

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 1, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to pages 5, 6 and 7 of the SDS (Service Delivery Statements), can the Attorney-General update the Committee on the implementation of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommendation to establish of the office of the Public Guardian, with specific reference to the child advocacy and child visitor functions?

ANSWER:

The Government went to the 2012 election with a strong plan to address problems within the child protection system. We gave a commitment at the election to develop terms of reference and appoint a new inquiry to review and chart a new road map for child protection for the next decade. The Government established the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (the Inquiry) within its first 100 days of taking office. In response to key parts of the Inquiry's findings, the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) was established to safeguard the rights of vulnerable Queenslanders.

The OPG is a new independent statutory body which commenced operations on 1 July 2014 at which time the Adult Guardian, the Office of the Adult Guardian and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (CCYPCG) were abolished.

The purpose of the OPG is to promote and protect the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity; children and young people in the child protection system; and children and young people who reside at sites such as detention centres, boot camps, residential facilities and residential mental health facilities.

The OPG combines the functions of the former Adult Guardian, Child Guardian, the Adult Community Visitor Program (ACVP) and the Child Community Visitor Program (CCVP). Responsibility for both the ACVP and the CCVP has now been transferred to the OPG. This will improve efficiencies, given the common goals of both visiting programs.

Establishing the OPG delivers on the Queensland Government's commitment to implement recommendations 12.7 and 12.8 of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry's Report (the Report). The *Public Guardian Act 2014* (the Act) was given assent on 28 May 2014. The Act provides the legislative base for the OPG and its powers and functions. Together with the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the Act forms the oversight foundations for the new child protection system being built by the Queensland Government over the next ten years, as per the recommendations of the Report.

Mr Kevin Martin, the former Adult Guardian, has been appointed as the first Public Guardian in Queensland. Mr Martin will hold this position until August 2015.

The OPG establishes an individual advocacy framework for vulnerable children in the child protection system. The OPG ensures that vulnerable children and young people have their voices heard and are involved in the decision-making processes that affect their futures.

The OPG will primarily deliver individual advocacy through State-wide advocacy hubs. Hub Managers, Child Advocacy Officers and Community Visitors are engaged by the OPG to provide advice, information and help children and young people to resolve disputes; assist them in meetings and court proceedings; and ensure that the child's case plans including educational, health and transition from care plans are complied with to assist the child in meeting their life goals.

The OPG will continue to visit vulnerable children in out of home care and all children and young people in detention, boot camps, residential care, mental health facilities and young people in correctional facilities. Visits will focus on children who need visits most, based on where they live and their personal situations. The purpose of visiting is to inspect where the child is living and report on the appropriateness of the accommodation for the child. This ensures that the child's needs are being met.

As at 1 July 2014, advocacy hubs are in operation in West End, Ipswich and Townsville. There are plans for a further hub in Cairns to be established, by late 2014. For all other areas in Queensland, children and young people can access advocacy services through the State-wide virtual hub based at the OPG's head office at the Brisbane Magistrates Court. Matters will then be referred to the appropriate physical hub or to one of the eight virtual hubs across Queensland. The hub model will be evaluated within 12 months of operation to ensure it is the most effective means of engaging with children and young people.

The new OPG model delivers on the Newman Government's promises to revitalise frontline services and make Queensland the safest place to raise a child.

OPG Budget Comparison

Funding	Budget 2013-14 (Office of the Adult Guardian)	Estimated Actual 2013-14 (Office of the Adult Guardian)	Estimated Budget 2014-15* (Office of the Public Guardian)
Appropriation	\$10.695 M	\$10.695 M	\$23.653 M
Grants/Contributions	\$1.059 M	\$1.059 M	\$1.059 M
Total	\$11.754 M	\$11.754 M	\$24.712 M

* The estimated budget for 2014-15 includes the budget transferred from the CCYPCG as part of the Machinery-of-Government changes. The OPG is made up of existing funding from the Office of the Adult Guardian and the community visiting portion of the CCYPCG budget.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 2, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 7 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General update the Committee on what the Government is doing to ensure that Queensland has a strong and accessible guardianship system which supports the vulnerable Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

Queensland's guardianship system was established to protect the rights and interests of adults with impaired decision-making capacity. Such individuals are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the State, and are at high risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. This Government's commitment to revitalise frontline services has had great benefits for vulnerable Queenslanders in this area.

The adult protective functions of the guardianship system are exercised through four agencies: the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT); the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG); the Public Trustee of Queensland (Public Trustee); and the Office of the Public Advocate.

QCAT provides a simple and inexpensive way of meeting the decision-making needs and protecting the rights of vulnerable Queenslanders who are unable to make a decision and put it into effect themselves because of impaired capacity.

QCAT's functions include:

- making decisions about the capacity of an adult, guardian, administrator or attorney;
- appointing guardians and administrators and reviewing their appointments;
- making declarations, orders, recommendations or giving directions or advice about:
 - guardians and administrators;
 - enduring documents and attorneys;
 - approving decisions or proposed decisions by informal decision-makers; and
- consenting to special health care in certain cases.

QCAT seeks to strike a balance between an adult's right to the greatest possible autonomy in decision-making and his or her right to adequate and appropriate decision-making arrangements when they no longer have capacity to do so themselves.

From 1 July 2014, the work of the OPG (formerly the Office of the Adult Guardian) is being strengthened through both legislative and operational changes.

The newly created OPG will have protective responsibilities with respect to both vulnerable children and adults, a change which will leverage greater achievements through an enhanced lifespan approach.

One of the main functions of the OPG is substitute decision-making. In the 2013-14 financial year, the OPG exercised guardianship responsibilities for more than 2,700 people, with approximately 670 new appointments.

On 1 July 2014, a third regional OPG Office was established in South Brisbane. The new office will deliver guardianship services to clients across the greater Brisbane/South-East Queensland region.

In addition, clients who are subject to the use of restrictive practices will now be managed centrally, in order to implement both legislative changes under the *Disability Services Act 2006* and administrative measures to enhance the effectiveness and consistency of decision-making for this client group.

In circumstances where an adult has an impaired capacity for financial matters and it is otherwise appropriate to appoint an administrator to attend to those decisions, the Public Trustee is available for appointment. The Public Trustee will be appointed financial administrator where there is no other person who is more appropriate to take on that role. The Public Trustee attends to the role of acting as administrator with diligence and has the staff and systems to support that role.

The Public Advocate is an independent statutory position which undertakes systems advocacy on behalf of adults with impaired decision-making capacity which includes people subject to guardianship and administration. The primary function of the Public Advocate is to promote and protect the rights, autonomy and participation of Queenslanders with impaired decision-making capacity in all aspects of community life.

In undertaking the systems advocacy role the Public Advocate seeks to identify issues impacting people with impaired decision-making capacity and influence policy, programs and services to ensure the rights and interests of this cohort are protected.

On 30 June 2014, the Government released its response to the *Queensland Law Reform Commission Report 67: A Review of Queensland's Guardianship Laws* in accordance with its Six Month Action Plan. Under the response, the Government has four priority areas for guardianship reform in 2014. These priority areas are:

1. aligning the General Principles and Health Care Principle in the guardianship laws with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*;
2. clarifying definitions in the guardianship laws;
3. revising Enduring Power of Attorney forms and Advance Health Directive forms to increase useability and accessibility for the wider community; and
4. strengthening and safeguarding the rights of adults with impaired capacity in the guardianship laws.

It is anticipated a draft Bill dealing with these priority areas will be released for public consultation in August 2014.

The Government will continue working with guardianship stakeholders to develop a comprehensive response to remaining recommendations for progression in early 2015.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 3, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to pages 6 and 7 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General update the Committee on the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* and what the Government has done to continue to support victims of crime throughout Queensland?

ANSWER:

Review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*

The *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (the Act) requires that a review of the Act be completed by 1 December 2014. The review of the Act provides an important opportunity to continue to ensure that victims of violent crime are supported in Queensland. The review, which commenced late last year, is considering:

- the effectiveness of the financial assistance scheme;
- the effectiveness of the State in recovering grants of assistance from convicted offenders;
- the fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime under the Act; and
- the role and functions of the Victim Service Coordinator in advancing the interests of victims in the criminal justice system.

Opportunities to improve partnerships and service delivery with non-Government organisations are also being considered. A discussion paper will be released for public consultation in the second half of 2014.

Support for Victims of Violent Crime and Victims' Rights

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting victims of violent crime and the community based organisations that work to assist them. Since 2012, this Government has provided an additional \$2 million over four years to enhance direct service delivery to victims of crime. This is in addition to renewed funding of \$2.2 million to victim service organisations under the victims of crime funding program and one-off capacity building funding of \$100,000 per annum.

The Government also supports victims of crime through the important work of Victims Assist Queensland (VAQ). VAQ is a business unit of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and provides a central point of contact for victims of violent crime to access financial assistance and specialist support services.

In 2013-14, Victims LinkUp, VAQ's specialist information service, dealt with over 12,419 client contacts and referred over 422 victims to specialist organisations. VAQ officers also provided training, information and support to over 483 Government and non-Government agencies.

VAQ received over 2,010 applications for financial assistance in 2013-14 and made over \$11.339 million in payments for goods and services to assist victims to recover from the physical and psychological impacts of violent crime.

On-line application processes are being developed to improve access to financial assistance in 2014-15.

VAQ has worked closely with the non-Government sector to ensure that victims throughout Queensland are supported through the court system. In addition to funding agencies to provide court support, VAQ officers located in Ipswich, Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns provide direct assistance to victims with complex needs where no other service is available. VAQ officers have assisted and supported 166 victims in court and 117 victims with the preparation of Victim Impact Statements.

The Government is also committed to strengthening and promoting the fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime declared in Chapter 2 of the Act. These justice principles describe the treatment a victim of violent crime is entitled to receive from Government agencies.

The principles include the right to be treated fairly, the right to privacy, the right to information about investigations and prosecution processes, and the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement during the sentencing process detailing how the crime has affected them.

Following amendments to the Act that came into effect in August 2013, the principles now include the ability of a victim to read their Victim Impact Statement out in court during sentencing if the victim so wishes. This change implements a pre-election commitment by this Government and strengthens the role of victims in these proceedings.

VAQ has an important role in promoting the justice principles to Government agencies and in facilitating complaints from victims about alleged breaches of the principles. In 2013-14 VAQ, facilitated the resolution of 14 complaints involving alleged breaches of the principles.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 4, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS (Service Delivery Statements), will the Attorney-General provide an update on the merging of the Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority (trading as Q-COMP) into the Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland (OFSWQ), with specific reference to the communication that was undertaken with staff?

ANSWER:

The structure of Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) was the most complex in Australia. The Scheme operated under three separate agencies, which resulted in increased duplication, ambiguity of roles and, ultimately, higher costs. There was no one point of control for Scheme costs, as both the Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority (Q-COMP) and WorkCover Queensland set their own budgets.

On 17 October 2013, the Queensland Parliament passed amendments to the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* to merge Q-COMP into the Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland (OFSWQ). On 29 October 2013, Q-COMP's existing regulatory functions were merged into the OFSWQ, creating a safety and compensation regulator. In order for the Q-COMP Board to assist with the orderly integration into the OFSWQ, the Board was retained to administer its functions and powers until 30 June 2014.

As part of the transition to a new structure, staff at Q-COMP have been consulted to identify business system changes that could improve the efficiency, effectiveness and delivery of services. For example, as at 31 October 2013, there were 610 open Medical Assessments Tribunal (MAT) files. As at 29 June 2014, there were only 261 open MAT files this represents a decrease of 349 (57%). This reduction happened at a time when the average monthly referrals received by the MAT was 2.3% higher than the monthly average for 2012-13.

During the transition phase, staff were regularly consulted on developments through meetings, electronic newsletters and one-on-one meetings. Outside of these meetings, staff are encouraged to raise any issues directly with their manager.

A key consideration with the merge has been to ensure that there is no reduction in workers' compensation regulatory services during the transition.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 5, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, will the Attorney-General provide the Committee with information on how the Department is making greater use of ICT to drive cost savings and efficiencies in court operations, with specific mention of any new infrastructure that is planned?

ANSWER:

The goal set for the Queensland Courts in the *Better Services for Queenslanders Plan* was for court and registry services to move to an electronic service delivery model within 10 years. The challenge is significant. Careful planning is underway, and will continue through the 2014-2015 financial year, to ensure that challenge is overcome.

In accordance with the Queensland Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy, the new ICT capability in the courts will adopt an 'ICT as a service' approach wherever possible. Sourcing technology or 'cloud-based' systems from industry will mean that less ICT infrastructure will be created within Government, leading to lower costs in the long-term.

The plans being drafted will see many modern services adopted within courts and registries, including electronic lodgement of documents and a move to electronic court files. The systems being planned will make it easier for citizens to interact with registries through, for example, interactive court forms and on-line services for potential jurors. The legal profession will also be better able to engage with registries through a practitioner portal that will allow lawyers and firms to see the status of all matters they lodged with the courts.

Projects are also currently underway to consolidate the civil case management systems used within courts and to update the system supporting juror administration. A number of interactive court forms have recently been introduced, including one that allows people to plead guilty online, removing the need to appear in person.

Another area where the courts are focusing on the use of ICT to drive efficiencies is in the area of videoconferencing. In May of this year reforms were introduced to expand the use of videoconferencing technology within courts. To support this reform, an additional 21 mobile videoconferencing systems have been acquired and these will be deployed to 13 courthouses across the State in coming months. This will result in a total of 184 videoconference systems being deployed across 60 locations, ranging from the largest courthouse in the Brisbane CBD to some of the smallest locations in remote areas such as Cape York.

In addition to increasing the number of courthouses with videoconferencing capability, the Government is also focused on building videoconferencing capability within Queensland correctional centres. The Integrated Criminal Justice initiative is driving a reduction in prisoner transports to court through increased use of videoconferencing infrastructure. Management of the 40 videoconferencing systems in correctional centres has been consolidated with the courts systems and improvements are being made to business processes. In the 12 months leading up to March 2014, these process improvements saw the number of in-custody videoconferences rise from 721 to 1,282, an increase of 78%. Future investment in the infrastructure of both courts and correctional centres will expand this important technology which will lead to even greater efficiencies in the future.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 6, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS, will the Attorney-General update the Committee on the review of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* and how this will impact the operation of the Registry and ensure that community needs for the registration of births, deaths, marriages and other life events are being met?

ANSWER:

As part of our commitment to revitalise frontline services, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) began a review of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* (the Act). This is the first time the Act has been comprehensively reviewed since it commenced in February 2004.

The Act and its companion Regulation regulate important matters such as:

- what life events can or must be registered, including who can apply to register them;
- what information must be provided to support registration and in what form, including proof of identity requirements;
- who can access certificates and other information, restricted access periods for registered information and privacy protections; and
- the fees charged for Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) services.

The focus of the review is to recommend changes to modernise, clarify, simplify and update the Act and ensure that registration services remain relevant and in alignment with community expectations. The review is also focused on how processes and services delivered under the Act can be made more efficient and accessible, including by enabling more services to be delivered online.

Already, the RBDM has made significant progress to move from a paper-based service to a progressive, digitised one and to improve the accessibility of its services. Over 7.1 million paper-based life event records have been converted to a digital format. Over 1.9 million transcribed records and 1.5 million historical register images are available online to the public through a family research web service. This service receives almost 40,000 hits per month, allowing family historians and genealogists to search, pay and download copies of historical records using their own computer, tablet or smartphone.

The RBDM has also increased its online functionality for registrations and certificates, with parents now able to apply to register a birth and apply for a birth certificate online. The majority of birth notifications by hospitals and death registration applications by funeral directors are now also made electronically.

Online registration services have clear benefits for RBDM customers by improving access to services. They also allow RBDM services to be delivered much more efficiently while improving data quality as this information no longer has to be manually entered by RBDM staff.

The review of the Act will support future service enhancements to better meet the needs of customers by ensuring that there is a strong legislative base for the extension of existing online services and that these services can make the most of current technology.

The review will also consider changes that might support new information products and services being made available to Government and business. For example, data matching services to enable client records to be updated when a person has died, and the verification of registration details without the need to produce a paper life event certificate.

These new products and services could result in substantial benefits for the Queensland community, including reducing the risks of identity theft and fraud, supporting streamlined identity verification processes and improving the accuracy of data holdings.

Protecting people's personal information will remain a key consideration, along with ensuring the keeping of accurate records and maintaining the security and integrity of these important public records.

During the initial stage of the review, letters were sent to over 250 stakeholders to invite feedback on issues to be explored as part of the review. Feedback received has helped shape the development of a public discussion paper, which I anticipate will be released later this year.

Once the discussion paper is released, community members and stakeholders will have the opportunity to have their say on future potential areas for reform.

Information about the review and how to make a submission will be made available on the DJAG website at: www.justice.qld.gov.au.

Amendments to the Act will then be considered, taking into account areas for reform identified and community feedback.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 7, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS (Service Delivery Statements), can the Attorney-General update the Committee on the JPs in the Community Program and the level of support and co-ordination that is provided by the Department?

ANSWER:

The Government is delivering on its commitment to revitalise frontline services as part of our strong plan for a brighter future.

We also committed to refocusing and revitalising the Justices of the Peace (JP) Branch in my Department to better support our hardworking JPs.

The *JPs in the Community* program (the Program) has expanded from being delivered at 171 sites across Queensland in 2012-13, to a total of 193 in 2013-14. The 22 additional sites are located at:

- Albany Creek Library;
- Kallangur Library;
- Narangba Library;
- Live Life Village Samford Grove;
- Merthyr Village;
- Prince Charles Hospital;
- Redcliffe Library;
- Boonah Cultural Centre;
- Moorooka Ward Office;
- Queensland Justices Association;
- Richlands Courthouse;
- Bribie Island Shopping Centre;
- Pumicestone Electorate Office;
- Club Southport Inc;
- Brassall Shopping Centre;
- Gatton Library;

- Laidley Library;
- Ramada Resort;
- Toowoomba City Library;
- Gympie Library;
- Masonic Hall Bundaberg; and
- Underwood Marketplace.

Approximately 3,000 volunteers contributed over 98,000 hours of service to the Program during 2013-14. This is a significant contribution to the administration of justice in our State and all participating volunteers should be proud of their contribution.

The Program, managed by the JP Branch within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, has a goal of 250 sites and 5,000 volunteer JPs and Commissioners of Declarations (C.decs) by 2020.

Prior to the commencement of a site, the JP Branch assesses the location in relation to:

- accessibility to the public;
- the number of volunteers required to man the site; and
- the visual appeal of the site.

Once all aspects are assessed and accepted, Community Engagement staff ensure that all available resources are provided to the site prior to the commencement. The roster of volunteers at a given location is facilitated by a nominated volunteer at the site itself.

The JP Branch provides all sites with the necessary resources required to witness documents for the community. This includes stamps, manuals, logbooks and volunteer polo shirts. During the 2013-14 financial year, these resources represented a financial contribution of \$13,800.

An invitation to participate in the Program is extended to all new appointees as well as existing JPs and C.decs who want to become more involved. This Program is designed to assist new appointees gain valuable skills and knowledge from experienced JPs and C.decs.

The Program is well supported by officers of the JP Branch through its dedicated Professional Development, Mentoring and Community Engagement team. The JP Branch maintains regular contact with site coordinators, centre management and persons interested in joining the Program.

The JP Branch regularly provides free workshops for volunteer JPs and C.decs across the State. These workshops consist of face-to-face presentations providing participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their roles confidently in the community. Content experts also attend workshops to deliver presentations on topics relevant to the witnessing of documents such as Powers of Attorney, Wills, Warrants and Land Titles.

Late in the 2013-14 financial year, the JP Branch introduced a new visual identity for the Program consisting of newly designed promotional materials for the volunteers to be displayed at all sites.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 8, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 56 of the SDS, will the Attorney-General advise what extra resources have been given to the CMC to combat the scourge of organised crime in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Government is determined to combat the threat criminal organisations pose to the safety of Queenslanders and Queensland's economy.

Amendments to the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001* that came into force late last year gave the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC), as it was then known, new functions enabling it to:

- hold hearings in regard to criminal organisations or participants in criminal organisations in support of its intelligence function; and
- create an immediate response function allowing the CMC to undertake a crime investigation, or conduct an intelligence hearing, into an incident that has threatened, or may threaten, public safety.

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), the renamed CMC, has been allocated an extra \$6,679,000 in funding from the 2013-14 financial year to the 2016-17 financial year, to combat organised crime in Queensland. I understand the CCC is using this additional funding in four primary areas.

- Proceeds of Crime: Three years of funding was approved to create a fourth Proceeds of Crime Team to enhance the CCC's ability to undertake confiscation proceedings in relation to participants in criminal organisations, including criminal motorcycle gangs. The new team will also take on an increased workload as a result of the introduction of the unexplained wealth and serious drug offender confiscation orders legislation.
- Intelligence Hearings: 12 months of funding was provided to establish a temporary additional team dedicated to the conduct of hearings in relation to criminal organisations such as criminal motorcycle gangs. The CCC expects to conduct a high volume of intelligence hearings in the coming months.

- Criminal Investigations: 12 months of funding was approved to help combat criminal organisations by establishing an additional dedicated Organised Crime Investigation Team, additional surveillance and increased forensic computing capability.
- Organised Crime Links: 12 months of funding was also provided to support a temporary Corruption and Criminal Organisation Team that is focussing on criminal motorcycle gang related activities in order to dismantle the influence and access of criminal motorcycle gang members to personnel from the Queensland Police Service and public sector.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 9, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS (Service Delivery Statements), will the Attorney-General advise how the offender levy is assisting to improve the administration of Queensland's justice system?

ANSWER:

The offender levy commenced on 21 August 2012.

The purpose of the offender levy is set out in section 179A of the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*. The offender levy is imposed on an offender on sentence to help pay for the cost of law enforcement and administration. From 1 July 2014, the amount imposed by the offender levy is \$321.40 for matters in the Supreme and District Courts and \$107.10 for matters in the Magistrates Courts.

Levies collected go to the consolidated fund and generally assist the Government in revitalising front line services, like the courts and the Queensland Police Service, to improve the administration of our justice system.

From 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, nearly \$9 million in offender levies has been collected by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER).

Offender Levies Registered and Finalised with SPER

Court type	Number of levies registered with SPER¹	Total value registered with SPER (\$)	Number of levies finalised with SPER	Total levy collections at SPER (\$)²
Magistrates	138,904	14,374,473.50	77,932	559,023.12
District	2,733	847,777.50	795	306,968.03
Supreme	425	131,563.50	114	44,512.01
Totals	142,062	15,353,814.50	78,841	8,910,503.16

¹ These figures only include valid offender levies registered by the SPER, excluding any incorrect levy amount (as it will need to be recalled by the court) and any levy already recalled by the court.

² The value of total levy collections will always be less than the value of total registered levies due to offenders being on payment arrangements.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 10, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, will the Attorney-General update the Committee on the outcomes being achieved through the Indigenous Sentencing List and the Queensland Courts Referral process?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Courts Referral (QCR) and the Indigenous Sentencing List (ISL) are bail based programs. They are aimed at making defendants address the underlying causes of their criminality and thereby make real changes in their lives.

The use of the QCR and the ISL programs ensures that court resources are used more effectively. These programs enable agencies and stakeholders involved in the sentencing of offenders to attend court sessions.

These programs have been developed and implemented at no additional cost to taxpayers. Court services and referral agencies' time and expertise are provided within existing resources.

Magistrates, as part of their bail conditions, can order defendants to attend services outside of the criminal justice system. Such services include: alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs; mental illness and intellectual disability services; cognitive impairment courses; and ending offending courses.

The QCR and ISL programs are only accessible to defendants who are eligible for bail. Defendants must be prepared to comply with, and undertake, all services and programs as directed by the court.

The QCR program is available to Magistrates in Brisbane, Beenleigh, Cairns, Ipswich, Mount Isa and Southport.

The ISL program is available in Brisbane, Caboolture, Cairns, Cherbourg, Cleveland, Mount Isa, Richlands, Rockhampton, St George, Toowoomba and Townsville.

The main QCR agency, the Richmond Fellowship Queensland (RFQ), have reported positive interactions and outcomes with the defendants. For most clients, they have never been given the opportunity to link into support agencies, either because they were simply not aware of the services available, or not feeling empowered to make changes in their lives.

In one example, a 32-year-old male, who was homeless and drinking heavily at the time of referral, has dramatically changed the direction of his life. In five months, he has moved in supported accommodation, has enrolled and is excelling in his Visual Arts course at TAFE, and has significantly reduced his alcohol intake. He has also reunited with his family who are supportive of the positive changes in his life. This is just one of many personal stories of people who have turned the corner and made a new life for themselves.

Staff from the RFQ have reported noticeable improvements in clients' attitudes towards court staff, health professionals and other service providers that they come into contact with. One RFQ staff member stated, *"A lot of defendants are ready to change, but don't have the information or resources to be able to facilitate positive change in their lives. By linking up with appropriate service providers, these defendants can accomplish significant improvements in their lives."*

A data review of the ISL program has recently commenced, and while the coverage has been limited to a few sites initially, early findings have been positive.

As an example, the Brisbane ISL has shown that clients participating in the ISL are less likely to re-offend than if they went through mainstream court. For the period 1 July 2013 to 7 May 2014, 44% of the clients through the Brisbane ISL did not re-offend. This is contrasted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who went through the mainstream court, where 83% reoffended.

These results are preliminary, and the review has been undertaken internally within existing resources. The terms of reference for the review is being expanded to include further fields so to get a wider picture of recidivism rates and the effects of referral programs.

From 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, 172 people were referred to service providers from the QCR. For the same period, the ISL referred 358 people to services and referral agencies.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 11, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 7 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide the following:

- a) the number of people convicted of offences against the anti-association provisions of the Criminal Code;
- b) the number people who have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment under the circumstance of aggravation under the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013*, the offence committed and whether they were treated as an office bearer;
- c) the number of people refused bail in the Magistrates Court under section 16(3A)(a) of the *Bail Act*, and the number of those people later granted bail in the Supreme Court.

ANSWER:

Under the Labor Party, organised crime was allowed to flourish. Biekie gangs were provided with police escorts for major events and not one organisation has ever been declared a criminal organisation under Labor's failed *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*. That is why the Queensland Government introduced a package of legislation aimed at ensuring that it is no longer beneficial to be part of a criminal motorcycle gang or other organised crime group.

- a) Pending the outcome of the High Court challenge to these laws, no charges have been finalised against defendants charged with offences against the anti-association provisions of the Criminal Code.
- b) Pending the outcome of the High Court challenge, no charges have been finalised against defendants charged with a declared offence with a circumstance of aggravation under the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013*.
- c) The reasons for refusal of bail are not regularly recorded in the Queensland Courts database and therefore the number of people refused bail in the Magistrates Court under section 16(3A)(a) of the *Bail Act 1980*, and the number of those people later granted bail in the Supreme Court, can not be provided.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 12, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 89 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2014-15 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide details of how much funding has been allocated to the Electoral Commission Queensland specifically to handle the new requirements relating to voter identification.

ANSWER:

The Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ) has not received, or made request for, additional appropriation funding as a result of the introduction of the Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013 and its subsequent enactment.

A large portion of the ECQ's appropriation funding in the 2014-15 financial year (FY) is for the conduct of the next Queensland State General Election. The recent reforms, including the Proof of Identity provisions, will be accommodated in the ECQ's 2014-15 FY allocation.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 13, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 7 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide details of the cost of the Callinan/Aroney review of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001*.

ANSWER:

The review of the then *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001* (the Act), conducted by former High Court Judge the Honourable Ian Callinan AC and University of Queensland Professor Nicholas Aroney (the Callinan/Aroney Review), was established to:

- ensure public confidence in the Act;
- improve the operation of the then Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) and other agencies charged or concerned with the Act's operation; and
- consider how the CMC and other relevant agencies prioritise their focus on matters such as criminal organisations, major crime and the elimination of corruption in public affairs.

The cost incurred for 2013-14 by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for the Callinan/Aroney Review was \$54,889 for Crown Law professional fees and disbursements.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 14, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 13 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements (SDS) – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General how many workplace health and safety inspectors were employed by the department and its agencies:

- a) as at 23 March 2012 (listed separately by region); and
- b) as at 30 June 2014 (listed separately by region)?

ANSWER:

The Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland (OFSWQ) updates the record of work health and safety and electrical safety inspector positions at the end of each financial year and after the latest completed quarter. As a result, it is not possible to provide an accurate count of work health and safety and electrical safety inspector numbers as at 23 March 2012. The closest available data for these timelines is 29 June 2012 and 27 June 2014.

In addition to inspectors, OFSWQ has a number of field active staff available to assist employers and workers improve work health and safety outcomes. This includes Small Business and Injury Prevention and Management Program (IPaM) Advisors.

As at 29 June 2012 and 27 June 2014, OFSWQ had the following number of work health and safety and electrical safety inspector and advisor staff:

Number of Work Health and Safety and Electrical Safety Inspectors and Advisors by Region as at 29 June 2012		
Regions	29 June 2012 Inspectors	29 June 2012 Advisors
Brisbane South/Gold Coast	64	3
Central Queensland	30	2
North Queensland	27	2
South West	23	
Brisbane North/Sunshine Coast	58	2
Head Office	69	69
Total Filled	271	78
Vacant	13	10
Total Positions	284	88

Number of Work Health and Safety and Electrical Safety Inspectors and Advisors by Region as at 27 June 2014		
Regions	27 June 2014 Inspectors	27 June 2014 Advisors
Brisbane South/Gold Coast	64	6
Central Queensland	29	4
North Queensland	24	1
South West	24	3
Brisbane North/Sunshine Coast	54	1
Head Office	69	78
Total Filled	264	93
Vacant	3	7
Total Positions	267	100

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 15, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 8 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and in particular to the legal challenge to the *Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) And Other Acts Amendment Act 2013* and I ask the Attorney-General to please outline the detailed costs incurred by his department in developing this legislation, implementing and enforcing the legislation (including the work of inspectors), and the departmental legal and other costs used to prepare materials and defend the legal challenge to the legislation?

ANSWER:

Following several recent scandals that questioned the accountability of employee and employer registered industrial organisations, the Government moved amendments to restore transparency, integrity and accountability to the system.

The amendments commenced on 1 July 2013, and were introduced through the *Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) And Other Acts Amendment Act 2013* (IR Amendment Act).

They were introduced to ensure that members of industrial organisations have a say in how their organisation spends their fees when pursuing a political agenda.

It is estimated that the cost of the policy development of the relevant provisions was \$2,300.

Audits of advertising and political campaigns were regularly conducted and reviews of the websites of industrial organisations were undertaken. A number of industrial organisations were visited by inspectors for initial checking of compliance and where necessary follow up investigation.

In December 2013, the High Court of Australia (High Court) in *Unions NSW v New South Wales* made a decision where provisions in the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (NSW) were struck down, indicating that the High Court will read widely the implied right of freedom of communication on Government and political matters.

That decision gave the Government cause to review the balloting mechanism provided for in the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*, and ultimately to decide to repeal the provisions. Parliament passed this repeal on 4 June 2014 and subsequently the High Court matter was discontinued by agreement of the parties.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 16, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 13 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide a comparison of the cost to Government of delivering court transcription services in each of the Supreme, District, and Magistrates Courts for each of the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

ANSWER:

In 2013, the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) outsourced court recording and transcription services to Auscript under a 'user pays' model. This model replaces the service previously provided by the State Reporting Bureau (SRB).

In the 2011-12 Financial Year (FY), the total cost to government of SRB delivering transcription services was \$12 million. The cost to deliver the transcription services in the 2012-13 FY was \$11 million and in the 2013-14 FY the estimated cost is \$9.6 million. These costs are not recorded separately and include all jurisdictions.

It should be noted that the outsourced arrangement commenced transitioning in April 2013. Subsequently, the 2012-13 FY was split between the in-house (SRB) and the external (Auscript) model in operation.

The outsourced arrangement with Auscript has resulted in savings to DJAG and provides a model that more accurately reflects the market cost of production that is comparable to charges for similar services in other States and Territories across Australia.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 17, Tuesday, 15 July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 13 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide a comparison of the cost of purchasing a transcript for a full day's hearing in a civil matter in the Supreme Court for each of the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the number of people who made application for a transcript in such matters.

Could the Attorney-General kindly include any assumptions upon which the costs calculations were made?

ANSWER:

The number of pages produced in any transcript is dependant on a number of factors, including: the speed at which parties speak during proceedings; periods spent reading documents; playing of audio/video material; and duration of periods when no words are spoken.

Each of these factors can greatly impact the length of a transcript, with the result that there is no set number of pages for a full day's transcript in either criminal or civil proceedings.

For the purpose of providing a costing comparison, the following assumptions have been made:

- the daily court proceeding has been set at six hours of recording, producing 22 pages of transcript per hour of recording, resulting in a total of 132 pages of transcript per day;
- the cost estimate for Auscript's pricing is based on 132 pages of transcript ordered on a same day turnaround, with one party ordering the transcript including GST;
- Auscript charges per folio, which equates to 100 words; and
- to enable a comparison, 300 words or three folios per page has been allowed to calculate the per page rate.

Cost Comparison between the State Recording Bureau (SRB) and Auscript

Financial Year	Effective Page Rate	Charging Conditions	Cost to Client*
2011-12 (SRB)	\$9.00	\$72.00 for the first 8 pages \$9 for each additional page	\$1,188.00
2012-13 (SRB)	\$9.30	\$75.00 for the first 8 pages \$9.30 for each additional page	\$1,228.20
2013-14 (SRB)	\$9.60	\$77.50 for the first 8 pages \$9.60 for each additional page	\$1,267.90
2013-14 (Auscript)	\$16.59	\$5.53 per folio 3 folios per page	\$2,189.88
2014-15 (Auscript)	\$17.04	\$5.68 per folio 3 folios per page	\$2,249.28

* The cost for 132 pages of transcript.

Prior to the contract with Auscript, fees for transcripts were heavily subsidised by Queensland taxpayers. Auscript's charging regime reflects the market cost of production and is comparable to charges for similar services in other State and Territory jurisdictions across Australia.

Parties who were legislatively entitled to receive transcripts at no cost, such as victims of crime, prior to the current outsourcing arrangements, continue to receive free transcripts under the contract arrangements with Auscript.

Fee waivers are available for parties to proceedings who demonstrate genuine financial hardship under the *Recording of Evidence Regulation 2008*. These fee waivers are only available to individuals and are not able to be granted to companies, community groups or other entities. The cost of waiving fees is transferred to Queensland taxpayers.

Purchase of audio recordings of proceedings is available and represents a lower-cost option.

The outsourcing of transcription and recording services is estimated to save the Queensland tax payer \$2.4 million in its first full year of operation. Additionally, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) is also on track to save a notional \$1.2 million as a result of no longer having to maintain office space or administer the SRB workforce. This outsourcing arrangement and the overall savings achieved is part of the Government's focus on renewal, particularly in relation to improving frontline services that are delivered to the community.

DJAG is unable to provide data on the number of people who purchased transcripts of civil matters in the Supreme Court during these periods as this information is currently not captured by the Department.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 18, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 87 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General, in relation to the Policy Development Fund:

- a) how much money is proposed to be available for the payment under the fund;
- b) when will the first payment be able to be made, if it has not already been made; and
- c) what accounting and transparency systems will be required to be met by political parties that receive funding from the fund?

ANSWER:

- a) Section 240 of the *Electoral Act 1992* (the Act) provides for the formula to calculate the policy development payment to which each eligible political party is entitled to, for a financial year. The aggregate amount of policy development payments for a financial year must be prescribed by regulation, and is currently \$3 million. The payments are paid in two instalments in July and January each year.
- b) Under section 421 of the Act, the first payment of \$1.5 million for January 2014 must be paid by 25 July 2014. There will be further payments of \$1.5 million in July 2014 and again in January 2015.
- c) Under section 239 of the Act, a registered political party is entitled to policy development payments if it has at least one elected member who was a candidate for that party at the election. A party is not required to account for payments which are intended to ensure the party can continue to engage fully in developing and shaping policy throughout the electoral cycle while continuing to effectively represent the community.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 19, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 13 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please advise the following for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14:

- a) the number of criminal appeals lodged by the Attorney-General;
- b) the number of those appeals that have been successful; and
- c) the average cost to Government per appeal?

ANSWER:

Pursuant to section 669A of the *Criminal Code Act 1899*, I can, as the Queensland Attorney-General, appeal against a sentence that I consider to be manifestly inadequate and does not meet community expectations. The number of appeals lodged during the requested financial years is indicated below. My predecessors as Attorney-General during the requested financial years were:

- The Honourable Cameron Dick, from 26 March 2009 to 21 February 2011; and
- The Honourable Paul Lucas, from 21 February 2011 to 2 April 2012.

Number of Appeals Lodged by the Attorney-General

Financial Year	Number of Appeals Lodged	Number of Appeals Successful
2009-10	8	2
2010-11	9	5
2011-12	7	1
2012-13	6	4
2013-14	16	1*

* Eight of the appeals lodged in 2013-14 are still awaiting judgement.

Pursuant to section 10(1)(a) of the *Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1984*, the functions of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) include the preparation, institution and conduct of proceedings in the Court of Appeal on behalf of and in the name of the Crown.

If I, as Attorney-General, lodge an appeal against a sentence, the ODPP will conduct that appeal in the Court of Appeal. Further to this, the ODPP furnishes me with advice regarding the prospects of success in criminal appeals.

The cost of each appeal is absorbed into the overall funding allocated to the ODPP. The actual expenditure of the ODPP for the requested financial years is indicated below.

Actual Expenditure of the ODPP

Financial Year	Amount
2009-10	\$39,488,693
2010-11	\$39,717,400
2011-12	\$40,700,776
2012-13	\$39,134,025
2013-14	\$40,267,100*

* 2013-14 is an estimate based on the 2013-14 funding allocation, actual expenditure will be available when 2013-14 Financial Statements have been audited and certified.

PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question on Notice No. 20, Tuesday 15, July 2014

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

I refer to page 6 of Budget Paper 5 of the 2013-14 Queensland State Budget - Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and I ask the Attorney-General to please provide details of the following:

- a) a de-identified list of all court convictions by young people who have participated in the early intervention boot camps prior to them entering the camps;
- b) a list of any police action taken against each young person including cautions, conferences or charges since the young person has left the boot camp;
- c) how many young people have commenced the youth boot camps program, how many have completed the youth boot camps program and how many have left the youth boot camps before the end of the program;
- d) how many young people have been accepted into the Cairns/Townsville youth boot camp and how many of those have completed the course;
- e) how many of those who have been accepted were sentenced by a court to a youth boot camp order; and
- f) how many young people from the Townsville local government area have been sentenced to a mandatory youth boot camp order.

ANSWER:

The Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp (YBC) program targets young people who have been assessed as a high-risk of offending but who have not yet commenced significant offending. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) and education and health experts work with Youth Justice Services and service providers to assess and determine who would benefit most from participating in the YBC program.

The YBC program aligns with the soon to be released *Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice*, which has a clear focus on early intervention and preventing a life of crime.

Responses to the request for details on particular issues relating to the YBC program are as follows:

- a) The *Youth Justice Act 1992* (the Act) is strongly focused on protecting the privacy of children in contact with the youth justice system. This includes limiting the disclosure between Government agencies of identifying information about these children. Without the child's consent, it is not appropriate under the Act to routinely share information about a child's involvement with government services unless that information is required by an agency to perform its statutory functions.

A de-identified list can be provided if required. However, I can summarise the information that would be provided on such a list. Two young people had a total of five proven offences prior to the start of their involvement in the Early Intervention YBC program. The types of offences were related to unlawful use of a motor vehicle, possession of a weapon, trespassing, common assault and public nuisance.

- b) The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not routinely request information from the QPS about their contacts with children, particularly where those contacts result in police employing their discretionary powers to divert children away from the youth justice system.

However, I can advise that based on court outcomes:

- three young people who have completed a Early Intervention YBC program have had proven offences since completing the program; and
- eight voluntary participants of the Sentenced YBC program have had proven offences since completing the program.

As of 30 June 2014, all young people sentenced to a boot camp order were still undertaking that order. There is no data available to indicate whether they have had any proven offences following completion of their boot camp order.

- c) As of 30 June 2014, 119 young people have commenced one of the four YBC programs across Queensland:

- 10 are in the residential phase;
- 26 are in the community phase;
- 71 have successfully completed a YBC program; and
- 12 young people did not finish a YBC program, with this non-completion due to a variety of reasons including the revocation of consent and some behavioural issues.

In addition, two young people have been sentenced to a boot camp order but are yet to start at the program. They will commence in late July 2014.

- d) 28 young people have commenced the Cairns/Townsville Sentenced YBC program. Of these young people, one requested a variation to their order and was returned to court for re-sentencing. As at 1 July 2014, there have been no proven offences committed by sentenced boot camp order young people.

Courts sentence a young person to a boot camp order for a minimum of three months, up to a maximum of six months. Consequently, none of the young offenders sentenced have completed their court order at this time. However, the early indications are that the program is making a difference in their lives with a number of young people obtaining work experience and permanent employment during the community phase of their order.

- e) Of the 28 young people that have commenced the Cairns/Townsville Sentenced YBC program, 18 were sentenced by the courts and 10 attended the camp as voluntary participants.

- f) Of the 18 young people sentenced to the Cairns/Townsville YBC program, seven (39%) have received the mandatory boot camp (motor vehicle) order available for Townsville offenders. There are another five young offenders due in court during July 2014 for consideration of the mandatory boot camp (motor vehicle) order.