

2015 – 16 Budget Estimates

Report No. 7, 55th Parliament
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
September 2015

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Mark Furner MP, Member for Ferny Grove
Deputy Chair	Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, Member for Mount Ommaney
Members	Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert Mr Jim Madden MP, Member for Ipswich West Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie Mr Mark Ryan MP, Member for Morayfield
Staff	Ms Bernice Watson, Research Director Mrs Kelli Longworth, Principal Research Officer Mr Greg Thomson, Principal Research Officer Ms Lorraine Bowden, Executive Assistant
Contact details	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
Telephone	+61 7 3553 6641
Fax	+61 7 3553 6699
Email	lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc

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Chair's Foreword

This report presents a summary of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's examination of the Budget Estimates for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Consideration of the Budget Estimates allows for the public examination of both the responsible Minister and Chief Executive Officer of each agency within the committee's portfolio area. This was undertaken through the questions on notice and public hearing process.

The committee has made one recommendation as follows:

- The proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly, without amendment.

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

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the Estimates process, and other members who participated in the Estimates Hearing providing additional scrutiny of the Budget Estimates.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Furner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mr Mark Furner, MP

Chair

September 2015

Abbreviations

ADCQ	Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
Attorney-General	Honourable Yvette D’Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills
CCC	Crime and Corruption Commission
committee	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
DET	Department of Education and Training
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
ECQ	Electoral Commission of Queensland
IGEM	Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
JP	Justice of the Peace
LGBTI	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex
LPITAF	Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Account Fund
OIC	Office of the Information Commissioner
OMCGs	Outlaw Motorcycle Criminal Gangs
PLA	Prostitution Licensing Authority
Police Minister	Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services
PSBA	Public Safety Business Agency
Public Trustee	Public Trustee of Queensland
QCAT	Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QTAMA	Queensland Training Assets Management Authority
Queensland Ombudsman	Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
RFSQ	Rural Fire Service Queensland
SES	State Emergency Service
VET	Vocational educational and training
VLAD laws	Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment laws

1. Introduction

1.1 *Role of the committee*

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament required under section 88 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and established under the Standing Rules and Orders.

The committee's areas of responsibility are:

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

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

On 15 July 2015, the Appropriation Bill 2015 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.²

On 20 August 2015, the committee held a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and other witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed on the Parliament's website.

1.2 *Aim of this report*

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

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- additional information given in relation to answers.

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

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

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

¹ Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6. The schedule provides that departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations or other administrative units related to the relevant Minister's responsibilities regarding these areas are included.

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

1.3 Other Members participation

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

- Mr Ian Walker MP, Member for Mansfield
- Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mt Isa
- Mr Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton.

2. Recommendation

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

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

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

3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

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

- Justice Services
- Legal and Prosecutions
- Youth Justice
- Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading
- Corrective Services.³

In 2015, DJAG '*reviewed and streamlined existing service areas to better align them with departmental objectives and key agency priorities to accurately reflect services delivered*'.⁴

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

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

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 compares the appropriations for DJAG for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Appropriations	Budget 2014-15 \$'000	Budget 2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,215,814	1,291,889
equity adjustment	(35,494)	(114,575)
<i>Administered Items</i>	298,041	312,542
Vote	1,478,361	1,489,856

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p. 9.

³ The Minister responsible for adult corrective services (excluding offender health services) is the Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services.

⁴ 2015-16 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 5.

Budgeted capital expenditure for DJAG for 2015-16 is \$82 million.⁵ The major capital measures for DJAG for 2015-16 include:

- providing \$10.3 million in the second year of the seven year \$76.6 million Perimeter Security Upgrade Program to upgrade the perimeter security of correctional centres across Queensland to increase community safety
- providing \$8.1 million to complete the recommissioning of the Borallon Correctional Centre commenced in 2014-15 to increase the number of prison beds in Queensland
- providing \$6.4 million in the second year of the three year \$9.3 million project to upgrade the security management system at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.⁶

DJAG's key priorities and initiatives are:

- enhancing the accountability, openness and effectiveness of Queensland's institutions and systems
- delivering an effective, responsive and efficient justice system and a criminal justice system that underpins a just and safe Queensland
- delivering effective laws and other responses that strategically target criminal behaviour
- delivering responses to alcohol-fuelled violence that help to keep the community safe
- improving regulatory and consumer protection services across the liquor, gaming, and general services sectors that protect the community and support business, and not-for-profit organisations to get on with the job
- delivering an effective youth justice system which reflects contemporary best practice in the management of juvenile offenders and their families, with a focus on prevention and rehabilitation
- continuing to manage prisoners in custody and those offenders in the community safely, and ensuring Queensland's record of preventing escapes from secure prisons is maintained.⁷

2015-16 budget highlights for DJAG:

Justice Services

- using \$1.5 million (\$8.7 million over four years) to re-introduce diversionary court programs, including the Murri Court and the Special Circumstances program, and the drug diversion model. This includes re-establishing supporting policy and technical frameworks to allow the effective delivery of court services
- providing additional funding of \$1 million over five years from 2015-16 for the Environmental Defenders Offices and returning them to the list of community organisations eligible for legal assistance service delivery funding
- commencing a comprehensive audit of all Queensland courts and tribunals to consider appropriate resourcing of courthouses, including: soundproof interview rooms; access for mobility impaired persons; facilities to assist persons with disabilities; videoconferencing facilities; and E-filing
- investigating ways to streamline domestic violence order applications and court processes for police and victims

⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 30.

⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 4.

⁷ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 4.

- consulting with stakeholders to explore how access to interpreter services in the justice system could be improved
- continuing the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Justice of the Peace (JP) Trial project that improves access to timely justice services by providing for JPs to hear some minor civil dispute matters before the tribunal, allowing QCAT adjudicators and magistrates (acting as QCAT members outside south east Queensland) to focus on more complex matters
- providing \$1.1 million additional funding in 2015-16 to expand the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyers Service across the State, through Legal Aid Queensland.⁸

Legal and Prosecutions

- introducing amendments to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to limit temporary appointments for the Chair, Commissioners and CEO of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) to three months without bipartisan support, reinstate the CCC's critical prevention and research functions, enable anonymous complaints and require bipartisan support for the appointment of the CEO and the non-government Chair to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee
- reviewing, in consultation with stakeholders, the current processes for appointing judicial officers and developing a new protocol for judicial appointments
- developing legislation to reinstate the Sentencing Advisory Council. Additional funding of \$5.5 million over three years from 2015-16 has been provided to reinstate the Sentencing Advisory Council
- supporting development of a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and implementing justice-related recommendations supported by the Government in respect of the Report from the Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, so that the justice system supports victims and perpetrators are made accountable for their actions
- reviewing the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* to ensure the Act continues to appropriately meet the needs of victims of crime
- continuing to implement justice-related recommendations from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry's report, 'Taking responsibility: A roadmap for Queensland child protection', to improve court processes and access to justice for children and families
- introducing amendments to section 304 of the *Criminal Code Act 1899* to ensure that a non-violent sexual advance would not be enough to establish the partial defence of provocation unless there were exceptional circumstances
- supporting the high-level taskforce established to review the criminal organisation laws introduced in 2013-14
- responding to the Commission of Inquiry into Organised Crime in Queensland, which was established under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950* to ascertain the nature, extent and impact of organised crime in Queensland
- additional funding totalling \$6 million has been provided over two years, \$2 million in 2014-15 and \$4 million in 2015-16 to establish the Commission of Inquiry
- amending the civil unions legislation to restore State sanctioned civil partnerships
- amending the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* to reinstate the sentencing principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort consistent with the position that existed immediately before amendments to the Act in 2014

⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, pp 5-6.

- completing the review of the *Right to Information Act 2009*
- completing the ‘Queensland Law Reform Commission’s Review of the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011’ and ‘Review of Child Protection Mandatory Reporting Laws for the early Childhood Education and Care Sector’
- consulting with industry about options in response to proposed model legislation released by the former Standing Council on Law and Justice in October 2013 that will amend civil liability legislation to prohibit contracting out of proportionate liability
- referring a consideration about the appropriateness of expunging historical convictions for gay sex between consenting adults from a person’s criminal history to the Queensland Law Reform Commission
- considering advice from the Electoral Commission of Queensland about expanding an electronically assisted voting process into online voting.⁹

Youth Justice

- providing \$2.4 million (\$23.6 million over four years) to reinstate court ordered youth justice conferencing and explore options for an enhanced model of youth justice conferencing, based on contemporary evidence in the restorative justice field
- developing a comprehensive juvenile justice policy that outlines early intervention, rehabilitation, demand management strategies, and future infrastructure requirements
- repealing amendments made to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* in 2014 so that:
 - repeat offenders' identifying information cannot be published, other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, when a juvenile offender is found guilty of a heinous offence) and at the court's discretion
 - breach of bail is no longer an offence
 - all children's law matters are held in a closed court
 - childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded are inadmissible in relation to adult offences
 - the principle of detention as a last resort is reinstated
 - 17-year-olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention are not automatically transferred from detention to an adult corrective service facility
 - finalising an independent evaluation and implementing related Government decisions for the youth boot camp trial.¹⁰

Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading

- reviewing the number and type of licences in safe night precincts and other entertainment precincts, including risk-based assessment processes
- introducing legislation to provide for new alcohol service restrictions and trading hours conditions for licensed venues
- increasing inspections in safe night precincts by liquor licensing officers, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights

⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, pp 12-13.

¹⁰ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 14.

- continuing to consult with stakeholders in the development of any future policy initiatives to find effective solutions to reduce alcohol-related harm and violence in and around licensed premises in Queensland
- considering the Real Estate Industry of Queensland's proposal to introduce compulsory continuing professional development for real estate agents
- reviewing the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* and investigating the approach taken by the New South Wales Government to facilitate the redevelopment of ageing and uneconomic buildings in consultation with the Urban Development Institute of Australia and peak community titles sector stakeholders
- assessing the findings and recommendations of the Queensland University of Technology report on lot entitlements (the system of sharing body corporate expenses among unit owners) with a view to establishing a system that is fairer to unit owners.¹¹

3.2 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) is an independent statutory body established by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. The ADCQ contributes to the Government's objectives by: managing complaints received under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*; delivering training to business, government and the community; and promoting public discussion on human rights.¹²

The budget comparison for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland is shown below.¹³

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland	5,366	5,424

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 49.

The strategic direction focus for 2015-2016 for the ADCQ will be on '*its vision of a fair and exclusive Queensland where the benefits of social cohesion and diversity flourish*'.¹⁴ More specifically, during 2015-16, the ADCQ will focus on:

- expanding community assistance programs including developing a comprehensive framework and resources to use with communities under stress
- co-hosting the sixth Mabo Oration with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre
- promoting online training services to small business to compliment face to face training.¹⁵

3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is an independent specialist agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to replace the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) from

¹¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 16.

¹² State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 46.

¹³ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

¹⁴ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 46.

¹⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 46.

1 July 2014, following significant reform of the former agency and the renaming of the agency to reflect the changes to body and its operations.¹⁶

During 2013-14 and 2014-15, the CCC increased its focus on the delivery of outlaw motorcycle gang-related initiatives including the use of specialised crime intelligence hearings.¹⁷

The CCC's Strategic Plan 2014-18 (Year 2), has the following objectives:

- reduce the impact of major crime in Queensland
- reduce the incidence of serious corruption in the public sector
- provide an effective witness protection service.¹⁸

In pursuing its objectives, the CCC will adopt strategies that include the use of its unique hearings powers, recovering the proceeds of crime, and investigating the most serious or systemic corruption.¹⁹

The agency budget comparison for the CCC for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 is shown below.²⁰

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Crime and Corruption Commission	52,954	54,523

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 58.

Identified priorities for the CCC in 2015-2016 are to:

- respond to the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry;
- review how the changes to the CCC's jurisdiction have impacted upon the integrity services unit, including the reporting of its audits
- participate in the review of the operation and effectiveness of the *G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013* by providing a research report to the Commissioner of Police.²¹

There is a decrease in employee expenditure in the 2015-16 Budget primarily due to the expiration of temporary grant funding on 31 December 2014 for Outlaw Motorcycle Criminal Gangs (OMCGs) initiatives.²²

3.4 Legal Aid Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland's (LAQ) purpose is to provide frontline legal services to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders. These services include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, court and tribunal representation and dispute resolution.²³

The budget comparison for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for Legal Aid Queensland is shown below.²⁴

¹⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 53.

¹⁷ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 53.

¹⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 53.

¹⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 53.

²⁰ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

²¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Crime and Misconduct Commission, p 53.

²² State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 61.

²³ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Legal Aid Queensland, p 64.

²⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Legal Aid Queensland	131,909	131,063

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 67.

During 2015-2016, LAQ expects to:

- continue to provide quality front-line legal services
- expand child protection and domestic violence duty lawyer services to new sites
- expand Farm and Rural Legal Service
- implement an ICT Strategic Plan and an HR Workforce Plan
- complete the LAQ website redevelopment to improve its usability and accessibility.²⁵

3.5 Office of the Information Commissioner

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

- providing independent, timely and fair review of decisions made under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act)
- providing an independent, timely and fair privacy complaint mediation service
- improving agency practices in right to information and information privacy
- promoting greater awareness of right to information and information privacy in the community and within government
- assisting agencies to achieve compliance with the privacy principles.²⁶

The budget comparison for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for the Office of the Information Commissioner is shown below.²⁷

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Office of the Information Commissioner	6,216	6,279

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 77.

Major deliverables for the OIC in 2015-2016 include:

- identifying further opportunities to engage with agency leaders and senior executive management to improve awareness and support critical changes to practices throughout agencies
- engaging with the community, including a range of stakeholder organisations, to promote greater awareness of right to information and privacy and to improve effectiveness of the Office's services

²⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Legal Aid Queensland, p 64.

²⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Information Commissioner, p 72.

²⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

- providing targeted agency training and resources to improve practices and meet identified stakeholder needs, including about emerging technologies
- building workforce capacity and capability, and reviewing policies and procedures to increase efficiency, effectiveness and staff satisfaction
- recommending and commenting on changes to improve the RTI and IP Acts.²⁸

3.6 Prostitution Licencing Authority

The Prostitution Licencing Authority (PLA) was established under the *Prostitution Act 1999* and commenced operation on 1 July 2000. The objective of the PLA is to ensure that licensed brothels and prostitution advertising are regulated in accordance with statutory requirements and in the community interest.²⁹

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

- ensuring an effective and efficient brothel licensing regime that operates in accordance with community expectations and statutory requirements
- promoting the health and safety of sex workers and clients
- limiting the impact of prostitution on the community
- preventing the infiltration of organised crime and corruption in licensed brothels.³⁰

During 2015-2016, the PLA will continue to liaise with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and other agencies on the proposal for legislative reform of the state's sex industry, designed to target illegal operators, minimise the scope for the involvement of organised crime and incidence of official corruption, and improve sex worker health and safety.³¹

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Prostitution Licencing Authority for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.³²

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Prostitution Licencing Authority	1,558	1,740

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 84.

3.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is an independent statutory authority established by the *Electoral Act 1992*. The ECQ is a department for the purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. The ECQ's functions include: conducting State elections and by-elections; promoting public awareness of electoral matters; and implementing strategies to encourage elector enrolment and maintain the integrity of electoral rolls.³³

²⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Information Commissioner, p 72.

²⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Prostitution Licencing Authority, p 81.

³⁰ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Prostitution Licencing Authority, p 81.

³¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Prostitution Licencing Authority, p 81.

³² The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

³³ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Electoral Commission of Queensland, p 91.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 compares the appropriations for the Electoral Commission of Queensland for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	54,084	39,440
equity adjustment	610	1,322
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	54,694	40,762

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 11.

Key initiatives of the ECQ in 2015-2016 include:

- commencement of the Strategic Elections Management System (SEMS) replacement project
- ensure registered political parties and candidates comply with the recently amended funding and disclosure legislation
- pilot electronic certified lists for use at select Local Government polling booths to more efficiently and accurately mark names off the electoral roll and to reduce queuing times for voters
- development and progressive roll out of online training through a cloud based platform to Returning Officers and Polling Booth staff.³⁴

The budget comparison for the Electoral Commission of Queensland for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 is shown below.³⁵

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Electoral Commission of Queensland		
• controlled	54,124	39,640
• administered	4,900	24,099

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, pp 95 & 99.

Budgeted 2015-2016 capital purchases include an allocation of \$1.4 million to commence the Strategic Elections Management System (SEMS) replacement project. A further \$79,000 has been allocated for the ongoing replacement of ECQ's plant and equipment.³⁶

3.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The Office of the Queensland Ombudsman (Queensland Ombudsman) is a department for the purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, established under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*. The Queensland Ombudsman is responsible for investigating complaints and public sector administrative actions, and providing agencies with information and recommendations to enhance their procedures and practice.³⁷

³⁴ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Electoral Commission of Queensland, p 91.

³⁵ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

³⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Electoral Commission of Queensland, p 97.

³⁷ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, p 109.

In discharging these responsibilities, the Queensland Ombudsman aims to improve fairness in public administration and decision making to facilitate better service delivery for Queenslanders. The key objectives of the Office are:

- independent review and investigation of complaints
- empower individuals to resolve complaints with public sector agencies
- public sector agencies improve their decision-making and complaints management
- to be an accountable organisation with a capable workforce.³⁸

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 compares the appropriations for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	8,222	8,322
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	8,222	8,322

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 12.

The key priorities for 2015-2016 for the Queensland Ombudsman are:

- continuing to provide timely assessment and investigation of complaints
- engaging more with agencies and the wider community to increase awareness about the Office's investigative role and ensure equitable access to its services
- building greater knowledge in the community about how to make an effective complaint about public agency action and when to contact the Office
- supporting individuals to make effective complaints by providing greater access to complaint management information and services
- redirecting premature complaints to agencies' complaints management systems
- working with public agencies to rectify unfair and unjust decisions and poor administration
- identifying systemic weaknesses in public agency decision-making and recommending improvements to practice
- improving the knowledge and skills of public agency officers in decision-making and complaints-handling
- commencing a legislative review of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2010*
- delivering further improvements in systems and processes focused on client needs and improving consistency of services.³⁹

³⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, p 109.

³⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, p 110.

The budget comparison for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 is shown below.⁴⁰

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	8,602	8,719

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 112.

The Queensland Ombudsman's capital expenditure will be \$80,000 in 2015-16 to complete a redevelopment of the Office website.⁴¹

3.9 Public Trustee of Queensland

The Public Trustee of Queensland (Public Trustee) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Trustee Act 1978*. The Public Trustee provides financial, trustee and legal services to the people of Queensland.

The Public Trustee delivers its services through a network of 16 regional offices and is supported by the Queensland Government Agent Program. The Public Trustee's services aim to:

- ensure prudent management of the financial assets of members of the community
- ensure an orderly succession of property between generations
- assist the Queensland community by making wills free of charge and enduring powers of attorney at an affordable cost.⁴²
- The key priorities for 2015-2016 include:
 - providing ongoing financial management for Queenslanders with impaired financial decision making capacity
 - continued provision of a range of Community Service Obligations at no cost to Government
 - investment in the enhancement of technology and continual review of service delivery models and locations to better
 - meet growing and changing demographic needs of Queenslanders
 - investment in upgrading facilities at regional offices to better service clients
 - enhancement of frontline service delivery in response to client survey outcomes
 - completing the end to end review of deceased estate management
 - undertaking an end to end review of financial management activities to identify opportunities for improvement
- providing services to the philanthropic sector.⁴³

⁴⁰ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁴¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, p 115.

⁴² State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 123.

⁴³ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 123.

The budget comparison for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 for the Public Trustee of Queensland is shown below.⁴⁴

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Public Trustee of Queensland		
• controlled	87,705	84,723
• administered	3,446	3,613

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 127.

The total capital budget for the Public Trustee in 2015-2016 includes:

- \$10.6 million for building improvements and refurbishment in existing regional offices, head office and, potentially, a new location in a Brisbane suburban area if it is determined that an additional location is necessary
- \$1.8 million for furniture and fittings and computer hardware
- \$1.1 million as part of the strategy to upgrade business systems on an on-going basis.⁴⁵

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

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

- the details of a meeting with the Director-General, the Solicitor-General and the Crown Solicitor on 4 June
- the operational police investigation with respect to the Member for Pumicestone
- the steps the Government has taken to increase accountability and openness, especially through electoral reform
- political donation disclosures
- the progress of the appointment of the CCC Chair
- the steps that have been taken to remove the ‘gag clause’ as it currently exists in the contracts that the previous LNP government had with community legal centres
- the length of time that there has been a vacancy for the position of Privacy Commissioner as part of the Office of the Information Commissioner and the reasons for that time
- the Government’s intentions in relation to the VLAD laws especially in the context of the Terms of Reference for the Task Force Inquiry into the VLAD laws
- an outline of the funding challenges faced by community legal centres in providing services to local communities across the state
- details of the resourcing that has been given to the task force on the VLAD laws and the identity of the persons on the task force
- nature of the consultation in relation to the drafting of the terms of reference inquiry into the VLAD laws
- the publication of submissions for the VLAD laws task force inquiry subject to appropriate privacy safeguards

⁴⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁴⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 128.

- public consultation in relation to the review of the VLAD laws
- the review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009* that was due to commence after 15 April 2015
- the funding of the Legal Aid and the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) issue
- the proposed establishment of a protocol for the appointment of judicial officers, particularly in the context of the appointment of the Chief Justice
- the Government’s approach to youth justice and the evidence in this policy area
- the costs that were incurred under the boot camp policy implemented by the former government and a commentary on the KPMG report evaluating Queensland’s Youth Boot Camps
- the Auditor-General’s report on the procurement of suppliers of the boot camp services
- the Gold Coast early intervention boot camp program
- the industry round table on alcohol fuelled violence issue
- meeting with stakeholders concerning the alcohol fuelled violence issue
- point number 6 (Empower police to breathalyse intoxicated or disorderly patrons) of the Labor Party’s 10 point plan for tackling alcohol fuelled violence
- the mode of transport taken by the Attorney-General when she visited the Lincoln Springs boot camp site
- the promotional video involving the former Attorney-General filmed at Lincoln Springs boot camp
- the use of taxpayers’ funds to charter helicopters to visit the Lincoln Springs boot camp
- the travel and accommodation costs of the participants who attended the recent industry forum held on 6 August 2015 at Parliament House
- the determination of whether the bars and restaurants involved with the Queen’s Wharf development project will be subject to the proposed one o’clock lockout
- consultation with licence holders in the CBD outside the casino area about the potential for conflict and how that is to be managed
- the breakdown of the \$1.5 million allocated in 2015-16 in relation to the Murri Court re-establishment, the special circumstances program and the drug diversion model
- the evidence that the Government is relying on to substantiate that the return to the previous model concerning the Murri Court, special circumstances program and the drug diversion model is going to make a difference
- the number of criminal appeals lodged by the Attorney-General since her appointment, and how many of these appeals have been successful and the total cost of those appeals
- what commitment was given to the Environment Defenders Office prior to the last election in terms of funding and why that was made and why was this organisation singled out for specialist funding separate to other community legal centres
- the evidence that the Government has to support the reintroduction of the sentencing principle which relates to sentencing as a last resort
- how the Government is delivering on its election commitment on civil partnerships and the impact, if any, on the budget

- changes to the court recording and transcription services
- the events that were held in the courts and the DJAG building to celebrate NAIDOC Week and what events, if any, were held last year
- what the Government is doing in the delivery of its commitment to creating a fair and just society for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people
- the *Civil Partnerships Act 2011*
- whether the Attorney-General has visited the CCC since being appointed and whether she had been briefed on the work being undertaken in relation to criminal motorcycle gang investigations and other organised crime related investigations
- the domestic violence and child protection duty lawyer services in Southport, Cairns and Townsville
- the uptake of commemorative birth certificates that have been launched since 2010 and whether or not such other certificates are being considered
- the inquiry into organised crime due to report in October and its process.

Anti-Discrimination Commission

- the recent work that the Anti-Discrimination Commission has done promoting human rights in Queensland.

Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)

- additional financial support for the CCC in terms of tackling organised crime activities in Queensland in 2014-15 and 2015-17
- staffing levels within the CCC
- the expiration of the temporary Outlaw Motorcycle Criminal Gangs (OMCG) funding and the effect of this on staffing levels and the impact on the CCC's ability to pursue major organised crime groups
- how targets are determined for the proceeds of crime and what the confiscation costs are as a percentage of forfeiture and how that is determined
- the breakdown of how many staff are allocated to the specific areas for 2015-16, including crime fighting and prevention, public sector integrity and witness protection services
- whether there had been any reference concerning the Member of Bundamba potentially compromising an operational police investigation with respect to the Member for Pumicestone
- whether the words 'decrease in grant funding' are meant to refer to non-continuation of temporary funding
- whether, based on the intelligence that the CCC has, the threat of organised crime has escalated in the past six months or otherwise
- an update on the CCC's research plan
- the activities of the CCC in terms of talking certain alleged fraudulent activity on the Gold Coast involving the "Irish Boys".

Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)

- the publication of disclosure documents on ECQ's website and the importance of this information on the site being appropriate and correct
- details about certain returns disclosed on ECQ's website

- the staffing, resourcing and confidence the public has in how ECQ is undertaking its functions concerning the publication of disclosed information
- the availability of redress in respect of donations in excess of the \$1,000 limit and related issues
- the knowledge of ECQ about the apparent discrepancies concerning two third-party returns.

Public Trustee of Queensland

- how the Public Trustee has delivered to Queenslanders in the first financial year.

Youth Justice Services

- the choice of Lincoln Springs as the preferred site for a boot camp.

4. Training and Skills

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

Training and Skills is a service area of the Department of Education and Training (DET). The Minister for Training and Skills is also responsible for the following statutory authorities:

- TAFE Queensland
- *Queensland Training Assets Management Authority (QTAMA) – ceased on 14 August 2015*
- Jobs Queensland (to be established in 2015-16).

Training and skilling services are key contributors to achieving the Government’s objective of creating jobs and a diverse economy by skilling Queenslanders to participate effectively in the workforce. Participation in training is critical to ensuring Queenslanders have the right skills to support the economy.⁴⁶

The Queensland Government is strengthening the vocational educational and training (VET) sector with improvements that will build a better future for Queensland students, workers, industry and employers through high quality training and skilling services.⁴⁷

Key initiatives for 2015-16 include:

- investing \$60 million (as part of \$240 million over four years) to reinstate Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders back into work
- implementing actions and initiatives of the Queensland Government’s ‘Rescuing TAFE’ policy, including investing \$6.63 million (as part of \$34 million over three years) to restore TAFE Queensland’s status as Queensland’s premier provider of VET
- investing \$40 million over four years to establish Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory entity providing advice to government on skills demand and long-term workforce planning
- abolishing the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority and returning control of the state’s training assets to the Department of Education and Training
- conducting a comprehensive audit of the state’s training assets and developing a 10 year strategic asset management plan to guide future training asset management arrangements
- creating an independent Training Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints about quality of training
- allocating 10 per cent of total labour hours on eligible government-funded infrastructure projects to apprentices and trainees, and for projects in Indigenous communities an additional amount equivalent to a further 10 per cent of total labour hours to provide additional opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islanders and the local economy, and extend this commitment to projects funded by Government-owned corporations and public private partnerships.⁴⁸

4.1 Queensland Training Assets Management Authority

Queensland Training Assets Management Authority (QTAMA) was established as a statutory body on 1 July 2014 under the *Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Act 2014*.

⁴⁶ State Budget 2015-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, pp 3-4.

⁴⁷ State Budget 2015-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, pp 3-4.

⁴⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 10.

QTAMA's objectives were to:

- effectively and efficiently manage its training assets, primarily for the provision of vocational education and training, in accordance with sound commercial principles
- facilitate third party access, thereby improving asset utilisation
- rationalise the state's vocational education and training asset base
- provide assets to facilitate appropriate levels of vocational education and training services in Regional Queensland.⁴⁹

As part of the Queensland Government's 'Rescuing TAFE' policy, QTAMA's assets, liabilities, records and instruments are to transfer to a new asset management entity within, or established by, the Department of Education and Training (DET) under the *Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Act 2015*.⁵⁰

QTAMA financial statements set out in the Service Delivery Statement for the 2015-16 State Budget reflect QTAMA as a separate entity for the full 2015-16 year for comparative purposes. These statements will now need to be adjusted to reflect the machinery of Government arrangements now that the repeal legislation has been passed.⁵¹

The following table provides a comparison of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets for QTAMA.⁵²

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Queensland Training Assets Management Authority	90,467	85,262

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 45.

4.2 TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland was established as a statutory body under the *TAFE Queensland Act 2013* on 1 July 2013. From 1 July 2014, all TAFE institutes, excluding land and property, and corporate functions were transferred from the former Department of Education, Training and Employment to TAFE Queensland. TAFE Queensland operates state-wide training centres managed through five regions including Brisbane, Gold Coast, East Coast, South West, and North, and SkillsTech, a trade training registered training organisation in metropolitan Brisbane. TAFE Queensland develops skills across a range of industry areas that contribute to the Queensland Government's objective for the community of creating jobs and a diverse economy.⁵³

In 2015-16, TAFE Queensland will focus organisational effort on achieving profitable growth in target markets; consolidate market position in traditional markets; and improve operating efficiency.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 42.

⁵⁰ Deemed to have commenced on 14 August 2015 by proclamation dated 13 August 2015 (subject to any successful Disallowance Motion).

⁵¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 42.

⁵² The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁵³ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 49.

⁵⁴ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 49.

TAFE Queensland's objectives will continue to:

- define its market position as an independent, commercially successful organisation
- sharpen its industry, employer and student focus to deliver real solutions and benefits for customers
- build capability and focus on outcomes to deliver against customer and stakeholder expectations
- innovate its products and services to produce graduates who can 'make great happen'
- embed sustainability through an enterprising approach to business development and economies of scale.⁵⁵

In 2015-16, TAFE Queensland will:

- work with key stakeholders to achieve the results of the Government's policy agenda for VET and in particular the Government's commitments under the Rescuing TAFE package
- leverage relationships with educational partners to enhance capacity to deliver higher education programs
- invest in learning products and services and solutions that enhance TAFE Queensland's competitiveness
- implement Educator Capability and Leadership Capability Frameworks
- contribute to the development of a 10-year Strategic Asset Management Plan for state training assets
- implement new student and learning management, and financial and human resource management ICT systems.⁵⁶

The following table provides a comparison of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets for TAFE Queensland.⁵⁷

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
TAFE Queensland	714,860	642,428

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 52.

4.3 Issues raised at the public hearing relating to Training and Skills

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

- Jobs Queensland and its achievements
- the salary and remuneration package of the head of Jobs Queensland and the area of expertise that the head of Jobs Queensland will require
- the breakdown of the \$10 million of expenditure per year for Jobs Queensland

⁵⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 49.

⁵⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, pp 49-50.

⁵⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

- the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and details about the investment of the \$240 million allocated to this program
- the range of programs that form part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- the community engagement process in Skilling Queenslanders for Work
- the number of people who will be gainfully employed at the end of their training with Skilling Queenslanders for Work
- the Government's plans to ensure that Queensland school students are being provided with the skills they need for life after school
- the abolishment of QTAMA and the effect that this has had on the TAFE system
- the proposal to create an independent Training Ombudsman
- the number of students that undertook training with TAFE in 2014-15
- the percentage of the \$34 million allocated to the Rescuing TAFE policy that will be dedicated to employing more TAFE teachers
- the initiatives TAFE is undertaking to improve understanding of its services and to promote TAFE internationally
- the developments in the provision of training in youth detention centres
- the types of training facilities or access to training that youths were entitled to previously
- the provision of an outline of the Government's investment in skills and training more broadly and, in particular, focus on what funding is going to private training providers
- the scrutiny of private training providers in Queensland
- the proposed 10 year asset management plan of TAFE assets and when that asset plan will be completed
- any new agreements with private RTOs to use empty TAFE buildings before that asset plan is complete.

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

The Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Service and Minister for Corrective Services, has Ministerial responsibility for a public safety portfolio that comprises the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA), and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM).⁵⁸ Each of these areas is discussed below. Ms Miller as Minister for Corrective Services also has Ministerial responsibility for adult corrective services which is also discussed below.

5.1 Queensland Police Service

The QPS is the primary law enforcement agency for the State of Queensland. The QPS aims to carry out its mission to stop crime, make the community safer and build relations with the community, by:

- reducing and preventing the incidence of crime, public disorder and road trauma
- collaborating and consulting with all sectors of the community to deliver a problem solving approach to crime reduction
- using technology and innovative strategies to be more mobile, flexible and capable of working across boundaries to deliver services the community needs
- focusing resources to identify and deliver effective and efficient services that maximise public safety
- taking a lead role to prepare the community for managing major events and disasters
- implementing an environment of continuous improvement based on learning, development and empowered leadership
- delivering services with fairness and integrity.⁵⁹

Key risks and challenges that may impact on the QPS during 2015-16 include:

- improving responses to calls-for-service from people who experience domestic and family violence, mental illness, and substance abuse disorders
- identifying technological, environmental and financial trends that impact on public safety
- reducing alcohol fuelled violence and targeting serious and organised crime including major drug, fraud and cyber crime
- preventing and responding to threats of terrorism and other security issues
- managing demand and allocating resources to ensure police services are directed at those who are most in need or a greatest risk to public safety
- establishing multidisciplinary taskforces that target places, cases and crime types that pose risk to the community and identifying new crime
- maintaining strong, collaborative partnerships with the community, private sector, non-government organisations and government organisations.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, p 2.

⁵⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 4.

⁶⁰ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 4.

To address these risks and challenges, the key priorities for the QPS during 2015-16 include:

- continuing to provide a safe and secure community by responding to threats including terrorism, disasters, and risks associated with major events
- creating better workplaces and improving workforce capability
- undertaking intelligence-led policing in late night entertainment precincts
- implementing community policing boards
- targeting crime hotspots throughout the state, and issues such as organised crime, alcohol-fuelled violence and the drug, ice
- providing improved safety equipment for police including body-worn cameras
- supporting the development of a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Government response to the Report from the Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, and support implementation of the Government response
- continuing to plan the police response for the 2018 Commonwealth Games
- continuing to contribute to the child safety reform agenda initiated by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry final report
- reviewing the police complaints system and implementing a new disciplinary system
- making improvements to ensure the promotions system is truly merit-based
- continuing the planned recruitment of police officers
- continuing to implement an integrated service delivery model
- developing an improved performance management framework to improve customer service
- continuing to identify roles that may not require a sworn police officer to undertake and recruit appropriately trained and qualified public servants to undertake these roles.⁶¹

The following table taken from the *Appropriation Bill 2015* compares the appropriations for the Queensland Police Service for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,704,904	1,710,729
equity adjustment	6,157	17,289
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	1,711,061	1,728,018

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 13.

In consultation with the QPS, the Public Safety Business Agency has responsibility for delivering most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support the QPS's operational capability. This includes police accommodation facilities, motor vehicles, vessels and information technology. In 2015-16, the QPS will invest \$32 million in capital purchases. Program highlights include:

- \$7.2 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment

⁶¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 4.

- \$24.8 million for other property, plant and equipment which will include the replacement of operational assets.⁶²

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Queensland Police Service for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.⁶³

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Queensland Police Service		
– controlled	2,070,324	2,084,895
– administered	9,293	9,588

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 13.

5.2 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

The QFES provides fire and emergency services in partnership with the community. The agency aims to minimise the impact of fire, emergency incidents and disasters on people, property, environment and economy of Queensland. The State Emergency Service (SES) and the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) are the primary volunteer streams of the organisation. The RFSQ operates in those areas where there is no urban fire service and covers rural, semi-rural and some urban fringe areas. The SES is a collaboration between Queensland Government, Local Government, SES members and the community who provide an around the clock volunteer response to emergencies and disasters across the State.⁶⁴

Key objectives of QFES include:

- delivering operational excellence by maintaining industry leader expertise through the provision of contemporary frontline services
- ensuring the organisation is a great place to work underpinned by an ethical, innovative and respectful culture
- empowering volunteerism by continuing to strengthen and value the role of volunteers
- continuing to provide customers with reassurance and excellence in response including providing timely expert
- advice and guidance to communities, tailoring community education and awareness programs to develop local solutions to local issues, and strengthening partnerships with regional disaster management stakeholders
- maximising integration of QFES planning and operational activities to enhance response capability
- being a capable organisation well positioned to adapt to changing conditions and respond with innovative ideas.⁶⁵

⁶² State Budget 2015-16, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 91.

⁶³ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁶⁴ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

⁶⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 identifies appropriations for QFES for 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	79,158	78,709
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	79,158	78,709

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 13.

The key priorities for the QFES in 2015-2016 include the ongoing implementation of the:

- increased focus on transformation of QFES to a more modern and inclusive organisation for all staff and volunteers
- learnings from Taskforce Marcia on how best to strategically manage excess fuel loads after large scale weather events.⁶⁶

In 2015-16, key highlights include work to:

- embed the organisational Workplace Behaviour and Code of Conduct training across the organisation
- enhance volunteer operational capability. The SES will achieve this through its ongoing local government partnerships and support by sponsors. In response to the December 2014 Queensland Audit Office Bushfire Prevention and Preparedness report, the RFSQ is proposing programs which focus on reducing bushfire risk, improving community safety, awareness and knowledge in relation to bushfire safety and prevention, and increasing the skills and experience of RFSQ volunteers
- develop an operational procedures guide for the delivery of Emergency Management services to external stakeholders
- finalise the Charleville Explosion Review and implement findings across the organisation
- conduct a series of debriefs and gather lessons learnt for implementation in relation to the Ravenshoe tragedy
- deliver Road Attitudes Action Planning (RAAP) program in high schools—a practical lifesaving road safety awareness program for young drivers, facilitated by operational firefighters
- conduct the Fight Fire Fascination program which supports parents to educate their children about the dangers of playing with fire and teaches them the necessary skills to prevent harm to property or lives
- implement the “Get out. Fire about.” safety campaign to educate Queenslanders about the importance of home fire escape plans
- build QFES response capability for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games to ensure public safety

⁶⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

- continue the rollout of the Government Wireless Network implementation in the Gold Coast, Logan, Ipswich, North and South Brisbane, Moreton, Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Toowoomba regions.⁶⁷

The following table provides a comparison of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets for the QFES.⁶⁸

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	620,024	647,682

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 35.

Most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support QFES operational capability are delivered by the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA). In 2015-2016, QFES will invest \$8.4 million in capital purchases and \$1.3 million in capital grants. Program highlights include:

- \$5.5 million for operational equipment, which may include special purpose operational trailers, scientific analysis and detection equipment, thermal imaging cameras, fully encapsulated gas and chemical suits, technical and road crash rescue equipment, portable generators, breathing apparatus compressors, portable decontamination facilities and self-contained temporary shelter facilities
- \$2.9 million for upgrades to operational information systems
- \$1.1 million for State Emergency Services and \$185,000 for rural fire brigade capital grants.⁶⁹

5.3 Public Safety Business Agency

The Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) partners with the QPS, QFES and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) to deliver efficient and effective public safety outcomes for Queensland. PSBA's operational services include Queensland Government Air, State Government Security, and Blue Cards Services.⁷⁰

The PSBA's key objectives include:

- collaborate with public safety entities to develop workplaces and practices that drive productivity, engagement, inclusiveness and diversity
- build relationships with our partners, stakeholders and customers that are agile, responsive and based on trust
- focus on delivering benefits to frontline services with a strong emphasis on continuous improvement
- take a lead role in supporting value for money public safety services.⁷¹

⁶⁷ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 30.

⁶⁸ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁶⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 59.

⁷⁰ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 50.

⁷¹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 50.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 compares the appropriations for the PSBA for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	362,287	416,951
equity adjustment	(15,949)	(9,716)
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	346,338	426,667

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 12.

In 2015-16, the PSBA will deliver on its priorities through a number of initiatives including:

- rolling out the flood-focussed road safety media campaign
- progressing a number of amendments to the *Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005* and the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986* to underpin public safety
- supporting the Public Service Commission in the review of the Public Safety Business Agency
- replacing the current paper based police rostering system with an electronic process to improve police productivity.⁷²

The PSBA has responsibility for delivering most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support the operational capability of the QPS and the QFES. This includes new or upgraded police and fire and rescue stations across the State, new and replacement police, fire and emergency service vehicles, and a range of information and communications technology initiatives across the portfolio helping officers work smarter and safer.⁷³

The following table outlines a comparison of the Public Safety Business Agency budgets for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.⁷⁴

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
Public Safety Business Agency – controlled	610,265	680,760

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 55.

5.4 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The Office of the IGEM was established as a separate statutory authority under amendments to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* on 1 July 2014 to support confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements. The strategic objectives for the Office of the IGEM are to:

- provide independent assurance and advice about emergency management arrangements in Queensland
- provide authoritative reporting that is used to enhance accountability and improve outcomes for the community

⁷² State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 50.

⁷³ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 50.

⁷⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

- drive a culture of excellence across the emergency management sector by connecting stakeholders, creating partnerships and marshalling expertise
- sustain a highly motivated, competent office that embraces change and is committed to delivering continuous improvement.⁷⁵

The Office of the IGEM has identified the following strategic risks and challenges for 2015-16 and into the future:

- reducing barriers to responsive and integrated disaster management for local governments, state agencies and other partners
- ensuring performance in the disaster management sector is measured against outcomes
- gaining acceptance and support for shared responsibilities balanced with clear accountabilities
- ensuring clear expectations of leadership across the emergency management sector
- providing valued services to key stakeholders
- ensuring all stakeholders understand their risks and are taking action to mitigate these risks
- ensuring the broader disaster management framework remains contemporary.⁷⁶

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2015 identifies the appropriations for Office of the IGEM for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Appropriations	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	3,780	3,886
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	3,780	3,886

Source: Appropriation Bill 2015, Schedule 2, p 12.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets for the Office of the IGEM expenses.⁷⁷

Agency	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000
The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management		
– controlled	4,495	4,607

Source: State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 74.

⁷⁵ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 69.

⁷⁶ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 69.

⁷⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2014-2015 is an adjusted budget figure.

5.5 Corrective Services

Corrective Services is the ministerial responsibility of the Honourable Jo-Ann Miller MP, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. DJAG is the administrative unit responsible for corrective services.

Corrective Services contributes to a fair, safe and just Queensland by managing Government and privately operated custodial facilities and supporting the rehabilitation of offenders within and outside its facilities. It assists crime prevention through the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of offenders within and outside its facilities and in the community.⁷⁸

In 2015-16, DJAG will contribute to the Government's priorities to continue to manage prisoners in custody and those offenders in the community safely and ensure Queensland's record of preventing escapes from secure prisons is maintained by:

- ensuring that Maryborough Correctional Centre has correct prisoner to staffing ratios
- providing \$8.1 million to complete the recommissioning of the Borallon Correctional Centre commenced in 2014-15 to increase the number of prison beds in Queensland
- commissioning Borallon Correctional Centre to deliver 492 beds for male prisoners in south east Queensland. Additional funding of \$145.3 million over four years has been provided for the operations of Borallon Correctional Centre to provide additional prison capacity
- continuing expanding and specialising the delivery of prisoner reintegration services to manage demand and reduce reoffending
- expanding the use of videoconferencing to reduce the risk and cost associated with prisoner transports
- continuing to develop and trial initiatives to support the Staying Safe program aimed at continuous improvement in delivering a safe workplace for staff, with zero tolerance for violence, in both custodial and probation and parole environments
- exploring opportunities to increase supervised community service.⁷⁹

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

The committee raised the following issues with the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services:

Corrective Services

- the recommissioning of Borallon prison
- the initiatives in place to ensure prisoners are securely held in low-security facilities
- the steps the Government is taking in relation to the pink jumpsuits and other pink prison apparel ordered by the LNP government for prisoner who fell under a criminal organisation segregation order
- the steps being taken to address the prisoner-staff ratio at the Maryborough Correctional Centre
- the initiatives that are in place in planning to ensure that continual protection of staff is provided at correctional centres

⁷⁸ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.

⁷⁹ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.

- the number of operational staff at Corrective Services and the number of these staff that would be classified as not currently working due to disciplinary matters being investigated
- the types of matters that may lead to a staff members' suspension from official duties within the Corrective Services area
- the impacts of the former government's business renewal program on jobs and the steps the government is taking to improve services and create jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever
- an outline of the allocation of \$10.4 million in the 2015 state budget for correctional centre enhancements, including the Woodford Correctional Centre.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

- a discussion about whether the Minister was aware that the Member for Bundaberg had sent out correspondence through the department of QFES with respect to the Service Delivery Statement and communications with the public
- the practice of the department to distribute political propaganda to members of the public
- the action taken to ensure that the department does not send out blatantly political material
- the procedures of the ethical standards unit in relation to the investigation of alleged offences
- the steps that are in place or planned to protect people whose homes and properties are vulnerable to the threat of fires in the Ferny Grove electorate
- the details of the \$9.6 million that has been earmarked in the state budget for new and upgraded fire and emergency service facilities and equipment
- the provision of an update on any progress that has been made to date with regard to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Allison review of the QFES to ensure that women in the sector are valued and respected
- the operational staffing levels of QFES and the number of staff that are on current suspension pending internal ethical investigations from the department
- the protocols for the dissemination of information
- the work being carried out by QFES personnel particularly the work undertaken by the swift water rescuers during the unprecedented floods that hit South-East Queensland in late April and early May of this year.

Queensland Police Service

- the planned rollout of body worn cameras to help police and their enforcement activities
- the steps the government is taking to combat the illegal use of dangerous drugs like ice, which is destroying many young lives in Queensland and elsewhere
- tackling alcohol fuelled violence, particularly in those areas of policing and policies
- the processes undertaken once a referral is made if a public official is referred to the police for alleged offences
- whether the Police Commissioner had received any complaint against the Minister for Police with respect to alleged breaches of sections of legislation
- the recent conviction of a person under the VLAD laws which was not in relation to a criminal motorcycle gang member but drug offences
- the proposed repeal of the criminal motorcycle gang laws

- the initiatives being undertaken or planned to enhance safety and help drivers do the right thing when travelling on the state’s vast road network
- the recruitment drive to bolster police numbers in Queensland
- the various dog breeds being used by police dog handlers in Queensland
- the restructure of the leadership of the QPS.

Public Safety Business Agency

- the strategies the PSBA is undertaking to provide blue card services in isolated Indigenous communities

STATEMENT OF RESERVATION

STATEMENT OF RESERVATION

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE (LACSC)

CONSIDERATION OF THE 2015/2016 PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES

This statement of reservation is submitted by the Non-Government Members of the Committee on behalf of the LNP Opposition.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Criminal Gangs and VLAD laws

The Non-Government Members are concerned about the Government's position on, and budgeting for the war on the state's criminal gangs. It was clear from the answers given by Ms Florian (p 4) that additional staffing resources given to the Crime Corruption Commission (CCC) relating to criminal motorcycle gangs have been discontinued. Grant funding has decreased and seven fewer staff are working in this area of the CCC than were there this time last year (AG p11).

After a number of questions were put to her, the Attorney-General eventually conceded that the Government's terms of reference for the Criminal Gangs taskforce would inevitably lead to the repeal and replacement of the former LNP Government's legislation (AG p 15) – this is not an “option” for them to consider but a required outcome.

The Government seems committed to walking away from a significant investment in effort and funding initiated by the former LNP Government which resulted in measurable gains against criminal gangs.

The Non-Government Members believe this to be a hugely retrograde policy step manifested in the funding decisions made in this budget.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

From the outset, the estimates process did not allow for proper scrutiny of the Police Minister. This meant the Non-Government Members questioning about the Government's budget and the public administration of expenditure for Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Queensland Police Service were ineffective in obtaining a detailed answer.

It is the view of non-government members that the minister declined to answer legitimate questions. Non-government member's questions were frequently ruled

out of order. It became farcical when Government Members were asking about dog breeds in an attempt to filibuster the very limited timeframe. At one stage, the Minister and a Government Members unbelievably protested about the Commissioner being asked about a proposed re-structure of the leadership positions of the Queensland Police Service.

As the Estimates Hearing progressed it is the view of the Non-Government Members that questioning of the Police Minister turned into a debacle.

It should also be noted that the Non-Government Members moved a motion of no confidence in the Minister, as well as moving a motion that the deliberations of that private meeting be made public. One would have thought that if the Government Members had confidence in their Minister they would want to express that publicly, but that was not the case. The Government also voted against a motion to extend the Estimates hearing for another hour.

Corrective Services

The Government Members continued to interject when the Department was being questioned about the disciplinary process and procedures in place for a departmental officer who has breached procedure and protocol and whether or not that person would be suspended pending the investigation. It is clear from the questioning and answers that the disciplinary measures undertaken in the Department are quite different from that of its responsible Minister. For example when public servants are under investigation it is routine for them to be stood aside whilst the investigation is undertaken. Minister Miller, despite the bungles, questions of competence and subject to her own Government referring her to the Ethics Committee remains in one of the most important Government portfolios.

Fire and Emergency Services

The Fire Commissioner confirmed that the Department did engage in sending out political propaganda on behalf of the Labor Member for Bundaberg.

Police Service

The Commissioner confirmed that the former LNP Government's criminal gang legislation targets numerous types of organised crime gangs, not just criminal motorcycle gangs as has been claimed by the Attorney-General and other Ministers in the Labor Government. He confirmed that the first person convicted under the VLAD legislation was not a criminal motorcycle gang member, it was in fact for drug related offences.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Training

The Non-Government Members were extremely disappointed with the Minister's response to questions regarding what she intends to do about the very low levels of utilisation of the State's vocational education and training (VET) assets.

The former LNP Government's reform of the management of these important assets through the establishment of Queensland Training Assets Management Authority (QTAMA) was aimed 100 per cent utilisation of the State's VET assets. This new policy was designed to create a sustainable revenue stream which was going to be reinvested into funding desperately needed campus upgrades and maintenance, and even more training delivery.

It was already delivering the desired results, when the Labor Government reversed this policy direction, repealed the legislation and closed down QTAMA, presumably in response to pressure from union leaders representing TAFE staff.

It was pleasing however, that the Minister reversed her stated position which was to ignore any consideration of legitimate requests from non-TAFE training providers for access to the state's VET assets until she undertook another audit of the assets. She had previously stated:

'Decisions about the future of facilities will not be made until an audit of the assets is undertaken to assess their physical condition, as well as their future use.'

During questioning from the Member for Everton regarding the Government's asset audit, the Minister admitted it would not be completed until July 2016, meaning the Government would not consider any requests for access to utilise the state's VET assets until the next financial year.

The Non-Government Members was also not satisfied with the Minister's explanation of not only the 12 month time-frame, but critically why she is spending more money on another audit, so soon after QTAMA's asset plan had been finalised.

'It was not a detailed audit, although from information that has since been provided to us we have identified that QTAMA had a lot more information there in relation to our assets and their current status'

The Non-Government Members will ensure Minister D'Ath commits to her new approach in general and specifically in relation to the University of the Sunshine Coast's request to lease the empty state VET assets at Gympie:

'I am happy to correct that question on notice. We are still having discussions... we are more than happy to continue these discussions. There is certainly the opportunity for private RTOs and TAFE Queensland to complement each other and partner with each other.'

In summary, the Non-Government Members believes the Government is confused and conflicted in its VET policy and has no plan, beyond employing more TAFE teachers. This is despite the projections that the number of students attending TAFE in 2015/16 will be less than the number of students achieved during the 2014/15 financial year.

Because it has no plan, the Government will do nothing to address the need for TAFE to become competitive, responsive, innovative and flexible.

In a largely incoherent statement the Minister said:

'Our job is not to drive down TAFE and stave them of opportunities. TAFE have to manage in a market driven system, they have to compete.'

'TAFE plays a very important role in this state, delivering on community service obligations.'

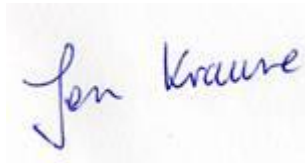
The Non-Government Members believe the Government doesn't know what it wants for TAFE Queensland, let alone the VET sector in this state.

The Non-Government Members call on the Government to develop a coherent VET plan for Queensland. This plan must maximise the utilisation of the state's precious VET assets as the foundation for a vibrant and efficient VET sector, which delivers quality and well-targeted training that results in Queenslanders gaining employment or being even more valuable to their existing employers.

All this Estimates Hearing revealed was a grab bag of ill-conceived policies aimed at spending scarce public resources to prop up a tired and poorly performing state training provider, for no clear outcome beyond future employment for TAFE staff.



Tarnya Smith MP
Member for Mount Ommaney



Jon Krause MP
Member for Beaudesert



Tony Perrett MP
Member for Gympie