



2022-2023 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

**Report No. 29, 57th Parliament
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
August 2022**

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1.	David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater
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5.	Amanda Camm MP, Member for Whitsunday
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**Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses – *Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the
Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence***



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ESTIMATES 2022 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 01:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General advise how the Government is supporting women's economic participation through the Queensland Women's Strategy 2022-27?

Answer:

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring every woman and girl in Queensland is able to freely participate and succeed in the economic, social, and cultural opportunities available to them.

Economic security is the overarching priority and cornerstone of the new *Queensland Women's Strategy 2022-27* (QWS), released in March this year, and is at the heart of gender equality, underpinning all other elements of the strategy as a whole.

The strategy commits to genuine economic inclusion and successful economic participation for women and girls. Real and enduring action must be taken to address the economic inequality many women continue to experience with economic opportunities needing to be equally available to women and girls.

Work is under way across government, where we are playing our part to help women and girls have access to education, employment, and safe and secure housing – building the foundations to ensure economic participation and security across the life span of any Queensland girl and woman. As well as initiatives particularly targeted at women and girls, the Queensland Government will work to ensure that key programs supporting the economic security of all Queenslanders effectively meet the particular needs of women. This includes Small Business Grants, the Mentoring for Growth program, the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and Back to Work.

The Queensland Government has also committed to working with relevant stakeholders to explore opportunities to use government's purchasing power to drive increased gender equality in the private sector, enhance gender-aware budgeting approaches in the Queensland Government and lead the way on women's economic security by being a model employer.



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The Queensland Government has also investment \$1.908 billion over 4 years, from 2021–22, for the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–25. This supports the Government's continued commitment to reducing the number of older women and other vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.

This includes \$163.4 million in continued investment to provide housing, support, and specialist homelessness services to vulnerable people, including older women and those experiencing domestic and family violence.

The recent Queensland Women's Budget Statement highlighted a number of key investments to support women's economic security and education including:

- \$140 million over four years, from 2021–22, through the revitalised Back to Work program continues support for young people, First Nations peoples, people with disability and long-term unemployed people, into employment. Since the program commenced in 2016, over 11,600 women have been supported into employment through Back to Work;
- \$320 million over four years, from 2021–22 and \$80 million each year ongoing, for the flagship Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. This builds on the \$430 million investment by the Queensland Government since 2015 in Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Skilling Queenslanders for Work has now assisted over 22,400 women to get a job;
- \$39.1 million over four years to fund the Small Business Grants and the Mentoring for Growth program. Women have continued to increase as a share of those operating their own business, comprising 42 per cent of Queensland's self-employed, the highest proportion of all states;
- \$890,000 to continue to deliver a suite of support and capability programs to help Queensland women start and grow innovative businesses as part of the Female Founders program;
- \$120,000 in 2022–23 for the continuation of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Girl Power initiative. Since it began in 2016, more than 380 Year 10 girls have participated in the initiative and have been encouraged into senior STEM subjects and career pathways; and
- \$2.8 million in 2022–23 to encourage young First Nations women to remain actively engaged in education and complete Year 12 through their attendance at school engagement programs delivered by the Stars Foundation, Netball Queensland and the Brisbane Broncos. In 2021, over 680 First Nations women and girls across 13 schools participated in the program.



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The Government is continuing to support the National Association of Women in Construction's target of 11% women in frontline construction such as carpentry, painting, electrical and plumbing through QBuild's second Exemplar Project, a 10 one-bedroom apartment social housing complex in Hervey Bay and the Girls in Construction Roadshow with their 'Girls in Construction' promotional roadshow visiting high schools across Queensland.

Advancing equity and diversity in the Queensland public sector workforce has been prioritised with the establishment of the Office of the Special Commissioner Equity and Diversity. A key focus of the Special Commissioner's work is policies, procedures and practices that improve employment outcomes for women.

Further, a range of community projects to support women and girl's economic security have been supported through the Investing in Queensland Women grant program including:

- 'We Think Smart' community workshops with local women and young people, focussing on gender equality, financial literacy, respecting and supporting each other, personal goal setting and self-care in Cape York;
- financial literacy support, education, and empowerment for women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities experiencing financial abuse in South-East Queensland;
- support for women participating in the Moa Island textile enterprise project;
- support for women's financial literacy and women into leadership roles in the Northern Gulf and Longreach;
- 'Walking the Wire' e-book supporting the financial security of rural agribusiness women;
- promotion of STEM through early childhood education project in Brisbane;
- financial capacity-building workshops for women impacted by domestic and family violence at the Gold Coast;
- sharing stories of female leaders to inspire young women into male-dominated fields in Yeppoon;
- workshops for student mothers to develop healthy work-life boundaries, support for personal health and well-being, productivity tools and career planning to achieve their learning and career goals at Griffith University; and
- confidence building bootcamp for female-identifying First Nations persons to build their entrepreneurial and leaderships skills at The University of Queensland.



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Question No. 02:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General advise how the Palaszczuk Government is improving processing times for blue card applications?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to the continuous improvement of the blue card system.

Since 2020-21, Blue Card Services has provided an online application portal which has significantly reduced timeframes for most blue card applicants, in addition to the No Card No Start reform which allows applicants to be job ready which has improved the overall service provided by Blue Card Services.

In 2021-22, approximately 91% of blue card survey respondents reported that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the overall service provided by Blue Card Services. This significantly exceeds the SDS target of 85%.

Of those blue card holders who reported satisfaction with the service, the highest drivers for satisfaction were the application processing timeframe and the clarity and simplicity of the application process.

As at 30 June 2022, both paper and online applications with no police or disciplinary information were processed in an average of three business days, two business days faster than the target timeframe. As at 30 June 2022, online only applications with no police or disciplinary information were processed in an average of only two business days, three business days faster than the target timeframe. While most applications with assessable histories are processed quickly, more complex applications can take longer to enable relevant information to be obtained, provide applicants with natural justice and to ensure a thorough and robust assessment is undertaken.

Although the assessment of blue card applications cannot be compromised, a number of strategies have been implemented to improve the time it takes Blue Card Services to process applications:

- dedicated teams have been created to streamline certain types of applications;
- a dedicated team is now assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants;



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- correspondence and other information has been updated so it is easier for applicants to understand and respond to assessment queries and requirements;
- the decision-making tool has been updated to ensure it aligns with current research and best practice principles (when assessing risk); and
- a new position established to monitor and audit assessments to improve workflows.

To speed decisions up, Blue Card Services is also looking at how it can obtain and assess police and other relevant information more quickly.

The Palaszczuk Government has also committed \$1.272 million and five FTEs for 2022-23 for a dedicated team to reduce the volume of files requiring complex eligibility assessment and reduce the time taken to process these assessments.



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Question No. 03:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS will the Attorney-General advise how the Government is strengthening protections for victims of domestic and family violence?

Answer:

The Queensland Government continues to progress major reforms to strengthen protections for victims of domestic and family violence and has made significant investments to support these reforms.

Since 2015, the Government has progressed several significant legislative reforms, including amendments to the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* to introduce harsher penalties for Domestic Violence Order (DVO) breaches (including increasing maximum penalties for first-time offenders to three years and subsequent breaches to five years imprisonment) and amendments to ensure protection orders remain in place for a minimum of five years, unless the court is satisfied of reasons for a shorter period.

The Government has also committed more than \$600 million in programs, services, and strategies to address domestic, family, and sexual violence in Queensland.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General funds a range of specialist services that provide victims, survivors, and their families with immediate and ongoing support to ensure they are safe, enable them to heal and recover, and live a life free from violence.

The Queensland Government is guided by expert advice, evidence-based research, consultation, and the voices of victim-survivors in determining how best to address domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The Government can see the beginnings of significant cultural and attitudinal changes, but it is acknowledged that significant work is still required to truly eradicate violence against women in the community.

That is why we established the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce), whose first report focused on domestic and family violence and specifically coercive control and made 89 recommendations.



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We have accepted all 89 recommendations and have invested \$363 million in their implementation. These reforms will deliver a critical legislative framework to respond to coercive control, and to strengthen our justice system to operate in a more trauma-informed way to prevent more harm coming to victims.

In order to meet the intent of the Taskforce's recommendations as they relate to criminalising coercive control, we will implement the actions and initiatives proposed in the Taskforce report in the medium to long term.

We will progressively introduce a suite of new laws into Parliament to combat coercive control, starting with an initial stage of reforms to strengthen Queensland's existing legislative responses to coercive control, to be introduced this year. Before the end of 2023, a Bill will be introduced to criminalise coercive control that will work to protect victims.

A wide range of other recommendations are also being implemented to strengthen responses to victims, including through reporting to police and accessing the justice system. Further work to improve women's experiences in the criminal justice system will be undertaken in response to the Taskforce's second report. The findings of this report and its 188 recommendations are being carefully considered by Government.



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Question No. 04:

With reference to page 67 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General update the committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the Public Advocate's Report in relation to the Public Trustee?

Answer:

Protecting Queenslanders, especially those experiencing vulnerability, is a priority of this Government.

On 10 March 2021, I tabled a report by the former Public Advocate entitled *Preserving the financial futures of vulnerable Queenslanders: a review of the Public Trustee fees, charges and practices*.

The report made 32 broad-ranging recommendations to improve the way the Public Trustee engages with its customers.

The Government takes the matters raised in the Public Advocate's Report seriously.

On 24 February 2022, I tabled a progress update from the Public Trustee.

The current Public Advocate also published an update on the implementation of the Report's recommendations in March this year and noted that the Report 'has led to some significant changes in the operations and governance of the Public Trustee over the last year'.

On 11 May 2022, during the debate of the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2022, I committed in Parliament to table six-monthly updates on the implementation of the recommendations in the report. I will table the next progress update in August 2022.

The Public Trustee has taken action over the last two years to improve its transparency, accountability, accessibility, and services. Many of these actions also address the report's recommendations, which helped to focus the organisation's efforts. The Public Trustee continues to work to implement actions and solutions delivering on the report's findings.

A key action has been completing the independent review of all Public Trustee fees and charges which is currently with the Government for consideration. This has been the first major review into its fees and charges in more than two decades, and it is therefore appropriate, and expected, that the Government will carefully consider the findings.



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The Public Trustee's actions include policy and practice changes across the organisation to ensure its services continue to improve and support vulnerable Queenslanders, including developing and implementing a sector-leading, best practice Structured Decision-Making Framework, in collaboration with experts from La Trobe University, which ensures customers, and their support networks are consulted in all financial management decisions.

Government has responsibility for ten recommendations from the Public Advocate's report, and has already implemented one, Recommendation 30, through the *Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring) Amendment Act 2022* (the Act) which establishes the Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board (the Board). Work is currently underway to set up the Board and its Secretariat, providing additional oversight and transparency for the Public Trustee's activities. Advertisements have been placed calling for expressions of interest for Appointed Board Members and that has now closed. Applications are currently being reviewed and assessed against the specific skills and experience required by the Act. Once the preferred candidates are identified and approved a proclamation will be made to commence the Act to establish the Board.

Government has also done its part to implement recommendation 6 in supporting the Public Trustee's application for a Goods and Services Tax exemption.

There are eight recommendations remaining for the Government to consider, many of which contemplate legislative changes.

The Public Trustee operates in a complex environment, and these remaining eight recommendations need to be fully considered, in consultation with key stakeholders, to ensure the best outcome for vulnerable Queenslanders. Over 30 key stakeholders have been consulted in relation to the remaining recommendations, and this feedback is being considered in detail to ensure the best outcome for vulnerable Queenslanders.

The Public Trustee has proactively put in place administrative reforms to address several the recommendations directed to Government. This allows Government time to fully consider the issues and consult with key stakeholders to decide if where recommended, legislative amendments are required and what they should entail.



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Question No. 05:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS and the Government's commitment to facilitating access to timely and efficient justice for Queenslanders, can the Attorney-General update the committee on how the government is increasing the efficiency and timeliness of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal?

Answer:

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) resolves disputes and reviews decisions for Queenslanders in an accessible, fair, economical, informal, and quick manner. Annually, more than 60,000 Queenslanders access the Tribunal's guardianship, human rights, civil, administrative, disciplinary, and minor civil dispute (MCD) jurisdictions.

COVID-19 and the 2022 Queensland floods have added challenges to operations, resulting in backlogs. QCAT has continuously sought to improve service delivery to respond to increased demand, and business interruptions caused by COVID-19. This reform has been supported by the Palaszczuk Government's investment over the last three years, including:

- The 2021-22 State Budget allocated \$7.028 million and four FTEs over two years from 2021-22 to focus on registry improvements, respond to the significant increase in demand and address COVID-19 related backlogs due to increased staff absences. This includes funding for additional member and adjudicator resources.
- The 2019-20 State Budget provided QCAT with \$14.37 million and 8.5 FTE over five years to address workload pressures (\$13.092 million and \$2.9 million ongoing) and increased demand due to National Disability Insurance Scheme with \$1.277 million over four years and \$331,000 ongoing.
- QCAT received \$3.53 million over four years, with 6.5 FTEs and an additional member, and additional adjudicator to implement Rental Law Reforms, including greater protections to end tenancies fairly and a dispute resolution process to manage pet disputes.
- The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021*, commencing 1 January 2023, gives QCAT jurisdiction to review determinations of the adult's capacity to make decisions to end their life. QCAT has received \$181,000 in preparation for the new jurisdiction.



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The 2019-20 State Budget provided QCAT with three-year limited life funding for business transformation activities. In 2019-20, QCAT engaged contractors to identify improvements, and streamlined business practices in the Client Services Team (CST) and MCD Team. A continuous improvement model was used to drive process improvements, simplify file storage, reduce workload pressures, and update the CST policy and procedure manual and training approach.

In 2020-21, QCAT sought to improve registry workload issues in its guardianship jurisdiction by improving publicly available information, the goal being to reduce parties contacting the registry. Three videos on the hearing process, a new user-friendly website and simpler guardianship forms were launched on 23 July 2021. In 2021-22, QCAT applied this work to the civil, administrative, and disciplinary division by developing new web resources and adjusting and streamlining processes to help prepare self-represented parties attending QCAT.

In 2021-22, QCAT also commenced its Strategic Administrative Review Transition Project to streamline the hearing dispute process in some matter types. Processes were introduced to reduce overall time, cost, and steps in the finalisation of matters for parties and provide clear information up front. Compulsory conferences for some limited matter types are being phased out where they are mostly unsuccessful and extend time to finalisation.

The 2021-22 Budget funding has helped address backlogs and improve QCAT's clearance rate to 107% (13% increase on 2020-21 result) and focus on registry improvements. QCAT's benchmark for time to finalisation of MCD matters is three weeks for urgent residential tenancy matters, and five weeks for all other MCD matters. As at 31 March 2022 the time to finalisation of MCD matters has improved since July 2021, with the state-wide average for finalisation for matters being three weeks (from four weeks) for residential tenancy urgent matters, four weeks (from eight weeks) for residential tenancy non-urgent matters, and three weeks (from 11 weeks) for all other MCDs.

This Government has provided additional funding of \$94.3 million over five years and \$7.2 million annually ongoing, to digitise Queensland Courts and QCAT. This funding is supporting business transformation through digitising and streamlining QCAT processes. The paperless portal for online lodgement of applications for MCD matters provides the ability to view filed material online, creating efficiencies through automating tasks. In addition, a new civil case management system for MCD matters is expected to be in operation at the end of 2022.



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Question No. 06:

With reference to page I of the SDS and the Government's commitment to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, can the Attorney-General please update the committee on the DFV common risk and safety framework?

Answer:

On 15 July 2022 the Queensland Government launched a substantially revised and reworked domestic and family violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) for use and adoption across the domestic and family violence service sector and for those government agencies working with women and children impacted by domestic and family violence.

The release of the CRASF marks the culmination of a 12-month review to update and strengthen the Framework to reflect contemporary best practice in risk assessment.

The CRASF serves the critical function of supporting people to identify domestic and family violence so risks can be recognised early, and swift action can be taken to prevent harm from occurring. It outlines a shared understanding and common approach to recognising, assessing, and responding to domestic and family violence, and offers clear practical guidance on undertaking risk assessment and safety planning, and management for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and their children.

The revised CRASF builds on the first version of the framework with key changes including a new child screening tool, additional factors relating to coercive control, a greater focus on children, priority populations and the victim-survivor's voice, improved cultural considerations, and an increased focus on the person using violence.

A phased implementation approach to support uptake of the CRASF across the State will now commence, with work underway to develop additional training, resources, and guidance for users across integrated service systems.

To find out more, and to access Common Risk and Safety Framework resources, visit: www.justice.qld.gov.au/dfvcommonrisksafetyframework.



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Question No. 07:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS and the Government's commitment to facilitating access to timely and efficient justice for Queenslanders, will the Attorney-General advise on what work is already underway in response to State Coroner's recommendations arising out of the inquests into the deaths of Doreen Langham and Hannah Clarke and her three children?

Answer:

The Queensland Government is reviewing the State Coroner's recommendations arising out of the inquests into the deaths of Hannah Ashlie Clarke, Aaliyah Anne Baxter, Laianah Grace Baxter, Trey Rowan Charles Baxter, and Rowan Charles Baxter and Doreen Gail Langham and Gary Matthew Hely. Under the Government's coronial reporting arrangements, Government aims to publish a response within six months of the coroner's findings of inquest and to provide implementation updates twice a year until the recommendation is implemented (or a decision is made not to support the recommendation).

The Queensland Government is committed to taking action to eliminate domestic and family violence which is why the Queensland Government established the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce led by the Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC to examine women's experiences across the criminal justice system and look at how we can best legislate against coercive control.

In response to the Taskforce's landmark first report, *Hear her voice*, the Queensland Government will be implementing all 89 recommendations and has announced a historical funding commitment of \$363 million to undertake this important work, including \$25.5 million for a network of perpetrator programs and related reforms (Recs 25–30).

The network will be informed by the standalone, system-wide strategy for responding to all perpetrators of domestic and family violence that will be developed in response to Recommendation 9 of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2019-20 Annual Report.

The network will provide a diversity of interventions across a continuum of risk and need, which will include an intersectional approach that meets the needs of people with disability, young people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people who identify as LGBTIQ+ in urban, rural, regional, and remote locations.



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The Queensland Government will also develop and trial perpetrator programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; develop a perpetrator-centric risk assessment approach and tool; and establish a new court-based perpetrator diversion scheme.

The Queensland Government will:

- explore options to increase investment in existing Queensland Government perpetrator interventions to address demand, which will be informed by the domestic, family and sexual violence investment review being conducted by the Queensland Treasury Corporation;
- continue and expand trials of online perpetrator interventions and programs addressing domestic and family violence perpetrator by young men against a parent; and
- adopt a co-design approach to developing and trialling perpetrator programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with programs developed in collaboration with communities.

In addition, \$22.9 million has been allocated to trial a co-responder model for police and domestic and family violence services (Rec 37), providing an opportunity for earlier intervention and improved uptake of services by both victims and perpetrators. This will build upon existing co-location models throughout Queensland where specialist domestic and family violence workers are embedded in police stations, and police officers providing service in specialist domestic and family violence services.

While the Taskforce recommends the creation of a new offence to criminalise coercive control, it was very clear that system-wide reform is necessary before any legislative amendments can commence, and before we can effectively criminalise coercive control.

Work is well underway across multiple government departments to implement these recommendations, including progression of the first stage of domestic and family violence legislative reforms to be introduced into Parliament later this year ahead of a criminal offence of coercive control.



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Question No. 08:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS and the Government's commitment to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, can the Attorney-General please update the committee on how the Government is improving information sharing between agencies to better support victims?

Answer:

The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (the DFVP Act) includes legislative provisions for information sharing between government and non-government agencies in order to improve the safety of victims of domestic and family violence (DFV) and better hold perpetrators to account.

Information sharing amendments to the DFVP Act were passed by the Queensland Parliament in October 2016 and commenced on 30 May 2017. These amendments apply statewide.

The Queensland Government engaged Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to develop DFV Information Sharing Guidelines (the Guidelines) to support frontline practitioners and relevant government staff to understand the legislative provisions for information sharing between government and non-government agencies. The Guidelines provide information about what is permitted under the legislation, who is allowed to share information, and what circumstances allow information sharing without consent.

The Guidelines were launched at the same time as the High Risk Teams trial commenced in late 2016. The initial training about the Guidelines was intensive, taking place over two days. The training was delivered state-wide by an external training provider and was later embedded as a fixed module of face-to-face training for the Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF).

The Queensland Government is committed to the continuous improvement of integrated service responses to domestic and family violence and to supporting practitioners and staff to understand and correctly apply the information sharing provisions.

In line with the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, the Queensland Government has committed to reviewing and updating the Guidelines to provide a plain English and easy to use guide, and to further increase awareness, understanding, and consistent use of the information sharing provisions across an integrated service system.



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Following the development of revised Guidelines, the Queensland Government will deliver a communications and training strategy to support stakeholders to understand the domestic and family violence information sharing provisions. Communication about the Guidelines and underlying legislation will continue to utilise a broad range of vehicles and styles including face to face promotion at networking meetings, promotion of the website and inclusion of information about the Guidelines in partner training with other agencies involved in supporting integrated service responses. This promotion across networks and agencies will support consistent information sharing practices, help to facilitate timely, accurate, holistic, and informed risk management and safety planning, and inform actions to hold perpetrators to account.

Domestic, family and sexual violence can only be tackled with a multi-agency response. The need to collaborate and align our efforts, lifting each other's understanding and improving each other's practice is particularly true of frontline services. They are the people victims turn to when seeking support and protection.

As part of the Queensland Government response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations, the Queensland Government has committed to improved collaboration and further enhancement of integrated service responses to tackle DFV.

High Risk Teams will be expanded from the 8 existing sites, with an additional 3 sites being delivered over 4 years to 2025–26. The first new location will be Townsville. High Risk Teams are a core component of Queensland's integrated service response. They are coordinated, multi-agency teams that collaborate to provide integrated, holistic, culturally appropriate safety responses for victims and their children who are at high risk of serious harm or lethality.

In addition, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommended that a co-responder model be trialled and evaluated. The Government has committed to develop, trial, and evaluate a co-responder model involving a mobile co-response to police call outs between Queensland Police Service and government funded specialist domestic and family violence services, in a number of locations.

These integrated responses facilitate referrals to services for victims and perpetrators; involve specialist expertise in assessment of risk and safety planning; assist in identification of evidence to prosecute charges; and importantly, reduce misidentification of the person most in need of protection.



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Question No. 09:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, can the Minister outline how the Government is improving price transparency in the funeral industry to protect vulnerable consumers?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government has progressed and finalised a review of upfront pricing by the funeral industry in Queensland, resulting in the implementation of the *Fair Trading (Funeral Pricing) Regulation 2022*. This affirms the commitment of the Palaszczuk Government to protecting Queenslanders financially, especially when they are at their most vulnerable.

The Palaszczuk Government has responded to calls for reform from Queensland consumers and the consumer rights advocacy group Choice, who called for better up-front funeral pricing information. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General released an Options Paper which sought broader community consultation on this issue, to consider the best way to protect and inform Queensland consumers. The highest level of support from both consumers, businesses and professional associations was to implement a regulation under the *Fair Trading Act 1989*.

Delivering on this commitment, the Regulation commenced on **1 July 2022** and requires funeral directors to display specified 'funeral information' on their business website (if they have one) and in-store. This includes an itemised price list of specified goods and services, such as the price for transport and storage of a body; the price (or price range) of coffins, caskets, or shrouds; the price of viewing of the body; and the price for burial or cremation. The price of the least expensive combination, or least expensive package, of goods and services offered by the funeral director, must also be provided. Other non-price related information must also be included, such as the location of the mortuary or crematorium used by the funeral director, and details of how the body is transported by the funeral director before burial or cremation.

Other key requirements of the new Regulation are:

- requiring a funeral director to provide a person that asks about the funeral director's goods and services with 'funeral information' within 48 hours after the person asked for the information (or a longer period if agreed), and prior to an agreement being entered into for the supply of goods and services (whichever is earlier); and



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- prohibiting funeral directors from entering into agreements with a person in relation to the supply of goods and services for the burial or cremation of a body, unless information about the price of each of the particular goods and services to be supplied; the costs of any disbursements that will be payable; and the total amount payable by the person have been provided to the person.

The Regulation aims to improve price transparency and assist the industry nationally by ensuring the provision of upfront funeral information, consistent with equivalent regulatory requirements in New South Wales.

The Regulation is administered and enforced by the Office of Fair Trading. If funeral directors fail to comply with the requirements of the Regulation, they may face fines up to 2 penalty units (\$287.50) for an individual or 10 penalty units (\$1,437.50) for a corporation. Serious breaches may be prosecuted. The Regulation prescribes a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units (\$2,875).

The Office of Fair Trading has a range of information on the Queensland Government website to help business understand the new requirements, this also includes an example funeral industry price transparency checklist, a funeral director price list example, and a link to the Queensland Funeral Industry Code of Conduct.

The Office of Fair Trading has also developed a "Frequently Asked Questions" information sheet to add to this suite of guidance materials.

The Regulation provides better protections for consumers and follows national and international movements towards legislated price transparency for funerals and helps ensure a fairer community for all Queenslanders.



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Question No. 10:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General advise how the Government is Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence?

Answer:

The Government remains committed to reducing alcohol-related violence in and around licensed venues through its comprehensive, multi-faceted Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence (TAFV) Policy.

Since 2015, the Government has introduced a range of measures aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence including the reduction of late-night liquor service hours to 2am state-wide and 3am in safe night precincts (SNPs), a ban on the sale of rapid intoxication drinks after midnight, and the implementation of mandatory ID scanning in regulated premises in SNPs.

The *Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night Time Economy Monitoring* (QUANTEM) independent evaluation of the Government's TAFV Policy, led by alcohol violence protection expert Professor Miller, found promising reductions in alcohol-related violence including:

- a 49% decrease in the monthly number of serious assaults between 3am and 6am on Friday/Saturday nights state-wide;
- a 52% reduction in serious assaults in Fortitude Valley between 3am and 6am on Friday/Saturday, and a 43% reduction during high alcohol hours in Toowoomba; and
- the average number of monthly ambulance call-outs during high alcohol hours reduced by 26.2% in Fortitude Valley and 21.1% in Surfers Paradise.

Importantly, the evaluation found there was no measurable negative impact on business due to TAFV Policy initiatives.

On 25 May 2022, the Government released its final response to the 38 recommendations of TAFV Policy evaluation report, which will further strengthen safety measures for Queensland patrons.

The Government has accepted 22 recommendations as supported, partially supported or supported-in-principle. The remaining 16 recommendations are not supported as they are not considered critical to achieving the overarching Government policy objectives or can be achieved by more effective alternative means.



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Key highlights of the final Government response include:

- Continued focus to implement initiatives that promote safe behaviour and attitudes in venues.
- Enhancements to the mandatory ID scanning framework including:
 - allowing the use of pass outs for patrons who, for example, need to access external toilet and smoking facilities, avoiding the need to ID scan on re-entry; and
 - reduction of days that mandatory ID scanning is required for venues closing before 1am to focus on higher risk Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.
- Increased duration of an initial police banning notice, including from a licensed premises or safe night precinct, from 10 days to up to one month.
- Continued commitment to best practice advertising and communication campaigns aimed at reducing risky alcohol consumption, taking into account the findings of the TAFV evaluation report.
- A comprehensive independent review of Alcohol and Drug safety education in schools.
- Continued place-based management of safe night precincts including best practice compliance and investigations for licensed venues supported by 12 additional permanent compliance officers.
- Continuing funding of safe night precincts with the allocation of \$500,000 in 2022-23 to support safety initiatives, such as roving security and taxi marshals in safe night precincts, to ensure Queenslanders can enjoy a night out without feeling threatened or uncomfortable.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of alcohol-related harm in Queensland, including a legislated triennial review of SNPs to consider whether the SNP is achieving its harm-minimisation purposes.

The final Government response strikes a balance between reducing alcohol-related harm and the need to ease the regulatory burden on hospitality and tourism businesses in the COVID-19 economic recovery environment.



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Question No. 11:

Please detail the average length of time for blue card assessments for the last three years, broken down by year.

Answer:

Since 2020-21, Blue Card Services has provided an online application portal which has significantly reduced timeframes for most blue card applicants.

As at 30 June 2022, both paper and online applications with no police or disciplinary information were processed in an average of three business days, two business days faster than the target timeframe. As at 30 June 2022, online only applications with no police or disciplinary information were processed in an average of only two business days, three business days faster than the target timeframe. Applications which return police or other relevant information take longer to process. While most applications with assessable histories are processed quickly, more complex applications can take longer to process to enable relevant information to be obtained, provide applicants with natural justice, and to ensure a thorough and robust assessment is undertaken.

In 2021-22, Blue Card Services completed 60% more complex assessments compared with the previous year. The significant increase in volume has contributed to an increase in the average time taken to assess complex applications but is still within the target timeframe of four months.

Since the release of the online portal, Blue Card Services can provide a breakdown of timeframes for applications with complex or less complex information for assessment.

Average business days to finalise a blue card application	Target	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Applications with no assessable information	5 days	10 days	4 days	3 days
Applications with less complex assessable information (online only)	21 days	N/A	14 days	13 days
Applications with complex assessable information (online only)	4 months	N/A	34 days	53 days



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Question No. 12:

Can the Attorney provide the number of Legal Aid preferred suppliers by year for the last three years, including the target for 2022-2023?

Answer:

- As of 18 July 2022, there were 316 preferred suppliers.
- As of 30 June 2022, there were 311 preferred suppliers.
- As of 30 June 2021, there were 339 preferred suppliers.
- As of 30 June 2020, there were 367 preferred suppliers.

Legal Aid Queensland does not maintain an annual target for preferred supplier numbers but rather has a focus upon maintaining effective service coverage across Queensland.

Legal Aid continues to achieve effective service coverage across Queensland through a combination of services provided by preferred suppliers, inhouse lawyers and community legal centres.



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Question No. 13:

With reference to note 2 on the DJAG SDS page number 6, and the effectiveness measures of the Coroner's Court, please provide the number of matters delayed due to delays in the provision of results from Forensics and Scientific Services.

Answer:

Coroners are aware that delays in finalising coronial matters can cause distress for families and strive to conclude matters thoroughly and efficiently.

However, the importance of conducting comprehensive and robust investigations is paramount and often requires investigative processes across government agencies to finalise matters. A range of investigative reports inform coroners' investigations and include autopsy, toxicology, and police reports. Dependent on the circumstances of the death, coroners may also be required to await the outcome of other expert investigations and criminal proceedings.

Specific data identifying where a delay is as a direct result of wait times in the provision of results from the Forensic and Scientific Services (as opposed to reports from other agencies) is not available. This is due to limitations with the case management system. However, available data does demonstrate that for the past four years, coroners have finalised more investigations than were lodged.

Coronial system partners are currently working together to develop a backlog strategy to inform the creation of a monitoring framework essential to meeting coronial system objectives that strives for better coordination, family-centred services, increased accountability, timeliness, and performance.



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MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Question No. 14:

Please advise the number of unresolved complaints as at 30 June 2022 of the Legal Services Commissioner and the average length of time taken to resolve a complaint.

Answer:

Any person may make a complaint to the Commissioner about the conduct of an Australian legal practitioner, law practice employee or unlawful operator. Complaints are assessed and then dealt with by summary dismissal, or by being investigated. If investigated, dependent on the outcome, the complaint may be dismissed or proceed to a disciplinary application in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or Legal Practice Committee, or if the conduct related to an unlawful operator or other offences within the Commission's jurisdiction, it may proceed by complaint and summons for prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

Unresolved complaints as at 30 June 2022 were 518.

Average length of time taken to resolve a complaint, either by summary dismissal or following investigation, in the 2021-2022 reporting period was 170 days.

The statistics reported above are ordinarily reported annually in the Commission's annual report. At the date of providing this answer, the statistics for the Commission's annual report were preliminarily verified and, on that basis, the statistics provided in this answer may vary to the statistics published in the Commission's annual report for the 2021-22 reporting year.



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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Question No. 15:

With reference to the improvements to domestic and family violence courthouse safety as outlined on page 66 of the Capital Statement, please provide a description and details of each project commencing in 2022-23, including their anticipated commencement date.

Answer:

The Queensland Government will invest \$49.1 million over the next four years for a dedicated Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Courthouse Improvement Program. A \$3.4 million allocation in 2022-23 will see planning, design and procurement commencing for courthouses in Toowoomba, Cairns, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Caboolture, Mackay, Ipswich, and Brisbane.

The projects will improve DFV facilities, public entry points and registry infrastructure with contemporary trauma informed design principles that will improve the accessibility of DFV services and improve victim safety and security. A preliminary scope of work for each location is provided as follows, noting each site is currently in preliminary design stage with the scopes of work and detailed designs to be defined over the next 12 months:

- Cairns will accommodate a new courtroom, DFV safe area, registry refurbishment and associated works to support the establishment of a new specialist DFV court.
- Mackay will accommodate a new DFV safe area, registry refurbishment and associated works.
- Ipswich will accommodate a reconfigured DFV registry counter and office space, and associated works.
- Caboolture will accommodate a DFV safe area, registry, public entrance security and associated works.
- Maroochydore will accommodate a new DFV safe room, DFV courtroom, registry refurbishment and associated works.
- Brisbane will accommodate a new large criminal courtroom, a DFV safe area, registry refurbishment and associated works to support the establishment a new specialist DFV court.



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- Toowoomba will accommodate a structural expansion and refurbishment of the courthouse, including public entrance security, a new courtroom and DFV safe area.
- Rockhampton will accommodate a new courtroom, DFV safe area, registry refurbishment and associated works.

Construction commencement at the eight sites will be staggered across 2023-24 and 2024-25 with all construction scheduled for completion from 2023-24 to 2025-26.



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Question No. 16:

Can the Attorney provide the total government funding (including state and federal) provided for a) domestic violence specialist services and b) sexual violence specialist services in Queensland?

Answer:

In 2021-22, the Queensland Government invested \$113.8 million in recurrent funding to domestic family and sexual violence specialist services and supports to fund 140 organisations across the State, which included:

- a) \$95.908 million to domestic and family violence supports, such as counselling including children's counselling services, court-based support, perpetrator intervention programs, local service system support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander targeted services, shelters including mobile and centre-based supports, telephone supports, case management and community supports; and
- b) \$17.909 million to sexual violence services, including counselling, women's health and wellbeing services, and community and system supports to strengthen sector capability, prevention, and awareness raising. In 2021-22, the Government announced \$150,000 over 2 years in funding for the Queensland Sexual Assault Network to support them in undertaking their secretariat function across the network of specialist sexual assault services.

The Investing in Queensland Women grant program also provides funding to community organisations across Queensland to deliver targeted projects and events designed to create positive change in alignment with the Queensland Government's strategic priorities and to address the unique issues faced by women and girls. The grant program provides one-off grants of up to \$15,000 through two grant rounds, released twice a year, with a total allocation of \$540,000 in funds (excluding GST) per annum. Organisations are encouraged to go to the following website to apply and find out more: www.qld.gov.au/grants-for-women.

In May 2021, alongside the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, and the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, I announced the Queensland Government would be providing an extra \$30 million funding over four years to domestic, family and sexual violence (DFS) services.



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In 2021-22 \$7.5 million of that funding was shared between currently funded services as a continuation of the state COVID-19 funding support.

A preliminary review of the demand of DFSV services across Queensland has been completed and has informed the allocation of the remainder of the \$22.5 million over the next three years to existing services. Services have been offered three-year contracts commencing 1 July 2022 to provide certainty and continuity of service.

In May 2021 the Australian Government announced a new, two-year National Partnership Agreement to respond to DFSV with a total of \$53.022 million to be provided to Queensland over the life of the Agreement.

The first payment of \$13.255 million will be used as a continuation of funding to the majority of services that received funding under the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement including sexual violence services, women's health and wellbeing services. Payments 2–4 are currently being negotiated with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and will be distributed towards programs and initiatives that support innovative service delivery models, address market gaps, support the needs of diverse people and groups, and enhance frontline sector capability.

The department is committed to working alongside the sector to collectively prevent and respond to all forms of DFSV and address the barriers for victims accessing responses. In addition to our investment in specialist DFSV services the Government also funds specialist courts, legal advice, financial assistance, specialist housing support, education and prevention programs to support victims of domestic violence, raise community awareness and change attitudes.



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DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Question No. 17:

Can the Attorney provide a breakdown (service by service) of government funding (including state and federal) of all violence against women services in Queensland?

Answer:

I provide a breakdown of the service types funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence:

Domestic, family and sexual violence specialist services (State) funding

In 2021-22, the Queensland Government invested \$113.8 million in domestic, family and sexual violence support services. This investment was provided to the following service types:

- Domestic and family violence (DFV) support services \$95.9 million including:
 - DFV counselling, case management and telephone services \$30.609 million;
 - Children's DFV counselling \$5.655 million;
 - Temporary supported accommodation, mobile support and centre-based support \$34.938 million;
 - Perpetrator intervention programs \$8.120 million;
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Services \$4.694 million;
 - Court support services \$4.596 million;
 - DFV integration \$ 6.428 million; and
 - Research, capacity and capability building associated activities \$0.870 million.
- Sexual violence counselling, prevention, capacity building and awareness raising \$13.123 million; In 2021–22, the Government announced \$150,000 over 2 years in funding for the Queensland Sexual Assault Network to support them in undertaking their secretariat function across the network of specialist sexual assault services.
- Women's health and wellbeing services \$4.786 million.



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In May 2021, together with the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, and the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, I announced the Queensland Government would be providing an extra \$30 million funding over four years to domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) services.

In 2021-22 \$7.5 million of that funding was shared between currently funded services as a continuation of the state COVID-19 funding support.

A preliminary review of the demand of DFSV services across Queensland has been completed and has informed the allocation of the remainder of the \$22.5 million over the next three years to existing services. Services have been offered three-year contracts commencing 1 July 2022 to provide certainty and continuity of service.

The Investing in Queensland Women grant program also provides funding to community organisations across Queensland to deliver targeted projects and events designed to create positive change in alignment with the Queensland Government's strategic priorities and to address the unique issues faced by women and girls. The grant program provides one-off grants of up to \$15,000 through two grant rounds, released twice a year, with a total allocation of \$540,000 in funds (excluding GST) per annum. Organisations are encouraged to go to the following website to apply and find out more: www.qld.gov.au/grants-for-women.

Commonwealth domestic, family and sexual violence support services funding

In May 2021 the Australian Government announced a new, two-year National Partnership Agreement to respond to DFSV with a total of \$53.022 million to be provided to Queensland over the life of the Agreement.

The first payment of \$13.255 million will be used as a continuation of funding to the majority of services that received funding under the COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement including sexual violence services, women's health and wellbeing services. Payments 2–4 are currently being negotiated with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and will be distributed towards programs and initiatives that support innovative service delivery models, address market gaps, support the needs of diverse people and groups, and enhance frontline sector capability.

Legal Assistance funding

DJAG administers Federal and State government funding for legal assistance services delivered by Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Limited (ATSILS) and Community Legal Centres (CLCs).

In Queensland, legal assistance services for women are delivered by specialist women's CLCs, generalist CLCs and services delivered by LAQ and ATSILS.



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Federal Government funding for legal assistance services in Queensland is set out in the *National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25* including Queensland's Bilateral Schedule <https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/national-legal-assistance-partnership-nlap>.

Federal Government funding includes an allocation of \$27.116 million over 2021-25 to Queensland for the delivery of dedicated legal assistance services to women with a focus on women experiencing, or at risk of, family violence. This funding has been allocated as follows:

- \$25.678 million over 2021-25 to Queensland's specialist women's legal services;
- \$1.2 million for the delivery of services over 2022-25 for culturally appropriate legal assistance services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; and
- \$238,000 to other CLCs for delivery of legal assistance services to women.

The allocation of State funding is published in the DJAG annual report.

State and Federal funding provided to CLCs is published on the Queensland Government website.

Victim Assist Queensland

Victim Assist Queensland currently administers the Victim Services Funding Program (VSVP) and the Building Capacity Funding Program (BCFP), to support victims including women and girls.

In July 2022, VSFP commenced a new 5-year funding cycle, including an annual investment of:

- \$1.48 million to support all victims through 24/7 telephone support, case management, psychological first aid and free therapeutic counselling;
- \$296,000 to support victims of violent crime who have an intellectual disability;
- \$581,000 to support people who have been impacted by homicide; and
- \$844,000 to support victims of violent crime interacting with the criminal justice system of all ages, and children and young people who provide evidence to court.

The BCFP will provide a further \$151,591 over the next two years for three one-off projects to build capacity to support victims of crime within marginalised groups, including women and girls. Currently funded projects are:

- \$68,511 to assist domestic and family violence sector to respond effectively to women who have an intellectual disability;
- \$43,580 to create a regional Victim Survivor Interview Room for victims of sexual assault in Cairns; and
- \$39,500 to develop educational resources on Giving Evidence for First Nations Victims & Witnesses.



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**ESTIMATES 2022
PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Question No. 18:

Could the Attorney provide all prevention programs currently in operation in Queensland, by location, length of program and current wait time to participate?

Answer:

Violence against women is a serious issue driven by gender inequality. The drivers of violence against women include issues such as men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life; condoning of violence against women; rigid gender stereotyping and cultures of violent masculinity. These gendered drivers and reinforcing factors such as resistance and backlash underpin gender inequality at every level of our society. Prevention efforts to address domestic and family violence respond to these issues by promoting and supporting gender equality.

Given the nature of prevention programs and their goal to raise community awareness and influence attitudes it is not possible to provide details on location, length of program and wait time.

The new five-year *Queensland Women's Strategy 2022-27* sets out the Government's plan and commitment to support Queensland women and girls to succeed, with a focus on women's economic security and safety. Major reforms and investment have been delivered in Queensland including improvements to the way systems respond to domestic and family violence, decriminalised termination of pregnancy in Queensland; respectful relationships education in Queensland state schools; and we exceeded our target of 50 per cent of women on government boards.

Further commitments include supporting women and girls to take up a career in male-dominated industries, maintaining a focus on achieving and preserving pay equity and equal access and uptake of flexible work arrangements, including parental leave; working together with partners to improve women's financial and legal literacy, capability and confidence across the stages of their lives across different settings; and a focus on breaking down barriers for First Nations women.

The Government is continuing to support the National Association of Women in Construction's target of 11% women in frontline construction such as carpentry, painting, electrical and plumbing through QBuild's second Exemplar Project, a 10 one-bedroom apartment social housing complex



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in Hervey Bay and the Girls in Construction Roadshow with their 'Girls in Construction' promotional roadshow visiting high schools across Queensland.

The Government invests in many initiatives that promote women's empowerment and recognition across all aspects of Queensland society including:

- \$540,000 annually for the Investing in Queensland Women grant program to support events and projects that inspire the Queensland community to respect women, embrace gender equality and promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls;
- \$100,000 to support continuation of the Engaging Science Grants program, delivering STEM education, events and activities including Citizen Science to support science literacy;
- \$890,000 to continue to deliver a suite of support and capability programs to help Queensland women start and grow innovative businesses as part of the Female Founders program;
- \$120,000 for the continuation of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Girl Power initiative. Since it began in 2016, more than 380 Year 10 girls have participated in the initiative and have been encouraged into senior STEM subjects and career pathways;
- \$2.8 million to encourage young First Nations women to remain actively engaged in education and complete Year 12 through their attendance at school engagement programs delivered by the Stars Foundation, Netball Queensland and the Brisbane Broncos. In 2021, over 680 First Nations women and girls across 13 schools participated in the program; and
- Support for awards and events that highlight the outstanding achievements of women including the Australian Women in Music Awards, the Rural Women's Award, Queensland Women in STEM prize, Women in Fire and Emergency Services Award and the Women of the World Festival.

In December 2021, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce released its first report, Hear Her Voice – Report One – Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland (the report) making 89 recommendations for reforms to the domestic and family violence service and justice systems, including for the creation of a new offence to criminalise coercive control. The report emphasised the need to focus on primary prevention and early intervention measures, particularly for our First Nations communities.

The Queensland Government has carefully considered the recommendations made by the Taskforce and supports or supports-in-principle all 89 recommendations. \$363 million has been committed in additional funding to implement the response to the report. Prevention initiatives to be implemented include: a state-wide education and behavioural change campaign, targeted



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community-specific campaigns and online information regarding coercive control; development and implementation of a primary prevention plan; strengthened Respectful Relationships Education Programs in all Queensland state and non-state schools.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council (the Prevention Council) aims to generate greater community and corporate momentum in recognising that domestic and family violence (DFV) is everyone's concern and ending it is everyone's responsibility. The Prevention Council supports Queensland to achieve the outcomes of the Third Action Plan 2019–20 to 2021–22 (the Third Action Plan) of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–2026.

The Prevention Council fosters partnerships with the community and business sectors to continue to embed cultural change across the community; to encourage and help to build community ownership of action to prevent and end DFV; to support and broker partnerships between corporate and community organisations, local government and community members to extend community-led prevention activities.

In 2022, a new framework to drive further corporate and community sector action to end domestic and family violence was launched. The DFV Prevention Corporate and Community Engagement Framework will enable the collective efforts of corporate and community organisations to lead and initiate further change, by providing guidance on what organisations can do to address gender inequality and prevent violence against women, in their own workplaces and the wider community.

The Queensland Government also delivers a range of tools, resources and ongoing community engagement campaigns throughout the year, through social media and online, to send the message that DFV will not be tolerated, where community members can go to seek help, and to encourage the community to get involved in key events and activities. This includes the disability and DFV awareness campaign currently in the market and the annual Help Seeking campaign which generally runs over the Christmas period.



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ESTIMATES 2022
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ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 19:

With reference to the budgets of integrity bodies (Attorney-General Service Delivery Statement Pages 27, 40 and 73) and that the Coaldrake Review recommended parliamentary committee involvement in the setting of budgets and key appointments for integrity bodies, will the Attorney-General commit to a cooperative “co-design” process with these Committees in determining how this new role for committees will be established including consideration of an own motion power for committees to initiate investigations into systemic and budget issues for integrity bodies?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to implementing the recommendations of Professor Peter Coaldrake’s, *Let the Sunshine In: Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland Public Sector Final Report* (the Coaldrake Review). A Taskforce, led by David Mackie, Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, has been established under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to implement the Coaldrake Report recommendations.

The integrity bodies housed under the Justice Portfolio – the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Office of the Information Commissioner (which includes the Right to Information and Privacy Commissioners), and the Queensland Ombudsman – will work with the Taskforce, central agencies and key stakeholders on implementation of the recommendations. The specifics of how each recommendation will be delivered will be worked through by the Taskforce and stakeholders.



Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2022 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 20:

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Service Delivery Statement states on page 57 that the Government is providing funding to facilitate preparations for the state and local elections in 2024. An issue of concern is the continuing potential misleading of Queenslanders when political parties send out postal vote applications to constituents and obtain information from those applications before lodging with the Electoral Commission. As part of the preparation for the 2024 election will the Government ensure political parties inform voters via the reply-paid envelope they provide, that their postal vote application will be returned to a political party's office before being sent to the Electoral Commission (and set a requirement and fixed time to lodge the information with the Electoral Commission)?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting the integrity and transparency of Queensland's electoral processes.

Members of Parliament and political parties are able to access electoral roll information under the *Electoral Act 1992* (Electoral Act), and may use this information to engage with electors.

It is a matter for individual electors how they choose to apply for a postal vote, and there are a range of options available to them including applying directly to the Electoral Commission.

In addition, if Members of Parliament and political parties do choose to distribute postal vote applications, the Electoral Commission's approved form as published on the Commission's website must be used.

Under the Electoral Act, it is an offence to fail to send a postal vote application to the Electoral Commission for someone else. Section 192 of the Electoral Act provides that, if a postal vote application is given to a person to send on to the Electoral Commission, that person must *promptly* send the application unless they have a reasonable excuse. The maximum penalty for this offence is 20 penalty units (\$2,875) or six months imprisonment.

Regardless of how an application for a postal vote is made, when it is time to vote, the Electoral Commission will send eligible electors their postal ballot and the completed vote is returned by electors directly to the Electoral Commission.



Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

It is also relevant to note that under the Electoral Act it is an offence to mislead voters and a person must not publish or distribute anything that is intended or likely to mislead an elector in relation to the way of voting at an election.

Pre-hearing questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services*

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

QUESTION:

With reference to the rates of assaults on officers on Page 3 of the Queensland Corrective Services Service Delivery Statement, would the Minister advise what is being done to reduce incidences of staff assault in Queensland's prisons?

ANSWER:

This government is committed to and prioritises the safety of all corrective services officers and staff. Assaults are taken very seriously and I am advised they are referred to the Queensland Police Service for investigation. Corrective Services Officers work in highly dynamic and complex environments and this government is committed to continually implementing further measures to increase safety and address violence within correctional centres, and to ensure that Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) remains the best trained and equipped correctional agency in Australasia.

In 2020, I introduced legislation to significantly increase the maximum penalty for prisoners that seriously assault a corrective services officer. The *Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020* amended section 340(2) of the Criminal Code and increased the maximum penalty for the serious assault of a corrective services officer to 14 years imprisonment.

Corrective Services Officers are also trained in tactical options and skills, including de-escalation techniques, weapons, and first aid. In addition, officers are supported by an array of safety and security equipment including body worn cameras, tactical and riot gear, chemical agents and weapons.

In this year's budget, \$2.5 million has been allocated to purchase more than 500 additional body worn cameras. In addition to providing vital evidence to assist in the prosecution of prisoners who assault officers, body worn cameras act as a deterrent to violence because any actions will be captured on video and used as evidence in any prosecution.

Other initiatives/actions to improve officer safety include:

- Ongoing training for all officers within correctional centres and Community Corrections offices, with more intense training for those who have a high level of contact with prisoners and/or offenders;
- Increased tactical options and skills training, including the planned introduction of Maybo training at correctional centres. Maybo training has a strong focus on de-escalation techniques;

- The establishment of robust governance measures, including the establishment of the Officer Safety Committee to oversee implementation and provide a consultative environment for recommendations to the Commissioner on matters pertaining to officer safety;
- The introduction of Safety and Compliance Advisors at all high security centres, with a focus on promoting a culture of safety and accountability;
- Transitioning private prisons to public operations;
- Expanding correctional centre capacity with more than 5,300 additional beds expected to be delivered under the Palaszczuk government by the end of 2023;
- Employing more staff in line with prisoner numbers; and
- The ongoing installation of safety hatches in cell doors.

To further enhance uplifts to increase officer safety, a comprehensive and meticulous review of the safety of Correctional Officers is continually provided through regular Commissioner's Operational Performance Reviews which occur at every correctional centre across the State.

The reviews utilise data as business intelligence to identify trends in performance and areas of concern allowing for the targeting of specific strategies and actions to reduce the incidence of staff assault in our prisons.

As a result of these initiatives QCS is now positioned as one of the best trained, best equipped, and highest paid correctional services in Australasia.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 2

QUESTION:

With reference to page 25 of the Budget Strategy and Outlook (Budget Paper 2) will the Minister provide (a) the Queensland Police Service (QPS) approved police officer strength and actual headcount as at 31 March 2021, 30 June 2021, 31 March 2022 and 30 June 2022; (b) the QPS approved police personnel strength and actual headcount as at 31 March 2021, 30 June 2021, 31 March 2022 and 30 June 2022; (c) the number of officers who have left the QPS between 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022; (d) the number of police recruits who graduated between 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022; (e) the number of officers who have left the QPS during the 2021-22 financial year; (f) the number of police recruits who graduated during the 2021-22 financial year; and (g) the number of police recruits currently in training at Queensland's two police academies?

ANSWER:

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The 2022-23 record \$3 billion police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 sworn officers over five years, from 1 July 2020.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that between 1 March 2015 and 30 June 2022, the approved police strength increased by 856 positions, from 11,430 to 12,286.

In addition, the QPS advise that the approved police officer strength is expected to increase by 370 positions in 2022-23, taking the increase in approved police officer positions under the Palaszczuk Government to 1,226 positions.

In response to the Committee's question, the QPS has advised the following, as at 30 June 2022:

a)

	31 March 2021	30 June 2021	31 March 2022	30 June 2022
Approved Strength*	12,068	12,164	12,221	12,286
Headcount	12,221	12,284	12,295	12,427

*Police approved strength is represented progressively as approved growth positions are created throughout the financial year.

b)

	31 March 2021	30 June 2021	31 March 2022	30 June 2022
Approved Strength**	15,841	15,956	16,923	16,923
Headcount	16,136	16,313	17,301	17,461

**Police Personnel approved strength is aligned to Budget FTE.

c) 410.

d) 483.

e) 465.

f) 608.

g) 284.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

It is important to note that the objective of the government's election commitment to provide funding for an additional 575 staff member positions over five years from 1 July 2020 is to enable more police officers to perform frontline community safety roles.

This followed advocacy from the President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers who said, "as a result of the Newman cuts, what we did was the admin staff stripped away from us, which meant frontline police had to perform those functions."

On this point, it is important to note that the QPS Strategic Review found that there was a reduction of 500 staff member FTE in 2012 and 2013 in the QPS which significantly contributed to increased administrative and support service activities being undertaken by police officers.

In addition, the Public Service Commission's Review of the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) notes that following the establishment of the PSBA in 2013, 392 police officers were transferred from roles in the QPS to positions at the PSBA. Noting that the role of the PSBA was to provide corporate services.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 3

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' (QFES) Service Delivery Statement, and the Government's commitment to reducing bushfire risk, will the Minister please outline how QFES has prepared for the 2022 bushfire season to keep Queenslanders safe?

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that bushfire mitigation and preparedness is a shared responsibility between many partners. QFES continues to work with landholders, land managers and local communities to manage bushfire risk and implement mitigation strategies, including hazard reduction burning, in a coordinated and informed manner. QFES continues to place a critical priority on maintaining and supporting these partnerships.

On 15 January 2022, QFES and its partners transitioned to a year-round mitigation program, Operation Sesbania, which replaced Operation Cool Burn.

Operation Sesbania is a year-round mitigation program enabling greater flexibility for land managers and owners to conduct mitigation activities in a changing climate, which is leading to more protracted bushfire seasons and often limiting windows for hazard reduction burning.

I am advised by QFES that a number of factors can influence the undertaking of planned activities. These include the requirement for ideal weather conditions if the activity involves burning an area of land. In 2021-22, a wetter than average autumn and winter across Queensland meant that, in many instances, mitigation activities had to be modified to suit the prevailing weather and vegetation conditions.

QFES receives and monitors weather reports and outlooks from the Bureau of Meteorology, which allows it to adjust to these changing conditions for both mitigation work and for more immediate preparations as the bushfire season approaches. QFES also applies its own predictive modelling capability to further enhance this intelligence.

QFES continues to recognise the importance of traditional fire management knowledge of First Nations peoples and is committed to building on existing partnerships and establishing new ones to allow application of this knowledge.

To enhance this existing work, QFES is recruiting First Nations Bushfire Safety Officers for deployment around the state.

These specialist positions will engage with rural fire brigades and other QFES personnel to support increased understanding and application of traditional cultural burning practices, including engagement with custodians of traditional knowledge.

This traditional knowledge is combined with developing bushfire science and the local knowledge within the brigades and local partners to enhance bushfire management in the future.

I am advised that on 1 April 2022, the State Bushfire Committee chaired by QFES approved the State Bushfire Committee Strategic Plan 2022-2025. The Strategic Plan aligns to the Queensland Bushfire Plan and outlines the committee's approach to leading bushfire management in Queensland for the next three-year period.

Within the last 12 months, QFES has undertaken significant work in realigning the State Bushfire Committee in terms of changes in membership and empowering the committee to undertake a more strategic leadership and governance role within the Queensland Bushfire Mitigation realm.

This proactive approach to preparation and response aims to protect life and property, which is of the utmost importance to this Government.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

**Estimates Pre-Hearing
Question on Notice
No. 4**

QUESTION:

With reference to page 25 of the Budget Strategy and Outlook (Budget Paper 2) will the Minister provide the total increase in approved police officer strength created under the Palaszczuk Government?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that between 1 March 2015 and 30 June 2022, the approved police strength increased by 856 positions, from 11,430 to 12,286.

The QPS advise that the approved police officer strength is expected to increase by 370 positions in 2022-23, taking the increase in approved police officer positions under the Palaszczuk Government to 1,226 positions.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 5

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister provide an update on the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to equip the QPS with state-of-the-art operational equipment?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government's 2022-23 record \$3 billion police budget supports the rollout of new state-of-the-art police equipment over five years from 1 July 2020, including 12,200 new Integrated Load Bearing Ballistic Vests, an additional 5,000 new QLITE tablet devices, an additional 4,500 new Body Worn Cameras and an additional 250 new police vehicles.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that as at 31 July 2022:

- 1,240 additional QLITE tablet devices have already been delivered and the roll out is on schedule to be completed in accordance with the election commitment timeline;
- 12,200 new and replacement Body Worn Cameras have been received by the QPS, with the roll out expected to be completed during financial year 2022-23, completing the election commitment two years ahead of the scheduled timeline; and
- the vehicle fleet has increased by 129 vehicles since financial year 2019-20 with a further increase of 50 vehicles expected for financial year 2022-23 with the election commitment remaining on schedule for completion.

In addition, the QPS advise that the roll out of the 12,200 state-of-the-art Integrated Load Bearing Ballistic Vests will commence during financial year 2022-23 and is expected to be completed ahead of the scheduled election commitment timeline.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

No. 6

QUESTION:

With reference to the completion of offender programs on Page 4 of the Queensland Corrective Services Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister provide completion rates over the last three years and advise what measures are in place to improve this rate?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) delivers a suite of rehabilitation programs which address criminogenic behaviour and assist in positively re-integrating offenders within the community. Programs are delivered to prisoners in custody and offenders in the community.

QCS ensures all programs are evidence-based and meet nationally accredited standards known to support desistance from offending.

This includes intervention programs to address offending behaviours such as sexual offending and domestic and family violence programs, as well as programs to address issues that affect offenders which may lead to offending behaviour such as substance abuse.

QCS also offers a range of desistance programs to promote wellbeing that includes the Resilience Program as well as re-entry support, pastoral care, education and vocational training.

Women prisoners and offenders can also access various rehabilitative programs to break the cycle of intergenerational offending, including victim support services, parenting programs and a female specific general offending program.

First Nations prisoners and offenders can also access various programs, including culturally sensitive wellbeing and rehabilitation programs, a culturally sensitive sexual offending program, as well as culturally specific substance misuse programs.

Consistent with recommendations from the Queensland Parole System Review, these programs are developed and delivered by First Nations staff and/or service providers.

In the 2021-22 financial year, rehabilitation activity across all service delivery areas was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts included reduced access to prisoners and offenders in the community due to isolation restrictions, restricted access to QCS facilities for external service providers, social distancing requirements resulting in decreased offenders in programs rooms and reduced staffing due to illness or isolation requirements.

The QCS Service Delivery Statements for each of the last three years contain more information about this matter.

In the 2021-22 financial year, many Community Corrections locations and prisons remained in either stage two or stage three COVID-19 restrictions for more than seven months of the year.

Community Corrections offender program completions and prisoner program completions were heavily impacted by COVID restrictions as social distancing requirements limited the number of individuals able to participate in available infrastructure at any one time.

QCS will continue to identify opportunities for improving program completion rates in the COVID-environment including consideration of alternative delivery modes, such as video technology, computer-based learning and self-directed learning methodologies where these technologies are available, appropriate and effective.

QCS are also identifying means to improve general completion rates through reviews of program referral processes and content and exploring new content and delivery modes that are targeted to culturally diverse prisoners and offenders.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 7

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' (QFES) Service Delivery Statement, on top of a record budget for QFES in 2022-23, you announced further additional funding of \$38 million. Can you advise where this additional funding will be spent and how the Queensland community will benefit?

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that the funding boost of \$38 million will deliver enhanced operational capability and provide a capital uplift for the State Emergency Service (SES), marine rescue services and the Rural Fire Service (RFS)

This enhanced operational capability will assist the State's emergency services volunteers across the length and breadth of Queensland to keep the community safe.

For the SES, this will deliver a boost of \$20 million resulting in a total budget of almost \$44 million - an increase of 138% when compared to the 2014-15 SES budget.

This service delivery uplift will enhance the operational capability for the SES, with 40 additional staff and a \$10 million capital boost for equipment and facilities.

The allocation of this capital uplift is being determined in consultation with key stakeholders, and is subject to a needs-based priority assessment of facilities and equipment, across the state.

This historic investment in additional staff for the SES will deliver enhanced support for volunteers in every region, prioritising areas such as training, doctrine and asset management.

For Queensland's marine rescue volunteers, the government is delivering an \$8 million boost to support operational capability. This increases the Government's commitment to marine rescue services to almost \$44 million over 4 years.

This includes an additional \$5 million to accelerate the delivery of the vessel replacement program, with the remaining \$3 million enabling direct support grants as well as increased funding to address rising costs of service delivery. This funding will also assist with the delivery of the marine rescue reform program.

Rural Fire Service volunteers will also benefit from a boost of \$10 million in 2022-23. This takes the total budget for the RFS in 2022-23 to \$72.42 million, an increase of 95% since the 2014-15 RFS budget.

This uplift will support the delivery of a number of new and upgraded rural fire facilities across the state to ensure RFS fleet and equipment can be safely stored, and to provide facilities for brigade training activities.

Additionally, safety for Queensland's Rural Fire Service volunteers will be boosted by delivery of deluge systems to approximately 200 medium attack appliances.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 8

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Corrective Services Service Delivery Statement which identifies enhancing the department's anti-corruption framework and transitioning the Queensland Parole System Review recommendations to business-as-usual operations as highlights, will the Minister provide an update on the implementation status of (a) the Crime and Corruption Commission's Taskforce Flaxton report and (b) the Queensland Parole System Review.

ANSWER:

Queensland Parole System Review

The Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR), led by Mr Walter Sofronoff QC contained 91 recommendations with 89 recommendations supported or supported in-principle by the Government.

An initial funding allocation of \$265 million was provided to support implementation of the QPSR recommendations with recurrent funding of \$62.7 million per annum ongoing also allocated to ensure system enhancements continued and community safety for all Queenslanders was improved.

I am advised that as at 30 June 2022, all 89 recommendations supported or supported in-principle have been completed or closed.

As intended, the QPSR program has now transitioned to business-as-usual operations and QCS will continue the enhancements to the parole system and further embed the reforms.

In the 2022-23 Queensland State Budget, the Government also provided an additional \$33.6 million over four years and a further \$6.1 million per annum ongoing to further support the trial of end-to-end case management in multiple correctional centres, improve recruitment and training for Community Corrections officers and increase Cultural Liaison Officers across the state. This additional funding, above the original funding allocation will enable QCS to further enhance the work and reforms already undertaken to date.

The completion or closure of the QPSR recommendations consolidates the Government's position and the community's expectations of a parole system that underpins community safety and supports opportunities for a reduction in re-offending.

Taskforce Flaxton

The Crime and Corruption Commission's report *Taskforce Flaxton: An examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland's prisons* made 33 recommendations, all of which were supported or supported-in-principle by the Queensland Government.

The Government committed \$25.2 million over four years and \$5.4 million per annum ongoing to implement the recommendations of Taskforce Flaxton.

As at 30 June 2022, 22 recommendations have been implemented or closed.

QCS is on track to have all recommendations implemented or closed by 31 July 2023.

Significant improvement has been achieved including having embedded systems and structures that provide key leadership and an empowered professional standards capability with enhanced integrity and governance functions to proactively monitor, investigate, detect, and prevent corruption and risk of corruption.

Reform includes amendments to the *Corrective Services Act 2006* to respond to the immediate risks identified by the Crime and Corruption Commission and assist Queensland Corrective Services in executing its duties to address corruption.

Implementing the Taskforce Flaxton priorities and recommendations has enabled the transformation QCS envisioned in its 10-year strategic roadmap, *Corrections 2030*. QCS is now positioned as one of the best trained, best equipped, and highest paid correctional services in Australasia.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 9

QUESTION:

With reference to page 73 of the Capital Statement (Budget Paper 3), will the Minister (a) provide a breakdown of the committed funds for replacement and new Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service appliances; (b) what this means in terms of appliance numbers; and (c) any strategies in place to combat supply chain issues?

ANSWER:

This Government will always deliver for Queensland's frontline emergency service personnel and the record Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) budget continues this track record with a record \$900 million budget, including an over \$33 million investment in the fleet program for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

Notwithstanding the global supply chain issues that are impacting every industry including the domestic vehicle market in Australia, I am advised that in 2021-22 QFES put contracts in place for over 100 appliances, with 50 appliances already delivered.

To guarantee the ongoing delivery of these vehicles and appliances in the numbers and to the high standards that the community would expect, QFES has now implemented a new multi-year approach to fleet procurement, enabling QFES and the market to respond to any ongoing global supply chain challenges.

This new multi-year approach provides for the ordering of over 200 appliances and includes Type 2 appliances, Type 3 appliances, iZone appliances, 12,000 litre Heavy Tankers, Medium Attacks and Heavy Attacks, with many purchase contracts already locked-in.

This new approach provides certainty to the market and delivers better outcomes for QFES personnel, while also delivering better value for money for the Queensland community.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 10

QUESTION:

With reference to page 11 of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' and the Office of the Inspector General Emergency Management Service Delivery Statement, will the Minister please explain the differences between the Southeast Queensland Rainfall and Flooding February-March 2022 Review currently underway by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, and the now finalised Brisbane City Council 2022 Flood Review published in May 2022?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) has legislated functions under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. On 15 March 2022, the Premier and Minister for the Olympics announced IGEM would undertake a Review of the Southeast Queensland Rainfall and Flooding Event that occurred in February-March 2022. This Review is in progress and is being led by Mr Alistair Dawson APM, Inspector-General of Emergency Management. Consistent with the published Terms of Reference, the Review will assess the effectiveness of preparedness activities and response by the Queensland Government, relevant local government agencies, and other agencies engaged in response operations in the Local Government Areas activated for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The final Review Report is to be provided to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services by 31 August 2022.

On 1 March 2022, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane announced a review would be conducted with respect to the 2022 Brisbane flood event as it relates to the obligations and functions of the Brisbane City Council. The Terms of Reference of the Brisbane City Council (Council) review describe the scope of the 'weather event' as occurring between 24 to 28 February 2022. This Review focussed on the extent of compliance by Council regarding recommendations made from previous reviews following the 2011 Brisbane flood event, effectiveness of the Council's disaster management framework and adequacy of the Council's public warnings and advice. The Review was published on 9 May 2022. The Review sought submissions from Councillors, Councils and others at the reviewer's discretion in respect to the matters subject of the review. The published report is titled, '*Brisbane City Council 2022 Flood Review*'.

The IGEM led Review will assess flooding across Southeast Queensland between 22 February to 7 March 2022. The IGEM Review covers all 23 local government areas impacted by the rainfall and flooding event, including Brisbane City. The

Review will address the timing and effectiveness of Emergency Alerts that were issued to warn the general community of the flooding event, effectiveness of other types of communication and the effectiveness of cooperation between all agencies for responses provided at the local, state and national level. In line with the Terms of Reference, the Inspector-General is considering the views of community members via public submissions and community forums. Further, an invitation to provide a submission was also extended to impacted local government, state departments and bodies, federal agencies, non-government and not-for profit organisations and local, state and federal elected officials. IGEM will also consider reviews that have been conducted including the Council 2022 Flood Review, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau Investigation, *Breakaway and grounding involving CSC Friendship, Port of Brisbane, Queensland, on 27 February 2022*, and the 2022 New South Wales Independent Flood Inquiry.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

**Estimates Pre-Hearing
Question on Notice
No. 11**

QUESTION:

How many applications for Weapons Licenses and Permits to Acquire were lodged in the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that 287,246 applications for Weapons Licences and Permits to Acquire were lodged in the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years.

Please Note: The number of New Applications and Permits to Acquire are collated each Monday morning. The numbers provided above were collated on the Monday nearest to the end of each financial year.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 12

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2021, the number of:

- a) FTE sworn Police Officers;
- b) FTE staff member for communications centres, prosecutions and watch houses;
- c) FTE Police Liaison Officers and school-based police support officers;
- d) FTE Protective Services Officers;
- e) FTE Administration Personnel

ANSWER:

I refer the Committee to my response to Question on Notice 2.

Further, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the information requested by the Committee is provided in the table below.

Approved Positions*	31 March 2021	31 March 2022	31 July 2022
Staff Members – Communications Centres, Prosecutions and Watch Houses	507	505	527
Staff Members – Police Liaison Officers and School Support Officers	161	184	191
Staff Members – Protective Services	325	325	325
Staff Members – Remaining approved positions, including among other administration and frontline support	2,444	3,383	3,614

*Staff member approved positions are managed in terms of budget FTE, and are represented against the total budget FTE as at 1 July.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

It is important to note that the objective of the government's election commitment to provide funding for an additional 575 staff member positions over five years from 1 July 2020 is to enable more police officers to perform frontline community safety roles.

This followed advocacy from the President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers who said, “as a result of the Newman cuts, what we did was the admin staff stripped away from us, which meant frontline police had to perform those functions.”

On this point, it is important to note that the QPS Strategic Review found that there was a reduction of 500 staff member FTE in 2012 and 2013 in the QPS which significantly contributed to increased administrative and support service activities being undertaken by police officers.

In addition, the Public Service Commission’s Review of the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) notes that following the establishment of the PSBA in 2013, 392 police officers were transferred from roles in the QPS to positions at the PSBA. Noting that the role of the PSBA was to provide corporate services.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 13

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice Number 1250 asked on 4 December 2020. Will the Minister advise as at 30 June 2022:

- a) How many of the additional 300 staff members for communications centres, prosecutions and watch houses have been appointed;
- b) How many of the additional 125 positions to “support early intervention initiatives” have been appointed; and
- c) How many of the additional 100 frontline support personnel have been appointed?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that since 30 June 2021, the total approved strength of the QPS has increased by 967 positions (as at 30 June 2022), inclusive of the additional 102 staff member positions associated with the government’s election commitment. The QPS has also advised that it expects to further increase the approved staff member strength of the QPS by delivering a further 260 positions associated with the government’s election commitment during financial year 2022-23.

I am advised by the QPS that as at 30 June 2022, staff member positions were created as follows:

- a) 28 positions.
- b) 23 positions.
- c) 51 positions.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

It is important to note that the objective of the government’s election commitment to provide funding for an additional 575 staff member positions over five years from 1 July 2020 is to enable more police officers to perform frontline community safety roles.

This followed advocacy from the President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers who said, “as a result of the Newman cuts, what we did was the admin staff stripped away from us, which meant frontline police had to perform those functions.”

On this point, it is important to note that the QPS Strategic Review found that there was a reduction of 500 staff member FTE in 2012 and 2013 in the QPS which significantly contributed to increased administrative and support service activities being undertaken by police officers.

In addition, the Public Service Commission's Review of the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) notes that following the establishment of the PSBA in 2013, 392 police officers were transferred from roles in the QPS to positions at the PSBA. Noting that the role of the PSBA was to provide corporate services.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 14

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise for the 2021-22 financial years:

- a) How many sworn officers left the QPS, and
- b) How many recruits were sworn into the QPS, and
- c) How many employees transitioned from the Public Safety Business Agency to QPS on 1st July 2021 and how many of these staff were appointed to first response roles in QPS?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that:

- a) I refer the Committee to the answer to Estimates Question on Notice 2.
- b) I refer the Committee to the answer to Estimates Question on Notice 2.
- c) 830 staff member positions transitioned from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) to the QPS on 1 July 2021, with 170 of these positions considered to be frontline or frontline support.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

It is important to note that the objective of the government's election commitment to provide funding for an additional 575 staff member positions over five years from 1 July 2020 is to enable more police officers to perform frontline community safety roles.

This followed advocacy from the President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers who said, "as a result of the Newman cuts, what we did was the admin staff stripped away from us, which meant frontline police had to perform those functions."

On this point, it is important to note that the QPS Strategic Review found that there was a reduction of 500 staff member FTE in 2012 and 2013 in the QPS which significantly contributed to increased administrative and support service activities being undertaken by police officers.

In addition, the Public Service Commission's Review of the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) notes that following the establishment of the PSBA in 2013, 392 police officers were transferred from roles in the QPS to positions at the PSBA. Noting that the role of the PSBA was to provide corporate services.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 15

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice Number 6 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Estimates Hearing 2020, will the Minister advise, for the 2020 and 2021 calendar years:

- a) The total number of offences committed by juveniles in Townsville
- b) The total number of individual juvenile offenders in Townsville, and
- c) The total number of recidivist juvenile offenders reported in Townsville?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that:

a)

Number of Reported Offences by Juvenile Offenders aged 10 to 17, Townsville*

2020	2021
3,790	3,596

*Data relates to the police divisions of Townsville, Kirwan, Mundingburra, Stuart and Deeragun

b)

Number of Unique Offenders aged 10 to 17, Townsville*

2020	2021
612	585

*Data relates to the police divisions of Townsville, Kirwan, Mundingburra, Stuart and Deeragun

c)

Number of Unique Recidivist Offenders aged 10 to 17, Townsville*

2020	2021
391	345

*Data relates to the police divisions of Townsville, Kirwan, Mundingburra, Stuart and Deeragun

It is important to note that the Committee has asked for data on 'juvenile recidivist offenders' who are offenders who have committed two or more offences, this data does not represent Serious Recidivist Youth Offenders (SROs) as recorded by another government department.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 16

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise as at June 30 2022:

- a) Built Bed Capacity of Queensland's prisons, broken down by location
- b) Number of FTE Custodial Corrections Officers broken down by location
- c) Number of FTE vacancies for Custodial Corrections Officers broken down by location
- d) Number of prisoners in custody?

ANSWER:

With regard to the built bed capacity of Queensland's prisons (but excluding community-based facilities such as work camps), broken down by location I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that on 30 June 2022 there were, 784 beds at Aldershot 4650, 1123 beds at Arriga 4880, 1002 beds at Darra 4076, 736 beds at Ironbark 4306, 2414 beds at Wacol 4077, 1063 beds at North Rockhampton 4701, 119 beds at Numinbah Valley 4211, 170 beds at Palen Creek 4287, 312 beds at Spring Creek 4343, 1173 beds at Stuart 4811, and 1513 beds at Woodford.

With regard to the number of FTE Custodial Corrections Officers (but excluding a range of positions involved in the day-to-day supervision of prisoners including Correctional Managers, Correctional Supervisors, Program Delivery Officers, Cultural Liaison Officers, Intelligence Advisors and Analysts, and Psychologists), broken down by location I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that on 30 June 2022 there were 22.5 FTE at Numinbah Valley 4211, 23.0 FTE at Palen Creek 4287, 140.0 FTE at Spring Creek 4343, 209.1 FTE at Aldershot 4650, 283.3 FTE at Ironbark 4306, 324.7 FTE at Arriga 4880, 330.6 FTE at North Rockhampton 4701, 403.9 FTE at Stuart 4811, 454.3 FTE Darra 4076, 492.7 FTE at Woodford 4514 and 774.8 FTE at Wacol 4077.

With regard to vacancies for Custodial Corrections Officers broken down by location, it is important to highlight that temporary vacancies, retirements and transfers occur continuously, and it is not unusual within a large department like QCS, which employs over 6,500 staff, for vacancies to exist at any given point in time. These vacancies reflect the ongoing movement of staff. When staff leave their position, either through a promotion or separating from the department, those positions are vacant for a number of weeks while recruitment processes are underway. I am advised that positions are usually substantively filled within six to eight weeks, reflecting the general practice and timeframes for advertising (two weeks), interview

and selection (two weeks), and the appointment period including criminal history checks for the staff being appointed (two to four weeks). In addition, to these timelines Custodial Corrections Officers undergo the Custodial Officer Entry Program after recruitment. During the filling period, business continuity strategies such as higher duties, are adopted.

Large departments such as QCS are aware that at any given time there will be a predictable number of vacancies. To compensate for ongoing and natural staff attrition departments will adapt their recruitment strategies to ensure that staffing numbers are maintained.

Accordingly, due to the dynamic nature of this practice, it is not possible to give an accurate snapshot across the entire department at this time as to do so would require a manual assessment of each location's recruitment timelines and any current backfilling or acting arrangements.

However, as reported in this year's Corrective Services SDS, I can advise that on 30 June 2022 Queensland Corrective Services' budgeted staffing allocation was 6,599 FTE and at the same time had an estimated actual staffing profile of 6,597 FTE.

QCS has also advised that it uses its best endeavours to fill any vacancies as soon as possible.

I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that on 30 June 2022, there were 9,374 prisoners in custody.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to Page 2 of the Queensland Corrective Services Service Delivery Statement. Of the extra 344 FTE staff budgeted for in the current financial year, how many will be appointed as Custodial Corrections Officers?

ANSWER:

A thorough examination of Page 2 of the Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Service Delivery Statement (SDS) for the current financial year shows no reference to information referred to in the question. In fact, a thorough examination of the entire SDS shows no reference on any page to the information referenced in the question. But I'm pleased to say this year's record QCS budget will fund over 6,600 FTEs, of which 86.4% are frontline or frontline support staff.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the highest levels of safety and security in prisons and service delivery in Community Corrections offices.

As a consequence of the government's tough on crime approach, Queensland is experiencing an increasing number of prisoners entering correctional facilities and those being supervised by Community Corrections.

As a result, frontline staff have been expanded to maintain safety and security. QCS is committed to attracting, recruiting, developing, and retaining a highly skilled, capable and professional workforce to deliver innovative, and effective corrective services to ensure Queensland communities are safe.

QCS seeks to attract talented and culturally diverse, professional candidates by partnering with providers in the higher education sector to provide professional placement opportunities, which allow students from the psychology, criminology and social science fields to gain first-hand insight into working with offenders to reduce recidivism.

QCS is also proud to feature on the Queensland Government #BeHere4Queensland website to champion both its custodial correctional officers and community corrections workforce to further enhance attraction and recruitment processes. QCS will continue to attract relevant staffing to fill allocated numbers responsibly, based on evidence-based workforce forecasting and a flexible, needs based approach.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

**Estimates Pre-Hearing
Question on Notice
No. 18**

QUESTION:

With regards to QFES, will the Minister advise if the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Upgrade Project: a) Has been completed and, if not, when the project is expected to be completed, b) The total cost of the project or, if not completed, the expected cost, and c) Whether the upgraded system will be used solely by QFES and, if not, what agencies will have access to the system.

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Total estimated cost of \$671,440 over the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years.
- (c) Currently, yes.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 19

QUESTION:

With reference to page 130 of Budget Paper No. 4 which reports that the additional funding for Safe Night Precincts concluded in 2020-21, and states that from 1 July 2022 police operations in Safe Night Precincts will transition from temporary funding to permanent business as usual operations, will the Minister identify what funding will be provided for extra police patrols in the Noosa electorate for targeted operations to address alcohol fuelled violence?

ANSWER:

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades, providing the Queensland Police Service (QPS) with more than \$3 billion in 2022-23 to enable it to continue efforts to reduce crime and enhance community safety.

This record police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel including 1,450 sworn officers over five years from 1 July 2020.

I am advised by the QPS that of the 1,450 additional sworn officers to be delivered over five years from 1 July 2020, the Police Commissioner has determined that at least 150 positions will be located in the North Coast Police Region, which includes the Noosa Electorate.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

I am further advised by the QPS that it applies an intelligence-led, police service delivery approach in all Safe Night Precincts (SNPs), which continues to play an important part in improving public safety in Queensland's night-time economy.

Further, the QPS advise that the policing of SNPs has now transitioned from a temporary funding arrangement to a permanent business as usual funding arrangement. The QPS has confirmed that as a result of this transition, the level of policing in SNPs has remained consistent.

While there are no SNPs in the Noosa electorate, I am advised by the QPS that the police personnel deployed to the North Coast Police Region (which includes the Noosa electorate) are committed to addressing any alcohol related violence in the Noosa electorate and maintaining community safety more generally and will continue to deploy the necessary police resources as required.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 20

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Service Delivery Statement page 2, and the budget funding to modernise and maintain the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre, will the Minister confirm whether this funding will enable early alert systems for bridges and crossings to provide consistent and accurate early notification of flooding for emergency response agencies and the public, similar to the Flooded Road Smart Warning System in the Logan Council area?

ANSWER:

Additional funding of \$12.836 million over four years and \$0.6 million ongoing to 2027-28, held centrally, is being provided for the upgrade of ICT and audio-visual hardware of the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) which is utilised by the following capabilities:

- State Disaster Coordination Centre;
- QFES State Operations Centre;
- Queensland Police Service Disaster Management Unit;
- QFES Brisbane Regional Operations Centre;
- Queensland Ambulance Service Brisbane Operations Centre;
- QFES Brisbane Regional Headquarters;
- QFES Specialist Operational Services Unit;
- QFES Fire Communications Centre, Brisbane Region; and
- QFES Strategic Content and Services.

The additional funding is for the costs associated with implementing a modernised technical refresh of the QEOC's audio-visual hardware and video conferencing solutions only. The upgrade will include:

- Hardware and software;
- Vendor services including decommission of the old hardware, installation of the new hardware, configuration, testing and end user training;
- Project resources;
- Ongoing support and maintenance; and
- Project Assurance.

Funding for alert systems for bridges and crossings is the portfolio responsibility of another Minister and accordingly the question should be directed to the appropriate Minister.

Answers to questions taken on notice at hearing – 3 August 2022

3 August 2022

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

Question:

Does the government have a timeframe or expectation about the 5-year implementation plan for domestic and family violence services?

Answer:

- In response to Recommendation 13 of the Women's Safety Justice Taskforce the Queensland Government will replicate the Domestic and Family Violence Services Audit undertaken in 2016 and expand to include data now available and generalist services including police, court, and health services. This will inform the development of a whole of government domestic and family violence service system strategic investment plan encompassing services and supports delivered and funded by Queensland Government agencies. The strategic investment plan will prioritise establishing and adequately funding, a state-wide network of intervention programs for perpetrators (Recommendations 14 and 25).
- The Strategic Investment Plan is expected to be developed by March 2023.
- Following the fulfilment of Recommendation 13, the Queensland Government will undertake a review of the strategic investment plan as soon as practicable 5 years after the launch of the strategic investment plan (Recommendation 15).

3 August 2022

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

Question: Are you able to give us statistics around what proportion of inquests performed over, say, the last five years or since 2015, have involved those two broad categories: inquests where the state has been involved, or inquests that have related to the death of a First Nations person?

Answer:

- Due to limitations associated with the current case management system for the Coroners Court of Queensland (the court), the court is unable to identify and report on all finalised inquests involving the state or the death of First Nations persons.
- In the five years across 2017-18 to 2021-22 the court finalised 149 inquests into 191 deaths.
- Two categories of reportable deaths (deaths in custody and deaths in the course of police operations) will always involve the state and a manual review has been undertaken to extract data related to these deaths.

Deaths in Custody

- The *Coroners Act 2003* (Qld) recognises and responds to the need for public scrutiny and accountability and mandates an inquest be held into all deaths in custody. These deaths must be reported to and investigated by the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner.
- In relation to deaths in custody finalised in the last five financial years:
 - 59 inquests were finalised (39.6% of inquests overall)
- In the relevant period, two separate deaths in custody inquests each investigated the deaths of two First Nations people.

Deaths in the course of police operations

- Deaths in the course of police operations must be reported to and investigated by the State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner to ensure there is an appropriate level of scrutiny of the police involvement leading up to the death. An inquest must be held into these deaths only if the coroner decides the circumstances require it.
- In relation to deaths in the course of police operations in the last five financial years:
 - 4 inquests were finalised (2.7% of inquests overall)

3 August 2022

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

Question:

When will the Interagency Guidelines for sexual assault be released?

Answer:

- The *Queensland Government Interagency Guidelines for responding to children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual assault or childhood sexual abuse* have been reviewed and updated.
- They are currently being finalised by relevant agencies and, following sector consultation, are anticipated for release in October this year.

Documents tabled at hearing – 3 August 2022

Documents tabled at the hearing – 3 August 2022	
1.	Queensland Police Meritorious Service Medal – Deputy Commissioner Douglas Alan Smith APM dated 8 July 2022, tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
2.	Budget Strategy and Outlook 2022-23 – pages 117 and 119, Tabled by Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin

Name: Hon Ryan MP
With Leave: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Inquiry: Estimates 2022-23
Date: 3/8/22
Signature: [Signature]



Queensland Police

Meritorious Service Medal

Deputy Commissioner Douglas Alan Smith APM

Deputy Commissioner Doug Smith APM commenced his policing career in 1973 as a cadet with the Victoria Police, joining the Queensland Police Service (QPS) on 29 April 1976. He has served the people of Queensland with great professionalism, exceptional commitment, and strategic thinking throughout his career in various operational, specialist and corporate roles including Brisbane, Roma (including the Roma Stock Squad), Brisbane Water Police, Prosecutions and the Legal Section. Whilst at the Legal Section, Deputy Commissioner Smith was instrumental in drafting and implementing several major pieces of legislation including the Drugs Misuse Act, Summary Offences Act and major amendments to the Queensland Criminal Code. He also developed comprehensive legal training material for police prosecutors and investigators.

Deputy Commissioner Smith successfully assisted in the planning and operational delivery of the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982 and Expo '88. He assisted with the Fitzgerald Inquiry taking carriage of the Fitzgerald Implementation Unit to instigate recommendations, including the implementation of the Police Service Administration Act, major reforms to Queensland's ethics and accountability framework and leading the drafting and introduction of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

After being promoted to Chief Superintendent in 1995 Deputy Commissioner Smith was tasked with the establishment of the Inspectorate and Internal Audit Branch.

In 1997, Deputy Commissioner Smith took up the position as Assistant Commissioner in the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. In 2019 he served as the acting Chief Operations Officer, Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) providing advice to the QPS.

In February 2020, he accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Corporate Services QPS leading the disestablishment of the PSBA, reintegrating this framework back to the QPS. Deputy Commissioner Smith secured Government approval for capability growth, Polar renewal, asset purchases including load bearing vests and vehicles and designed and implemented the QPS mandatory COVID vaccination.

Deputy Commissioner Douglas Alan Smith has fulfilled his Oath of Service and provided a substantial contribution to the Queensland community. Accordingly, he is awarded a Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the community of Queensland.


KATARINA CARROLL APM
COMMISSIONER

8 July 2022



- responding to ongoing pressures arising from an increase in demand in the child protection system
- delivering the Queensland Government's response to the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce *Hear her voice – Report one – Addressing coercive control and domestic family violence*.

Growth in General Government Sector expenses is expected to moderate over the remaining forward estimates as the government remains committed to its Fiscal Principle 2 and return to operating surplus by 2024–25.

5.3 Expenses by operating statement category

As outlined in Chart 5.1, employee and superannuation expenses account for 45.7 per cent of total General Government Sector expenses. Other operating expenses (26.5 per cent) follows, reflecting non-labour costs of providing goods and services to government and non-government recipients including transport service contract payments and repairs and maintenance.

Chart 5.1 Expenses by operating statement category, 2022–23

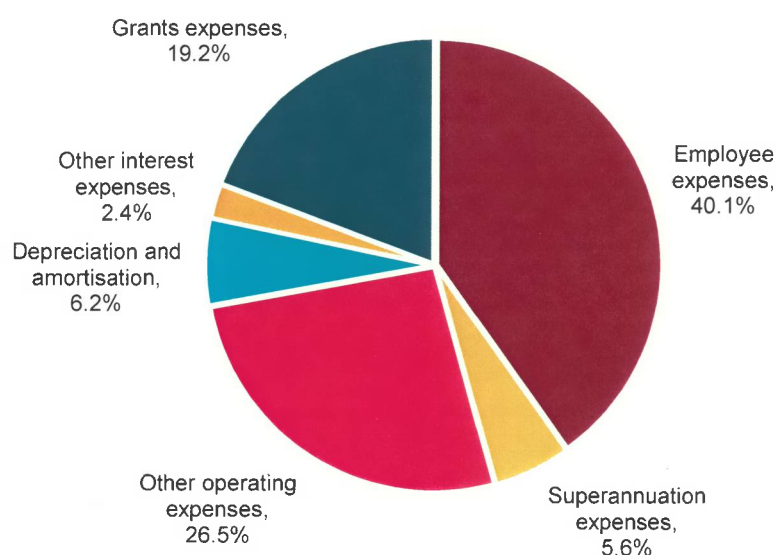


Chart 5.2 compares 2022–23 budget and 2021–22 estimated actual expenses by operating statement category.

Name: Mr Dale Last MP

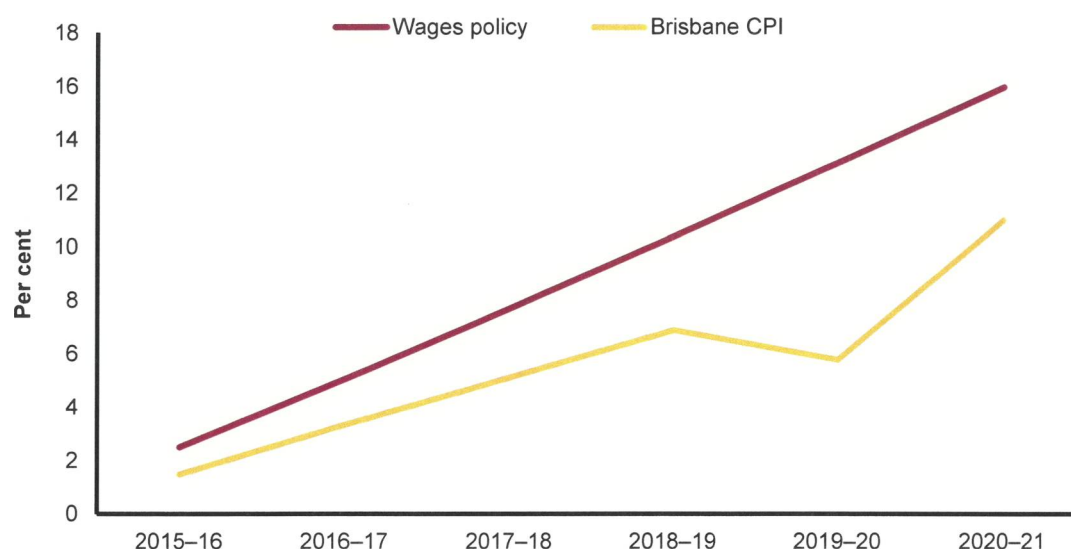
With Leave: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Inquiry: LASC Estimates 2022–23

Date: 3/8/22

Signature: [Signature]

Chart 5.3 Comparison of cumulative growth – wages policy and Brisbane CPI



Sources: ABS Consumer Price Index and Queensland Treasury

Full-time equivalents

The government is delivering on its commitment to revitalise frontline service delivery. This has contributed to full time equivalents (FTE) increasing 40,692.28 FTE (or 20.44 per cent) from 2014–15 to 2021–22.

Between March 2015 and March 2022:

- teachers increased by 5,788 (or 13.75 per cent)
- teacher aides increased by 1,377 (or 14.78 per cent)
- nurses increased by 10,638 (or 38.10 per cent)
- health practitioners increased by 5,077 (or 51.38 per cent)
- doctors increased by 3,106 (or 39.16 per cent)
- ambulance officers increased by 1,103 (or 29.71 per cent)
- police officers increased by 733 (or 6.52 per cent)
- firefighters increased by 204 (or 8.49 per cent).

As at March 2022, 91.59 per cent of public servants are engaged in frontline and frontline support roles, with 20,339 FTE in corporate service roles.

The government is also committed to ensuring that public service staff are located where there is demand. Around 47 per cent of FTE are located outside Greater Brisbane, of which around 96 per cent are engaged in frontline and frontline support roles. Regional Action Plans show increases in key service delivery occupations across the regions.

Clarifying Statements



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic and Family Violence

5 August 2022

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Safety
Committee
lasc@parliament.qld.gov.au

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GPO Box 149 Brisbane Q 4001
Telephone +61 7 3719 7400
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Dear Mr Russo

Clarification by the Attorney-General – Indemnities granted to Ms Trad in relation to CCC investigation and collateral litigation in relation to the appointment of a senior public servant

I write to clarify the record in relation to the Committee Hearing on Wednesday 3 August, 2022.

Ms Trad's applications were approved following receipt of advice from the Crown Solicitor and Acting Crown Solicitor. As stated in the hearing, the advice was to approve the legal assistance.

As a part of these applications approval was sought by Ms Trad to seek to initiate collateral litigation arising from the CCC investigation under Clause 12 of the Guideline. Contrary to the suggestion made by the Member for Clayfield, the collateral litigation is not being used as a sword by Ms Trad but rather as a shield, in order to protect her interests.

In relation to the granting of the indemnity under Clause 17 of the Guideline I seek to clarify that it was the previous Attorney-General and subsequently the Acting Premier who approved that indemnity application.

As stated during estimates proceedings, I provided approval in March 2021 for the collateral litigation in accordance with Clause 12 of the Guideline.

My office contacted the Crown Solicitor subsequent to the Committee hearing to ensure that the representations that I had made during the hearing were accurate. Upon clarification being provided from the Crown Solicitor I have sought to provide this information to the committee.

If you have any questions in relation to the above, I invite you to contact my Acting Chief of Staff, Olivia Amsden, on (07) 3719 7400 or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Shannon Fentiman MP

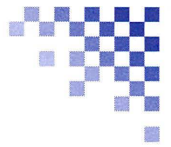
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Member for Waterford



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
200 ROMA STREET BRISBANE QLD 4000 AUSTRALIA
GPO BOX 1440 BRISBANE QLD 4001 AUSTRALIA

Email: commissioner@police.qld.gov.au



Our Ref:

Your Ref:

8 August 2022

Peter Russo MP
Chair - Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Chair

Consistent with our usual departmental practice, following my appearance before the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 3 August 2022, I asked my staff to review the information provided by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to ensure it fully and accurately addressed the questions posed. As a result of that review, I wish to bring the following to the Committee's attention.

In response to a question by Ms Bush inviting my comments on enhancements being made to domestic and family violence training for police officers, I referred to a range of training and awareness initiatives.

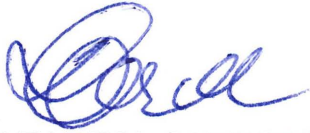
As part of my answer, I advised as at 7 July 2022, 16,527 QPS members had completed an online training package jointly developed by the QPS in partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety designed to enhance recognition of, response to, and investigation of coercive control within a domestic and family violence context coercive control (Hansard, page 52).

I have since been advised the parameters used to extract this figure from our information systems were broader than demanded by the context of my comment. My response indicated the number of enrolments for this online course, including those that went on to successfully complete the course.

A more meaningful response would have identified 13,816 QPS members as having completed the coercive control component of our training continuum as at 7 July 2022.

I request the above clarifications are considered during the Committee's deliberations to ensure the Committee is not inadvertently misled. I confirm the QPS has no objection to the publication of this letter as part of their report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Carroll', with a stylized, cursive script.

KATARINA CARROLL APM
COMMISSIONER