600	301
2018-19	5,300	297

State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers consist of Active, Applicant, Probation and Reserve volunteer members. SES quote only the active member numbers, as these members have completed their probationary period and regularly attend training activities, maintain their skills and are available for operational response. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is committed to maintaining service delivery to effected communities irrespective of SES member numbers.

QFES regularly undertake audits of membership records and group functions to ensure records accurately reflect capability within the service. The most recent audit commenced in early 2019, which attributed to a decrease in the 2018-19 figure. As a volunteer organisation, SES experiences ongoing fluctuations in volunteer numbers, which may be attributed to a number of factors such as leave of absences and change of membership status.

- c) **The names of SES groups that ceased operations**

The creation, maintenance and closure of SES Groups is a joint responsibility between local councils and QFES.

There are many considerations in the decision to close an SES Group. A Group may be closed if it no longer meets the minimum requirements for a functional Group. Groups may be amalgamated where a Group/s no longer meets the minimum requirements for a functional Group in their own right, or where it is in the best interests of operational service delivery.

The closure or amalgamation of a Group does not affect community service delivery.

Since November 2015, the SES has recorded a total of 19 SES Groups which have ceased operations. These groups include:

- Hungerford SES Group, (November 2015)
- Adavale SES Group, Quilpie (December 2015)
- Augathella SES Group, Roma (August 2015)
- Morven SES Group, Roma (December 2015)
- Begonia SES Group, Roma (September 2016)
- Etna Creek SES Group, Capricornia (December 2016)
- Collinsville SES Group, Mackay (July 2017)
- Farleigh SES Group, Mackay (July 2017)
- Northern Beaches SES Group, Mackay (July 2017)
- Walkerston SES Group, Mackay (July 2017)
- Louisa Creek SES Group, Mackay (July 2017)
- Eungella SES Group, Mackay (August 2017)
- Finch Hatton SES Group, Mackay (August 2017)
- Yelarbon SES Group, Toowoomba (November 2017)
- Opalton SES Group, Longreach (January 2018)
- Kumbia SES Group, Caloundra (September 2018)
- Coppabella SES Group, Mackay (October 2018)
- Boobyjan SES Group, Gympie (November 2018)
- Laura SES Group, Cooktown (May 2019)

Since July 2014, the SES has recorded five newly established Groups. These Groups include:

- Far Northern Region (FNR) Operations SES Group, Cairns (March 2019)
- Redlands SES Group, Redland City (June 2015)
- Rolleston (Emergency Service Unit), Central Highlands (August 2015)
- Tambo (Emergency Service Unit), Blackall-Tambo (August 2015)
- Toowoomba Region SES Group, Toowoomba (January 2018)

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS can the Minister outline the following in relation to inspecting and approving fire safety of buildings with combustible cladding between 2015 and 2019:

- a) The overall number of inspections undertaken
- b) The number of building passes on first inspection
- c) The number of these buildings that are still not approved
- d) The average number of inspections conducted before buildings are approved.

ANSWER:

Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2019, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Building Cladding Support Unit has identified and conducted Operational Risk Audits (ORA) in relation to the presence of non-compliant building products (cladding) at 251 inspections in Queensland.

The intent of the ORA is not to pass or fail a building that is identified as containing non-compliant building products (cladding).

Rather, QFES has adopted a risk allocation method, which encompasses three risk categories, being high, medium and low. ORA inspections are conducted once on a building to determine the risk allocation category.

A high or medium risk allocation may result in QFES providing an upgraded predetermined response to the building. This upgraded response is determined on a case-by-case basis, based on building occupancy, type and quantity of the non-compliant building product and the fire safety systems installed within the building. The upgraded response remains in place until the building owner remediates the building to a compliant standard.

As a result of the 251 inspections undertaken by QFES, 81 buildings identified as potentially containing non-compliant building products (cladding) have an upgraded response in place.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

QUESTION:

With reference to page 18 of the SDS, can the Minister provide a cost and page count of the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review and 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review (reported separately by review)?

ANSWER:

The Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) was tasked by the Government to undertake two key reviews in 2018–19 in response to disaster events in Queensland:

- 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review
- 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review.

Both reviews included a community survey to capture public opinion and travel to affected areas to enable consultation with key stakeholders.

To inform the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review, the IGEM engaged the services of a nationally recognised research centre to explain the science behind the events and lessons from Australia and overseas.

To inform the 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review, the IGEM engaged an independent external firm with hydrology and flood management expertise.

Both reviews are complete.

The estimated actual cost and page count for each review is as follows:

Review title	Estimated actual cost of review ¹	Page count ²
2018 Queensland Bushfires Review	\$532,110	178
2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review	\$432,840	188

Notes:

¹ Estimated actual cost to complete the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review (31 May 2019) and the 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review (17 June 2019).

² Page count includes front and back cover of review report. Independent work to inform the review as identified in the report appendices is not included in the page count.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

QUESTION:

In recent weeks Central Queensland residents have been receiving notification letters indicating they will be charged multiple Emergency Services Levies on their local rates notices pertaining to a single street address. Can the Minister provide a time frame as to when the extra charges will be withdrawn and confirm the systems used to calculate these levies will be corrected?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (the Act), requires the owners of prescribed properties in Queensland to contribute to the provision of emergency services by means of a levy, collected via local government rates notices.

Each local government must assess the properties in its area and apply the appropriate levy to each separately titled property (lot).

The Emergency Management Levy (EML) is assessed by the relevant local government, in this case Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC). Properties in Mount Morgan are located in the Mount Morgan Class C levy district boundary.

An EML audit was recently conducted on the RRC levy files, which required Council to review the classifications of each property. RRC adjusted any records that were not in accordance with the Act or the *Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011*.

The property owners affected by the audit adjustments were notified by RRC. Any adjustments made are effective from 1 July 2019 but will not be back dated to previous financial years.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has conducted an examination of the legislation and its impact and has also obtained legal advice on what options are available to address the issues you raise.

The legal advice obtained states that the Act does not provide any ability to amend, waive or make any changes to either the statutory levy class or the statutory levy category. It is a binding formula that is legislated by parliament and local authorities and QFES is bound by this.

The Act does not provide an exemption to the EML where a person owns multiple lots. The only exception is for contiguous lots used as bona-fide farm land and owned by the same owner, which attract a single levy.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

QUESTION:

Given the extraordinary benefit that fixed wing water bombing from the Finch Hatton emergency airfield delivered during the November 2018 bushfires, can the Minister explain;

- a) Why the State Government is unwilling to contribute financially; given these fires burned across significant state reserves?
- b) Why the State Government is seeking to divest responsibility onto Local Government and other stakeholders?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for this question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that fixed wing water bombing is not a regular occurrence for the Finch Hatton Area and QFES has only utilised this facility once in the last 30 years.

QFES generally relies upon rotary aircraft, due to the close proximity of the Teemburra and Eungella dams.

The site on which the airfield is located is not set aside for public purposes and is privately owned.

QFES does not provide funding to create improvements on privately owned land.

As part of the preparation and planning for disasters and emergencies across Queensland, Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) identify suitable locations including existing airfields, either private or commercial, for the use of both rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

Answers to questions taken on notice at hearing – 26 July 2019

26 July 2019

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question 1:

How many complaints were made between 2016-19 directed to the Public Trustee involving client complaints, privacy breach complaints, employee complaints and other complaints under the complaints management policy and employee complaints management policy?

Answer:

The Public Trustee (PT) provides a broad range of services to diverse client groups. It is a natural consequence of the performance of the PT's legislative obligations, and the contested interests environment in which it operates, that some clients or stakeholders might disagree or be dissatisfied with the PT's decisions or actions in respect of the interests of its clients.

The PT provides accessible information to clients and other stakeholders about the ways they can make a complaint. The PT Complaints Management Policy, available on its website, describes the ways it responds to different types of complaints and the timeframes in which complainants will receive a response.

The Policy also provides further options for resolution if a complainant remains dissatisfied with the response.

Under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act), a privacy complaint is a complaint by an individual about an act or practice of the Public Trustee in relation to the individual's personal information that is a breach of the Public Trustee's obligation to comply with the information privacy principles. A privacy complaint under the IP Act is investigated in accordance with the Public Trustee Information Privacy Complaints Management Policy and Procedure (available on its website). A written response will be provided to the complainant in line with the response period required under the IP Act.

Employee complaints are dealt with in accordance with the relevant guiding instruments including internal policies, the Public Service Commission Directive 02/17 'Managing Employee Complaints' and the relevant provisions of the *Public Service Act 2008*.

The PT is committed to acting in accordance with its legislative obligations and in the best interests of its clients at all times.

Clients and other parties impacted by the PT's decisions may seek a review of PT decisions in accordance with the PT's Complaints Management Policy, through the Queensland Ombudsman or by making application to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The PT values all feedback received. Analysing the issues that clients and employees have complained about assists the PT in identifying improvements that can be made to the organisation, its services and the way they are delivered.

I am advised that between 2016–17 and 2018–19, complaints versus total matters were as follows:

Matters managed by PT	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Total matters managed	44,176	47,809	48,122
Total complaints	654 (1.48 %)	610 (1.27%)	539 (1.12%)

Data collection for the total number of complaints does not record when multiple complaints are made for the one matter; taking that into account, the true percentage of complaints made is likely to be even smaller.

26 July 2019

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question 2:

How many compensation orders have been made between 2016 and 2019 for loss caused by the Public Trustee's failure to comply with the *Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*?

Answer:

I am advised that the Public Trustee (PT) is committed to carrying out its role as a fiduciary for over 9,000 adults with accountability and transparency.

I am advised that between 2016–17 and 2018–19, seven compensation orders were made against the PT (by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and by other Courts).

Of those orders, only one resulted from an external party bringing an application against the PT.

For the remaining orders, The Public Trustee of Queensland itself facilitated the making of the order pursuant to its fiduciary obligations.

I have also been advised that between 2012-13 and 2015-16, seven compensation orders were made against the PT (by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and by other Courts).

26 July 2019

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question 3:

What is the total cost of all compensation orders to be paid by the Public Trustee between 2016 and 2019?

Answer:

The Public Trustee (PT) is insured for any errors that it might make.

The maximum deductible for each claim is \$100,000. Accordingly, for Orders made over \$100,000, the PT only pays \$100,000 – the balance is paid by its insurer.

I am advised that the total cost to the PT for the orders made between 2016 and 2019 was \$347,447.94.

2016–17 to 2018–19	
Total amount ordered	Total amount to be paid by PT
\$552,680.12 plus interest and costs	\$347,447.94*

* For one matter, an order was made for \$100,000 plus interest and costs; however, the PT was only required to pay \$10,000 of its insurance deductible as the matter related to PT data matching systems rather than any fault on the part of the Public Trustee. For two other matters, the payments have not yet been made (for \$100,000 and \$9,213.42 respectively)

26 July 2019

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question 4:

How many allegations of money being misappropriated have been made against the Public Trustee in the last three years?

Answer:

As a Queensland Public Service agency, the Public Trustee is bound by the *Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service*. Employees of the Public Trustee are committed to the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

The Public Trustee's *Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Procedure* outline its actions to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and also how suspected fraud and corruption is dealt with.

All employees are required to undertake mandatory training in fraud and corruption when they commence with the Public Trustee and annually thereafter and are encouraged to report any concerns to their manager or the Public Trustee's fraud control officer.

All allegations of possible corrupt conduct are dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation and reported to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) as appropriate.

I am advised that the Public Trustee is not aware of any allegations of misappropriation made against the Public Trustee in the last three years, however has advised that there was one allegation in 2012-13

Allegations of fraud involving Queensland Government agencies may also be made to the Queensland Police Service or the CCC.

The Public Trustee may not be made aware of allegations against the Public Trustee if they have been made directly to those bodies.

In relation to the specific matter raised by the Member for Toowoomba South, I have been advised that no funds held on behalf of Public Trustee clients were involved in that incident.

26 July 2019

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question 5:

How many employees employed under the *Public Service Act 2008* have been subject to disciplinary action under section 188 of the *Public Service Act 2008* between 2016 and 2019?

Answer:

The *Public Service Act 2008* (the Act) sets out the grounds on which disciplinary findings may be made about a public service employee.

Section 188 of the Act lists (non-exhaustively) examples of disciplinary action that may be taken against a public service employee or former public service employee.

The Public Trustee recognises that there will be occasions when it will be necessary and appropriate to commence and complete a disciplinary process.

In disciplining an employee, the Public Trustee complies with the Act, relevant directives and natural justice principles (other than when suspending on normal remuneration).

I am advised that the number of Public Trustee employees who faced disciplinary action under section 187 of the *Public Service Act 2008* is as follows:

Year	Number of employees disciplined
2012–13	4
2013–14	4
2014–15	2
2015–16	1
2016–17	1
2017–18	2
2018–19	4

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
DOCUMENT FOR TABLING
Estimates
26 July 2019

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that in 2018-19, the rate of assaults, per 100 prisoners, for Queensland high security facilities, matched between public and private prisons, are as follows:

	Public	Private
Serious - Prisoner on Prisoner Rate per 100 prisoners	2.72	4.37
Assault - Prisoner on Prisoner Rate per 100 prisoners	8.26	17.12
Assault - Other Prisoner on Prisoner Rate per 100 prisoners	7.66	15.29
Serious - Prisoner on Staff Rate per 100 prisoners	0.06	0.21
Assault - Prisoner on Staff Rate per 100 prisoners	0.94	0.99
Assault - Other Prisoner on Staff Rate per 100 prisoners	2.52	7.82

ESTIMATES 2019
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES
QUESTION NO.

QUESTION: QPS call for service to relocate an absconded client of the Forensic Disability Service referred to by Minister O'Rourke.

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that on 29 September 2018 police attended and initiated local strategies in locating a missing patient.

ESTIMATES 2019
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES
QUESTION NO.

QUESTION: Commissioner, can you confirm that since Labor took office, robbery in Queensland is up 61 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 45 per cent and assault is up 32 per cent?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the above figures are incorrect.

The QPS has confirmed that, while there are increases in some specific categories, there are decreases in others.

Should the Member require further information in relation to official independent crime statistics, this information can be obtained from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office website at www.qgso.qld.gov.au

ESTIMATES 2019
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES
QUESTION NO.

QUESTION:

Commissioner, can you tell us what the total cost for transporting children from watch houses around Queensland to the Brisbane watch house has been in 2018 and 2019?
(police prisoners only)

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the total cost incurred by the QPS in 2018 and 2019 for transporting young offenders who are “police prisoners” as distinct from “Youth Justice prisoners” from watchhouses around Queensland to the Brisbane Watchhouse is nil.

ESTIMATES 2019
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES
QUESTION NO.

QUESTION: Commissioner, in terms of police officers per 100,000 in Queensland, according to the annual statistical review, in 2016 there were 245 officers per 100,000. In 2017 there were 242. As at 30 June 2019, how many officers per 100,000 were there? Also, do you have the figure for 30 June 2018?

ANSWER:

According to the Annual Report on Government Services (RoGS) the rate of operational staff for 2016-17 and 2017-18 for Queensland was above the national average.

I am advised that the rate of police officers per 100,000 persons in Queensland for 2017-18 was responded to in the 2018 Estimates Hearing.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that the rate of police officers per 100,000 persons in Queensland for 2018-19 was 233.

As the Police Commissioner stated in the 2019 Estimates Hearing:

‘If you do not mind, I will talk to the head count. As at 12 July 2019, the total actual head count of police officers, recruits and staff was 15,085, which was 122 more than as at 30 June last year. This included an increase of 36 police officers, an increase of 24 recruits and an increase of 62 staff as opposed to last year’.

Further, the Palaszczuk Government committed to delivering 535 police personnel, including 115 counter terrorism specialists, across the state by 2021-22.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE**

No. 1

QUESTION:

Mr MILLAR: Yes, why he sent that letter and why he sent it on the same day.

ANSWER:

The Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) has informed my office that he was providing clarification around Recommendation Nine of the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review.

He believed it best to do this in writing and as soon as possible.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services ESTIMATES HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

QUESTION:

Some 81 buildings have been identified by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, through operational risk assessments, that additional operational response is required due to the combustible cladding.

How many of the 81 buildings are residential and how many are commercial?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question and advise there are 13 residential buildings and 68 commercial buildings.

Documents tabled at hearing – 26 July 2019

Documents tabled at the hearing – 26 July 2019	
1.	Pre-hearing question on notice number 18 and answer provided by the Hon Di Farmer, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, tabled by Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar.
2.	Correspondence from the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services to Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, Leader of the Opposition, dated 8 July 2019, tabled by Mr Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North.
3.	Extract from the Tweed Daily News, dated 25 July 2019, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
4.	Extract from the Townsville Bulletin, dated 25 September 2012, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
5.	Extract from Quest Newspapers, the Courier Mail, dated 10 December 2018, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
6.	Correspondence from the Toowoomba North Electorate Office to the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services dated 19 July 2019 together with correspondence from Dr Nikola Stepanov, Queensland Integrity Commissioner, to the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services dated 25 July 2019, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
7.	Extract from the Gatton, Lockyer and Brisbane Valley Star, dated 12 June 2019, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
8.	Extract from the Queensland Times, dated 13 June 2019, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
9.	Extract from the Chronicle, dated 18 July 2012, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
10.	Extract from the Whitsunday Times, dated 29 June 2018, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
11.	Correspondence from Mr Dan Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry to the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, dated 19 April 2018, tabled by the Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.
12.	Correspondence from Mr Iain S MacKenzie AFSM, Inspector-General Emergency Management to the Hon Craig Crawford MP, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, dated 15 July 2019, tabled by Mr Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory.

Tabled by Mr Michael Bokun MR

At Est Hearing LACSC

Date 26 July 2019

Signature



**HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY
VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

2019 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With respect to the Government funding a new Department of Youth Justice from 20 May 2019, with an objective of reducing the number of young people held on remand in police watchhouses, and noting the meeting on 11 October 2018 between Ministerial Staff, Departmental Staff, and the Public Guardian, Natalie Siegel-Brown, as detailed in the Minister's diary:

- (a) prior to that meeting, what information, if any, had the Public Guardian provided to Ministerial or Departmental staff about the detention of children in Queensland watchhouses?
- (b) at that meeting, what was discussed and what information, if any, was provided by the Public Guardian in relation to the detention of children in Queensland watchhouses?
- (c) what action was taken in response to any such information or discussions prior to the Four Corners report on 13 May 2019?

ANSWER

- (a) Youth Justice welcomes the oversight role of the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), and is committed to the safety and security of all young people in custody, particularly those in watchhouses.

Youth Justice has sustained positive engagement with OPG regarding young people in Queensland watchhouses prior to, and following, 11 October 2018 and welcomes the ongoing contribution and oversight provided by the OPG. A strong working relationship ensures that any concerns that the OPG raises with Youth Justice regarding young people detained within watchhouse environments can be appropriately and quickly considered, investigated and responded to.

Prior to 11 October 2018, as part of the regular course of communication between the department and OPG, the OPG sent correspondence to the department, including information about the circumstances of individual young people held in watchhouses, general feedback about the use of watchhouses to detain young people for extended periods, and advocacy on behalf of individual young people concerning improving their access to services, legal representatives, family visits and court appearances.

The correspondence from the OPG acknowledged the department's concerns about the detention of children in watchhouses, and commitment to work through the complex contributing factors, while ensuring the safety of detained young people.

Additionally, with approval from the Police Commissioner, Community Visitors from the OPG commenced routinely visiting the Brisbane City Watchhouse each week from 20 September 2018.

(b) A meeting with the OPG on 11 October 2018 was held at my request to discuss issues, including:

- factors impacting on watchhouse numbers, including the transition of 17-year-olds into the youth justice system in February 2018;
- the legislative ability for the OPG to visit the Brisbane Watchhouse;
- confirmation that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Youth Justice share the view that a young person should be held in a watchhouse environment only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible;
- rapid bail assessments, supporting accelerated court processes and strengthening bail support to minimise where appropriate, the length of time a young person is held in watchhouses and detention;
- progress of planned infrastructure, and system upgrades to increase detention centre capacity;
- weekly OPG visits to the Brisbane City Watchhouse, including agreed protocols;
- weekly summary reports that identify issues and record actions required by Youth Justice and QPS, which has received positive comments from Community Visitors.

(c) The majority of the case studies in the ABC's Four Corner's report of May 2019 had been previously identified and responded to by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women or been addressed by QPS and/or Youth Justice in the course of normal Brisbane City Watch House operations. Having said this, the media has played an important role in highlighting the complex challenges associated with supporting some young people in the youth justice system.

In early 2018, the department established a dedicated team solely focused on the safety and wellbeing of young people held in watchhouses, and expediting their bail applications and transfer to a youth detention centre. The team explores the underlying reasons for remand rates, identifies matters that have been delayed in the court process and works with Youth Justice Service Centres (YJSCs) to prioritise them, and refers bail merit applications to Legal Aid Queensland. The team also works with YJSCs to establish clear watchhouse management protocols with QPS.

Prior to the 4 Corners report,

- every matter raised by the OPG with Youth Justice in relation to individual young people in the watchhouse, was fully considered by the Department.
- QPS and DCSYW had regular contact with the Office of the Public Guardian and the Community Visitors Program and as matters arose these were worked through as a matter of priority and in most cases were de-escalated or resolved on the spot.

It should be noted that QPS retain all legislative authority for the operation of watchhouses and are therefore responsible for managing all investigations into allegations that occur in a watch house – through Ethical Standards Unit and/or CCC if required.

Prior to May 2019 and since, where a young person was likely to be held for an extended period, they were transferred to the Brisbane City Watch House, which has a dedicated wing that can be used exclusively for young people. Additionally, the department provided a range of services and support to young people in watchhouses, including behavioural support services and advocacy. QPS and the department also facilitated services from other agencies, including on-site visits from the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Brisbane Youth Education and Training centre, Murri Watch and Sisters Inside. Family visits were also facilitated for young people in watchhouses.

Daily risk assessments of youth detention capacity and watchhouse populations were a matter of normal business practice but greater emphasis and consideration was placed on these assessments from early 2018 to inform and prioritise transfer and admission decisions. Factors taken into account included potential room sharing arrangements in a detention centre; bed availability; age, vulnerability and trauma history of a detained young person; self-harm risks; upcoming court dates; and length of stays in a watchhouse.

Development of the first tranche of Government reforms and investments announced in December 2018 commenced prior to the meeting on 11 October 2018. The initiatives in the first tranche were aimed at supporting young people to get bail more readily and abide by bail conditions. These reforms dovetail with the government's *Working Together, Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* (the YJ strategy), which was released on 11 December 2018, and the report by Major General (retired) Stuart Smith. Development of the YJ strategy was commenced well before 11 October 2018.

On 30 April 2019 a second tranche record investment of \$332.5 million in Youth Justice Reforms was announced as the next step in implementing this government's *Working Together, Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* (the strategy) and progressively implement the report by Major General (retired) Stuart Smith, to implement a range of initiatives across Queensland aimed at reducing re-offending, expand existing youth detention centres and build and staff new youth detention centres. This funding brought the total investment in youth justice reforms to \$550 million since the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system.

Development of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (the Bill) also commenced before May 2019. As part of the YJ strategy, the Government committed to commence a review of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. The Bill includes priority amendments progressed as part of this review.

The Queensland Government has been clear that we do not support children being held in watch houses for any time beyond normal arrest and processing.



Tabled by Trevor Watts MP
At LACSC Est hearing
Date 26 July 2019
Signature [Signature]
Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services

Ref No: 2019/11188 JF

08 JUL 2019

Mrs Deb Frecklington MP
Leader of the Opposition
PO Box 15057
CITY EAST QLD 4002
reception@opposition.qld.gov.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 8300
Email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Dear Mrs Frecklington

I refer to your recent representations to the Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, about young offenders in watchhouses.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that young offenders may be held in a watchhouse while they are awaiting their first court appearance, sentencing or transfer to a youth detention facility. The QPS works closely and collaboratively with the Department of Youth Justice to manage the accommodation of young offenders in police custody. The safety and wellbeing of all persons in police custody is of a paramount concern to the QPS.

I am advised that no young offender aged 10 years of age has spent more than an overnight stay in a watchhouse and I have been assured that no young offender has ever been placed into a cell with paedophiles.

Further, QPS has advised that young offenders who display or express self-harm ideations are placed into appropriate clothing to ensure the highest standards of safety and wellbeing for the young offenders are maintained, including the provision of clean underwear daily. Each young offender has access to constant clean drinking water in addition to delivered water and milk five times per day.

I have been assured by the QPS that if a young offender held in a watchhouse becomes ill, they are transferred to a hospital for immediate medical treatment and diagnosis.

I can advise that this government is currently funding a number of youth partnership initiatives to divert young people from crime, including high risk youth court, after hours youth diversion services and cultural mentoring.

-2-

I trust this information is helpful to you. Should your office require further information, Ms Ellen McIntyre, Chief of Staff, is available on 3035 8300.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', is positioned above the printed name.

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services

CC: The Honourable Di Farmer MP
Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

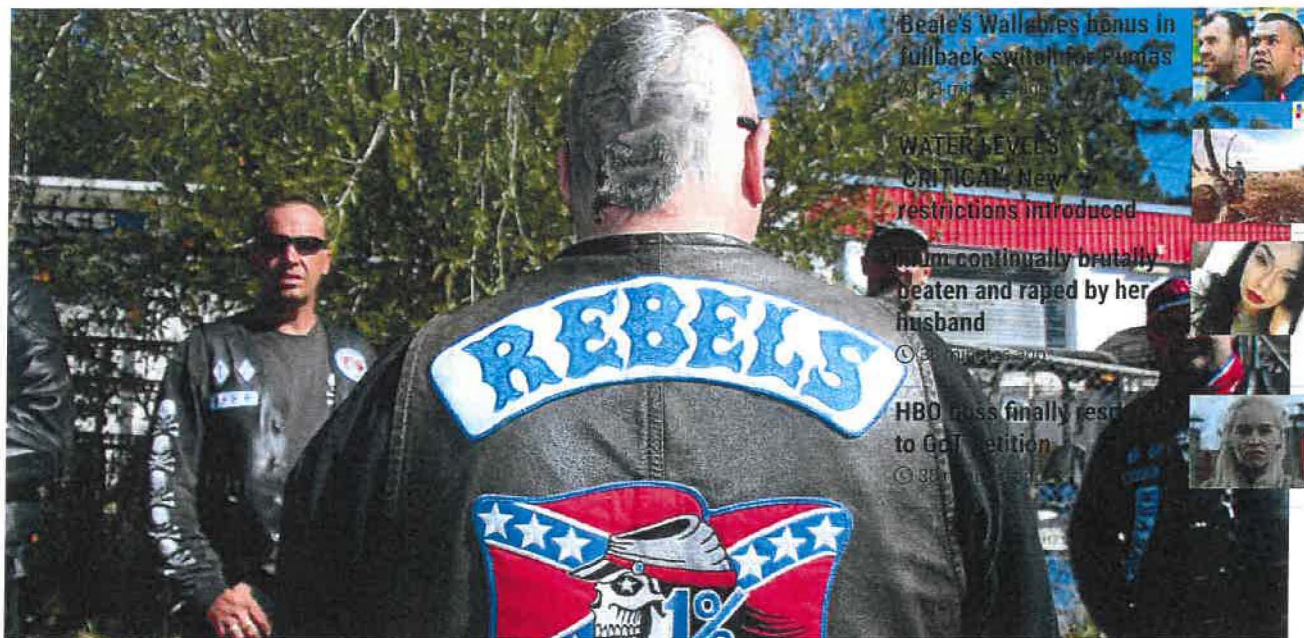
CRIME

EX-MAYOR HANDED LENGTHY JAIL SENTENCE FOR EXTORTION More

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
 At LACSC Est Herby
 Date 26 JULY 2019
 Signature [Signature]

CRIME

'Bikies escaping tough Queensland laws by moving to Tweed'



Outlaw motorcycle gang The Rebels. Picture: James Drew

NSW Labor spokesman for the Tweed, Walt Secord, says the State Government is failing residents by allowing Queensland bikie gangs to escape tough gang laws by relocating across the border.

Mr Secord called on the re-elected Berejiklian government to examine the Queensland anti-bikie laws and offered to "sit down and work" with Tweed MP Geoff Provest to bring the tougher Queensland laws to NSW.

"I want to put aside our differences and work together to protect North Coast families," Mr Secord said.

Mr Secord said NSW Police Minister David Elliot should take a leaf from the book of his Queensland counterpart Mark Ryan, who followed up his "tough words with tough actions".

"Queensland bikie gangs cannot operate on the Gold Coast due to their tough laws, but once they cross the border into the Tweed, it is game on - and they operate as they wish," Mr Secord said.

"Put simply, Queensland bikies are coming to NSW to escape Queensland's tough and uncompromising laws.

"Over the last few months, I have received representations from distressed residents and businesses who are concerned by the appearance of Queensland bikie gangs in industrial estates and other parts of the Tweed.

"It is extraordinary to see Queensland bikies pull over to the side of the Pacific Highway and put on their coloured jackets once they are inside NSW."

Mr Secord said the NSW Nationals promised a strike force to tackle bikie gangs in 2014 but had so far done "nothing."

"The Rebels and the Mongols laugh at the NSW Police Minister - and fear the Queensland one," he said.

Tweed MP Geoff Provest has been contacted for comment.



Four alleged OMCG members were arrested by the Tweed-Byron Police District after a cross-border operation in the Tweed last month.

Picture: NSW Police Media





 back

Cops to hit beat without vital kit

by Kate Higgins



kate.higgins@news.com.au

TOWNSVILLE'S top cops have been told to tighten their belts, with no guarantee they'll have equipment for new recruits before they hit the beat.

Despite the State Government promising to boost frontline resources, this year's Budget for new and upgraded operational equipment, including cars, boats and traffic cameras, was the lowest in three years.

It comes as the state's two police academy campuses, in Townsville and Brisbane, prepare to churn out more recruits at a faster rate to meet the Government's quota of 300 new officers on the beat this financial year.

It is understood Towns-

ville's senior police officers have now been told to prepare for an influx of new officers, but have been warned vital equipment, such as additional cars and computers, has not yet been purchased to provide for the recruits.

Funding for new operational equipment for the Queensland Police Service fell from \$77.5 million in the 2011-12 Budget to \$53.8 million this financial year.

The figure was also below the 2010-11 spend of \$60.1 million.

A spokesman for Police Minister Jack Dempsey yesterday denied that drops in funding meant new recruits would be without equipment.

"Everything that the new

officers require, they will have in the budget," he said.

The LNP has allocated \$146.9 million over four years to deliver 1100 new police officers by 2015-16.

However, Opposition police spokesman Bill Byrne said the drop in overall funding for equipment was another symptom of the LNP's "slash and burn mentality" and accused Mr Dempsey of under-resourcing police.

"The funding for equipment has continually increased over the last few years as police officer levels increased," Mr Byrne said.

"The drop in funding for police equipment shows how hollow the LNP election commitment is to put more police

on the beat."

Meanwhile, a new crop of first-year officers is expected to join the QPS ranks early next year, with instructors at the Townsville Police Academy already running a revamped 25-week training course, down from the previous 30-week course, to pump more recruits through the program.

The shorter course is set to begin at the Brisbane facility in January, allowing both campuses to produce more officers in a calendar year.

The State Government also relaxed entry criteria to allow younger people without tertiary education to apply to the police force.

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
At LACSC Est Hendrie
Date 26 JULY 2019
Signature [Signature]

Menu

Read the Paper

Rewards

Hi Nick 

NEWS

SPORT

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

LIFESTYLE

REAL ES

LOGAN

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
 At LACSC Estimates Hearing
 Date 26 July 2019
 Signature [Signature]

LOGAN


Police program helps 'Booyah Boys' get back on track

Turning your life around for the better is no easy task but for one southside teen who made poor choices at school, a police initiative has saved his life.

Judith Kerr, Quest Newspapers

Subscriber only | December 10, 2018 5:00am



 Hayden Schocroft with a chair he restored during Project Booyah, which he graduated from this month with a certificate in hospitality. PHOTO: AAP/Jono Searle



From: Toowoomba North Electorate Office <Toowoomba.North@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 11:09 AM
To: Police
Subject: Meeting request - Assistant Commissioner Ethical Standards Command

Dear Minister,

Mr Watts would appreciate a time to meet with the Assistant Commissioner Ethical Standards Command to discuss a number of cases before the Ethical Standards Command, which have been brought to our attention as they are outstanding or unresolved.

At your earliest convenience, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please provide the details of the appropriate contact person.

We look forward to your earliest possible response.

Kind regards

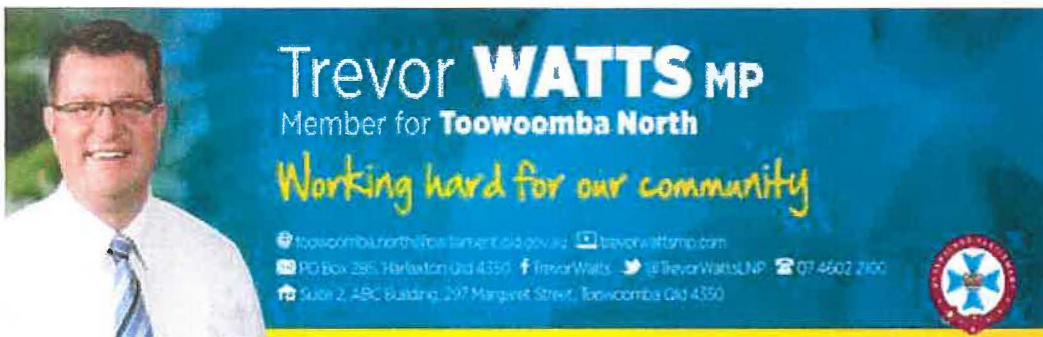
Office of Trevor Watts MP
Shadow Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism,
Shadow Minister for Corrective Services
Member for Toowoomba North

E: Toowoomba.north@parliament.qld.gov.au

PO Box 285 Harlaxton 4350

P: (07) 4602 2100 | F: (07) 4602 2109

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
At LACSC Estimates Hearing
Date 26 July 2019
Signature [Signature]



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Our ref: TF/19/5126

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

25 July 2019

The Honourable Mark Ryan, MP

Minister for Police and

Minister for Corrective Services

By email: police@ministerial.qld.gov.au;
Ellen.McIntyre@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister,

I refer to your request for advice dated 24 July 2019 about a request by Trevor Watts MP, Shadow Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism (Shadow Minister), to meet with the Assistant Commissioner, Ethical Standards Command, Queensland Police Service (QPS).

As a member of the Legislative Assembly, you are a designated person under section 12(1)(a) of the *Integrity Act 2009* (Qld) (the Act), and I am required to provide the advice you seek. In so doing I am not able to provide you with legal advice, however, under section 21(3) of the Act, I must have regard to any relevant codes or standards in providing advice to you.

I draw to your attention your obligation under section 15(3) of the Act to disclose to me all information relevant to an ethics or integrity issue. Any omission, whether intentional or not, can significantly affect and alter my advice to you and take away protections, under section 40 of the Act, against civil and administrative proceedings when following the advice.

For your information, this advice is set out as follows:

1. Facts of situation as provided by you
2. Relevant standards
3. Discussion of issues, and
4. Summary of advice.

Level 13, 53 Albert Street Brisbane
PO Box 15290, City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Phone +61 (07) 3003 2888
Email integrity.commissioner@integrity.qld.gov.au
Website www.integrity.qld.gov.au

1. Facts of situation as provided by you

You say:

I refer to an email received in my ministerial office on 19 July 2019, a copy of which is attached, from the office of Mr Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North and Shadow Minister for Police.

In the email, Mr Watts is requesting to meet with the Assistant Commissioner, Ethical Standards Command, Queensland Police Service 'to discuss a number of cases before the Ethical Standards Command'.

I am most concerned about the nature of this highly unusual request and seek your guidance and advice. I have never received a similar request in relation to the Queensland Police Service or Queensland Corrective Services. I consider this request, which also circumvents the office of the Police Commissioner, highly inappropriate and further, that it could be perceived to be an attempt to interfere in highly confidential and sensitive operational policing matters.

More importantly, the public may perceive a request of this nature to be an inappropriate interference in the independence of an investigative body, thereby undermining the authority of the Ethical Standards Command.

It is my strongly held view that police need to be free to do their job without political interference. This is even more important where that job is the investigation of complaints made against police. Further, a request of this nature could be perceived as an erosion of the separation of powers by constituting political interference in the investigation of internal conduct matters.

I refer to categories of alleged conduct that might constitute corruption, as defined by the Crime and Corruption Commission in its Corruption allegations data dashboard - Glossary, namely, interfere with or undermine an investigation:

'Interfere with or undermine an investigation, legal process or conduct matter allegations encompasses a wide range of conduct that can involve misusing authority to falsely report an offence, conceal an offence or conduct, as well as corrupt/undermine/alter the course of (a) an investigation into a criminal, civil, regulatory or internal conduct matter, or (b) a prosecution or legal proceedings'.

Whilst that definition isn't exhaustive, it is my view that it could encompass the conduct of the Member for Toowoomba North as described above. I ask that you consider the issues I have raised and provide me with your advice and guidance on what action I should take in relation to the Member for Toowoomba North's request.

You also provided a copy of the email received from the Shadow Minister on 19 July 2019, which I have not reproduced here.

2. Relevant standards

- *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994* (Qld) (PSEA)
- Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service (Code of Conduct)
- Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members
- Ministerial Code of Conduct
- *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (Qld)
- Integrity Act 2009 (Qld) (the Act)
- *Police Service Administration Act 1990* (Qld)

3. Discussion of issues

You seek my advice about a request by the Shadow Minister to meet with the Assistant Commissioner, Ethical Standards Command, to discuss a number of cases before the Ethical Standards Command.

You inform that the request is highly unusual. You also have the following concerns with respect to the request:

- It effectively circumvents the office of the QPS Commissioner.
- It may be perceived to be an attempt to interfere in highly confidential and sensitive operational policing matters.
- It may be perceived to undermine the independence and authority of the Ethical Standards Command.
- QPS officers need to be free to do their job without political interference, particularly in relation to the investigation of complaints made against police, and
- Any meeting of this nature might be perceived as an erosion of the separation of powers by constituting political interference in the investigation of internal conduct matters.

Interaction by QPS Officers with Members of Parliament and the Public

I note that the request by the Shadow Minister is particularised to specific operational matters.

As stated, you have identified a number of concerns associated with the request, based on the potential erosion of the separation of powers between the legislative and the executive arms of government.

There are strict obligations and standards that are imposed on public servants, Ministerial staff, and Ministers in regard to proper conduct, access, and interactions between QPS staff and officers, and public officials and public servants. These obligations and standards are imposed to ensure public confidence in the QPS, and so that there can be no justified perception by the public, of any intrusion on the independence and functions of the QPS. Compliance with general obligations and standards are particularly pertinent in regard to QPS operational matters.

For Ministers, the Ministerial Code of Conduct, also provides that you:

'...should also observe the ethics values as set out in the (PSEA) that apply to the Queensland public sector as a whole where they are relevant:

- *Integrity and impartiality*
- *Promoting the public good*
- *Commitment to the system of government*
- *Accountability and transparency.'*

The PSEA declares that *'commitment to the system of government'* is an ethical principle which is, *'fundamental to good public administration'*.¹ More particularly, the PSEA also holds that the public sector has a duty to uphold the system of government:

8 *Commitment to the system of government*

- (1) *In recognition that the public sector has a duty to uphold the system of government and the laws of the State, Commonwealth and local government, public service agencies, public sector entities and public officials —*
 - (a) *accept and value their duty to uphold the system of government and the laws of the State, the Commonwealth and local government; and*
 - (b) *are committed to effecting official public sector priorities, policies and decisions professionally and impartially; and*
 - (c) *accept and value their duty to operate within the framework of Ministerial responsibility to government, the Parliament and the community.*
- (2) *Subsection (1) does not limit the responsibility of a public service agency, public sector entity or public official to act independently of government if the independence of the agency, entity or official is required by legislation or government policy, or is a customary feature of the work of the agency, entity or official.*

Further to this, Public Sector officers (including Ministerial staff) are required to abide by their respective code of conduct, policies, and directives.²

Consistent with the commitment to the system of government, the *Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members*, contains a number of standards for interaction with public sector employees³, including reference to the Premier's Communique, *'Interaction between ministerial staff and public servants'*⁴.

The Premier's Communique also relevantly includes the following:

- *Directors-General are responsible for the delivery of their department's services and are ultimately accountable to the Premier, although they report to their responsible Minister on a day-to-day basis.*

¹ PSEA, s.4.

² PSEA, s.18; Code of Conduct p.3.

³ Principle 3 – Interacting with public service employees respectfully, collaboratively and with integrity.

⁴ <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Content/MediaAttachments/2010/pdf/Communique%C3%A9.pdf>

- *All interactions between Ministers, Ministerial staff and public servants are subject to a comprehensive framework of laws, policies and codes of conduct that establish legal obligations and expected standards of behaviour.*
- *Directions given by Ministerial staff to the public service on behalf of a Minister should be provided directly to Directors-General in accordance with the public service management and accountability framework set out in the Public Service Act 2008.*

Operational Matters

As noted, compliance with such obligations and standards is particularly pertinent with regards to QPS operational matters, and the nature of the Shadow Minister's request is specific to this type of matter.

With respect to Members of the Legislative Assembly, including shadow ministers, to my knowledge there are no provisions that provide for an exception to the general standards that apply to proper conduct, access, and interactions, with QPS officers regarding specific operational matters than would ordinarily apply to others such as public servants, Ministerial staff, and other Ministers.

Therefore, I am of the view that the nature and specificity of the request is unusual and at odds with the established standards that apply. I also have additional concerns about confidentiality as detailed below.

Confidential Information

I understand that matters dealt with by the Ethical Standards Command are conducted under continued monitoring of the Crime and Corruption Commission and are subject to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001 (Qld) (CCA)*.

In the circumstances, the following secrecy provisions under the CCA may apply:

213 Secrecy

- (1) *This section applies to a person who is or was —*
 - (a) *a relevant official; or*
 - (b) *a member of the reference committee; or*
 - (c) *a person to whom information is given either by the commission or by a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) on the understanding, express or implied, that the information is confidential.*
- (2) *A person must not make a record of, or wilfully disclose, information that has come to the person's knowledge because the person is or was a person to whom this section applies.*

Maximum penalty—85 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.

In any event, it would also seem that provisions under the *Police Service Administration Act 1990 (Qld)* relating to the improper disclosure of information would be relevant:

10.1 Improper disclosure of information

- (1) Any officer or staff member or person who has been an officer or a staff member who, except for the purposes of the police service, discloses information that —
- (a) has come to the knowledge of, or has been confirmed by, the officer or staff member or person through exercise, performance or use of any power, authority, duty or access had by the officer or staff member or person because of employment in the service; or
 - (b) has come to the knowledge of the officer or staff member or person because of employment in the service;
- commits an offence against this Act, unless —
- (c) the disclosure is authorised or permitted under this or another Act; or
 - (d) the information is about a person offered an opportunity to attend a drug diversion assessment program under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, section 379 and the disclosure is made to the chief executive of the department within which the Health Act 1937 is administered; or
 - (e) the disclosure is made under due process of law; or
 - (f) the information is not of a confidential or privileged nature; or
 - (g) the information would normally be made available to any member of the public on request.
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (2) In prosecution proceedings for an offence defined in subsection (1), it is irrelevant that information of the nature of that disclosed had also come to the defendant's knowledge otherwise than in a manner prescribed by subsection (1).

Whether the request should be approved

I concur with the concerns you have raised about agreeing to the Shadow Minister's request for a meeting between the Shadow Minister and the Assistant Commissioner on the subject of current investigations.

I also agree that it is open to you to decline the request, consistent with your obligations as Minister to act in the public interest. I base my views in this regard on the following:

- Such a meeting would be incompatible with the comprehensive framework of laws and related codes of conduct separating the legislative and executive arms of government.
- It would tend to circumvent the QPS Commissioner's oversight role and responsibilities in communication between the executive and legislature.
- There would be a high risk of a breach of the serious confidentiality obligations in any substantive discussion of the investigations, particularly given the Shadow Minister has no executive role or function with respect to them.
- As you note, the proposed meeting with the Assistant Commissioner on these issues is highly unusual, and seemingly unnecessarily gives rise to potential concerns, including undue influence.

- While the ethics principles include *accountability and transparency*, the investigations are already subject to direct or potential oversight, including by the CCC and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

4. Summary

Thank you for your request for advice. I commend you for recognising the importance of upholding the system of government and the comprehensive framework of laws and codes of conduct that support it.

Based on the information you have provided, and for the reasons detailed, I agree that it would be reasonably open to you and consistent with your obligations as Minister to decline the Shadow Minister's request for the meeting and to perhaps suggest alternative options.

Under section 27 of the Act, it is at your discretion as to whether you disclose this letter. However, in the interests of transparency, should you choose to disclose this letter I would strongly urge you to disclose it in full.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Nikola Stepanov PhD (Melb.)

QUEENSLAND INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

W. <https://www.integrity.qld.gov.au>

E. integrity.commissioner@integrity.qld.gov.au

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Note: The *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld) does not apply to this document and the enquiry to which it responds – *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld), schedule 1, section 6.

7/24/2019

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan M.P.
At LAOSC Estimates Hearing
Date 26 JULY 2019.

Gatton Star

Gatton, Lockyer & Brisbane Valley

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New men's prison set to boost economy

Stage two development to cater for 1000 inmates in Gatton

FULL
STORY
PAGE 6

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Business awards for our 'quiet achievers'

Ebony Gravel
Local News Reporter

FIVE businesses made their way into the spotlight at the Lockyer Chamber of Commerce and Industry Local Business Recognition Dinner in categories acknowledging new and longstanding businesses alike.

Chamber president Paul Emmerson said it was a "fantastic night for networking, for business and for getting together".

"There were some new people and a lot of people who had been around for years," Mr Emmerson said.

More than 170 guests attended the dinner on Friday night to acknowledge the hard work of local businesses in the region.

"There were 176 places booked and I didn't see an empty seat," Mr Emmerson said.

But he said the night was more about recognising the hard work of local business than about awards.

"It's about recognition and I don't know if we've got the message across about that yet," he said.

"Awards match a criteria



WINNERS: The 2019 LCCI Local Business Recognition Dinner.

PHOTO: EBONY GRAVEL

and everybody could probably win an award if we make the criteria right."

Mr Emmerson said the event prioritised recognising the region's "quiet achievers".

"This is about recognising people who have done different things, those who

get on and do things and do it well."

Mr Emmerson said good business was crucial to any region and fundamental to the success of businesses in the surrounding economy.

"Whatever you do, you need to rely on good business – the people who

supply you have got to be good at what they do to add value to what you do."

Bridgestone Plantland, Galton Florist, Val Vaughan, Campbell Fabricating and Engineering, and Valley Irrigation, Steel and Fencing were the five recipients recognised for their efforts.

New prison to be built in the Lockyer Valley

THE Lockyer Valley will become home to a second prison, with construction planned for completion by 2023.

The new \$68 million men's prison facility will deliver about 1700 beds for prisoners, helping to address overcrowding across the correctional system.

It will be the first new prison built in Queensland since Southern Queensland Correctional Centre stage one opened in 2012.

Minister for Corrective Services Mark Ryan said the project would deliver a massive economic boost to the region, creating hundreds of jobs as well as delivering significant financial benefits.

He expects the project to create more than 400 construction jobs during the three-year build.

"It will eventually deliver more than 500 permanent jobs as well as ongoing opportunities for local businesses to supply goods and services," Mr Ryan said.

The new prison will form the project's second stage.

"Planning has commenced for a modern, evidence-based prison which will support safer communities through enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, with a focus on addressing the ice epidemic and its link to violent and property crime," Mr Ryan said.

"This announcement is a part of the most significant reform of corrections in a generation, including the Government's response to Taskforce Flaxton and the decision to transfer Queensland's two privately operated prisons to public operation in a world-first push to improve community safety and reduce recidivism."

Member for Lockyer Jim McDonald welcomed the move, saying while some community members had concerns, there would be

significant benefits.

"There were a lot of concerns when the first Queensland Corrections Centre went ahead in Galton and for us all in the Lockyer Valley," Mr McDonald said.

"But we've seen the positive effect that it's had in terms of employment and I'm sure that this extension will provide even further employment and economic opportunities."

But he also called on the government to speed up the process.

"We shouldn't get ahead of ourselves. At the moment the Government has just said they're going to fund \$2 million this year to do a study," he said.

"This is something that has been planned for many, many years and we look forward to it being properly funded."

He said he would lobby to ensure locals had access to any jobs the project created.

WHAT YOU SAID

Maybe the passenger train should follow?

— Paul Williams

Seriously... so many homeless families/people in need and DV victims and this is what the Government spends money on... if they must build more prisons build them in remote areas like the desert not in growing family communities.

— Leanne Tremain

How about a rehab centre instead. Send people with drug problems to rehab instead of prison where they can easily get drugs to feed their habits. Or develop one by being in prison. There is no rehabilitation in jail to speak of it's a joke.

— Kate Charter

This is HORRIBLE! I am sorry but I am raising my kids here.

— Chelle Bockel

LOCKYER VALLEY PHARMACY

Health Notes
 with Marita Fitzgerald

HEALTH SOLUTIONS & ADVICE



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Prison will bring only good things



A NEW prison will equal "jobs and opportunity" and work as a catalyst for more investment in the Lockyer Valley according to mayor Tanya Milligan (pictured).

The Queensland State Budget included \$2m for a Scope of Procurement plan for a 1000-bed men's facility about 20km north of Gatton.

Construction of Stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct, which would cost about \$620 million, is set to be completed within five years.

The project is expected to create 400 construction jobs over the three-year build and more than 500 permanent roles, as well as ongoing opportunities for local businesses to supply goods and services.

It is the first prison to be built in the state since Stage 1 was opened in 2012 and forms part of the most significant budget in terms of financial commitment and resourcing in the history of Queensland Corrective Services.

Cr Milligan, then a Laidley Shire Councillor, can remember the angst in the community when the first facility was mooted but believes there had "only been benefits from it".

"Unfortunately Laidley council didn't want it but Gatton put their hand up for the facility and that gave them a boost," she said. "That's why they got the funds that went towards the swimming pool, that's why they have the cultural centre. It's because they were smart. There's economic stimulus and benefits in it."

"There was a bit of scare-mongering (at the time). I'm excited. For the construction phase there will definitely be a high percentage that will come from the local area."

"This is certainly going to raise the profile for the Lockyer Valley."

Lachlan McIvor

Tanked and dangerous

Drunk granny's dash cam showed other near misses

ROSS IRBY

DRUNK and zipping in and out of motorway traffic a 70-year-old grandmother eventually came to a stop when she crashed into a car.

Things went from bad to worse moments later, when the woman who was four times the legal alcohol limit accidentally side-swiped a parked car as she attempted to move out of the way.

The misadventures of Bernadette Tanks were captured on her own dash cam, which proved a useful tool for investigating police.

Tanks gave an alcohol reading of 0.210, which added to a history of drink driving offences, Ipswich Magistrates Court heard this week.

Magistrate David Shepherd said Tanks put her life and the lives of others at risk.

He said her personal suffering as a result of the deaths of her husband and a godchild was no justification for her actions.

Bernadette Mary Tanks, 70, from Goodna, also known as Bernadette Ford, pleaded guilty in Ipswich Magistrates Court to dangerous operation of a motor vehicle when adversely affected by liquor at Bundamba on March 22.

A charge of driving under the influence was withdrawn when police offered no evidence.

Police prosecutor Senior Constable Dave Shelton said police went to a traffic crash at 12.40pm at the intersection of Brisbane Rd and Byrne St.

Snr Const Shelton said

Tanks drove about 9km in her extremely drunk state.

He told the court that Tanks told police to check her dash cam footage of her journey, from leaving her Goodna home at 12.01pm and driving toward Ipswich on the Motorway.

Footage revealed that on multiple occasions Tanks had almost caused accidents through her rapid lane changes.

At 12.12pm it showed her driving very close to the car in front as she continued onto Brisbane Road, braking heavily to avoid a potential collision.

A vehicle was stationary in a right-turning lane when Tanks struck it in the rear, the impact sending the car several metres forward.

Snr Const Shelton said Tanks spoke to the other driver then moved her car through the intersection but while attempting to park she side-swiped another car.

At a police interview on April 3 she refused to answer questions.

Tanks' defence lawyer, who later approached the court reporter outside the courtroom about the matter but then refused to give her name, referred to Tanks in court as "Miss Ford".

On court records the lawyer identified herself as Amelia Torre from Landmark Lawyers in Goodna.

Ms Torre told the court Tanks was a small business owner and her husband of four years had died on Anzac Day last year. Earlier this year her godson had drowned on Stradbroke Island.



PRIOR OFFENCES: 70-year-old Bernadette Tanks leaves Ipswich Magistrates Court.

Photo: Ross Irby

She referred to her previous drink driving offences, saying one happened after she was drinking while ironing clothes then went to pick up her husband from the pub.

She had undergone alcohol counselling after another offence.

Ms Torre said Tanks in 2011, following an argument with her husband, went to Stradbroke Island. After having some drinks to relax, her car was pulled over by police.

In submission on penalty Ms Torre told Magistrate David Shepherd "Miss Ford" takes many medications that might inhibit the processing of alcohol.

"She was shocked and appreciates that it could have

been worse," Ms Torre said.

"She has engaged with a psychiatrist and will do grief counselling."

"She has written to the other driver. And is out of her own pocket as the insurance did not cover it."

"She spent time in the police watch-house that day, and has given her car to friends."

Mr Shepherd said the circumstances and Tanks' alcohol reading in the dangerous operation offence were very serious, with her drinking habit "clearly dangerous".

Mr Shepherd said Tanks had the misfortune to suffer loss in her life causing her considerable stress but the potential loss of life to other families through her driving "is no way to deal

with the stress you are suffering".

He noted her prior drink driving offences, saying one alcohol reading had been "extraordinarily high".

"What I don't understand is why people don't learn their lesson," he said.

"Last week there were 10 or more people killed on our roads in one week for a variety of factors."

"You are putting your life and other lives at risk by getting behind the wheel of a vehicle having consumed a lot of alcohol."

Mr Shepherd sentenced Tanks to six months' jail, immediately suspended for 18 months. Her licence was disqualified for 12 months.

Recycling scheme could accept wine, milk bottles

THE Containers for Change refund scheme is set to expand to include wine and milk bottles.

Currently, a range of containers from water bottles to soft drink cans are included in

the scheme, allowing people to trade recyclables for 10c each at participating refund sites.

Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said in a statement there was a possibility things could change.

"It's still only seven months old but it's obvious from the half a billion containers that have already been returned and the more than 640 jobs that have been created, that Queenslanders are hugely sup-

portive of this recycling initiative," Ms Enoch said.

Ms Enoch said South Australia was reviewing its scheme and as states strive to offer uniform schemes to minimise costs and maximise efficiency

across the country, it could impact Queensland.

The Gatton, Laidley, Esk, Fernvale and Kilcoy refund processing sites are managed by third party Anuha. Ebony Graves

Tabled by Hon. Mark Ryan MP
At LACSC Estimates Hearing
Date 26 July 2019
Signature [Signature]

INSIDE: Centenarian takes walk down memory lane: Page 6



The Chronicle

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

www.thechronicle.com.au \$1.20

**Is this centre
Gardentown
or ghost town?**

Find out: Page 3



**Strand
Cinema
reels out
new era:
Page 5**



JS

**IT'S
BACK!**

Check out our
top photos
& stories
of your kids

Page
19

Jobs to go as prison shuts

FORTY-EIGHT prison staff face an uncertain future with the State Government announcing it will close the Darling Downs Correctional Centre at Westbrook.

Story P.2

Robyn Smith's success story
I am less than half the person I used to be

"I hang my washing on the line and think, wow, I can fit three pieces of clothing where before I used to fit only two!" Robyn, a bubbly and youthful 44-year-old, is literally half the woman she was just four years ago.

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Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MLC
At LACRO ESTIMATOR HEARING
Date 26 JULY 2019
Signature [Signature]

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Angry backlash at move to close Darling Downs prison

By JOHN FARMER

john.farmer@thechronicle.com.au

THE State Government has announced it will shut down the Darling Downs Correctional Centre at Westbrook.

The closure means 48 prison staff will have to relocate or take redundancies while the centre's 140 male prisoners will be moved to other correctional facilities.

Community Safety Minister Jack Dempsey said the closure was part of the State Government's attempts to address the financial mess in which Labor had left Queensland.

It is understood the move will save the government more than \$5 million a year.

Mr Dempsey said the prison needed a \$20 million upgrade which was "more than the people of Queensland can currently afford".

"I regret the job losses but in the current difficult financial situation they are unavoidable," he said.

Member for Toowoomba North Trevor Watts agreed the closure could not be avoided.

"We are working hard to give ourselves a bright future, but unfortunately that means some short-term pain," he said.

No timeline for the closure has been released, but representatives from the State Government will meet with prison staff this morning.

Prisoners will be relocated progressively to other facilities with spare accommodation.

Darling Downs lead organiser for the union Together, Dennis Mullins, slammed the State Government for back-flipping on a promise of no forced redundancies in the public services sector.

"They have betrayed that promise, betrayed our members and betrayed Toowoomba," he said.

"This is, as far as I'm concerned, absolute proof that if you live west of the Great Dividing Range, Campbell Newman and the LNP don't care about you."

Mr Mullins said he had received advice that prison staff unable to relocate within four months would be "sacked".

Mayor Paul Antonio late yesterday said he was taken aback when he heard the announcement.

Cr Antonio said prisoners had made valuable contributions to the community through work placement programs.

"The facility makes a very important contribution to our way of life on the Darling Downs," he said.

"I'd really like the government to take a hard look at this decision."



Dennis Mullins

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
At LACSE Estimator Hearing
Date 26 JULY 2019
Signature [Signature]

Whitsunday
Times



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ON TOUR: Shadow Police Minister Trevor Watts (right) with the LNP Member for Whitsunday Jason Costigan outside the Proserpine Police Station on Wednesday.

NEWS

Prossie police station flagged during shadow visit



by peter.carruthers

29th Jun 2018 8:28 AM



1

THE Shadow Minister for Police, off the back of money being ripped out of the state policing Budget, has conducted a tour of police infrastructure in the Whitsunday electorate.

Of concern to Trevor Watts, aside from the growing crime rate and cuts to the capital policing budget, is the ageing police station on Mill St in Proserpine.

The 51-year-old station was earlier the subject of a Question on Notice asked by the Member for Whitsunday Jason Costigan of the Labor Police Minister Mark Ryan.

Mr Costigan asked "will the Minister commit to replacing the 50-year-old Proserpine police station?".

Mr Ryan responded by stating the the Queensland Police Service advised the building in Proserpine "provides adequate space, design and capacity to accommodate policing needs at Proserpine and it is well appointed".

"With respect to future growth, I have been assured by the Police Commissioner that the Queensland Police Service will continue to monitor policing requirements now and into the future," the minister said.

"I am advised by QPS that any future expansion to the Proserpine police station will be considered in line with other state wide capital works of this nature."

While in the Whitsunday this week the member for North Toowoomba, Mr Watts, said the Queensland State Budget had cut police spending by \$44million.

"Meanwhile every (crime) indicator in every region is going up," he said.

The shadow minister said in the 2016/17 period 348 new officers were recruited which he told the *Whitsunday Coast Guardian* was not keeping pace with population growth.

"So you have got crime going up police budget going down and police numbers reducing relative to the population and I am saying 'that's not good enough'," he said.

Earlier this month, the Queensland Treasurer and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad did announced key law and order spending including \$171.9million over four years for 400 additional police officers.

Ms Trad also announced an extra 85 counter-terrorism officers and operational specialists costing \$55.1million over four years and a further \$10.6million for construction of the \$46.7million counter terrorism training centre at Wacol.

Mr Watts and Mr Costigan agreed budget cuts were being felt on the ground and chastised the Labor Government for providing Hyundai patrol cars over more expensive Holdens.

"No disrespect to the local Hyundai dealer but they are a s---box," Mr Costigan said.

"They are alright in the city on roads that are as smooth as a baby's bum but go and show me a road that leads to another in this electorate that is like that."

With a Labor Government just re-elected in Brisbane, Mr Watts did not make any spending promises ahead of the next election but indicated more needed to be spent by the state to reduce released prisoner re-offending rates and strategies needed to be employed to rehabilitate illicit drug users.

"The prisons are full of non-violent people who have done stupid things and we need to have a better way of dealing with them," the shadow minister said.

Dan PURDIE MP

Member for **Ninderry**

The Hon Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services
PO Box 15195
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Via email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister,

I am seeking your advice regarding the screening process for visitors at the State's correctional centres.

I have met with a constituent whose son is incarcerated at the Brisbane Correctional Centre. My constituent has twice failed the drug test that all visitors are required to pass before entering the facility, and now risks facing a period of non-contact with his son should he fail the procedure a third time.

I am confident that my constituent was not carrying any illicit or unapproved items, and that the fail results were the result of a flawed screening process.

There currently appears to be no recourse for visitors who fail this process, and I am concerned that visitors are being excluded for reasons outside of their control, such as faulty equipment and/or poor quality control.

I understand there is currently a petition circulating to change the security screening process at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, and would appreciate your advice as to whether or not the Department of Corrective Services has any intention of reviewing the current policy.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Dan Purdie MP

19th April, 2018.

Tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP
At LACSC Estimator Hearing
Date 26 July 2019
Signature [Signature]

File No:
Ref No: 2019-1507
Your Ref:



Queensland
Government

15 July 2019

**Inspector-General
Emergency Management**

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
PO Box 15457
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister Crawford

As a matter of clarification regarding recommendation 9 of the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review, I advise that the desired outcome of the recommendation is, given the propensity for large scale events in the future, to enhance the ability for the reduction of risk through consistent and practical means of identifying, implementing and monitoring mitigation activities at a local level.

It is not the intent of the recommendation to initiate legislative review or reform of any particular piece of legislation but to develop improved means of navigating and applying existing legislative frameworks to achieve the above.

Yours sincerely

Iain S MacKenzie AFSM
Inspector-General Emergency Management

Tabled by Mr Lachlan Miller MP
At LACSC Estimates Hearing
Date 26 July 2019
Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Additional information provided by witnesses after the hearing

Correspondence	
1.	30 July 2019 – Katarina Carroll APM, Queensland Police Service
2.	31 July 2019 – Doug Smith, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Public Safety Business Agency
3.	5 August 2019 – Yvette D’Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
4.	6 August 2019 – Natalie Siegel-Brown, Public Guardian



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30 July 2019

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Russo

I would like to provide additional information to clarify a response given to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on Friday 26 July 2019 during the Estimates Hearing for Police and Corrective Services.

During the Estimates Hearing, Mr Berkman asked a series of questions in relation to the police response at a protest at the Abbott Point Port facility on Monday 22 July 2019. In reviewing Hansard, I have taken Mr Berkman's line of questioning, in terms of payment in exchange for a police presence, to refer to the responding police officers performing special duty.

In response, I wish to inform the Committee that the officers who responded to the reported protest activity at the Abbott Point Port facility on Monday 22 July 2019, were on special duty paid for by Aurizon. Officers are engaged by Aurizon to conduct security patrols of the rail network, to deter unlawful activities and to maintain the resilience of the rail network.

At no time have officers been engaged by Adani to provide security services on special duty. The only special services provided have been for 'road specials' which include wide load escorts. This is consistent with the industry standards for moving over dimension loads.

Appreciate your consideration of amending Hansard to reflect this correction.

Yours sincerely

KATARINA CARROLL APM
COMMISSIONER



Queensland
Government

**Public Safety
Business Agency**

Ref No: 02771-2019

31 JUL 2019

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
LACSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Russo

I refer to email correspondence received from the Committee dated 29 July 2019 regarding the proof transcript of the Estimates hearing held on Friday, 26 July 2019.

I would like to take the opportunity to provide further information to the Committee to clarify my response on page 65 of the proof transcript to the question asked by Mr Trevor Watts MP regarding the forward-looking infra-red camera on helicopters used by the Public Safety Business Agency.

The Public Safety Business Agency has one helicopter in Cairns, which is fitted with a forward-looking infra-red camera. The Agency also has two new AW139 helicopters in Townsville, which are both provisioned with the forward-looking infra-red camera system and have one camera that is able to be interchanged between the two aircraft.

Should you require any further information, please contact me by telephone on (07) 3144 5312 or via email at Doug.Smith@psba.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Doug Smith
**Acting Chief Operating Officer
Public Safety Business Agency**

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30 Makerston Street Brisbane
GPO Box 2336 Brisbane
Queensland 4000 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3144 5349
Facsimile +61 7 3144 5598
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ABN 77 154 515 128



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House

In reply please quote: 4877983

5 August 2019

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chairperson
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

1 William Street Brisbane
GPO Box 149 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7400
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Peter
Dear Mr Russo

I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to appear at the Parliamentary Estimates hearing on Friday, 26 July 2019.

To ensure that information on the public record is as accurate and transparent as possible, I am writing to you, as the Chair of the Committee, seeking to formally correct the record in relation to the following responses.

On page 15, paragraph 9 of the transcript, there is a statement regarding the number of Wills made:

"...in 2018–19, the Public Trustee made 21,431 Wills for Queenslanders."

I would like to clarify that, "...in 2018–19, as at 31 March 2019, the Public Trustee made 21,431 Wills for Queenslanders".

On page 30, paragraph 3 of the transcript, there is a statement regarding the gaming machine cap made:

"I can advise that the cap is 44,205 across the state and we currently have operationally, 41,801."

I would like to clarify that, "I can advise that the cap is 44,205 across the state and, as at 30 June 2019, we have operationally, 41,801."

In relation to pre-hearing Question on Notice number 7, I have been advised that a draft answer to that question was provided to the committee for tabling in error. As such, I attach the correct answer to Question on Notice number 7 and respectfully ask that the answer is replaced.

Should further information be required regarding this matter, please contact Mr James Sullivan, Chief of Staff, on (07) 3719 7400 or at James.Sullivan@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Yvette D'Ath
YVETTE D'ATH MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Leader of the House



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2019 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Question No. 7:

In reference to page 4 of the SDS and the department's aim to deliver safe, fair and responsible communities could the Attorney-General please advise on the work being undertaken by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council?

Answer:

Since the Palaszczuk Government reinstated the Queensland Sentencing and Advisory Council (the Council) three years ago, the Council has been able to make invaluable contributions to community debate regarding the criminal justice system through its methodical and evidenced-based approach.

Sentencing advice

Since its re-establishment the Council has delivered two reports providing advice requested by the Attorney-General:

- *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes* (July 2017) and
- *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child* (October 2018).

Both of these reports have provided the basis for the Palaszczuk Government to undertake important evidence-based legislative reform. The *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child* report was integral to ensuring appropriate sentences were handed down to individuals guilty of child homicide and provided the impetus for the redefinition of the offence of murder.

With regard to the *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes* report, the Palaszczuk Government supports six recommendations and gives in principle support to eight, with one recommendation deferred pending further consideration and one which has been superseded. The adoption of the relevant recommendations will support the mental health of our dedicated Taskforce Argos police officers and ensure that criminals who view child exploitation material are receiving sentences that match the gravity of their serious crimes. The Palaszczuk Government will be bringing legislation to the Parliament and hopes that it receives bipartisan support.

Currently, the Council has before it a reference in response to the *Queensland Parole System Review Final Report* (Sofronoff Report). The reference requests the Council to review community-based sentencing orders and parole options. The review will also look at current sentencing and



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parole legislation, including the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* and the *Corrective Services Act 2006* to see if there are any laws that create inconsistency or constrain sentencing options available to a court.

Community engagement

The Council has sought to engage the broader community in a discussion regarding their expectations of what constitutes an adequate sentence. The Council developed the online community engagement tool *Judge for Yourself*, which invites participants to step into the shoes of a judge or magistrate in four real-life sentencing cases. The tool has been designed to raise awareness about the sentencing process and its many considerations. It was accessed 6,393 times between 1 July 2018 and 31 March 2019, and 820 individuals from the community or the secondary school system received a face-to-face session delivered by a Council or Secretariat staff member over that period.

The Council has developed a series of educational worksheets and posters to assist secondary school teachers to deliver legal studies curriculum relating to sentencing, which are available on its website. The Council published the *Queensland sentencing guide* in June 2018 to provide more detailed information about sentencing in the Queensland Court system.

Over the course of its operation, the Council has delivered a series of eight free public sentencing seminars, has issued a regular e-Alert series with information about the Council's work, and a sentencing podcast series with 13 episodes called *Sentencing matters*.

In July 2018, the Council published the research report *Child homicide in Queensland: A descriptive analysis of offences finalised by Queensland Criminal courts, 2005–06 to 2016–17*, which contributed to its advice on sentencing for these offences. The Council also undertook a series of 10 focus groups with members of the Queensland community to understand their views on sentencing of homicide offences. The findings of this original piece of research was included in the Council's child homicide report, and in the future the Council plans to publish a separate research report on this work.

In May 2019, the Council published the 'sentencing myths' series on its website; a series of short videos designed to challenge some of the common community beliefs about sentencing and provide additional information about the process.

Research

The Council issues the *Sentencing Spotlight* report series which has, to date, provided sentencing data and information on nine separate topics. The most recent in this series, published in May 2019, focused on the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, a new offence defined in section 315A of the *Criminal Code* introduced by the Palaszczuk Government following recommendations in the report *Not now, not ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* (2015). This type of research provides a framework to analyse the development of case law. It has highlighted two recent Court of Appeal cases that suggest there



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will be an upward trend in the length of sentences handed down for offences committed under section 315A in future.

Consultation

Consultation activities are strongly integrated into all the Council's advice to the Government about sentencing. From community summits and focus groups on sentencing for child homicide offences, to the legal stakeholder roundtable series for the Council's work on community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole, the Council has worked hard to determine the best ways of incorporating diverse views into its advice. This includes routinely seeking written submissions on any large reform projects.

In November 2018, the Council launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel (the Panel) to enhance its understanding of the impact of sentencing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities. The Panel met twice up until 31 March 2019 and has provided advice to the Council on the current project to review the sentencing framework in Queensland.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council has been an invaluable instrument in instigating law reform that aims to keep Queenslanders safe and secure. It has been able to balance an evidenced-based focus, whilst retaining a community minded approach.

6 August 2018

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Russo

I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to appear at the Parliamentary Estimates hearing on Friday, 26 July 2019.

To ensure that information on the public record is as accurate and transparent as possible, I am writing to you, as the Chair of the Committee, seeking to formally correct the record in relation to the following responses I provided at the Committee hearing.

On page 34, paragraph 7 of the transcript, statements surrounding the funding of the Office of the Public Guardian, include:

"The organisation will receive \$22 million over the next four to five years which will result in \$11 million per annum as of the year 2022-23. On top of that, there is an extra \$2.2 million recurrent for the agency to deal just with the extra work imposed by the NDIS. I might say that, as a comparison, this means that in the year 2022-23 the organisation will be operating at 60 per cent more than its current budget."

I would like to clarify the transcript to reflect that, "The organisation will receive \$22 million over the next four to five years which will result in \$11 million per annum as of the year 2022-23. Included in that, there is an extra \$2.2 million recurrent for the agency to deal just with the extra work imposed by the NDIS. I might say that, as a comparison, this means that in the year 2022-23 the organisation will be operating at 60 per cent more than its core budget."

On page 36, paragraph 1 of the transcript, there is a statement regarding the visitation of a teacher to watch house cells:

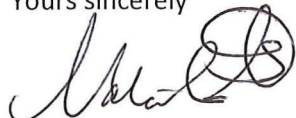
"...a cell per day with each of the children except on school holidays".

I would like to clarify the transcript to reflect that, each cell per day with each of the children except on school holidays".

Should further information be required regarding this matter, please contact Mr James Mann, Principal Executive Officer on (07) 3738 9338 or at: james.mann@publicguardian.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Natalie Siegel-Brown
Public Guardian

