



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

2025-26 Budget Estimates - Appropriation Bill 2025

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee



Report No. 13

58th Parliament, August 2025

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Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Chair	Mr Marty Hunt MP, Member for Nicklin
Deputy Chair	Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey
Members	Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
	Mr Russell Field MP, Member for Capalaba
	Ms Natalie Marr MP, Member for Thuringowa
	Mrs Melissa McMahon MP, Member for Macalister

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	(07) 3553 6641
Email	jicsc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Committee Webpage	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/jicsc

All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the

- Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
- Minister for Police and Emergency Services
- Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the estimates process.

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Chair's Foreword

This report outlines the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's examination of the 2025–26 budget estimates for the areas of responsibility within our portfolio, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025.

As part of our work, the committee undertook a comprehensive questions on notice process and held a public hearing. These steps allowed us to closely review the proposed expenditure, test the details presented in the budget papers, and seek further clarification from responsible agencies.

Following this detailed consideration, the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as set out in the Appropriation Bill 2025, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I extend my thanks to the Ministers, departmental officers, and agency representatives who assisted the committee by providing information and evidence throughout the estimates process.

I also acknowledge the valuable contributions of my fellow committee members, as well as other Members of Parliament who participated in the hearing to ensure robust scrutiny of the budget estimates.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation to the committee's secretariat and the Parliamentary Service staff for their professionalism and support in enabling the committee to carry out its work effectively.

I commend this report to the House.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A.', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Mr Marty Hunt MP

Chair

Executive Summary

The Appropriation Bill 2025 was introduced by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on 24 June 2025.

On 27 June 2025, the Legislative Assembly referred appropriations pertaining to justice, integrity, police, emergency services, youth justice and victim support, and corrective services to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (the committee). Appropriations for these portfolios are approximately 8.62% of the government's total appropriations for 2025-26, which are \$105.4 billion.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill 2025, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure.

On 5 August 2025, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the portfolio Ministers and other witnesses.¹ This was in accordance with a motion of the Legislative Assembly which determined the program for estimates and provided for 9 hours of examination of three portfolio Ministers as follows:

- Attorney-General, Justice and Integrity for 3 hours
- Police and Emergency Services for 3 hours
- Youth Justice and Victim Support, and Corrective Services for 3 hours.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues examined. The committee considered information contained in:

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

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the portfolio Ministers with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all 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 are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

The committee made 1 recommendation, found at page vi of this report, that the proposed expenditure referred to the committee be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

¹ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, Estimates – Justice, Integrity and Innovation Committee – Brisbane, 5 August 2025.

Recommendations

In accordance with Standing Order 187(1), the committee is required to determine and report on whether the proposed expenditure referred to it is agreed to.

Recommendation 1 4

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Glossary

Anti-Discrimination Act	<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i>
Appropriation Bill	<i>Appropriation Bill 2025</i>
Attorney-General	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
CCC	Crime and Corruption Commission
Committee	Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
DFV	domestic and family violence
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
DoJ	Department of Justice
DYJVS	Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
ECQ	Electoral Commission of Queensland
EVAF	Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum
FTE	Full time equivalent
Human Rights Act	<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGEM	Inspector-General of Emergency Management
LAQ	Legal Aid Queensland
<i>Making Queensland Safer laws</i>	<i>Making Queensland Safer Act 2024 and Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025</i>
MRQ	Marine Rescue Queensland
OIC	Office of the Information Commissioner
Ombudsman's Office	Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
OQIC	Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner
Portfolio Ministers	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services
Public Trustee	The Public Trustee of Queensland
QCS	Queensland Corrective Services
QFCC	Queensland Family and Child Commission
QHRC	Queensland Human Rights Commission
QPS	Queensland Police Service
SES	State Emergency Service

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1. Overview

The *Appropriation Bill 2025* was introduced by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on 24 June 2025 (Appropriation Bill). The Appropriation Bill was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (the committee) by the Legislative Assembly on 27 June 2025.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure.

The Appropriation for 2025-26 is \$105,417,248,000.²

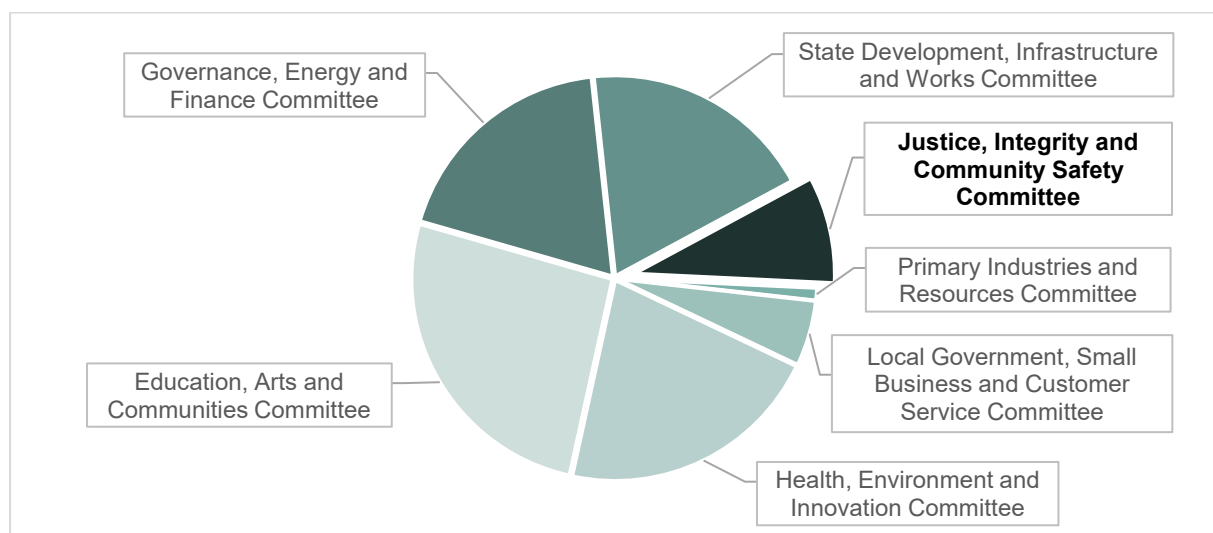
The table and figures below set out the appropriations examined by the committee:

Table 1: All appropriations examined by the committee in this report, 2025-26

Department or entity	Vote 2025-2026 (\$'000)
Queensland Police Service	3,913,405
Queensland Corrective Services	2,008,801
Department of Justice	1,665,906
Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support	1,434,861
Electoral Commission of Queensland	44,496
Office of the Ombudsman	19,275
Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management	4,827
Total appropriation examined in this report	9,091,571

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

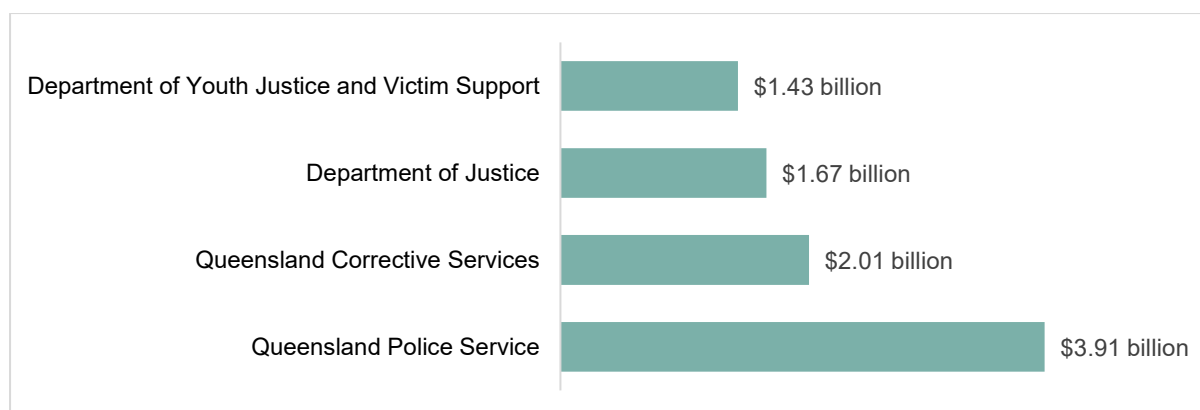
Figure 1: Budget appropriations by committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

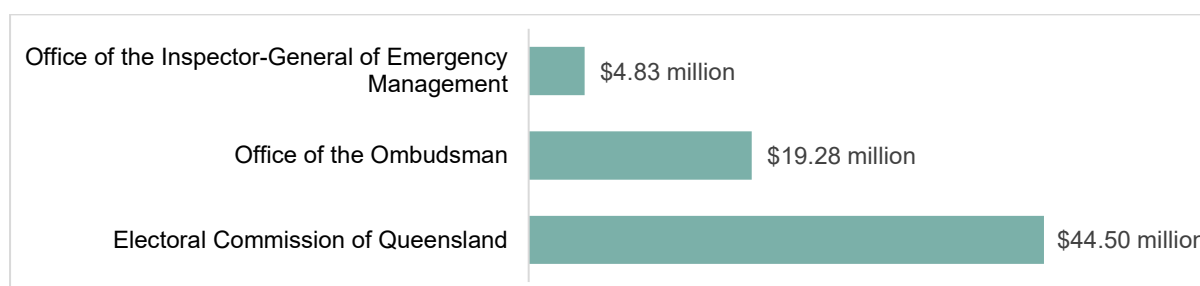
² Appropriation Bill 2025, s 2.

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations examined by this committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

Figure 3: Non-departmental appropriations examined by this committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025

The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill related to the portfolio areas of the following Ministers:

- Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
- Minister for Police and Emergency Services; and
- Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services.³

1.1. Inquiry Process

On 5 August 2025, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the portfolio Ministers and other witnesses.⁴

This was in accordance with a motion of the Legislative Assembly on 27 June 2025 which determined the program for estimates. This provided for 9 hours of examination over the portfolios of three Ministers, between 9 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. as follows:

- Attorney-General, Justice and Integrity portfolio for 3 hours
- Police for 1.5 hours

³ Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, Schedule 6.

⁴ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, Estimates – Justice, Integrity and Innovation Committee – Brisbane, 5 August 2025.

- Emergency Services for 1.5 hours
- Youth Justice and Victim Support for 2 hours, and
- Corrective Services for 1 hour.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues examined. The committee considered information contained in:

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

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the portfolio Ministers with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all 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 are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

Trends in Appropriation

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of previous financial years.

1.2. Participation by other Members of Parliament

In accordance with the resolution of the House dated 4 July 2025, the committee provided leave for other (non-committee) Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the hearing and ask questions of witnesses.

The following non-committee Members participated in the public hearing sessions on 5 August 2025:

- Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House, Member for Moggill
- Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Member for Algester
- Hon Glenn Butcher MP, Member for Gladstone

In accordance with SO202, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Member for Gaven, the Hon Di Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba and Ms Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers substituted for Mrs Melissa McMahon MP, Member for Macalister. In addition, the Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwood substituted for Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar.

- Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the CCC
- Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid Queensland
- Information Commissioner
- Integrity Commissioner
- Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission
- Human Rights Commissioner
- Electoral Commissioner
- Queensland Ombudsman and Inspector of Detention Services
- Public Trustee of Queensland.

2.1. Department of Justice

The strategic objectives of the Department of Justice (DoJ) include:

- community safety
- faster access to justice
- support and transparency for victims of crime
- effective regulation of liquor, gaming and fair trading
- maintain confidence and integrity in the system of government.⁷

The key deliverables in 2025-26 for the DoJ are to:

- continue to work across government to ensure Queensland's laws, justice system and legal services prioritise victims and enhance community safety
- work to deliver contemporary and effective criminal procedure laws in the Magistrates Courts
- establish the Mining and Resources Coroner with powers to investigate fatal accidents on the state's mining and quarry sites
- strengthen and streamline worker screening services to keep Queensland children safe and ensure Queenslanders are job and volunteer ready
- continue to bolster the capacity of the justice system so victims' cases can be heard sooner
- continue to strengthen forensic science capabilities to provide world-class forensic science services, reduce the DNA testing backlog, and ensure the services can be relied upon to bring justice for Queenslanders

⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, pp 1-2.

- enhance digital capabilities across courts and tribunals to provide greater access to justice
- continue the expansion of specialist domestic and family violence court justice responses and upgrade court facilities to keep women and children safe when in court
- work with hotels and clubs in Queensland to support their businesses and the community
- provide effective regulatory oversight of liquor, gaming, and fair trading in Queensland, including ensuring the integrity of casinos.⁸

2.1.1. Budget Overview

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the DoJ for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the former Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	1,167,157	937,991	933,683
equity adjustment	(26,304)	(27,199)	19,509
<i>Administered Items</i>	681,997	748,328	712,714
Vote	1,822,850	1,659,120	1,665,906

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 11.

2.1.2. Budget Highlights

The 2025-26 budget highlights for the DoJ include:

- \$112.9 million over 4 years and \$29.9 million per annum ongoing for Queensland's increased contribution under the *National Access to Justice Partnership*, for the legal assistance sector to provide legal assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders, including victims of domestic and family violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and rural communities
- \$74.8 million over 4 years to deliver upgraded courthouse infrastructure that is safe, functional and responsive to community needs
- \$54.4 million over 5 years and \$2.2 million per annum ongoing to deliver additional resourcing for Queensland's justice system to support the implementation of the

⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 2.

Making Queensland Safer Act 2024 and the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 (Making Queensland Safer laws)

- \$45.9 million over 4 years to strengthen the Criminal Justice System through initiatives such as the Queensland Intermediary Scheme, Fast Track Sentencing, electronic monitoring of young people on bail and enhanced courthouse security
- \$25.9 million over 4 years to support the Office of the Public Guardian to secure the protection of vulnerable Queensland children, and adults with impaired decision-making capacity
- \$20.1 million in 2025–26 to maintain Forensic Science Queensland’s operational capacity, support essential infrastructure upgrades, reduce major crime backlogs and conduct historical case reviews, with future resourcing requirements to be informed by the outcomes of the independent review of Queensland’s DNA testing operations and reform progress
- \$19.7 million over 2 years for a Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System
- \$13.9 million over 4 years for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to strengthen the administrative support provided to legal chambers
- \$11.6 million over 4 years to deliver enhanced support to victims of crime through the Victim Liaison Service at the QDPP.⁹

2.2. Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is an independent agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to combat major crime and reduce corruption for the benefit of the Queensland community.

The CCC’s objectives are:

- delivering efficient and effective outcomes to reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption and improve the integrity of the public sector in Queensland
- being accessible and engaging with the community in a meaningful way that demonstrates accountability and promotes confidence in the functions and services provided
- developing the capability and managing the wellbeing of their people and enabling their performance through access to high-quality information and fit-for-purpose systems
- anticipating and responding effectively to their dynamic and challenging operating environment.¹⁰

⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 2.

¹⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 17.

2.2.1. Budget Overview

In 2025–26, the CCC's total budgeted expenditure is \$81.5 million, an increase of \$6.3 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual budget of \$75.2 million. This increase is primarily due to a deferral of \$9.0 million of funding from 2024–25 and allocated across the forward estimates to 2029–30 for implementation of a new case management system and other digital transformation projects. The 2025–26 Budget also increases due to the full year impact from the whole-of-government wages policy for the CCC's 377 full time equivalent (FTE) employees in 2025–26.¹¹ The Estimated Actual is impacted by increased interest in 2024–25.¹²

In 2025–26, the CCC will focus on:

- investigating and shaping effective responses to serious and organised crime through the use of its hearing powers, working with and sharing intelligence with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and other law enforcement partners and confiscating criminal profits
- investigating complaints which involve conduct which is serious, systemic or of strategic risk to trust and confidence in public institutions in Queensland
- completing the implementation of the recommendations from the *Commission of Inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission* report
- continuing to develop critical organisational capabilities including digital, analytics, intelligence and workforce
- effectively engaging with stakeholders, partners and the community to promote a culture of transparency, accountability and confidence.¹³

2.3. Legal Aid Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland's (LAQ) purpose is to maintain the rule of law, protect legal rights, contribute to the fairness and efficiency of the justice system, and reduce the social impacts of legal problems.¹⁴

The strategic objectives of LAQ are to:

- provide quality and cost-effective legal services to its clients
- progress its vision through collaboration and policy leadership
- build on its business capability, sustainability and workplace culture
- contribute to the administration of justice.¹⁵

¹¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 20

¹² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 20.

¹³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 17.

¹⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 24.

¹⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 24.

2.3.1. Budget Overview

LAQ's budgeted income statement for 2025–26 is expected to be in a planned deficit operating position, utilising accumulated surplus to invest in a new Legal Services System. Income from Grants and other contributions and expenditure on Grants and subsidies have decreased in 2025–26, due to the administration of Community Legal Centres funding being transferred to the DoJ.¹⁶

Interest earnings have decreased when compared with 2024–25 due to interest rates and cash assets forecasted to decrease over the 2025–26 financial year. Employee expenses are expected to increase from 2024–25 to 2025–26 primarily due to expected percentage increases in relation to the enterprise bargaining agreement, expected growth in budgeted FTEs and the Legal Services System project. An increase in supplies and services expenses from 2024–25 to 2025–26 is primarily related to the preferred supplier fee increase, demand and service delivery growth in external services expenditure for work undertaken by private law firms and the Legal Services System project. The budgeted operating result for 2025–26 is a Board approved planned deficit of \$6.3 million to invest in a new Legal Services System, which is funded by accumulated surpluses.¹⁷

In 2025-26, LAQ will:

- continue to provide services in line with the requirements of the *National Access to Justice Partnership 2025–2030* and any bilateral schedule
- support early resolution of legal problems by delivering legal assistance including in collaboration with service delivery partners across the state at a reasonable cost to the community and in the most cost effective and innovative way
- lead policy issues affecting service delivery and maintain its focus on financial sustainability and accountability
- ensure we capably respond to people most at risk of social exclusion including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.¹⁸

2.4. Office of the Information Commissioner

The Office of the Information Commissioner's (OIC) purpose is to drive government transparency and best practice information privacy.¹⁹

The OIC's objectives are to:

- proactively uphold and advance information access and privacy rights to deliver impactful outcomes for the community

¹⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 27.

¹⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 27.

¹⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 24.

¹⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 31.

- build understanding and capability in information access and privacy rights through the delivery of accessible and effective information, education and engagement programs
- advance effective and efficient regulatory practice and governance through risk-based, data-driven, and sustainable operations.²⁰

2.4.1. Budget Overview

The OIC continues to manage its budget, which is taken up predominantly by employee expenses. The balance of the OIC's budget is spent on rent, supplies and services to support its operations and the implementation of legislative reforms made to the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Right to Information Act 2009* under the *Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*. An estimated \$1.12 million operating deficit is expected in 2024–25 due to critical key technology, operational, service delivery and resourcing initiatives funded through cash reserves.²¹

In 2025-26, the OIC will:

- continue to implement reforms made to the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Right to Information Act 2009* under the *Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* to strengthen information access and privacy frameworks, including the introduction of a mandatory notification of data breach scheme for Queensland
- support community and public sector access to its services and information resources by investing in OIC's website to deliver an accessible and customer-focused interface for the community and government agencies
- continue to champion enduring cultural change in the public sector and a commitment to government transparency and best practice information privacy.²²

2.5. Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner

The Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner (OQIC) is a statutory body consisting of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, the Deputy Integrity Commissioner and Integrity Officers. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner is an independent statutory officer and officer of the Queensland Parliament, whose role and functions are set out in the *Integrity Act 2009*.²³

The OQIC's objectives are to:

- provide advice on ethics, integrity and interest issues
- regulate lobbying activities
- raise awareness of ethics, integrity and lobbying

²⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 31.

²¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 34.

²² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 31.

²³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 38.

- deliver education and training to government representatives, opposition representatives and registered lobbyists about lobbying regulation.²⁴

2.5.1. Budget Overview

In 2025–26, total budgeted expenditure is \$5.6 million, an increase of \$1.5 million compared to the 2024–25 Budget which is primarily due to additional funding to meet increased demand for services and operate as an independent statutory body.²⁵

In 2025-26, the OQIC will:

- complete its transition to an independent statutory body (including transition of corporate services)
- develop resources and training in relation to ethics and integrity, lobbying functions, and other requirements of the *Integrity Act 2009*
- implement enhancements to the Queensland Lobbying Register based on stakeholder feedback for an improved user experience
- finalise a comprehensive review of the Queensland Registered Lobbyists Code of Conduct following consultation with stakeholders
- develop and deliver lobbyist mandatory training annual module for registered lobbyists who have completed the initial training
- build data capability to improve insights to drive service delivery.²⁶

2.6. Queensland Family and Child Commission

The Queensland Family and Child Commission's (QFCC) purpose is to influence change that improves the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and their families.²⁷

The QFCC's main objectives are to:

- shape system performance in the best interests of children and their families by producing rigorous analysis and evidence-based advice
- advance the rights, safety and wellbeing of children by collaborating with organisations, entities and individuals
- increase opportunities for children and families to influence decisions that affect their lives
- support First Nations children to grow up strong in their identity, culture, and community, free from systemic racism and discrimination

²⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 38.

²⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 41.

²⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 38.

²⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 45.

- ensure Queensland organisations meet their obligations to safeguard children and prevent abuse through the strategic use of its regulatory powers.²⁸

2.6.1. Budget Overview

In 2025-26, total budgeted expenditure is \$23.2 million, representing an increase of \$1.9 million from the 2024-25 Estimated Actual of \$21.3 million. This increase is primarily due to a deferral of \$1.9 million for the Child Safe Organisations Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Project. The \$9.2 million increase between the 2025-26 Budget and the 2024-25 Budget is primarily due to additional funding to implement the Child Safe Organisations scheme.²⁹

In 2025–26, the QFCC will:

- enable the Child Death Review Board to deliver to the government the Review of System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- provide effective oversight of the child protection system by delivering multiple system reviews as outlined in the *QFCC Oversight Workplan 2023–27*, including key monitoring programs such as *Principle Focus*
- implement Phases 1 and 2 of the Child Safe Standards Scheme under the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024*, including undertaking significant community awareness campaigns and commencing regulatory activities
- empower children, young people, and their families to contribute to the submissions made to the Queensland and Commonwealth Parliaments
- support, connect and collaborate with organisations that advance the safety and wellbeing of children by continuing key community, sector and peak partnerships
- continue to register deaths of Queensland children and enable research that improves the safety of Queensland’s children through the delivery of child death prevention activities under the *Safer Pathways Through Childhood 2025–26* action plan
- support the Child Death Review Board to carry out systems reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system and make recommendations for system improvements.³⁰

2.7. Queensland Human Rights Commission

The Queensland Human Rights Commission’s (QHRC) is an independent statutory body with functions under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Anti-Discrimination Act) and the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Human Rights Act), which include:

²⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 45.

²⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 48.

³⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 45.

- dealing with complaints of discrimination, sexual harassment, vilification, reprisal (under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*), and contraventions of the Human Rights Act
- reviewing public entities' policies, programs, procedures, practices and services in relation to their compatibility with human rights
- promoting an understanding, acceptance, and public discussion of human rights and the Human Rights Act in Queensland
- providing education about human rights and the Human Rights Act.³¹

The QHRC's strategic objectives are:

- supporting justice and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- promoting access and inclusion
- working toward safer communities
- increasing institutional transparency.³²

2.7.1. Budget Overview

In 2025-26, the total budgeted expenditure for the QHRC is \$16.06 million, being an increase of \$1.23 million from the 2024-25 Estimated Actual of \$14.83 million.

In 2025-26, the QHRC will:

- maintain an effective complaints process to manage the assessment and resolution of complaints under both the Anti-Discrimination Act and Human Rights Act, with a focus on modernising systems and processes to reduce the backlog of complaints and client wait-time
- intervene where appropriate in proceedings involving human rights issues to provide expert assistance to courts and tribunals
- publish reports on unresolved human rights complaints to encourage transparency and promote best practice decision making in government service delivery
- modernise and uplift its education and engagement functions
- support public entities to comply with their obligations under the Anti-Discrimination Act and Human Rights Act.
- remain prepared to support next steps on anti-discrimination reforms
- deliver an updated website to improve Queenslanders' access to information on human rights, supporting the broader promotion and discussion of human rights and the Human Rights Act in Queensland

³¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 52.

³² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 52.

- continue the delivery of the QHRC's operational digitisation efforts, enhancing operational efficiency.³³

2.8. Electoral Commission of Queensland

The purpose of the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is to deliver accessible, fair and transparent electoral services for all Queenslanders.³⁴

The ECQ's strategic objectives are to:

- be trusted to deliver Queensland elections
- increase electoral awareness and participation
- maintain election readiness
- promote and enforce compliance with electoral laws.³⁵

2.8.1. Budget Overview

The budgeted expenses in 2025-26 are \$44.6 million, a decrease of \$84 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual of \$128.5 million. This decrease is due to the completed delivery of the State General Election in October 2024 and subsequent election funding claims that will be processed to eligible electoral participants. The budgeted administered expenses in 2025–26 are \$4.4 million, consistent with the prior year.³⁶

In 2025-26, the ECQ will:

- finalise evaluation activities for the 2024 State General Election and implement identified business improvements to improve electoral services for Queenslanders at future elections
- deliver state and local government by-elections as required to maintain representation in Queensland's Parliament and councils
- undertake post-election compliance activities for the 2024 local government quadrennial elections and 2024 State General Election to enforce compliance with Queensland's electoral law
- support the Queensland Redistribution Commission to deliver a redistribution of state electoral boundaries to ensure each person's vote has the same value
- provide input to the appointment of the reviewer and the terms of reference, and review and respond to the findings and outcomes of the strategic review of the ECQ.³⁷

³³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 52.

³⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 60.

³⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 60.

³⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 64.

³⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 60.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 compares the combined total of the cash appropriations for the ECQ for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the ECQ for 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	116,570	124,633	44,533
equity adjustment	(37)	(37)	(37)
<i>Administered Items</i>	-	-	-
Vote	116,533	124,596	44,496

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 15.

2.9. Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The purpose of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman (the Ombudsman's Office) is to improve public administration by:

- investigating administrative decisions
- helping agencies improve their practices
- overseeing the system of Public Interest Disclosures
- improving detention services.³⁸

The strategic objectives of the Ombudsman's Office are to:

- proactively improve public administration
- respond to complaints about public administration
- ensure its services are inclusive
- continue to be adaptable, capable and sustainable.³⁹

2.9.1. Budget Overview

Total controlled income for the Ombudsman's Office in 2025–26 is \$17.6 million, an increase of \$1 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual. The increase is mainly due to a revised expenditure profile fit-out works of new office accommodation at 53 Albert Street, and to cover the lease of more office accommodation floor space within 53 Albert Street and higher depreciation costs associated with the fit-out of new office accommodation upon its estimated completion during financial year 2025–26. Total budgeted administered income and expenditure in 2025–26 is \$100,000.⁴⁰

³⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 72.

³⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 72.

⁴⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 76.

In 2025–26, the Ombudsman’s Office will:

- continue to deliver services that help people to know how and when to make a complaint
- provide a free and independent investigation service that reviews administrative actions of state government departments and agencies (including state schools and TAFE and non-government entities delivering services to the community) and local councils
- help agencies to improve their decision-making, administrative practices and Public Interest Disclosures management by making recommendations for improvement, delivering training programs and providing information and advisory services
- inspect places of detention and make recommendations to improve detention services.⁴¹

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 compares the combined total of the cash appropriations for the Ombudsman’s office for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the Ombudsman’s office for 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	16,956	16,549	17,203
equity adjustment	1,183	451	2,072
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	18,139	17,000	19,275

- *Source 1. Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 16.*

2.10. The Public Trustee of Queensland

The Public Trustee of Queensland’s (Public Trustee) is an independent state trustee service dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the rights, interests and wishes of Queenslanders in need of financial management, estate and trust administration and associated support services.⁴²

The Public Trustee’s strategic objectives include:

- delivery of an empathetic service and experience that puts customers first

⁴¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 72.

⁴² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 84.

- community engagement that informs and empowers the rights, choices and wishes of Queenslanders.⁴³

2.10.1. Budget Overview

In 2025-26, total budgeted expenditure is \$147.46 million, an increase of \$1.23 million from the 2024-25 Estimated Actual of \$146.23 million.⁴⁴ The Public Trustee also has an operating deficit of \$41.28 million which is \$4.47 million lower than the 2024-25 Estimated Actual result (\$45.75 million deficit).⁴⁵

The operating deficit for the 2024–25 Estimated Actual and the 2025–26 Budget are largely due to lower user charges and fees – with a continuation of the indexation freeze on fees for all customers and moratoria on real estate property and incidental outlay fees for customers under financial administration – as well as higher finance/borrowing costs associated with interest payable to customers, and increased expenditure relating to strategic initiatives.⁴⁶

In 2025-26, the Public Trustee will:

- continue to advance customer experience initiatives under the Customers First Strategy, including building relationships with advocacy groups and support services to empower customers with their financial matters
- continue to work towards simplifying its fees and charges structure for key services it delivers, so that it is easier for its customers to understand
- collaborate with other organisations to deliver trusted advice and education initiatives that inform and empower the rights, choices and wishes of Queenslanders
- deliver accessible resources and initiatives that recognise diversity and help to improve equity and inclusion
- continue to engage with and consider advice from key stakeholders, including its Customer Representative Reference Group and the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board
- promote positive and collaborative engagement between customers, their support networks and Queensland Public Trustee, and
- continue development of ICT and digital solutions that support modern, secure and human-centred business systems and solutions.⁴⁷

⁴³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 84.

⁴⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 90.

⁴⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 86.

⁴⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 87.

⁴⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DoJ, p 84.

2.11. Committee's examination of the Department of Justice portfolio

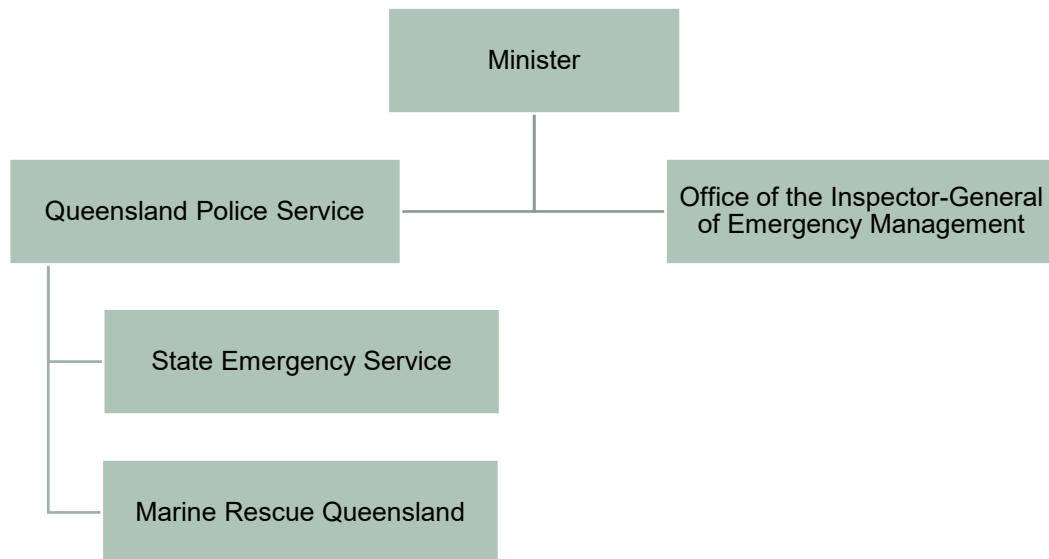
The committee considered a range of matters in relation to the estimates for DoJ and associated statutory entities (CCC, LAQ, OIC, OQIC, QFCC, QHRC, ECQ, the Ombudsman's Office, the Public Trustee). These are summarised below.

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
Implementation of recommendation 68 of <i>A Call for Change: Commission of Inquiry into QPS responses to domestic violence</i>	QoN 1
Question on Notice 363 and 523 (2025) regarding Queensland Drug Warning Clinical Alert (March 2025), New nitazene (strong opioid) Protodesnitazene detected	QoN 2
Childrens Court of Queensland data—applications for bail	QoN 3, pp 7-8, 11-12, 29-30
Childrens Court of Queensland data—finalised matters	QoN 4, pp 7-8, 11-12, 29-30
Matters before Queensland courts under s175A <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i>	QoN 5, pp 7-8, 11-12, 29-30
Department staffing, including non-disclosure agreements	QoN 6, pp 13, 31-32
Respect at Work and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024	QoN 7
Status of recommendations from reports listed in Attorney-General's charter letter	QoN 8
Implementation of integrity reform recommendations	QoN 9
Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation consultation related to alcohol fuelled violence	QoN 10
Funding for courthouse infrastructure upgrades	QoN 11, pp 15-16, 27-29
Queensland worker screening services	QoN 12
Support and transparency for victims of crime	QoN 13
Criminal procedure laws in the Magistrates Court	QoN 14
Forensic Science Queensland	QoN 15, pp 8-9, 33
Digital capabilities across courts and tribunals	QoN 16
Confidence and integrity in Queensland's system of government	QoN 17
Queensland Family and Child Commission—Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system (2017)	QoN 18, p 33
Funding for Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse Improvement Program	QoN 19

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
Funding for the ODPP	QoN 20
Director-General, Department of Justice	p 4
Protocols for judicial appointments in Queensland	pp 4-7
Resignation of former Director, Forensic Science Queensland	pp 7, p13-14
Implementation of Making Queensland Safer laws	p 9
Support for victims of crime	pp 10-11
Youth detention centres—capacity, staff shortages, ‘night mode’, inspections	pp 13, 25-27, 32
Queensland Law Reform Commission—mining lease objections review	pp 13, 32
Funding of legal proceedings—pause on hormone therapies on children in Queensland health facilities	p 14
Communication between Department and Assistant Minister to Attorney-General regarding Star Casino and Queens Wharf precinct	p 14
Commonwealth-State funding of the legal assistance sector	pp 16-17
Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill	p 17
Expert Legal Panel—advice	p 17
Consideration of changes to Queensland electoral laws	pp 17-18
Expenditure on briefing women barristers	pp 18, 32
Release of final cabinet submissions regarding legislation	pp 18-20
Integrity Commissioner—advice, functions and scope of work	pp 20, 21, 24
CFMEU Commission of Inquiry	pp 20-21, 24-25, 29
Recent reforms to CCC reporting powers	pp 22-23
Resourcing for Queensland’s justice system	pp 23-24
Budget estimates processes	pp 23, 30

3. Minister for Police and Emergency Services

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has responsibility for the following:⁴⁸



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, the following persons were present at the hearing on 5 August 2025:⁴⁹

- Acting Commissioner of Police
- Chief Officer of the State Emergency Service
- Chief Officer of Marine Rescue Queensland
- Inspector-General of Emergency Management.

3.1. Queensland Police Service

The strategic objectives of the QPS include:

- delivering effective and responsive policing and community safety services
- providing better services through connected and trusted relationships
- delivering transformational reform, to modernise and strengthen the capability to deliver community safety services in a fiscally responsible manner.⁵⁰

3.1.1. Budget Overview

Total expenses are estimated to be \$4.050 billion in 2025–26, an increase of \$324 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual. The increase includes the cost of additional police personnel, enterprise bargaining arrangements and maintaining core activities in line with community safety service level expectations.⁵¹

Total revenue is estimated to be \$4.050 billion in 2025–26, an increase of \$324 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual. The increase is mainly due to the funding for

⁴⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p i.

⁴⁹ Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates applies.

⁵⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 1.

⁵¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 10.

additional police personnel, enterprise bargaining arrangements and maintaining core activities in line with community safety service level expectations.⁵²

The key deliverables in 2025-26 for the QPS are to:

- work collaboratively with partner agencies to reduce total victim of crime numbers per capita
- enforce the *Making Queensland Safer* Laws and other laws to combat crime and improve community safety, including establishing a new three-tiered public sex offender register to protect Queensland children
- work with Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (DYJVS) to implement youth crime initiatives and targeted responses to prevent crime, improve outcomes and enhance community safety
- support the attraction and retention of frontline police to bolster police numbers, to deliver at least 1,600 more police recruits
- create healthy workplaces and workforces through the delivery of a new mental health support framework
- implement reforms to domestic and family violence processes that will enable police to get to more victims sooner and continue to improve police responses to domestic and family violence in line with a victim-centric, trauma informed approach
- deliver justice-related commitments under the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* through strong partnerships with First Nations representatives and communities
- build and enhance State Emergency Service (SES) and Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) capability to deliver effective and sustainable community safety and disaster and emergency management response
- deliver a reduction in road crash fatalities and hospitalisations through an increase in enforcement and prevention activities and enhancing police capabilities to improve road safety across Queensland's road networks
- enhance community and police safety through improvements in law enforcement capability, weapons licensing management and the implementation of the National Firearms Register.⁵³

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 compares the combined total of the cash appropriations for the QPS for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the QPS for 2024-25.

⁵² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 10.

⁵³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 1.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	3,446,270	3,558,610	3,816,686
equity adjustment	343,184	296,976	96,719
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	3,789,454	3,855,586	3,913,405

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 18.

3.1.2. Budget Highlights

The 2025-26 budget highlights for the QPS include:⁵⁴

- \$290.3 million over 5 years and \$3.3 million per annum ongoing for new and upgraded capital works on police stations, facilities and beats at Burleigh Heads, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton, Goodna, Palm Island, Yarrabilba, Caboolture West and Rainbow Beach
- \$226.1 million over 5 years and \$37.6 million per annum ongoing to implement the *Making Queensland Safer Laws*
- \$147.9 million over 5 years to provide frontline police with essential equipment including Body Worn Cameras, Integrated Load Bearing Vests, Taser 10s, Tactical First Aid Kits, Portable Handheld radios and access to Tyre Deflation Devices
- \$52.4 million over 2 years to reduce the DNA case backlog
- \$37 million over 4 years and \$9.6 million per annum ongoing to enhance the response to domestic and family violence
- \$20.7 million over 4 years and \$5.3 million per annum ongoing for the Digital Intelligence and Community Engagement to restore the capability with a focus on youth crime, and support disaster management communications.

3.2. Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management

The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) provides independent and valued assurance and insights to enhance Queensland's disaster management arrangements.⁵⁵

The objectives of IGEM are to:

⁵⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 2.

⁵⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 17.

- ensure the standard for disaster management in Queensland remains contemporary
- enhance effective disaster management and community resilience within the disaster management system
- facilitate strategic connections within and across the disaster management sector, researcher sector, industry, and the community.⁵⁶

3.2.1. Budget Overview

Total expenses for IGEM are estimated to be \$5.5 million in 2025–26, an increase of \$120,000 from the 2024–25 Budget. The increase is mainly associated with enterprise bargaining arrangements.⁵⁷

In 2025–26, IGEM will:

- undertake reviews to provide assurance that the disaster management arrangements continue to keep communities safe
- partner with key stakeholders to deliver assurance activities that enhance disaster management capability across Queensland by promoting shared responsibility for all Queenslanders
- promote inclusive engagement through all aspects of Queensland's disaster management arrangements providing future focussed, equitable and resilient disaster management arrangements
- broker cooperative partnerships that build pathways for future research programs to connect research expertise with real world problems to improve disaster management outcomes
- review the disaster management standards to ensure they remain contemporary and fit for purpose.⁵⁸

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 compares the combined total of the cash appropriations for IGEM for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for IGEM for 2024-25.

⁵⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 17.

⁵⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 21.

⁵⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QPS and IGEM, p 17.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	4,723	4,824	4,827
equity adjustment	..	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	4,723	4,824	4,827

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 15.

3.3. Committee's examination of the Police and Emergency Services portfolio

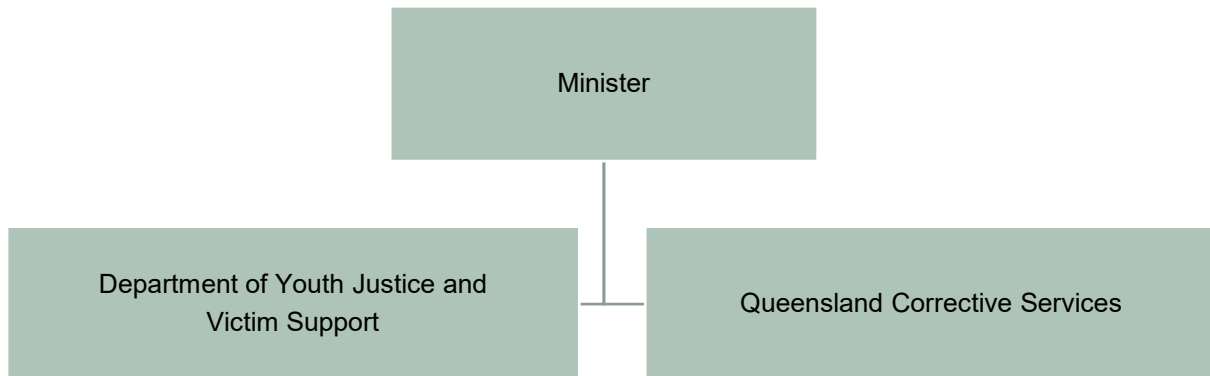
The committee considered a range of matters in relation to the estimates for the portfolio of Police and Emergency Services including the IGEM. These are summarised below.

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
Questions on Notice across the portfolio	
Introduction of a separate offence for breach of bail by a young person and rate at which the offender identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	QoN 1
Use of force by Police Officers	QoN 2
Adult penalties applicable under s175A <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i>	QoN 3
Police recruits and funding for additional recruit intakes	QoN 4, p 40
Staffing	QoN 5, 7 and 11
Programs and initiatives—crime prevention workgroups	QoN 6
State Emergency Services Capital Program	QoN 8
Status of all prior Inspector-General of Emergency Management recommendations	QoN 9, p 64
Key deliverables: Marine Rescue Queensland capability and Capital Program and replacement of vessels	QoN 10, pp 53-55, 65
Capital funding relevant to the Making Queensland Safer laws	QoN 12
Expansion of the State Flying Squad	QoN 13, pp 40-41
Replacement of roadside breath-testing devices	QoN 14
State Emergency Service Volunteer service	QoN 15, pp 51, 58-60, 62, 63
Marine Rescue Queensland Volunteer service	QoN 16, pp 62-64
Transition of all Volunteer Marine Rescue and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association units to Marine Rescue Queensland	QoN 17, pp 54, 59
Vehicle Immobiliser Subsidy Trial	QoN 18
Extension of the National Emergency Alert system	QoN 19
QPS ability to respond to emerging situations	QoN 20

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
<i>Police</i>	
Wage increase and pay scale restructure for QPS officers	pp 36-37
Retention of QPS officers	p 38
Offence of 'steal, other'	pp 38-39, 42
Queensland Forensic Sciences DNA lab issues and resulting backlog	pp 39-40
Development of Jack's Law and resulting impact	pp 41-42, 48
DVO Breaches	pp 42, 49
Changes to how victims of crime are counted or reported, internally or externally	pp 42-43
QGAir or QGAir contract flights taken by the Premier and other Ministers	pp 43-46, p 49
Impacts of the 'Adult Crime, Adult Time' legislation (including the Making Queensland Safer laws)	pp 46-47
Initiatives to enhance community safety (including the new Nambour police beat shopfront)	p 47
Operation Marshall (high visibility police operation)	p 48
Public child sex offender register	pp 48-49
Contravention of a DVO Order	p 49
<i>Emergency Services</i>	
The State Emergency Service	pp 51, 58, 60, 62
Collaboration and briefings between the Minister and various bodies (including the SES, MRQ, State Disaster Coordinator)	pp 51-53
State Disaster Coordination Centre	pp 52, 55, 57, 60, 61, 65
Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum	p 53
Preparation for and assistance given by Emergency Services during natural disasters	pp 54-57
Purpose and operation of the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management	pp 59-60, 64
Government assistance provided following natural disasters	p 61

4. Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

The Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services has responsibility for the following:⁵⁹



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, the Director-General of the DYJVS and the Commissioner of QCS were present at the hearing on 5 August 2025.

4.1. Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support

As part of the machinery-of-government changes, effective 1 November 2024, the former Department of Youth Justice was renamed the DYJVS. As a result, Victim Assist Queensland and the administration functions of the Office of the Victims' Commissioner were moved to the DYJVS from the former DJAG.⁶⁰

The DYJVS' purpose is to keep Queenslanders safe by delivering stronger laws and fewer victims of crime, providing meaningful support to victims of crime through victims' support services.⁶¹

The strategic objectives are for fewer victims of crime by reducing offending by youth offenders and to ensure victims are supported.⁶²

4.1.1. Budget Overview

The controlled budget for 2025–26 for the DYJVS is \$770.9 million, of which 99.5 per cent is appropriation revenue. Other revenue mainly relates to user charges for services provided through Outlook facilities.⁶³

In 2025–26, employee expenses account for 50 per cent of the total budget and supports 2,665 FTEs. Service procurement represents 36 per cent of the DYJVS' expenditure and

⁵⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p i.

⁶⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 1.

⁶¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 1.

⁶² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 1.

⁶³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 7.

mainly relates to investment in non-government organisations for youth justice and victim support programs and services.⁶⁴

In 2025–26, the DYJVS will:

- continue progressing the *Making Queensland Safer Laws* and further reforms to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*
- establish a Victim Advocate Service that will operate in coordination with existing support agencies to provide dedicated support to victims of crime through the justice process including expanding the Victims of Crime Community Response pilot in key regions
- establish Gold Standard Early Intervention models including Kickstarter grants and proven community led programs that reduce reoffending
- implement the Detention with Purpose plan with a focus on discipline and rehabilitation, and work with the Department of Education to increase school attendance in Youth Detention Centres
- commence the establishment of Youth Justice and Crime Prevention Schools, working with the Department of Education to provide targeted support for at-risk youth through tailored learning environments, integrated wraparound services, and early access to intervention programs designed to enhance educational outcomes and reduce re-offending
- commence implementation of the Staying on Track program that will provide 12 months of post-release rehabilitation support to all youth offenders exiting detention
- commence implementation of the Circuit Breaker Sentencing program as an alternative to detention for youth that will provide intensive rehabilitation across two remote facilities in northern and southern Queensland
- commence the establishment of Regional Reset early intervention programs for youth who are demonstrating high-risk behaviours, working with stakeholders to give them the best chance of success
- support the work of the Office of the Victims' Commissioner
- continue to work with the QPS and other agencies to reduce the number of youth held in adult watchhouses and address youth crime
- continue construction of the new Youth Detention Centre at the Woodford Correctional Precinct
- commence wide and effective consultation with the Cairns community in choosing the location, design and layout of the new Youth Detention Centre.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 7.

⁶⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, pp 1-2.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the DYJVS for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the former Department of Youth Justice in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	478,087	557,907	767,433
equity adjustment	193,035	172,404	324,398
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	133,193	343,030
Vote	671,122	865,504	1,434,861

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 18.

4.1.2. Budget Highlights – Youth Justice

The 2025-26 budget highlights for Youth Justice include:⁶⁶

- investment of \$345 million over 5 years and \$50 million per annum ongoing towards rehabilitation programs that will help youth turn their lives around, to break the cycle of reoffending and successfully reintegrate back into their communities
- additional funding of \$215 million over 5 years and \$25 million per annum ongoing to deliver early intervention community-led initiatives with a focus on reducing crime, boosting education, training and employment
- additional funding of \$138.2 million over 4 years and \$8.3 million per annum ongoing to reduce youth crime
- \$1.95 million over 4 years, with \$1.8 million for the Community Gro Garbutt program and \$150,000 for Our Space Rockhampton Program.⁶⁷

4.1.3. Budget Highlights – Victim Support

The 2025-26 budget highlights for Victim Support include:⁶⁸

- \$458.5 million over 5 years and \$10 million per annum ongoing to ensure victims of crime receive the assistance, information, and advocacy they need, including:
 - \$393 million over 2 years to enhance support under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*
 - \$50 million over 5 years and \$10 million per annum ongoing to establish a new Victims Advocate Service, which will work alongside existing agencies to provide dedicated support through the justice process
 - \$12.9 million over 4 years for the expansion of the Victims of Crime Community Response pilot program

⁶⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 2.

⁶⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 2.

⁶⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 2.

- \$2.6 million over 4 years to support the establishment of a Youth Justice Victims register as part of the *Making Queensland Safer Laws*.⁶⁹

4.2. Queensland Corrective Services

The purpose of QCS is to deliver correctional services that prioritise community safety by reducing reoffending, rehabilitating offenders and preventing crime to ensure fewer victims and a safer Queensland.⁷⁰

QCS' strategic objectives are to:

- restore community safety by holding offenders to account
- reduce reoffending by delivering rehabilitative corrective services
- support a safer workplace for staff
- build strong community partnerships to support community safety.⁷¹

4.2.1. Budget Overview

The total revenue/expenses budget for the QCS in 2025–26 is \$1.819 billion, an increase of \$122.1 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual. This primarily reflects increased funding to:

- operate the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and safely manage capacity pressure
- strengthen security, management and rehabilitation of prisoners in low security at Lotus Glen, Townsville Men's, Townsville Women's and Numinbah (women's) correctional centres
- commence an electronic monitoring pilot of high risk domestic and family violence (DFV) offenders.⁷²

In 2025–26, QCS will:

- commence work to rapidly deliver new beds across the Townsville and Arthur Gorrie correctional centres
- deliver the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre which will result in more than 1,500 additional beds in the correctional system
- progress planning and delivery of additional beds to manage correctional centre capacity and meet demand now and over the coming decade
- contribute to making Queensland safer through the rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders
- continue to support delivery of the trial of electronic monitoring of young offenders on bail

⁶⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DYJVS, p 2.

⁷⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QCS, p 1.

⁷¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QCS, p 1.

⁷² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QCS, p 7.

- support the delivery of a pilot of electronic monitoring of high risk DFV offenders, and continue to deliver DFV perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation
- putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders by enhancing operations of the QCS Victims Register and supporting the effective operation of the Parole Board Queensland
- engage with staff, stakeholders and community to strengthen partnerships and delivery of corrective services that reduce offending
- strengthen security, management and rehabilitation of prisoners in low security at Lotus Glen, Townsville Men's, Townsville Women's and Numinbah (women's) correctional centres
- improve outcomes for First Nations peoples in the correctional system and contribute to Closing the Gap priority reforms
- implement enhanced officer safety environment including providing QCS officers with the operational equipment, technology and facilities they need to safely and effectively perform their duties
- continue to deliver end-to-end case management for women, along with recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.⁷³

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2025 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the QCS for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for QCS in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	1,624,641	1,649,897	1,776,119
equity adjustment	68,694	58,330	232,682
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	1,693,335	1,708,227	2,008,801

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 17.

⁷³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QCS, p 1.

4.2.2. Budget Highlights

The 2025-26 budget highlights for QCS include:⁷⁴

- \$2.387 billion over 6 years to rapidly increase capacity at the Arthur Gorrie and Townsville correctional centres
- \$31.8 million over 4 years to increase capacity, improve security and support the management of sex offenders subject to *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* orders
- \$25 million over 5 years and \$6.8 million per annum ongoing for delivery of an electronic monitoring pilot of high-risk domestic and family violence offenders
- \$30.5 million over 2 years to support Parole Board Queensland operations and the safe and efficient consideration of parole matters while the independent review of Parole Board Queensland is undertaken, and the outcomes considered by the government.

⁷⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, QCS, p 2.

4.3. Committee's examination of the Youth Justice, Victim Support and Corrective Services portfolios

The committee considered a range of matters in relation to the estimates for the portfolios of Youth Justice and Victim Support, and Corrective Services. These are summarised below:

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
Questions on Notice across the portfolios	
Young people in watch houses—serious incidents	QoN 1
Wacol Youth Remand Centre— occupancy, length of stay, school contact hours, family visits	QoN 2
Rehabilitation and early intervention programs	QoN 3, pp 71-73, 76, 80-81
Funding allocations and modelling regarding a new Youth Detention Centre in Cairns	QoN 4
Expert Legal Panel	QoN 5 and 13, pp 79, 82-86
Youth Detention Centres—Education and Training Centres	QoN 6
Victim Support Division of the DYJVS	QoN 7
Availability of data to the public	QoN 8 and 18
Cell and bed capacity for Correctional Centres in Queensland	QoN 9, p 93
Staffing at Correctional Centres	QoN 10
Funding for programs across the portfolio	QoN 11
Adult Crime, Adult Time	QoN 12
Restorative justice in Queensland's youth justice system	QoN 14
Support given to victims of crime	QoN 15, p 74-75
Government initiatives to make Queensland safer	QoN 16
Youth justice infrastructure	QoN 17
Staffing of custodial correctional centres and community corrections	QoN 19
Safety, security and use of correctional centres	QoN 20

Matters considered by the committee	Question on Notice (QoN) / public hearing transcript page number:
<i>Youth Justice and Victim Support</i>	
Resignation of Director-General	p 67
Determination of victim numbers	p 68
Requests for support made to the Office of the Victims Commissioner	pp 68-69, 88
“Night mode” and “separations” at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre	pp 69-71, 75, 88
Staff shortages	pp 70-71, 76, 88
Workforce plan/strategic workforce plan	pp 76-78, 84
Detention with purpose plan	pp 71, 86-87
Victims register for youth offenders	pp 73, 87-88
Government initiatives to address serious repeat offenders	p 73
Making Queensland Safer laws	pp 78-79, 84, 93-94, 96, 98
Crime prevention and youth justice schools	p 81
Building of a new Youth Detention Centre	p 89
<i>Corrective Services</i>	
Ministerial Office staffing	pp 90-91
Privatisation of prisons	p 91
Prisoner transport	pp 91-92
Absconds from low security correctional centres	pp 94-95
Building of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre	pp 95-97
Cell capacity national targets	p 98
Movement of prisoners between Police Watchhouses and Correctional Centres	p 98
QCS Staffing issues	p 99

Statement of Reservation



Statement of Reservation

Justice, Integrity and
Community Safety Committee

Appropriation Bill 2025





Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways from across Queensland.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This artwork by The Hon LEEANNE ENOCH MP is called "The Power of Many" from her "Connections" series. It represents the paths we take to reach our goals and the many important and often powerful connections we make with each other along the way.

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Queensland Labor Opposition thanks public sector employees right across Queensland for the work that they do each and every day on behalf of all Queenslanders. Without over 270,000 full-time equivalent public sector roles in Queensland undertaking that work, Queenslanders would not have access to the services and support that they need and deserve.

In particular, the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks all public servants involved in the preparation of Budget Estimates. Preparing for a Budget Estimates process is a monumental task that can involve hundreds of staff to not only attend the public hearings but also prepare briefing materials and gather information.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL, JUSTICE AND INTEGRITY

The estimates hearing for the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity answered some questions but enlivened many more.

PUBLIC SERVICE – FREE FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

Premier David Crisafulli has said on multiple occasions, but most recently during the estimates hearings he attended that he wanted “... a Public Service that is free from political interference. I want a Public Service that is led by someone who is truly independent...”¹

However, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition it is clear from some of the appointments made by Premier David Crisafulli that he has broken his promise and appointed Directors-General who have a past with a political party, in particular the conservative side of political.

Questions were put to the newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Justice, Ms Sarah Cruickshank about her employment history, in particular the following:

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, on Tuesday the Premier at his estimates said—I want a Public Service that is free from political interference. I want a Public Service that is led by someone who is truly independent. Director-General, is it correct that you were a political staff member of former Liberal premier Gladys Berejiklian?

Ms Cruickshank: No, that is not quite correct. I took a secondment to then premier Berejiklian’s office from the department of premier and cabinet. I was, in fact, in the department of premier and cabinet for eight years and during that time I did the secondment to the premier’s office.

Ms SCANLON: It is the case, though, you still worked as a chief of staff in Gladys Berejiklian’s office?

Ms Cruickshank: Yes, on secondment from the department of premier and cabinet.

Ms SCANLON: Is it correct that you worked in the office of former Liberal politicians Joe Hockey, Brendan Nelson and Helen Coonan?

Ms Cruickshank: Not quite correct, no. I did not work for the honourable Joe Hockey. I did, straight out of university, work in the electorate office of Dr Brendan Nelson back in 1996 and I worked for Helen Coonan for a year in the Senate when she was a backbencher in 1998.²

While Director-General Cruickshank disagreed with the term “political staff member”, it is clear from the ordinary meaning that if an individual is employed in a ministerial office to support an elected Member of Parliament, namely a Minister of the Crown, then they are in fact a political staff member.

¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 9

² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing_%205%20August%202025.pdf page 4

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In fact, as was heard by Director-General Cruickshank during the estimates hearing, she confirmed that she held the position of Chief of Staff to former New South Wales Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

It should be noted that an individual cannot get anymore senior in a political office than Chief of Staff, in particular the Chief of Staff to a Premier. As such, while the Queensland Labor Opposition appreciates that Director-General Cruickshank was on secondment from the public service, during the period of her tenure as Chief of Staff to Gladys Berejiklian, they were a staff member to a politician, and as such a political staff member to a Liberal Premier.

During the estimates hearings Director-General Cruickshank confirmed that not only had she worked for former Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian, but also had stints in electorate office of former Liberal Member of Parliament Dr Brendan Nelson and also former Liberal Senator Helen Coonan.

In addition to having worked for three liberal Members of Parliament, including a New South Wales Liberal Premier, Director-General Cruickshank confirmed that she was the "Sarah-Jane Cruickshank" who donated \$1,000 to the Liberal candidate for Penrith, Stuart Ayres.

EF680

Disclosure of Political Donations and Electoral Expenditure by a Political Donor

election
funding authority

Political Donor Name SARAH - JANE CRUICKSHANK

PART A: Reportable Political Donations made by the Donor

A reportable political donation is a donation of \$1,000 or more (or multiple donations from one donor in one financial year that total \$1,000 or more) to the same candidate, group, elected member or a political party. Donations from entities without an ABN, certain indirect campaign contributions over \$1,000 and anonymous donations are prohibited.

Reportable political donations include:

- Donations of money made to or for the benefit of a political party in NSW, a state or local government candidate or group, a local government councillor or a Member of Parliament. If your donation is to a Federal Member but is received by the NSW branch of the party, you must disclose it here;
- Donations of money made to or for the benefit of an entity or other person (not being a party, elected member, group or candidate) where the whole or part of the gift was used or is intended to be used by that entity/person to incur electoral expenditure;
- Donations of a gift or service at no charge or at a charge less than the value of the gift or service made to a political party, a state or local government candidate or group, a local government councillor or a Member of Parliament; and
- The purchase of a ticket or other item for a fundraising event or function held by a political party in NSW, a state or local government candidate or group, a local government councillor or a Member of Parliament or state or local government candidate or group, local government, councillor, Member of Parliament or a

Did the political donor make any reportable donations to a state or local government candidate or group, local government councillor, Member of Parliament or a political party in NSW during the disclosure period?

☒ **YES** Enter the details as in the table below

☐ **NO** Proceed to Part B

*Please select donation code from the following list

DONATION CODE	DONATION CATEGORY
M	Money
A	Advertising
C	Computers
E	Equipment
OA	Office Accommodation
V	Vehicles

If Other - Specify in Donation Code column

Date	Name of Candidate / Group of Candidates / Councillor / Member of Parliament / Political Party in NSW	Amount or value of donation \$	Donation code*
26/5/10	STUART AYRES, LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR PENRITH	\$1000.00	M

While individuals are allowed to engage in the democratic process as they see fit, Premier David Crisafulli made a clear commitment that the individuals who lead the public service would do so free from political interference and be truly independent.

It is the Queensland Labor Opposition's view that Premier David Crisafulli has broken this promise.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY PANEL

The Crisafulli LNP Government has changed the “Protocol for Judicial Appointments in Queensland”. They have in particular:

- Increased the number of individuals the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice can appoint to the panel, as a discretion, from two to three;
- Added that a former President of the Bar Association or former President of the Queensland Law Society can be appointed, rather than just the current;
- Added that any nominee of the President of the Bar Association or President of the Queensland Law Society needs the agreement of the Attorney-General;
- Removed the examples of individuals who can sit on the panel including the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland;
- Added in a reference to “a current or former Executive in the Justice portfolio”.

It should be noted that the secretariat for the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel is the Department of Justice, with the panel reporting through to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

When questions were put to Director-General Cruickshank regarding the changes to the policy, despite being provided with the old policy and the new policy the answers were lacklustre at best. When the Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice asked:

*Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: my question was to the director-general. I have a follow-up question for the director-general. Is it the case that the new LNP policy requires the consent of the Attorney-General in respect of proxies for the president of the Bar Association and the Law Society?*³

Director-General Cruickshank responded:

*Ms Cruickshank: I am afraid I suspect my answer to that would be—it is a broader one to the honourable member—that all matters that relate to appointments are a matter for the Attorney and for cabinet. I think the protocol, which was updated prior to my commencing in this role, outlines the process. That is the best I can do.*⁴

The appointments to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel itself is not a matter for Cabinet, and as such, it is unclear why the Director-General stated that.

In addition, two documents were tabled and provided to the Director-General and members of the committee and as the Department of Justice is the secretariat of the panel, it is surprising to hear that Director-General Cruickshank was unable to provide a direct answer.

In response to the question from the Shadow Attorney-General:

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, the new policy expressly states the recommendations shall be subject to approval by the Premier as the case may be. Those words were not in the previous policy, were they?

The Director-General stated:

³ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf> page 4

⁴ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf> page 4

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Ms Cruickshank: ... Ten years, thank you, Attorney. It had not been updated for a considerable period of time and, from the department's point of view, it was updated; it was placed on the website. Anything beyond that, I am afraid, really is the domain of cabinet and ministers.⁵

As the Director-General of the Department of Justice and to the First Law Officer of the State, Director-General Cruickshank should be aware that judicial appointments are not a matter for Cabinet. They are a matter solely for the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. To suggest that it is in the domain of Cabinet and Ministers as a collective is not accurate.

The line of questioning was not a matter of policy, but a matter of fact.

When asked if the new policy expressly includes the reference to 'current or former Executive in the Justice portfolio', Director-General Cruickshank, despite being provided earlier with the previous and new policy, as a tabled document stated:

Ms Cruickshank: I cannot speak to what was in the former policy, I am afraid. I do now have a copy of what is on the website, which I am just looking at.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, I put it to you that that is the case and I have provided you with two copies of both the former policy and the current policy.⁶

Despite the Department of Justice being the secretariat and holder of information regarding meetings, Director-General Cruickshank was unable to provide how many meetings John Sosso attended.

For background, John Sosso was the Director-General to Mr Bleijie when he was the Attorney-General during the Newman LNP Government and was appointed Director-General of the Deputy Premier's department, without a merit-based process when the Crisafulli LNP Government came to power.

The Queensland Labor Opposition reiterates our concerns of John Sosso being a member of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel, in conjunction with his many other roles within the Crisafulli LNP Government.

QUEENSLAND REDISTRIBUTION COMMISSION

The Queensland Redistribution Commission is a powerful body that determines the makeup and shape of the electoral boundaries system in Queensland. It is (or should be) an independent body that makes recommendations on the electoral boundary system in Queensland. It is a body that was borne out the Fitzgerald Inquiry in Queensland to ensure that our electoral system is fair.

It is appropriate for any appointment that probity checks are undertaken to ensure that individuals are suited and right for the role. The following question was asked of Director-General Cruickshank who thankfully had read up on the issue prior to estimates, unlike the previous issue canvassed in this document:

Ms SCANLON: Certainly. Director-General, was the department aware that Mr Sosso was involved in the Fitzgerald inquiry, comments made by Tony Fitzgerald himself that Mr Sosso was 'susceptible to influence' and that Mr Sosso was a member of the LNP and, for a short period before that, a member of the Labor Party?

Ms Cruickshank: I say this with the greatest of respect: I think that question is straying into you asking for some personal commentary on an individual, which is not the norm for anybody in the Public Service to provide so I certainly will not and my assumption is the people in the department who prepared that brief likewise would not have. I think they would have taken very seriously the advice that was being given to the Attorney-General about what would be the appropriate position

⁵ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JJCSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf> page 5

⁶ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JJCSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf> page 5

Queensland Labor Opposition

that should sit on the electoral Redistribution Commission. Therefore, they looked at that and said, 'We recommend that the head of the department of planning be appointed.'

It is unclear whether the Department of Justice knew of and provided advice on the commentary about John Sosso from experienced and well-regarded corruption busting KC Tony Fitzgerald about John Sosso before they provided a briefing note to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity.

On the evidence from Director-General Cruickshank the Department of Justice recommended that the head of the department of planning be appointed, that individual is John Sosso.

It should be noted that the Queensland Labor Opposition still maintains that John Sosso is not a suitable person to be appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, because of commentary about past conduct and their involvement in political parties. The Queensland Redistribution Commission membership must be beyond reproach, so that all Queenslanders can be confident in the outcomes of its review.

INTEGRITY – JOHN SOSSO

The Member for Nanango holds the title of Minister for Integrity and as such it is assumed that Director-General Cruickshank provides advice to the Minister for Integrity on integrity matters.

When asked:

***Ms SCANLON:** Director-General, as the director-general for the Minister for Integrity, has the department provided advice on the potential conflicts of interest that now arise with Mr John Sosso holding multiple positions within government, including being the director-general of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and being on the Judicial Appointment Advisory Panel, the redistribution panel, recruitment panels for jobs and any other panels that I have not specified?*

The Director-General replied:

***Ms Cruickshank:** I think the honourable member would be aware that I am not able to comment on the nature of advice that we provide to our ministers and every single one of those issues I think that you just listed would have been matters for cabinet—all those appointments.*

As such, Queenslanders are unaware if the department responsible for justice and integrity in Queensland provided advice to the Minister for Integrity about John Sosso holding multiple roles in government, across multiple areas.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Queensland Labor Opposition believes that there is an issue with John Sosso holding multiple roles across multiple areas, including a panel for judicial members, a commission to determine the make-up of the electoral system and his day job.

TRANSPARENCY OF DATA

The Crisafulli LNP Government came to office with promises of openness and transparency. Unfortunately, the actions of the Crisafulli LNP Government are vastly contradictory to their motherhood statements before the election.

The Queensland Labor Opposition asked for court data through pre-hearing questions on notice for the estimates process, in particular three, four and five, and the answers that came back were either to wait for the annual report, or referred to another Minister, despite the courts being within the purview of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

It is clear to the Queensland Labor Opposition that the data exists. It has been selectively provided to media outlets by the Crisafulli LNP Government, it has been referred to and used by the Attorney-General and

Queensland Labor Opposition

Minister for Justice and the former Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice indicated in a previous committee hearing that it was a matter for the Department of Justice.

In short, the data that the courts keep is there, is accessible, but is not being released when asked.

This is a prime example of the Crisafulli LNP Government hiding information, but selectively using the data when it suits their political narrative.

INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES

The Inspector of Detention Services was asked and responded to the below:

***Ms SCANLON:** My next question is to the Queensland Ombudsman. I refer to page 73 of the SDS with respect to inspectorate staff. In your publicly funded role as Inspector of Detention Services, can you advise if your office received any modelling in relation to youth justice detention centre capacity since the passing of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws?*

***Mr Reilly:** No.⁷*

It is alarming to the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Inspector of Detention Services, a role with the responsibility of ensuring our corrective services and detention centres are running appropriately, has not been provided with any modelling into the future in relation to capacity, noting that capacity is an issue in these facilities.

What was also concerning was the point of order from the Attorney-General who stated that the line of questioning “sits in the corrections portfolio”,⁸ when the line of questioning was about youth justice matters, something that is not in the corrections portfolio. In addition, the Queensland Labor Opposition submits that it was highly appropriate that the taxpayer funded Inspector of Detention Services was able to answer questions about the current situation.

The Inspector of Detention Services when questioned about what “night mode” was, stated:

***Ms SCANLON:** Ombudsman, is it your understanding that night mode is when children are locked in their cells for a period of time? That is correct, is it not?*

***Mr Reilly:** Night mode is a term that is used in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. It is a local term, if you like. It refers to a type of separation of children in their cells that is caused by staff shortages.*

They use the term ‘night mode’ to actually describe separation that occurs during the day. Each night, from 7.30 pm to 7.30 am, children are placed in their cells to sleep. They will go into their cells each night for 12 hours.

If the child is then separated during the day before the 12 hours—in the daytime hours—that may be referred to as night mode. It is a local term that staff use there.⁹

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – PUBLIC SERVANT POSITIONS

In respect of public servant positions which are funded in the budget, the Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice asked:

***Ms SCANLON:** My next question is to the director-general in relation to that same question on notice, specifically to the section that states ‘safety and regulation’. You will see, Director-General,*

⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 13

⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 13

⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 26

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again there is a difference in the numbers provided between 2024 and 2025. The estimated actual was 1,549 whereas the budget now provides only 1,501. Can you outline what positions are no longer funded?

Director-General Cruickshank responded:

***Ms Cruickshank:** Yes, I can. Bear with me for one moment while I compare my notes, but I do have that info. The first one relates to the dispute resolution branch that was in place which ran the expanded adult restorative justice program. As you may be aware, that is a program that has been running since about 2007.*

For the vast bulk of that time, it has run across four centres. The previous administration gave funding for two years, which concluded 30 June this year. That two-year funding had seen an expansion to some other centres across Queensland, but when that funding ran out the temporary staff that were allocated there have now left as well. I am just double-checking the other ones.

The other one that I have relates to some funding that, likewise, had an expiry date of 30 June 2025. It related to Blue Card Services screening. There was a large number of staff who were attached to that who were not funded beyond 30 June, based on previous budgets. This budget topped up that funding, put an extra \$4.3 million in, but there were some staff that we are carrying at risk within the department.

Technically, the FTE funded positions have changed but the people have not, so we are just carrying them at risk in the department. Does that make sense? The question you are asking me relates to funded FTE, which is slightly different to actual headcount.

We have people who come in and go out of the department as each year goes on. In the reality of blue card, for obvious reasons, given the broader environment, we were not keen to let any of the people go, but the funded positions are less than previously because the whole program came to an end in June.

The evidence to the committee was that funding for full time equivalent positions was not continued by the Crisafulli LNP Government and as such, have left a number of positions being carried at risk within the department. This is concerning because the roles, in Blue Card Services for example, should be funded to ensure the ongoing work and sustainability of the positions.

Queensland Labor Opposition

Blue Card screening jobs axed in budget

Mikaela Mulveney

Dozens of jobs in Blue Card Services are among more than 50 full-time jobs no longer funded throughout the Department of Justice.

And that includes positions screening for

individuals that could be a threat when working with

children – a system currently under review and commissioned by the state government – which received no further funding beyond June 30.

Department of Justice

Director-General Sarah Cruickshank during Budget Estimates hearings on Tuesday was grilled on the

57 jobs no longer funded in this year's budget.

Among these were 29 FTE positions in the Office of the Director of Public

Prosecutions that related to historical case review processes arising from the Sofronoff Inquiry into forensic DNA testing.

Ms Cruickshank said many were not funded because

they wrapped up their work.

"Some of that work,

obviously, is still ongoing, and so there are still staff who are working on it," Ms Cruickshank said.

"The other one relates to some funding ... that likewise had an expiry date of 30 June, 2025, related to Blue Card Services screening."



Sarah Cruickshank, Director-General Department of Justice, and Attorney-General Deb Frecklington during Budget Estimates. Picture: Liam Kidston

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

The Integrity Commissioner in Queensland and their staff provide an invaluable advice service to an array of different public servants and Members of Parliament and the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks them for their work.

Their work is outlined in their legislation which is very specific, as outlined by the Shadow Minister for Integrity:

***Ms ENOCH:** Integrity Commissioner, your functions are outlined in section 7 of the Integrity Act to provide advice to designated persons and to maintain the lobbying register. The Attorney-General's charter letter states—*

Work closely with the Integrity Commissioner to set standards and procedures for respectful conduct between Members of Parliament, the Executive Government and the Public Service.

Integrity Commissioner, can you advise if your functions or scope of work has changed to now provide advice regarding procedures of how the public service and MPs engage with each other?

The Integrity Commissioner responded:

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Ms Waugh: Yes, that is a particular responsibility the minister has in the charter letter. It does connect to me and that she is required to work closely with me. In relation to that particular responsibility I have indicated to her that I am doing some preliminary work on what that may look like.¹⁰

While it is noted the willingness of the Integrity Commissioner to work with the Minister for Integrity on the elements of their charter letter, it calls into question the Crisafulli LNP Government's understanding of the Integrity Commissioner's role to start with, particularly in the case of why the reference was in the Minister for Integrity's charter letter to start with.

During the questioning at estimates, it was also confirmed by the Integrity Commissioner after questioning from the Shadow Minister for Integrity that advice provided to a Member of Parliament can be released. The Integrity Commissioner stated:

Ms Waugh: That is correct. The secrecy provisions apply to myself and my staff, not to the designated person.¹¹

In respect of when a relationship between colleagues of the Cabinet become a matter of public relevance that should be disclosed, the testimony of the Integrity Commissioner was:

Ms Waugh: In terms of the threshold question, I would think that ministers would be guided by the conduct standards and behavioural standards in the Ministerial Handbook and the Ministerial Code of Conduct. I guess, more broadly, if it raised an integrity or ethics question or issue or if it gives rise to a conflict of interest then it would meet that threshold.

Ms ENOCH: Just to confirm, Integrity Commissioner, the threshold for relationships between colleagues in the cabinet is dictated by the handbook and by public perception?

Ms Waugh: There is a general public interest test and there are behavioural standards in both the code and the Ministerial Handbook.¹²

While it is a matter of public record that integrity advice was sought between the most recent relationship of two Cabinet Ministers, Queenslanders are still unclear of when that advice was sought and when appropriate measures and conflict plans were implemented.

EXPERT LEGAL PANEL

For some time, the Queensland Labor Opposition and experts in the field have been calling for the Expert Legal Panels advice, in respect of the Crisafulli LNP Government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to be released.

It is unclear who in government has seen the advice, other than Cabinet.

As such, questions were put to Director-General Cruikshank in relation to whether the department had seen the Expert Legal Panel's advice, however, no clear answer was derived. While it is noted that the panel itself sits in another portfolio, the question was about whether the advice had been cited or received, noting that the laws impact the Department of Justice as well.

Queenslanders continue to be in the dark about the advice from the Expert Legal Panel, despite it being a taxpayer funded body.

¹⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 20

¹¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 24

¹² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 24

Queensland Labor Opposition

GOVERNING IN SECRET

The Crisafulli LNP Government like to quote the Coaldrake Report, but they do not appear to have fully grasped the concept of actually following it - in particular the pro-active release of Cabinet documents.

Questions were put by the Shadow Minister for Integrity in relation to the proactive release of Cabinet document scheme, in particular:

***Ms ENOCH:** Minister, I am advised that, of the 27 bills introduced, there have only been about 13 final cabinet submissions released. I table the list of final cabinet documents not released. Why is the government not releasing final cabinet submissions, particularly for bills such as the Making Queensland Safer Bill or the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, both led by you? Minister, don't Queenslanders have a right to know?*

The Minister for Integrity waffled in relation to the protocol and referenced some former Labor Government bills and their submissions, noting that they would have been released if the caretaker did not occur. And did not provide a reason why these documents were not released, other than outlining that they were following the protocol.

The Shadow Minister for Integrity subsequently put questions to Director-General Cruickshank:

***Ms ENOCH:** Director-General, I am just confirming that the security classifications on cabinet submissions outlines that the decision is made by a minister in consultation with the cabinet secretary regarding class A and class B secrets with class B being restricted. Of course, it is also clear in the Cabinet Handbook that it is the minister who decides it is class A. That is correct, isn't it?*

The Director-General later responded:

***Ms Cruickshank:** My reference would have been the Cabinet Handbook, so if, as I understand, you are reading from the Cabinet Handbook, then yes.*

This issue is important, because it is clear that it is the Minister themselves, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, that designate something as "Class A", which is secret, and "Class B", which is restricted. Both of these categories of documents are not released to the public.

The Queensland Labor Opposition is becoming increasingly concerned that the Crisafulli LNP Government is using loopholes and tactics to stop the release of Cabinet submissions, which flies in the face of the intent of the Coaldrake recommendations, recommendations that they themselves championed in Opposition.

Queensland is the only state in Australia that releases Cabinet documents within 30 days, pursuant to the policy, and as such Queenslanders have a right to know what the Crisafulli LNP Government are up to or not up to. It is time that the sun shined in on the Cabinet room on level 40 of 1 William Street.

QUEENSLAND LAW REFORM COMMISSION

The Queensland Labor Opposition revealed under questioning that the Queensland Law Reform Commission's review of mining lease objections, which commenced on 5 June 2023 and was ceased under the Crisafulli LNP Government before it was able to report, cost taxpayers \$2.8 million.

CROWN LAW – COSTS

The Queensland Labor Opposition thanks the hardworking and dedicated lawyers and public servants at Crown Law who provide legal advice on behalf of all Queenslanders to the state government.

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It is noted that on other occasions legal costs have been released from Crown Law regarding legal matters that they have been involved in. Therefore, it was disappointing when the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice would not provide or attempt to gain the information regarding the quantum of costs expended to date by Crown Law regarding the legal proceedings relating to the pause on the use of stage 1 and stage 2 hormone therapies on children in Queensland Health facilities.

While it is accepted that the substantive matter is within the purview of Queensland Health, the bills are sent from Crown Law to the agency and as such, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice would be privy to the information.¹³

CHARTER LETTER - ESTIMATES

Despite the Minister for Integrity's Charter letter stating, "*ensure the estimates process is a genuine opportunity for transparency and accountability in government*", Director-General Cruikshank was unable to provide the committee with what advice the Department of Justice provided on the matter, citing Cabinet considerations.

If it was indeed the case that the new estimates process was a matter for the Cabinet, then the entire Crisafulli LNP Government Cabinet collectively have a lot to answer for in respect of this year's estimates process.

POLICE

LNP CHAIR AT PRACTICE ESTIMATES

During the Queensland Labor Opposition's opening line of questioning, the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service admitted - in an explosive revelation - that the Member for Nicklin, a former Police Officer and the current LNP Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee which was examining the QPS budget, attended meetings - colloquially known in the public service as "Mock Estimates" - with the Minister and Commissioner, in preparation for the Hearing that day.

The Queensland Labor Opposition was initially alerted to this potential integrity issue due to the Member for Nicklin's interactions on the precinct, and apparent absence from his electorate, in the lead up to the hearing.

That, coupled with the Member's quick protestations in the Attorney-General's session, led the Queensland Labor Opposition to believe that perhaps the issue was more than just a hunch.

Side by side, the transcripts for the Police and Attorney-General's sessions lay bare some interesting reading.

Estimates—Attorney-General; Justice; Integrity – Page 30

Ms SCANLON: In respect of any practice estimates, were there any other government members of parliament present and, if so, who?

Ms Cruikshank: In terms of meetings that I have, no, there are not very many meetings that I have been in that have involved other ministers. There were a handful but they were not related to estimates.

*Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: we are examining the budget here. My point of order is on relevance under standing order 118(b).*¹⁴

Estimates—Police and Emergency Services – Page 36

"Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, have you practised for this estimates hearing with the minister and other personnel?

¹³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 14

¹⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 30

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Commissioner Chelepy: Yes, I have sat with the minister and briefed the minister on the portfolio.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, at those practice sessions, were any government MPs on this committee in attendance with the minister?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: there was a ruling in the last session in relation to the relevance of this to budget estimates and examining the budget. It was ruled that it was not relevant at the last session, I believe.¹⁵

Mr de BRENNI: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: I refer to the consideration of this matter by the Speaker in the previous session. The Speaker ruled that this question was in order and directed in that session that the director-general answer it. I would ask that you direct the acting commissioner to answer it, consistent with that ruling by the Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. One moment, please. I have sought some advice. Acting Commissioner?¹⁶

After what seemed like attempts by the Member for Nicklin's to use points of order to prevent a response the Acting Commissioner - to his credit - was upfront with the committee:

Commissioner Chelepy: Thank you again for the question. Yes, during those sessions Mr Marty Hunt was present.¹⁷

Further, the transcript indicates from the Acting Commissioners own words - "those sessions" - that it wasn't just one session that the Member for Nicklin attended, but multiple sessions.

Additionally, and perhaps just as concerning, when the Acting Commissioner was asked by the Queensland Labor Opposition if he raised any concerns regarding the Member for Nicklin being in attendance at these sessions, his response was simply:

Commissioner Chelepy: "No, I did not."¹⁸

The sad reality that, evidently, nobody provided frank and fearless advice to either the Minister or the Acting Commissioner in relation to this matter, is damning.

The Acting Commissioner likely would have had a significant number of his Executive Leadership Team, present for these "Mock Estimates Hearings", such as representatives from Specialist Operations, which includes Security & Counter-Terrorism Command, as well as high ranked representatives from Ethical Standards Command, and more.

It is not uncommon for sensitive operational matters, including matters relating to police intelligence to be discussed in these types of forums, and it is entirely inappropriate to have a backbench Member of the Government, who is not subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Ministerial or Ministerial Staff Members Code of Conduct or the Cabinet Handbook, to be in that room, taking part in this process.

The below line of questioning is a perfect example of how the Member for Nicklin being present at the preparations is not appropriate.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, did you practise your answer to this line of questioning with the minister and the member for Nicklin?

¹⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 36

¹⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 36

¹⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 36

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Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Just a moment, please. I will allow the question. Acting Commissioner, you have some latitude.*

Commissioner Chelepy: *I discussed this matter with the minister while we were doing estimates preparation. I do not believe I practised this question with the minister or the member for Nicklin. I discussed it with the minister as we were going through estimates preparation.*

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: *We will move now to government members' questions. I call the member for Nicklin.*

Mr HUNT: *Acting Commissioner, in relation to the use of QGAir, how does the previous premier's use of the Government Air Wing compare with the current Premier's use, specifically the number of legs and cost?*

Commissioner Chelepy: *I will provide the comparison. For the eight-month period, the current Premier flew 58 legs on 24 flights for a cost of \$544,538, as I have previously indicated. For the period 9 July 2024 through to 21 October 2024, which is approximately a four-month period, the previous premier flew 35 legs on nine flights for a total cost of \$279,834. On my basic maths, I would say the total for the four-month period is about half of the total for the Premier's eight-month period. There is no discernible difference.*

While the Queensland Labor Opposition accepts the Acting Commissioner's response that he had only discussed the matter with the Minister, the Queensland Labor Opposition questions if the Member for Nicklin was getting instructions during the sessions.

For the Queensland Labor Opposition's line of questioning around the Premier's Travel to come to an end, and immediately thereafter the Member for Nicklin has the first government question, directed to the Acting Commissioner, who then has a pre-prepared statement, using unnecessarily cherry-picked data, is nothing short of extraordinary.

The Leader of the Opposition was Premier of Queensland for over 8 months, and to cherry-pick a selected 4-month time period and then simply double it, is a highly unusual method of calculation.

The Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to hold the Crisafulli LNP Government to account and will continue to look into this matter which saw the Member for Nicklin at the mock estimates with the Acting Police Commissioner and the Minister for Police.

There are clearly separation of powers for a reason. And the actions of the Crisafulli LNP Government are reminiscent of the bad old pre-Fitzgerald days, and the Crisafulli LNP Government should seriously reflect on their conduct.

POLICE EBA

It is of great concern of the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service was unaware that the 'insulting'¹⁹ EB deal, personally negotiated by the Premier and the Police Minister, was the lowest base rate increase in the nation.

This was clearly shown in the tabled documents showing the interjurisdictional offers and finalised agreements across the nation, including:

- New South Wales Police received a minimum 19% increase over 4 years²⁰
- Northern Territory Police have been offered 14.7% over 4 years.

¹⁹ <https://www.couriermail.com.au/truecrimeaustralia/police-courts-qld/queensland-police-union-slams-insulting-pay-offer-a-week-after-endorsing-it/news-story/233db00a0fb6a7d2b778d49a7e574449>

²⁰ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/11.%20Hon%20Mick%20de%20Brenni%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Springwood.pdf>

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- Victoria Police received an annual increase of between 4.5% and 5%²¹, equalling **18-20%** over 4 years.
- Western Australian Police received a **12.75%** over three years.²²
- Australian Federal Police received **11.2%** over three years²³

In addition, South Australia Police have received a generous interim agreement, providing a fixed sum \$2,500 salary increase for all officers, plus a minimum 8% over 2 years²⁴.

Interjurisdictional comparisons should be the bread-and-butter in any retention strategy, and that this was seemingly, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition not front of mind for the Premier, the Police Minister, or the Acting Police Commissioner in these negotiations, is simply astounding.

Further, that the Member for Nicklin, amongst numerous other interjections he raised said:

***Mr HUNT:** Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: whilst it might be within the commissioner's remit to take part in that; it is not within the commissioner's remit to inquire into the packages provided by other states and territories.²⁵*

This is quite simply a bizarre and desperate statement. It is absolutely the responsibility of all those involved in the negotiations, including the Premier and Minister, to undertake basic research of this nature.

As a result of this work not being done, this deal does quite the opposite to what they say it will do. It won't drive retention; it will likely see officers quit in droves, leaving for other states.

The fact of the matter is that on all publicly available information, this is the lowest base wage increase offered or agreed to in the nation in the current cycle.

It is embarrassing that this so-called deal, was the best that the Premier and the Minister could do for our hard-working women and men in blue.

While it is currently up to the union membership to decide through a democratic vote whether to accept this low-ball offer, they should know that the Queensland Labor Opposition is in their corner and will stand by them in solidarity to fight for a better deal, if they chose to vote no.

LNP STATISTICS

The Minister for Education said the quiet part out loud in his estimates hearing, and the Queensland Labor Opposition would have loved to be a fly on the wall to see the reactions from the Premier and Police Minister when they watched him say:

***Mr LANGBROEK:** ...that was my point about 'lies, lies and damn statistics'. All of us who are here as members of the committee will be aware that we choose statistics to suit the narrative that we want to achieve...²⁶*

From witches hats to blaming the file size, the Crisafulli LNP Government is bending over backwards to indeed "choose statistics to suit the narrative" and in so doing, change the goal posts and muddy the waters when it comes to victims of crime. It appears this is only being done to save the Premier from the embarrassment of resigning in disgrace.

²¹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/09.%20Hon%20Mick%20de%20Brenni%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Springwood.pdf>

²² <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/08.%20Hon%20Mick%20de%20Brenni%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Springwood.pdf>

²³ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/12.%20Hon%20Mick%20de%20Brenni%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Springwood.pdf>

²⁴ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/07.%20Hon%20Mick%20de%20Brenni%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Springwood.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/media-releases/news-archive/new-agreement-to-attract-and-retain-police>

²⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 37

²⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/EDUCATIONA-7015/C20252026-0396/2025_08_07EstimatesEAC.pdf page 5

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The removal of 'other theft' is just one of the many concerns that the Queensland Labor Opposition has.

The Queensland Labor Opposition discovered through questioning that when the Premier stood up days earlier, he could easily have provided Queenslanders with the exact data that he used as a signpost prior to the election.

The Acting Commissioner advised the committee that the equivalent, comparable data was provided to the ABS in May this year.

***Commissioner Chelepy:** I was asked to provide the data that was provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics...This year we provided the information to the ABS in May...²⁷*

This was weeks if not months prior to the Premier releasing his newly chosen statistics, which appear to have been carefully crafted to suit his narrative.

The Queensland Labor Opposition completely supports the open and frequent publishing of all related datasets, and agrees that there are some important new additions, such as the recording of coercive control, in the QPS victims' data.

However, the Premier can't remove tens of thousands of instances of offending - which despite his words, does include victims - from the dataset, and then expect Queenslanders to blindly accept it. Especially when he has the actual data that he set the standard with, at his fingertips.

The Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Minister and the Premier to release this data immediately. Its right there, and it does not pass the pub test that the reason stopping its release is the size, or format of the file.

Additionally, the Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Minister to prioritise the inclusion of the aggrieved in a breach of a Domestic Violence Order in published victims' data moving forward, if the Premier wants to truly provide a more accurate picture of the number of victims in this state.

PREMIERS TRAVEL

It was revealed during the estimate hearings that Premier Crisafulli spent **\$544,538.00** on jets including, a "jaw-dropping"²⁸ **\$50,937.60** on a single day in March.

As outlined above, the Queensland Labor Opposition has serious concerns in relation to the preparation for this line of questioning alongside the Member for Nicklin and suspect the Crisafulli LNP Government had a grand plan to wind down the clock and use this line of questioning to relitigate ancient history.

The Queensland Labor Opposition now calls on the Premier and Minister to do the right thing and publish this data, the cost, and the manifests of each flight, live, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

There is no doubt that in a state as big as Queensland there is a need for government to have this aircraft capability, but it has now been clearly demonstrated that the community expects more transparency on this, and the Premier and Minister should give it.

POLICE RECRUITS

The extraordinary lengths this bad Crisafulli LNP Government will go to in order to claim credit for Labor's pipeline of police recruits is truly flattering.

The fact of the matter is that every police graduation that has occurred under this government had recruits already training in the academy, or at the very least, had the successful applicants allocated to commence under the former Labor Government.

²⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 49

²⁸ <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/qld-politics/david-crisafullis-544k-private-jet-spend-since-becoming-premier/news-story/14640c5625a0ba2fd2b868a65efceda2>

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The reality is that attrition has reached a record high number under this Minister's watch, with 709 police officers separating in the last financial year, as revealed in pre-hearing Question on Notice No. 5.²⁹

Further, on the Queensland Police Services' own numbers, this is only expected to get worse under this Crisafulli LNP Government, with 800 officers expected to leave the service in 2028-29.³⁰

The waffle that the government uses around their "commitment" to 1,600 recruits, makes the "commitment" worthless.

By their own admission, there is no growth planned or funded beyond what Labor locked into the budget, stating that they are "developing growth allocations".³¹

In addition, the numbers that they are using to calculate the potential number of recruits through the academy are unrealistic and potentially misrepresentative, even if the Crisafulli LNP Government had allocated for growth beyond what Labor had already funded.

The number of potential recruits outlined in pre-hearing Question on Notice No. 4 assumes every intake is full until 2028, including PACE intakes, which simply won't happen if the low-ball base rate EB isn't improved upon, to attract police from interstate.³²

Perhaps the Premier and Police Minister should get on the same page regarding what their commitment means. That way they can make it clear to Queenslanders whether they have any plan to deliver more police in this state, other than continuing to steal Labor's homework.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

THE LNP DOESN'T RESPECT OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES

There were major inconsistencies from the Minister when it came to how often he met with the respective Chief Officers of the State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue Queensland.

When the Queensland Labor Opposition asked questions on how often the Chief Officers had met the Minister, this is the response provided by the Acting Commissioner:

Commissioner Chelepy: *As the question was directed to me, I can answer that. As the director-general of the organisation, I brief the minister nearly every single Monday morning. There may be exceptions to that. I brief across my entire portfolio of policing, SES and MRQ.*³³

Ms BOYD: *Just to clarify, the chief officer of the SES is not in attendance for those Monday morning meetings?*

Commissioner Chelepy: *That is correct.*

Ms BOYD: *Is it the same circumstance for Chief Officer Wulff from Marine Rescue Queensland?*

Commissioner Chelepy: *Correct.* ...³⁴

When the Queensland Labor Opposition went to the Minister on this, he responded by talking about QDMC meetings and over-the-phone discussions on arising issues with the State Disaster Coordinator.

²⁹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JCSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/Minister%20for%20Police%20and%20Emergency%20Services.pdf>

³⁰ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2025/856-2025.pdf>

³¹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2025/849-2025.pdf>

³² <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JCSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/Minister%20for%20Police%20and%20Emergency%20Services.pdf>

³³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 51

³⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 52

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The Queensland Labor Opposition does not question that the Minister was in the room with the respective Chief Officers during times of disaster. This is obvious and would have been an entirely different issue if it wasn't the case.

However, the waffling answer then led the Queensland Labor Opposition to query why these supposed meetings weren't reflected in the Minister's diary. To which the Minister directly contradicted the evidence given by the Acting Commissioner moments earlier.

Ms BOYD: ... I notice that those meetings are not specified in your ministerial diaries. Does this mean your ministerial diaries are not accurate?

Mr PURDIE: Every Monday morning I am briefed by the acting commissioner and the State Disaster Coordinator and, depending on the operational briefing at the time, as he has already advised the committee, he brings people to that meeting every Monday morning as they are required. Those are reflected in my diary. We get operational briefings from the commissioner and people that work for him every Monday morning, and that is reflected in my diary.

Ms BOYD: Can you point us to where they are reflected in your diary?³⁵

Mr PURDIE: If the member wants to go to every Monday on the calendar prior to cabinet, she will see that every Monday I get a briefing from the acting commissioner, who in this case is also the State Disaster Coordinator and his departmental staff....³⁶

The Acting Commissioner had clearly, just moments prior, stated in answer to clear and direct questions from the Queensland Labor Opposition, that the Chief Officers were not at those meetings, because the Acting Commissioner provided the briefing on those areas.

Also, in November last year the Minister's diary records did show a meeting with the respective Chief Officers listed, however this practice suddenly ended.³⁷

If the Minister did indeed meet with the Chief Officers since then, for the purposes of a formal briefing on the respective needs of the services, he should update his diary to unequivocally show this was the case. This doesn't mean for the obvious and important disaster related meetings like QDMC, where there are dozens of highly ranked officials in attendance. It means for substantive, service-related briefings, and other interactions like formal phone briefings on arising issues, as the Minister referred to.

It does not appear to the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Minister is taking the Emergency Services portfolio seriously.

It was always a key foundational element of the emergency services reforms that these respected organisations kept their identities, with their own leadership and chain of command, being the Chief Officers. While the services absolutely, ultimately, have the oversight of the Commissioner of the day, this separation is critical.

If the Minister is not meeting directly with these Chief Officers, he risks seeing this separation disappear and the identities lost. The Queensland Labor Opposition considers this to be a disservice to the thousands of volunteers who these two Chief Officers lead and represent.

³⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 52

³⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 52

³⁷ <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers-portfolios/assets/diary/current/daniel-purdie/2024/november/daniel-purdie.pdf>

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EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS ADVISORY FORUM (EVAF)

In what can only be described as an embarrassing display from the Minister, he seemed to be completely “ignorant”³⁸ to the existence of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum. A critical forum for which he has responsibility for as the Minister for Emergency Services.

When asked about the EVAF this is how the Minister Responded:

Ms BOYD: ...Minister, has the EVAF met recently?³⁹

The Queensland Labor Oppositions observation of the Ministers reaction to this line of questioning said a lot, but the following response was equally concerning.

Mr PURDIE: I have been to a lot of disaster management meetings recently, whether it is the NEM in Darwin, QDMC or SCC meetings. I am happy to throw to the State Disaster Coordinator to provide more information about those meetings you have asked for.

The Queensland Labor Opposition then followed up:

Ms BOYD: Just on that point, Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order, member for Pine Rivers?

Ms BOYD: Yes, I do. There were a lot of acronyms and forums that the minister threw out. None was actually the EVAF. I was asking specifically about the EVAF.⁴⁰

A number of points of order from Government member allowed time for a brief to be passed to the Minister, who then upon having the question re-asked:

Ms BOYD: Minister, has the EVAF met recently?

Mr PURDIE: The EVAF only meets once a year and it is specifically in relation to volunteers. I have recently spoken to the minister responsible for volunteers about that. As I said, there are a lot of different meetings, a lot of different groups and a lot of different acronyms around the state when it comes to disaster management. I am happy to throw to the State Disaster Coordinator to talk more on this as he has a longer history of involvement with the EVAF and other groups around volunteers and State Emergency Services.

Commissioner Chelepy: In response to the question, as the minister indicated, it has been only meeting once a year...

Ms BOYD: Is it correct to say that the EVAF, prior to August 2024, met quarterly?

Commissioner Chelepy: The EVAF on occasion had met quarterly...⁴¹

So, was it once a year as the Minister indicated, or quarterly?

The fact is, the previous Minister’s published diaries clearly show 3 Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum meetings in the 12 months to August 2024, with only one of the quarterly meetings having to be deferred.

A member of the community watching the broadcast wouldn’t be blamed for being confused at this point, with scenes reminiscent of “Utopia”.

³⁸ <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/ignorant-minister-slammed-for-embarrassing-portfolio-stumble/news-story/bdee06e2478b4a9394f9bb25fc555399>

³⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 53

⁴⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 53

⁴¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 53

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Sadly for the Minister, things only got worse, as he seemed to have no idea what he was talking about when it came to this important forum.

Ms BOYD: *My question is to the minister. Who is the chair of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum?*

Mr PURDIE: *In terms of the volunteer group that you spoke about before coming under Ann Leahy and the work that we are doing in relation to those volunteers moving forward and the volunteer parliamentary inquiry in relation to people on the board and who the current chair is, I am happy to throw to the State Disaster Coordinator to give you that information.*

Commissioner Chelepy: *Thank you, Minister. Member, as per my previous response, the EVAF is currently under review...*⁴²

Under review? Coming under Minister Leahy?

Commissioner Chelepy: *...as to where it most appropriately sits. I have personally briefed the minister, engaged with the Minister for Volunteers and engaged with Volunteering Queensland, and the question that we are trying to determine at the moment is where it is best sat. Is the ministerial level the best location for that to sit or is it best to be driven through high-level government officials? That has been under review pretty well post the minister coming in and me providing him the first briefing, and that is yet to be determined.*⁴³

Still no answer on who the Chair is, so the Queensland Labor Opposition followed up:

Ms BOYD: *Acting Commissioner, what is the name of the chair of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum?*⁴⁴

Multiple points of order and interjections ensued, lasting around 2.5 minutes.

Commissioner Chelepy: *Thank you; I am very happy to answer the question. The current chair of EVAF is Surf Life Saving Queensland, if my memory serves me right, which is David Whimpey, and that was delegated to him through the previous minister but, as I indicated, it is under review.*⁴⁵

The live broadcast clearly indicates that even the Acting Commissioner wasn't clear on the full name of the Chair.

It is important to note that in all the responses on the matter, there is no mention of an apparent letter being provided to Minister Leahy, from Minister Purdie, just days earlier.

This apparent letter, allegedly sent on 30 July, was referenced by Minister Leahy in her hearing, after the Crisafulli LNP Government had a few days to get their story straight.

Sadly, the reality is that this Crisafulli LNP Government doesn't take our Emergency Services volunteers seriously, and this sad display by the Minister, is a simple yet eye opening case in point.

Ultimately, this important forum has not met under this Minister's watch. There remains no clarity over who now carries responsibility, or if any Minister will even be involved in the EVAF moving forward, which is key to the forum's success.

The Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Crisafulli LNP Government to get their act together.

⁴² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 57

⁴³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 57

⁴⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 57

⁴⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 58

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SES CALLS GO UNANSWERED UNDER THE LNP

The Queensland Labor Opposition was extremely concerned to confirm reports from whistle-blowers that between 1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025 3,336 calls to 132 500 were listed as cancelled or rejected in TAMS, the SES tasking management system.

This is a huge number, and there remains a number of questions to be answered in relation to what this actually means to the community, which the Queensland Labor Opposition reserves the right to interrogate further in future.

COAST GUARD TRANSITION

The Queensland Labor Opposition was concerned to learn through the answer to pre-hearing Question on Notice No. 17, that negotiations with the Coast Guard have clearly floundered under this Minister's watch, with a transition pathway yet to be finalised.

The Queensland Labor Opposition asserts that perhaps if the Minister had met more often with the Chief Officer to get briefed on the matter, steps could have been taken with his authority to progress the matter in a timelier way.

While the Queensland Labor Opposition was pleased to hear that no payment has been made for assets which the Queensland community has already paid for, through service agreements and local donations, we call on the Crisafulli LNP Government to provide more transparency relating to these negotiations, to ensure that the interests of the Queensland community are respected, prior their finalisation.

INCREASE IN SES VOLUNTEERS DUE TO LABOR REFORM

In a response from the Acting Commissioner, it was proven beyond any doubt that the increase in SES Volunteers over the last 12 months was due to Labor's reforms, as outlined below.

Ms BOYD: ...I refer to the response to the committee to question on notice 15. This increase in volunteers for the SES was made possible due to the work of specialised recruitment and retention staff along with additional SES support staff across the state; is that correct?

Commissioner Chelepy: Yes, it was. The SES have worked very hard with their recruitment and the recruitment officers on the ground have made a massive difference.

Ms BOYD: It is such a great result. These additional recruitment staff were allocated to the SES through the Emergency Services Reform Program; correct?

Commissioner Chelepy: They were allocated as part of the additional staffing through that program, correct.⁴⁶

The Emergency Services Reform Program is a Labor legacy, which is paying dividends across the sector. While the Crisafulli LNP Government will try to claim credit for it, their claims simply don't, and won't, stack up no matter how hard they try.

IGEM NOT RESOURCED BY LNP TO UNDERTAKE FULSOME REVIEWS

The Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) advised the committee the reason the government's drafted Terms of Reference for the 3 concurrent reviews specifically excluded land use planning, building design and construction codes, was because the Crisafulli LNP Government hasn't resourced the IGEM appropriately, and the IGEM don't have the capacity for the reviews to be undertaken without restriction.

⁴⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 59

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Mr Dawson: ... What you will find also is, I understand, that these particular out-of-scope areas have been used in the past as well in other reviews, but it comes back to capacity. In my meeting with the minister we would be talking about the actual capacity of the office to be able to do this.

Ms BOYD: To include those would be beyond your capacity, if I am reading between the lines of your response?

Mr Dawson: Yes. If you look at an office of 22 full-time employees across 95 per cent of the state there is only so much that we can actually do. We still have people who need to have leave as well so we do surge and we are very grateful to the agencies that do help us surge, but it comes back to the capacity to be able to do what we do.⁴⁷

This is extremely concerning. There is a large amount of evidence available around the potential impacts of a tropical cyclone directly hitting the south-east. Residents, fortunately, avoided the worst due to the weakened system when Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred eventually crossed the coast, but the outcome could have been significantly different had it not weakened.

The Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Crisafulli LNP Government and the responsible Minister to take steps to resource the IGEM sufficiently, so it can undertake fulsome reviews, and so the IGEM can make recommendations without restriction.

The Queensland Labor Opposition thanks the IGEM and his staff for all the hard work that they are undertaking with such limited resources and looks forward to interrogating and holding the Crisafulli LNP Government to account for any potential recommendations, when the reviews are published.

MARINE RESCUE QUEENSLAND VESSELS

Perhaps if the Minister had met more often with the Chief Officer of MRQ, he would have been able to outline the delivery schedule for the Labor funded MRQ vessels. Luckily for him, after what appeared to be extensive non-related commentary from the Minister, the Acting Commissioner was ready to actually answer the question.

Notwithstanding this, the Queensland Labor Opposition is extremely concerned about the delays which the Acting Commissioner outlined, which should have all been delivered this year.

The Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to interrogate this issue further and hold the Crisafulli LNP Government to account for the delivery of these vessels.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT

To the Queensland Labor Opposition it quickly became evident that the Minister lacked key knowledge of core portfolio matters and was reliant on interjections from government committee Members and softball questions on programs delivered by other Ministers, such as Forensic Services Queensland, to get through the hearing.

In just one example, when a question was put to the Minister's Director-General about updating victim data to recognise the aggrieved victims of the 69,438 DVO breaches in 2024, and 35,047 DVO breaches so far in 2025, one government member interjected to suggest that victims of domestic violence aren't relevant to the remit of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support.

Throughout the hearing, the Minister made claims of a drop in offending, but as expected, none of these claims can be evidenced by publicly available statistics – indicative of the Crisafulli LNP Government's

⁴⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJJC.pdf page 60

cherry-picking approach, such as removing the inclusion of the significant crime category of “other theft” from recent calculations of victim numbers.

For communities across Queensland, like Townsville who have experienced a 9% increase in reported unlawful use of motor vehicle offences in the first 6 months of the year the, LNP’s pronouncements about a drop in crime is like rubbing salt into the wound.⁴⁸

In the same period, unlawful entry of dwellings with violence offences increased by 46% in the Far North District, including Cairns, and increased by 123% in the Mackay-Whitsunday district.⁴⁹ Victims of DVO breaches are not counted as “victims”. And Queenslanders have been shocked by recent heinous murders allegedly committed by young offenders in Hamilton and on the Sunshine Coast.

It is clear that the only way the Crisafulli LNP Government can try to save face on its pre-election slogans that youth crime would go down by Christmas – is to “fudge” the figures.

CRITICAL STAFFING SHORTAGES AT CLEVELAND YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

Through persistent questioning in the estimates hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition uncovered the full scale of the staffing crisis at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC).

It was revealed that there have only been three days in 2025 without any unit in separation mode (referred to at CYDC as ‘night mode’), resulting in youth detainees being locked in their cells for up to 24-hours a day for consecutive days, unable to attend school.

The Queensland Labor Opposition understands that there have been over 300 incidents in that same period, resulting in one or more units at CYDC having to go into separation mode because of staff shortages.

‘Night mode’ is “...the most serious form of staff shortage separation,” and occurs when “...all of the children in an accommodation unit are separated in their individual rooms during the day from 7.30am to 7.30pm.”⁵⁰

Despite putting questions to the Director-General early in the hearing about the frequency of ‘separation mode’, the Director-General was only able to answer the question after the allocated non-government time in the hearing had expired, which left no opportunity to interrogate the following damning response further.

*Mr Gee: ...This calendar year, as I said, there were three days between 1 January and 4 August where no unit was in separation.*⁵¹

The Director-General’s concession on separations based on staff shortages are the same staff shortages that have reportedly led to lighter juvenile sentences. In June, the Townsville Bulletin reported that “lawyers in Townsville Children’s Courts have submitted ‘separation reports’ which outline the amount of time a child has spent locked in their rooms due to staff shortages at the [Cleveland Youth] Detention Centre,” and that these conditions are “being considered by Queensland judges as a reason to let juvenile offenders on the streets earlier than what would otherwise be required.”⁵²

Given the shocking prevalence in which one or more units on staff shortage separations – 213 out of 216 days so far this year – and that the Minister’s Charter Letter includes the key portfolio deliverable “to

⁴⁸ Queensland Police Service. 2025. *Maps and statistics, January 2025 to June 2025*. Retrieved from <https://www.police.qld.gov.au/maps-and-statistics>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Queensland Inspector of Detention Services, 2024. *Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report: Focus on separation due to staff shortages*, page 17. Retrieved from <https://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/574/IDS%20CYDC%20Inspection%20report%202024%20-%20Focus%20on%20separation%20-%20PUBLIC.PDF.aspx>

⁵¹ Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. 5 August 2025. *Consideration of 2025/2026 portfolio budget estimates Public Hearing Transcript*, page 88. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf>

⁵² Townsville Bulletin, 2025. *Cleveland Detention Centre staff shortages linked to lighter juvenile sentences in Queensland Courts*. Retrieved from <https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/truecrimeaustralia/police-courts-townsville/cleveland-detention-centre-staff-shortages-linked-to-lighter-juvenile-sentences-in-queensland-courts/news-story/33bf55a195dddeb0e63e60ffa58df27>

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increase school attendance in youth detention," it came as no surprise when the Minister appeared to minimise the significance of separation mode.⁵³

It is the Queensland Labor Opposition's understanding that the Minister suggested in the hearing that during staff shortage separations, a young person could simply be walked out of their room to attend education.

However, if separations are due to staff shortages, the reality is that there aren't enough staff available to accompany a young person to the Youth Education Centre. It is the Queensland Labor Opposition's view that the Minister's claim trivialises the true impact of separation mode, and directly contradicts the Queensland Inspector of Detention Services, who previously published that when in 'night [separation] mode', most children are unable to access the youth justice education centre.⁵⁴

In November 2024, the Minister promised to deliver a workforce plan to "fix" the staffing issues at CYDC.⁵⁵

When asked for the status of the workforce plan, particularly pertinent given the frequency of staff shortage separations, the Minister was unable to directly address the premise of multiple questions until she was finally provided advice to indicate a department-wide workforce plan was available on the Intranet. The Minister then appeared to dismiss issues within the plan as "operational matters" before seeking to hand the question over to the Director-General.⁵⁶

Whistle-blowers have since provided a copy of this internal plan to the Queensland Labor Opposition. It is clear that it is not a plan to specifically address the crisis in YDCs but is a generalised document aimed at the whole agency.

The Queensland Labor Opposition understands that no senior officials or delegates of The Australian Workers' Union, who represent Detention Youth Workers in YDC's, have been formally consulted on the development of the internal workforce plan or its finalisation. This may explain why if a workforce plan is in place, it doesn't actually seem to have helped the situation. In light of the 'generality' of the plan and given the workforce issues in YDC's, it beggars belief that the current workforce have not been given the specific and targeted opportunity to offer ideas for practical solutions based on their lived experiences.

The Minister promised over 8 months ago that she would "fix it", This issue has not been addressed.⁵⁷

LONG-TERM MODELLING

The Queensland Labor Opposition has continued to query whether long-term modelling of the implications of the *Adult Crime, Adult Time* sentencing framework has been undertaken to inform workforce and facilities demand.

The Minister did not confirm if long-term modelling had occurred. It is the Queensland Labor Oppositions view that it seemed the Minister confused the concept of long-term predictive modelling with consultation, before suggesting an increase in demand on detention centres because of the new laws is "...an inherently flawed argument."⁵⁸

⁵³ Queensland Cabinet and Ministerial Directory. 8 November 2024. *Hon. Laura Gerber MP Ministerial Charter Letter*. Retrieved from <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers-portfolio/assets/charter-letter/laura-gerber.pdf>

⁵⁴ Queensland Inspector of Detention Services, 2024. *Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report: Focus on separation due to staff shortages*, page 35. Retrieved from <https://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/574/IDS%20CYDC%20Inspection%20report%202024%20-%20Focus%20on%20separation%20-%20PUBLIC.PDF.aspx>

⁵⁵ Townsville Bulletin. 8 November 2024. Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber and Townsville MPs Janelle Poole, Natalie Marr and Adam Baillie speak with justice workers. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/17.%20Hon%20Di%20Farmer%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Bulimba%20.pdf>

⁵⁶ Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. 5 August 2025. *Consideration of 2025/2026 portfolio budget estimates Public Hearing Transcript*, page 77. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf>

⁵⁷ Townsville Bulletin. 8 November 2024. Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber and Townsville MPs Janelle Poole, Natalie Marr and Adam Baillie speak with justice workers. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/17.%20Hon%20Di%20Farmer%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Bulimba%20.pdf>

⁵⁸ Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. 5 August 2025. *Consideration of 2025/2026 portfolio budget estimates Public Hearing Transcript*, page 79. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf>

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The Minister's response ignores the reality that sentencing juveniles for longer means that beds will not turn over as often, therefore requiring an increase in bed capacity. After eight months it's clear that this modelling still has not been undertaken.

It's already accepted that additional youth detention capacity is needed for North Queensland. Yet after the proposed centre in Edmonton was axed by the Premier, the budget provided no planning funding for an alternative facility.

The Minister used questions from Government members to congratulate herself on the ambitious goal of consulting with the Cairns Community in 2025-26 but given the Director-General's previous advice that it takes around 3½ years to build a new detention centre, more needs to be done and sooner. In the meantime, the Crisafulli LNP Government will continue their reliance on the work of the former Labor government: Wacol, Woodford, and the Caboolture Watch House hub.

This is at direct odds with evidence given by the Commissioner for Corrective Services in a later hearing with the same Minister. The Commissioner made it very clear that the department undertakes exhaustive and thorough modelling to meet demand now and in the future.

EXPERT LEGAL PANEL

The Queensland Labor Opposition continued to advocate for the Crisafulli LNP Government to deliver on their election commitments of transparency and accountability, as promised by now-Premier David Crisafulli in the LNP's *Right Plan for Queensland's Future*:

*"The LNP will restore a government that works for you, by ending the culture of silence and cover-ups and bringing back accountability and transparency in government."*⁵⁹

Ahead of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's (the Committee) examination of the proposed expenditure under the relevant Appropriation Bill, the Queensland Labor Opposition sought to amend Schedule 7 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, to allow the Chair of the Expert Legal Panel to be questioned in Estimates. Despite the promises of transparency and accountability, the Crisafulli LNP Government members voted against the amendment.

The Queensland Labor Opposition tabled an excerpt of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's *Government Bodies* portal, showing the panel has reporting obligations under the *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies* of submitting an annual report.⁶⁰

After attempts from Government members to rule questions out of order failed, the Youth Justice Minister doubled down on the government's position on the reporting obligations and did not commit to tabling the report.

It was revealed through pre-hearing questions on notice that Queenslanders have paid \$34,000 for 8 days work from the Panel members. The Queensland Labor Opposition believes that Queenslanders have a right to see the advice that they have paid for. But when this was put to the Minister, the Minister did not address the question.

The Crisafulli LNP Government's arrogant determination to withhold this advice from Queenslanders, in breach of its own reporting obligations, shows they believe the rules do not apply to them. The Queensland Labor Oppositions says to the Crisafulli LNP Government it is time to "Let the Sunshine in".

⁵⁹ Liberal National Party of Queensland, September 2024. *The Right Plan for Queensland's Future*, page 46. Retrieved from <https://online.lnp.org.au/LNPQ/media/LNPQ/Documents/TheRightPlanForQLDFuture.pdf>

⁶⁰ Department of the Premier and Cabinet. March 2025. *Government Bodies Portal - Expert Legal Panel*. Retrieved from <https://governmentbodies.premiers.qld.gov.au/BodyDisplay.aspx?Parameter=945>

ROLLED-GOLD EARLY INTERVENTION AND REHABILITATION

Pre-hearing questions on notice from the Queensland Labor Opposition revealed that the Crisafulli LNP Government failed to spend almost 90%, or \$87 million, of the 2024-25 early intervention and rehabilitation budget provided through Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

This significant underspend explains the Crisafulli LNP Government's failure to make any significant progress towards the Gold Standard Early Intervention Kickstarter and Proven Initiatives programs, the Regional Reset Program, the Staying on Track program and Circuit Breaker Sentencing.

The question remains if the Minister was advised that expending \$97.5 million would be unachievable in the planned timeframe; and, if so, whether she advised the Premier that she would not be able to deliver on one of their key election commitments – which also form the basis of several of her KPIs. Again, it begs the question of whether the Minister is across what's required to uphold the LNP's election promises.

This is just one of the many issues identified with the Crisafulli LNP Government's early intervention plans. For example, while the Regional Reset program originally promised 24/7 residential facilities, the tender documents revealed there was no expectation of a fixed 24/7 facility due to budgetary constraints.⁶¹

It's also clear that the government has failed to do their homework in preparing for the Youth Justice and Crime Prevention Schools. Although funded through the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support, the existing legislative framework for Special Assistance Schools provides clear governance requirements, with responsibility falling to the Minister for Education.

When the Minister for Education and the Arts was asked about this in his estimates hearing, he said that these were within the responsibility of the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, before conceding that no legislation has been planned to correct their oversight.

It's clear that the Crisafulli LNP Government has been too focused on slogans without substance, and Queenslanders are now getting the raw end of the deal.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Following media reports that the Director-General was "*the latest of a long list of people moving away from Ms Gerber just 10 months into her tenure*," the Director-General was provided the opportunity in the hearing to explain his pivot away from leading the department most responsible for delivering on the Crisafulli LNP Government's critical community safety election promises.⁶²

Only days before the hearing, it was announced that the Director-General would be the secretary to the Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU, after claims that he "*wanted to get out of Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber's orbit*."⁶³

The Director-General refuted these claims:

Mr Gee: ... *I have not—I have not—asked for a move from my current position. The Public Service Commissioner, Mr David Mackie, came to me and asked me if I would do a job on behalf of the Premier. I said that I serve at the pleasure of the Premier and the government of the day, and I look forward to serving in that capacity.*⁶⁴

⁶¹ The Cairns Post. 3 July 2025. *Regional Reset program funding will provide 24/7 support: Minister*. Retrieved from <https://www.cairnspost.com.au/news/cairns/regional-reset-program-funding-facing-budget-constraints-before-tenders-awarded/news-story/91a9a38529837bfc89f1d62774377e7>.

⁶² The Courier Mail. 4 August 2025. *Key bureaucrat latest to exit Gerber's Orbit*. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/15.%20Hon%20Di%20Farmer%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Bulimba%20.pdf>.

⁶³ The Courier Mail. 4 August 2025. *Key bureaucrat latest to exit Gerber's Orbit*. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/15.%20Hon%20Di%20Farmer%20MP.%20Member%20for%20Bulimba%20.pdf>.

⁶⁴ Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. 5 August 2025. *Consideration of 2025/2026 portfolio budget estimates Public Hearing Transcript*, page 67. Retrieved from <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf>

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The Queensland Labor Opposition acknowledges Mr Bob Gee APM as the inaugural Director-General of Queensland's first standalone Department of Youth Justice in 2019, and his contributions to the portfolio over the subsequent years.

In later hearings, further questions put to public servants about the Minister's conduct and staffing turnover were ruled out of order.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES

PRIVATISATION

In a move reminiscent of Campbell Newman-era Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP Government have refused to rule out the privatisation of the running of future correctional centres, after direct questioning from the Queensland Labor Opposition in the estimates hearing.

Within a year of the election of Campbell Newman's LNP Government in 2012, the Courier Mail revealed to Queenslanders that "the State Government is embarking on a secret plan to privatise prisons, starting with Lotus Glen in Far North Queensland," with senior government sources confirming the establishment of "a special task force to examine the feasibility of the plan."⁶⁵

Following the findings of the Crime and Corruption Commission's Taskforce Flaxton in 2018, the former Labor Government commenced the transfer of Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre from private to public control in 2019, with the transition completed in 2021.⁶⁶

In April 2019, then LNP Shadow Treasurer and Member for Everton Tim Mander described the closure of privately-operated prisons as "*wasted taxpayer money*," before doubling down on his stance through interjections in Parliament, captured by Hansard in 2020, describing the decision to bring prisons back into public hands and safeguard jobs as "a total waste."^{67,68}

Given this history, it is only appropriate that questions be put to the Minister for Corrective Services on the Crisafulli LNP Government's stance.

Yet when the Queensland Labor Opposition provided the Minister an opportunity to draw a line in the sand and unequivocally rule out the future privatisation of any Queensland prison with a yes-or-no question, the Minister instead gave a 200-word response. The Minister for Corrective Services only confirmed that Queensland prisons are currently 100% state-owned, providing no assurance of maintaining this position in the future.

When asked similar questions regarding prisoner transport and the outsourced operation of existing correctional centres, the Minister was able to confirm that both would remain with the Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

*Mrs GERBER: ... it is run by QCS and our budget funds it into the forwards. Our budget ensures it will continue to be operated by our wonderful QCS department and that it continues to be operated in a way that ensures prisoners can be escorted safely and securely.*⁶⁹

...

Mrs GERBER: ...I have said that both our Escort and Security Branch is currently run and funded into the forwards by our budget and that service will continue to operate within QCS and will

⁶⁵ <https://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/lmp-secretly-plans-to-privatise-jails/news-story/7f8a9d591050dc616ecdbe089621356d>.

⁶⁶ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/86939>.

⁶⁷ <https://debfireckington.com.au/media/state-news/2019/04/04/a-to-z-of-wasted-taxpayer-money-by-labor>

⁶⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2020/2020_08_12_WEEKLY.PDF, page 1950

⁶⁹ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/C20252026-CB9D/public%20hearing.%205%20August%202025.pdf>, page 91

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*continue to happen, as well as my response in relation to our prisons—that they are state-owned and they will continue to be operated by our amazing correctional staff, our corrections officers who suit up, kit up and turn up day in, day out in very difficult circumstances....*⁷⁰

Given the Minister's ability to provide two straightforward responses to rule out privatisation of prisoner transport and operations of existing state-owned facilities, questions remained about the Minister's vague response to the initial questioning on privatisation.

The Queensland Labor Opposition then presented the Minister with details of meetings obtained from public diary records of Crisafulli LNP Government Ministers and their Chiefs of Staff.

These published diary extracts showed that since coming to government in November 2024, both the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training have had meetings with private prison operator Serco, who formerly managed the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. Further, the Chiefs of Staff to the Treasurer, Minister for Education and the Arts, and Minister for Sports and Racing have also taken meetings with Serco.

In responding to this questioning, the Minister for Corrective Services confirmed, unprompted, that neither she nor her office met with Serco, and that none of the Ministers mentioned had discussed these matters with the Minister for Corrective Services. Yet the Minister did not confirm if any representations had been made to her or her office from:

- the office of the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership;
- the office of the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training;
- the office of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services;
- the office of the Minister for Education and the Arts; or
- the office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Despite the clearly relevant and pertinent questions, throughout the line of questioning, Government Members suggested that these matters should have been put to other Ministers during their relevant committees' consideration of their respective portfolios.

Following the attempts to have the question ruled out, the Minister for Corrective Services refused to rule out the privatisation of future corrections centres.

CAPACITY PLANNING

While providing vague answers during questioning on the Crisafulli LNP Government's future plans for privatisation, the Minister claimed that the "...budget is funding the correctional infrastructure that is needed to be able to address that critical overcrowding that the Labor government left us with." ⁷¹

Yet while the Minister was quick to claim credit for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, funded and almost entirely constructed under the former-Labor Government, Budget Paper 3 and the Service Delivery Statement did not provide for any new correctional centres across the forwards. Instead, the papers only identified capital upgrades and enhancements at existing QCS facilities.

The Queensland Labor Opposition tested the validity of the Minister's statement with the Commissioner of QCS with questions about the forecasting process and the likelihood of the Crisafulli LNP Government's infrastructure program on delivering the relevant SDS effectiveness measures.

⁷⁰ Ibid, page 92.

⁷¹ Ibid, page 93.

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Although the Commissioner was unable to provide the timeframe of when projections had been completed to inform the projected demand referenced in the SDS, the Commissioner was able to confirm that QCS was consulted during the development of both tranches of the Making Queensland Safer legislation.

The Commissioner also confirmed that the impacts of the Making Queensland Safer legislation, were considered when forecasting future prisoner numbers, but the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support were not involved in that process, despite sharing a line minister.

The Queensland Labor Opposition acknowledges the more fulsome nature of responses to questions on long-term modelling from the Commissioner than was received in the preceding session from the Minister.

On subsequent questioning of the measurable impact of the new infrastructure commitments, contrary to the Minister's claims, the Commissioner admitted that based on the forward estimates delivered in the Crisafulli LNP Government's first Budget, QCS will be unable to achieve the national target and SDS measure of built cell capacity utilisation.

Mr BUTCHER: *Can you confirm whether the capital works funding in this budget guarantees the system will meet the national 95 per cent cell capacity targets within this term of government?*

Commissioner Stewart: *Again, the 95 per cent targets relate to cell occupation and that would be one prisoner per cell. Given that some of our prisons are operating at 160 per cent at the moment, Lockyer Valley coming online and the additional 800 beds will move us closer towards that target, but at that time we will not be in a position to be able to meet that target unless there is significant changes within the criminal justice system into the future. Given that we are at 160 per cent in centres at the moment, it would require significant infrastructure in a number of centres to bring us to that 95 per cent target.*⁷²

It was also revealed that the 800 new beds at Arthur Gorrie and Townsville Correctional Centres are only planned to be commissioned by 2028. Given the existing demand on the adult corrections system will likely grow further as a result of the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing framework, the Commissioner was questioned further on forward planning:

Mr BUTCHER: *Commissioner, based on projected demand, has the department identified the need for an additional correctional centre in Queensland in the next 10 years?*

Commissioner Stewart: *Our focus at the moment is on commissioning and opening Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which will have 1,536 beds when it comes online in the next number of months. The additional infrastructure around the 800 beds that will come online for Arthur Gorrie and Townsville will see us into that next period. We will continue to model into the future and make determinations in relation to what we would submit to government to consider into the future.*⁷³

The Queensland Labor Opposition sought further clarity from the Commissioner on that response:

Mr BUTCHER: *Thank you, Mr Speaker. Is the department currently—and taking note of your last response—investigating or considering that there may be the need for a new correctional centre in Queensland?*

Commissioner Stewart: *Given the current state of the overcrowding that we have at this moment in time, that is critical to us in the future in relation to ensuring that we have the appropriate infrastructure. Again, given the work from the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and the infill coming for Arthur Gorrie and Townsville, we will continue to monitor what that looks like into the*

⁷² Ibid, page 98.

⁷³ Ibid, page 93.

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future. From the provision of that immediate relief, the government has provided us with what we will need up until that period.

Despite the claims from the Minister for Corrective Services regarding resolving overcrowding, Queenslanders are no better informed as to the future facilities needs of Queensland's corrections system, and Queenslanders can have no confidence in this government's ability to plan and deliver for the future needs of our state.

STAFF CONDITIONS

The workplace safety and security of Queensland's frontline Custodial Corrections Officers is non-negotiable.

That is why the former Labor government invested in safety measures for QCS staff, including load bearing vests for all front-line custodial officers, deploying more than 700 body worn cameras and retrofitting older style cell doors with safety hatches.

Between FY2020-21 and FY 2023-24, the prisoner on officer assault rate fell by 25.5%. Unfortunately, it was revealed through the estimates process that under the Crisafulli LNP Government, the rate of prisoner on officer assaults has increased by 29.5% in FY2023-24, surpassing the 2020-21 assault rate.

Custodial officers are on the frontline of public safety and play a crucial role in making sure prisoners have a safe environment to get effective rehabilitation. But while they are protecting the safety of Queensland communities, they deserve safety within their own workplace, and the Crisafulli LNP Government must step up for corrections officers.

ESTIMATES PROCESS

The Budget Estimates process is a cornerstone of our democracy in Queensland. For years it has been an opportunity for elected Members of Parliament, in particular non-government Members of Parliament to ask questions of Ministers and senior public servants to hold the elected government to account.

During the 2024 estimates process, the former Labor Government under the direction of then Labor Premier Steven Miles insisted that additional transparency measures were put in place to ensure that non-government Members of Parliament had ample opportunity to hold the elected government to account. These included:

- Providing crossbench Members of Parliament the ability to ask a pre-hearing Question on Notice for any Minister, regardless of if they were a member of the portfolio committee.
- Strictly allocating government and non-government Members of Parliament time in respect of questions. That being that government Members of Parliament questions should not exceed 30% of the total allocated time and the remaining time, 70% for non-government Members of Parliament.
- Of the time allocated for non-government Members of Parliament it should be proportioned between Opposition and crossbench Members of Parliament, based on the proportion of the makeup at the time.
- Only one opening statement per Minister for their entire portfolio of no longer than five minutes, with the Premier allocated no longer than 10 minutes.

These transparency enhancements to the Budget Estimates process, introduced by the former Labor Government, were discarded by Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP Government.

This is despite in 2020 the Courier Mail revealing the then LNP Leader of the Opposition's views on the Estimates process, reporting:

Queensland Labor Opposition

- He [David Crisafulli] said that if the government did not accept “*the need to make changes*”, he would introduce them as Premier from the first hearings of the next term in 2024 – if the LNP wins power at the 2024 election.

The changes that were being referred to included:

- increasing the time available to examine the expenditure to ensure adequate questioning can occur;
- an Opposition or cross bench member to chair the committees to help ensure a fairer go;
- limiting the opportunity for ‘Dorothy Dixers’ questions from Government members which exist simply to allow ministers to wind down the clock.

While on paper there was more time overall for the hearings, the way in which Government Members conducted themselves with points of order to chew up time, and the removal of the 70% vs 30% time split, resulted in less time for the Opposition and Crossbench to ask questions to hold the government to account.

These actions were the very things that then LNP Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli criticised. In the article referenced, he said:

“We’ve also seen ministers answer questions directed to independent public servants and Government members interrupting with tedious points of order to use up Opposition members’ time.”

It is the Queensland Labor Opposition’s view that it is clear that the promises made by the then LNP in Opposition have been broken.

This Budget Estimates there was nothing revolutionary about the way the hearings were conducted - ‘dorothy dixers’ still occurred and frivolous points of order were constantly taken.

Further information and analysis about the 2025 Budget Estimates can be found in the Statement of Reservation attached to the report on the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Budget Estimates process was an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP Government to deliver on its promises – promises to reform, to do better, for a fresh start. Instead, the bar was set so low it was on the floor.

Instead of delivering for Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP Government is delivering for itself. When it comes to accountability, this process laid bare the truth of a government that has failed to live up to its own words. What resounds is that the Crisafulli LNP Government continues to choose secrecy over transparency and political games over genuine accountability.

The Crisafulli LNP Government’s obsession with self-interest over public interest was glaring. The people of modern Queensland expect a government that acts for them, not for themselves.

They want a government that embraces the values of openness, fairness and integrity – after all, that’s what they were sold at the 2024 Election.

Instead of being an opportunity for genuine interrogation of the 2025 Budget, the Estimates process was muddled to avoid scrutiny. By placing political convenience above the democratic process that is Budget Estimates, the Crisafulli LNP Government outed itself as out of step with the priorities of Queenslanders.

This is not the “fresh start” that was promised, it is a step back.

Queenslanders deserve better.

Queensland Labor Opposition



PETER RUSSO MP
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR JUSTICE



MELISSA MCMAHON MP
MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE QUEENSLAND LABOR OPPOSITION

APPENDIX – MEDIA ARTICLES

10.40am

Labor questions political links of top Justice department bureaucrat

By Matt Dennien

The second week of state parliamentary estimates has kicked off again today, with Attorney-General Deb Frecklington facing questions about her portfolios.

But the first section of questioning from the opposition has focused on her director-general Sarah Cruickshank and her links to the Liberal Party.



Referencing Premier David Crisafulli's desire for a public sector that was independent and "free from political interference", shadow attorney-general Meaghan Scanlon questioned Cruickshank about her work and political donation history.

Cruickshank confirmed she had worked as a chief of staff to former NSW Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian, on secondment from the premier's department.

She also confirmed she had in the 1990s worked in the electorate office of Brendan Nelson before and for Helen Coonan before both became Howard government ministers.

Cruickshank explained a \$1000 donation she made in 2010 to Liberal candidate for Penrith, Stuart Ayres, was given while she was working in a public affairs company.

Queensland Labor Opposition

1.43pm

Justice Department recommended only Sosso for electoral redistribution role

By Matt Dennien

The appointment of State Development director-general John Sosso to the body responsible for redrawing the electoral map ruffled many feathers [back in April](#), given his closeness to the LNP government.

Under state law, the Redistribution Commission is made up of a judge or former judge, the electoral commissioner, and the head of a government department.

Questioned by Labor in estimates about what advice the Justice Department gave to the responsible minister Attorney-General Deb Frecklington, her director-general Sarah Cruickshank (who herself faced questions about her Liberal links today), had this to say.

I can confirm that the briefing advice that was provided to the Attorney-General back in ... mid-December last year, actually, only whilst it listed that there was the opportunity for the attorney to consider either the director-general of the Department of Justice or the director-general of the Department of Planning, the only one that we actually recommended in the brief was the head of the Department of Planning.

Premier cost us \$500k in flights

Mikaela Mulveney

Premier David Crisafulli has spent more than half a million dollars of taxpayer money on private jet flights since the October election.

Details surrounding Mr Crisafulli's use of the state government's private jet were revealed during Budget Estimates hearings on Tuesday, with Acting Police Commissioner Shane Chelepy grilled on the

hefty price tag. But any attempts to table the full manifest was blocked by the government, leaving the details of where he flew to and how long he stayed shrouded in mystery. Mr Chelepy revealed Mr Crisafulli flew a total of 24 flights, consisting of 58 individual legs between November and June – totalling a whopping \$544,538.

During a single day in March, Mr Crisafulli spent \$50,000 on four flights.

It comes after The Courier-Mail revealed Mr Crisafulli's use of taxpayer-funded jets was almost double that of his Labor predecessors, logging 46.3 hours of flight time between January and March.

Queensland Police operate the state's QG Air jet fleet and



the Opposition used the opportunity during estimates to grill Mr Chelepy on the manifest.

"I will point out that some of the costings, and the way we collect our costings will include multiple ministers," Mr Chelepy said. "So we collect the cost of the flight and the length of the flight, and we don't attribute costs to individuals."

When asked to compare Mr Crisafulli's manifest to Mr Miles, Mr Chelepy claimed there was "no concernable difference", despite it being double what the former Labor leader spent over a four-month period.

Ministerial flight time data shows the new government has racked up more than 80 hours of taxpayer-funded private plane time since the October 2024 election – 61.8 attributed to Mr Crisafulli. Comparatively, between October 2023 and March 2024 Mr Miles' recorded 53.7 hours of plane time.



‘Ignorant’ minister slammed for ‘embarrassing’ portfolio stumble

A key state government minister has been accused of “ignorance and disrespect” after fumbling his way through a Parliament estimates committee grilling.

[Jarrod Tutbury](#)

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August 6, 2025 - 10:24AM



Dan Purdie Minister for Police and Emergency Services during Estimates, Parliament House, Brisbane. Picture: Liam Kidston

Emergency Services Minister Dan Purdie has been accused of “ignorance and disrespect” for failing to provide details about a key volunteer organisation within his portfolio.

Mr Purdie was peppered by the Parliament estimates committee about the status of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum – which was established in 2017 and meets several times each year for volunteers to raise issues with the government.

When questioned, Mr Purdie said the EVAF only met once per year and was then unable to provide further details about the forum.

“There are a lot of different meetings, a lot of different groups and a lot of different acronyms around the state when it comes to disaster management,” he said.

“And it is specifically in relation to volunteers. I have recently spoken to the minister responsible for volunteers about that.

Queensland Labor Opposition

"As I said, there are a lot of different meetings, a lot of different groups and a lot of different acronyms around the state when it comes to disaster management."

The EVAF has also been under review by the minister's department for an unknown period of time, without Mr Purdie being aware of it.

The last time the EVAF met was August 6, 2024.

Mr Purdie could also not name the chair of the EVAF, Surf Live Saving Queensland chief executive Dave Whimpey.



Nikki Boyd has taken aim at Mr Purdie.

Government records show Mr Purdie has not attended any meetings of the EVAF since becoming Minister.

Labor Emergency Services spokeswoman Nikki Boyd argued Mr Purdie had the responsibility to immediately convene EVAF, discuss the review with members and determine the future of the body with them.

"This was an embarrassing performance from an emergency services minister who does not have our emergency services volunteers in his focus," she said.

"How can the minister responsible for EVAF and for emergency volunteers not know about its role, or the name of the person who oversees it.

"The minister must apologise to all emergency service volunteers for his ignorance and disrespect."