



2024-25 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee

August 2024

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Members granted leave to attend hearing on 26 July 2024

Correspondence received following the hearing

Documents tabled at hearing – 26 July 2024

**Questions on notice and responses – *Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic and Family Violence***



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 01:

With reference to the delivery of recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland— Will the Attorney advise (a) the total number of cases now identified to be part of the historical case review, (b) the number of cases which have been subject to the legal led review to date, and of those how many have been identified for re-testing, (c) the number of samples (as well as the case numbers they relate to) re-tested to date and (d) the number of samples re-tested which have found a profile where there was no profile previously found?

Answer:

(a) FSQ has identified 40,701 cases to be part of the historical case review.

This is the number of serious crime cases received by FSQ Forensic Biology (or its predecessor Queensland Health Forensic Science Queensland Forensic DNA Analysis) from 1 September 2007 to 30 April 2023.

While almost every case is expected to be reviewed by either the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) or the Queensland Police Service (QPS), only some of these cases will require scientific review of the DNA evidence.

The number of impacted cases has been adjusted from what was previously provided in the response to Question on Notice 255, based on additional screening and exclusion of cases not impacted by the COI. The date range has been extended to ensure all impacted cases are considered.

All cases will be reviewed in line with the Historical Case Review Principles, which outline the basis on which cases will be progressed for scientific review and which were agreed between stakeholders and endorsed by FSQ's Forensic Justice Subcommittee and its Interim Advisory Board, in June 2024.

(b) The 'legal-led' review process is part of a broader historical case review of all 40,701 identified cases. Although these reviews are 'historical' because they review previous DNA evidence, they can apply to cases that are active before the courts, cases that were active but have been finalised or discontinued, and cases that never progressed to court.



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Under the historical case review process, it is anticipated each of the cases will first undergo an **initial review**. There are two types of initial review – a **legal-led review** undertaken by the ODPP for cases that progressed to court, and a **probative-led review** undertaken by the QPS for cases that did not progress past the investigative stage.

Where an initial review indicates the case may benefit from further DNA testing and/or interpretation, it will be progressed to FSQ.

FSQ will then conduct a **scientific review** to identify which samples should be retested. At the conclusion of a scientific review, a reporting scientist will issue a summary of findings (interim report) in which any new or updated DNA results will be provided.

To date, historical case reviews carried out by the ODPP, QPS and FSQ have focused on cases currently before the courts rather than cases that are currently not active.

There are currently **700** active cases that fall within the date range and have undergone or are currently undergoing a review.

Note: the responses to (c) and (d) relate to cases at various stages of the historical case review process and so encompass both cases that are ongoing and cases that are completed or finalised.

- (c) Since the delivery of the *Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland* final report, and as of 12 July 2024 – a total of 8,811 samples from 456 cases (of the 700 cases in the response to b) have been retested or reinterpreted.

The response to Question on Notice 255 stated 440 cases had been retested or reinterpreted. This figure included some cases in which FSQ had issued updated formal statements of DNA evidence, rather than providing new substantive DNA results. The figure provided in this response (456) removes those cases from the count and should therefore more accurately reflect the number of cases in which samples have been retested and/or reinterpreted.

- (d) Since the delivery of the *Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland* final report, and as of 12 July 2024 – a total of 1,384 samples from 251 cases (of the 456 cases stated in response to c) have yielded an interpretable DNA profile following retesting, reanalysis or reinterpretation where no interpretable profile was previously available. It should be noted that the newly generated DNA profiles could have strengthened, weakened or had no impact on the DNA evidence in a case.

Note: The sample figures in part (c) and (d) have been calculated manually and should be considered approximate. FSQ is developing a system to automatically capture some of this information as part of historical case reviews.



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Question No. 02:

Can the Attorney provide the number of cases, and the offences related to each, which have had different court outcomes based on new DNA profiles following the re-testing of samples?

Answer:

I am advised that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is not aware of any matters that, on the basis of new DNA profiles obtained during further examination necessitated by a recommendation of either the Sofronoff or Bennett Commissions of Inquiry, have been subject to:

- a successful appeal against conviction; or
- an order for a retrial under chapter 68 of the Criminal Code.

I am further advised that the ODPP is not aware of any prosecutions being finalised in circumstances where:

- the prosecuted individual was not previously the subject of a prosecution in relation to a specific matter;
- the prosecuted individual was prosecuted on the basis of new DNA profiles obtained during re-testing necessitated by a recommendation of either the Sofronoff or Bennett Commissions of Inquiry; and
- another individual was previously prosecuted in relation to that specific matter.



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Question No. 03:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 1571 asked on 29 November 2023, has the amount of costs to be recovered from the CCC in response to the Trad matter been determined and if so, can the Attorney-General provide an update of the total costs to date the State has incurred in legal costs on the Trad matter?

Answer:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Ms Trad's grant of indemnity and legal assistance was provided in accordance with the *Guideline for the Grant of Indemnities and Legal Assistance to Ministers and Assistant Ministers* and with the benefit of advice from the Crown Solicitor. The Guideline is set out in Appendix 5 to the *Queensland Ministerial Handbook* and is publicly available online. The Guideline applies to ministers and former ministers from all sides of politics.

The proceedings in the Supreme Court involving Ms Trad have been concluded by consent in Ms Trad's favour. The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) has been ordered to pay Ms Trad's costs of the proceedings on the standard basis. Ms Trad is required to reimburse the State for costs recovered from the CCC.

The amount of costs to be paid by the CCC is subject to negotiations between the CCC and Ms Trad. I have made it clear to Crown Law that it is my preference that this matter be resolved expeditiously. I am unable to provide an accurate account of the costs in this matter at present. As previously advised, I will make this information public when available.



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Question No. 04:

Can the Attorney provide an update of how many recommendations from the QFCC's "Keeping Queensland's Children More Than Safe: Review of the Blue Card System" report have now been completed, and include a list of all those completed to date including the completion date?

Answer:

The QFCC made 81 recommendations to build upon the strong foundation of Queensland's blue card system. Of the 72 recommendations allocated to my department:

- 52 have been completed.
- a further 12 recommendations are on track to be closed this year;
- 7 are in progress, dependent on cross-government work, including reform being driven at a national level, and
- only 1 recommendation remains to be commenced (this is the final recommendation and is dependent on the implementation of all recommendations).

In the staged implementation of the QFCC recommendations, initial priority has been given to recommendations which provided the most significant improvements in safeguards for Queensland's children, and those which provided the biggest opportunity to improve stakeholder experiences and achieve operational efficiencies.

Recommendations 22, 26, 50, 65 and 78 were completed in 2018.

Recommendations 19, 20, 28, 63, 69 and 71 were completed in 2020.

Recommendations 53, 62, 64, 72, 79 and 80 were completed in 2021.

Recommendation 39 was completed in 2022.

Recommendations 3, 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 57, 59 and 74 were completed in 2023.

Recommendations 16 and 18 were completed on 5 February 2024.

Recommendations 27, 35, 42, 48, 55, 60 and 61 were completed on 25 June 2024.



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Recommendations 1, 21, 23, 31, 38, 41, 44, 49, 51, 54, 66, 67, 70, 73 and 76 were completed on 17 July 2024.

The completed recommendations include *No Card, No Start* and the expansion of the offences which disqualify a person from working with children, as well as IT system improvements to automate and modernise the blue card application process and introduce online capability.

The *No Card, No Start* laws enabled job seekers to apply for a blue card at any time, allowing more Queenslanders to become job ready. From 31 August 2020, all people working with children undergo blue card screening before starting child-related work.

To complement the new laws, the previous paper-based system was modernised to enable people to apply for or renew their blue card online, which has reduced processing times for applicants which return no police or other relevant information. In 2023-24, Blue Card Services finalised 298,464 blue card applications, with those which returned no police or other relevant information processed on average within two business days.

Legislative amendments passed in 2022 also enabled Queensland's participation in the National Reference System and facilitated access to domestic violence information for the purposes of blue card assessments to further strengthen the safeguards for Queensland children. Blue Card Services' integration into the National Reference System enables Queensland to be a member of a centralised database which records working with children decisions across all jurisdictions.

The staged implementation of the QFCC's recommendations has continued to ensure that Queensland's blue card system remains contemporary and robust.

My department has worked closely with key government agencies and non-government agencies who have a specific interest in or regularly engage with the blue card system, to test legislative, policy and operational proposals, and to ensure the interests and unique perspectives of blue card stakeholders from across remote, rural, regional, and urban Queensland are represented.

Blue Card Services continues to engage and consult the QFCC on the progress and implementation of its 2017 recommendations.



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Question No. 05:

Could the Attorney provide the total amount expended to consultants for work related to recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, and a breakdown of the funds expended to consultants by recommendation of the two Hear Her Voice reports?

Answer:

Consultants are engaged when work cannot be completed through use of internal resources, where technical expertise is not available, or an independent process or evaluation is required.

All engagements are in accordance with the *Queensland Procurement Policy* and subject to internal procedures, which require authorisation by specific senior executives.

The Queensland Government has engaged two consultants to support the implementation of the government response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports, due to the size and complexity of the reform program, and to ensure appropriate consultation can take place.

The amount expended to consultants for work related to recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce is as follows:

- \$346,253 was paid to Ernst and Young to assist with the development of a primary prevention plan to address violence against women in Queensland, and
- \$305,050 was paid to specialised consultants i2i Development Global for engagement and co-design of a whole-of-Government and community First Nations Justice Strategy monitoring and evaluation framework.



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Question No. 06:

Can the Attorney detail the funds expended to date on a) education and b) training of the new coercive control offence since the passage of the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, including the amount expended to external organisations, and the names of organisations receiving funds, for each?

Answer:

a) As of 30 June 2024, \$592,842 (GST exclusive) has been expended by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on coercive control community education and awareness raising activities since the passage of the *Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*.

The majority of this expenditure relates to research and production of an upcoming coercive control community education and awareness campaign. The campaign will include \$3 M in media placements across television, cinema, video and audio streaming services, radio, digital media, search, social media and out-of-home. It is expected to commence in August 2024.

b) As of 30 June 2024, \$17,100 (GST exclusive) has been expended by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General towards the development of online training modules on coercive control and legislative change. Nous Group is developing the modules.

These modules are aligned to the Domestic and Family Violence Training and Change Management Framework and are expected to be available in September 2024.

The modules are one component from the Queensland Government's \$34.7 M funding package to strengthen and inform domestic and family violence (DFV) training across the State. The funding will provide foundational DFV training modules, a state-wide Training Support and Coordination Service and evaluation – which will assist organisations to provide consistent training responses.



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Question No. 07:

Can the Attorney detail the number of Queensland frontline DV workers appointed to date under the Federal Funding Agreement and include the number of positions allocated to each service?

Answer:

The Federal Government announced 500 frontline service and community workers across the country to support people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence through a \$169.4 million funding package over four years.

Under the National Partnership Agreement Schedule finalised in January 2024, Queensland has been allocated \$37.155 M over 4 years to deliver 111.6 new frontline workers to support women and children experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence, funded under the *Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses National Partnership Agreement 2021-27*.

The Government has implemented a coordinated and staged approach to delivering the commitment. As part of this approach, the Government is providing organisations with recruitment support, given the workforce challenges faced by the sector.

As of 16 July 2024, funding has been allocated for 110 workers with contracts for 64 workers executed. Of these workers, 41 workers have been employed, 30 workers have commenced service delivery with a further 11 commencing shortly. Recruitment and appointment of the remaining workers for phase one are ongoing. As part of the second phase of the staged rollout of workers, funding has been allocated to 29 organisations to engage 46 workers. Contracts are being progressed.

The most recent Australian Government dashboard published on 1 July 2024 showed Queensland is leading the nation with 30 workers having commenced service delivery.

A separate procurement process will be undertaken with LGBTQIA+ community health organisations in 2024-25 to allocate funding for the three LGBTQIA+ positions, in line with Australian Government funding requirements.

Queensland, like other jurisdictions, is experiencing challenges attracting, recruiting and retaining appropriately qualified specialist frontline domestic, family and sexual violence workers.

To support this initiative, the Government is offering service providers incentive packages for workers who relocate from across the state, nationally and internationally.



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As part of the first phase of the staged rollout of workers, funding has been allocated to 24 organisations to engage 64 workers. Organisations may offer services in a number of locations across the state.

Organisation name	Number of positions allocated
Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc	4
Domestic Violence Action Centre Inc	4
Domestic Violence Resource Service (Mackay and Region) Inc	2
DVConnect Ltd	2
Family Planning Queensland	4
Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc	2
Laurel Place Inc	4
Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland Limited	2
Migrant Women's Emergency Support Service Inc	2
Murrigunyah Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Women	2
North Queensland Combined Women's Services Incorporated	2
Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) Family and Community Services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	2
Phoenix House Association Inc	2
Red Rose Foundation Ltd	2
Save the Children Australia	4
Sisters Inside Inc	4
Tableland Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	2
The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane	2
The Women's Community Aid Association (Qld) Ltd	4
Wide Bay Sexual Assault Service Inc	2
Women's Health Awareness Group of Gladstone Inc	2
Women's Health Information and Referral Service Queensland Inc	2
WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association Inc	2
Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre Inc	4
Total	64



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Question No. 08:

Can the Attorney outline the number of High Risk Perpetrators as of 30th June 2024 managed and overseen by the funded DV High Risk Teams?

Answer:

High Risk Teams are a core component of Queensland's integrated service response approach. 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.

High Risk Teams core members do not case manage persons using violence. The role of a High Risk Team is to prevent threats to the life, health, and safety of domestic and family violence victim-survivors through a focus on service coordination and information sharing. They do this by undertaking joint risk assessments that inform safety planning across agencies.

The High Risk Teams core members share information, complete a multiagency risk assessment and then develop a safety action plan that will include key actions for core member agencies. Each core member takes those actions back to their agency to implement. These could be actions related to the victim-survivor or the person using violence, or both. Actions can also include referrals to other services or supports.

There are 10 High Risk Teams currently operating in Brisbane, Caboolture, Cairns, Ipswich, Logan/Beenleigh, Mackay, Mount Isa/Gulf, Redlands, South Burnett and Townsville.

Through its response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations, the Queensland Government committed to expanding the 8 High Risk Teams to 3 additional sites, including Townsville established in 2023, Redlands established in 2024 and Rockhampton to be established in 2025. Once the Rockhampton High Risk Team is established, there will be 11 High Risk Teams across Queensland in total.



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Question No. 09:

Referencing the increased funding on page 2 of the SDS for victims of crime what additional allocation is provided to develop a pilot victim advocate service to support victims of crime to navigate through the criminal justice system, as recommended by the Youth Justice Inquiry?

Answer:

Recommendation 13 of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee was that the Queensland Government report to the Parliament on its progress implementing the 18 recommendations of the former *Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report No. 48, 57th Parliament – Inquiry into support provided to victims of crime* tabled on 19 May 2023; and commit to prioritising the implementation of recommendation 1 of that report, which is the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Recommendation 1 was that the Government develop a pilot victim advocate service to support victims of crime to navigate through the criminal justice system.

The Government accepted this recommendation in principle, noting that it has committed to implementing the recommendations of the *Inquiry into support provided to victims of crime*. The Government noted some work already underway as part of its response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reports, including around victim advocacy services.

Under the response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, the Government allocated \$3.368 M for a Victim Advocacy Pilot. The victim advocates will provide individualised, culturally safe, trauma-informed support to victims of sexual violence to help them navigate through the service and criminal justice systems and beyond. Their role will involve providing impartial information, rights, and needs-based support, liaison, and consistency to empower those experiencing sexual violence.

In 2023-24 a procurement process to engage an external consultant to co-design, develop, deliver and evaluate a state-wide victim-centric trauma-informed advocate model was completed.

Deakin University was contracted in April 2024 to consult, research and co-design the service model based on their extensive experience in this field, with a placed-based victim advocacy service to be trialled over 2 years between 2025 and 2027 to inform a state-wide model.



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Deakin University commenced this work in late April, with the first consultation with people with lived experience occurring on 18 July 2024.



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Question No. 10:

Page 61 of Budget Paper No. 3 allocates funding to work on Brisbane courthouses, however what is being provided to ensure that the Sunshine Coast receives a dedicated DFV Court for a fast growing region?

Answer:

In 2022-23, capital funding of \$49.1 M over 4 years (2022-26) was allocated to address recommendations from the *Women's Safety Justice Taskforce (WSJT) Report 1* and deliver Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) courthouse improvements in stages across eight sites comprising the Brisbane Magistrates Court, Cairns, Caboolture, Ipswich, Mackay, Maroochydore, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba Courthouses.

Upgrades include new DFV courtrooms, new secure DFV safe rooms with direct access to courtrooms and support services, registry refurbishments to accommodate new DFV resources, vulnerable witness recording rooms and other associated spaces.

Maroochydore Courthouse designs are well developed and include a new dedicated DFV safe room with direct access to an existing courtroom, vulnerable witness recording room and support services, registry refurbishment to increase occupancy including a new counter and public waiting area, and a security entry upgrade. This project remains on track for the construction tender to be released in early 2025 with site works commencing in mid-2025 and reaching completion by mid-2026.



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Question No. 11:

In reference to page 9 of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General Service Delivery Statement (SDS), can the Attorney-General detail how many of the recommendations from the 2017 Queensland Family and Child Commission's report Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system have been completed?

Answer:

This has been answered in Question No 04.



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Question No. 12:

In reference to page 9 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General provide an update on the implementation of casino reforms and outline how the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is ensuring casinos operate with the honesty and integrity expected by Queenslanders?

Answer:

I am pleased to advise that the Government has acted decisively in bringing about legislative reform to hold casino operators to account and ensure they operate lawfully and in a way that enhances integrity and minimises the potential for harm.

The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced in May 2022 to proactively address failings found by the interstate Bergin, Finkelstein and Owen Inquiries. The Government appointed the Honourable Robert Gotterson AO KC to conduct an independent inquiry into The Star's Queensland operations in June 2022.

The Gotterson Report made 12 recommendations to strengthen Queensland casino regulation, including amendment of the Casino Control Act to provide for a Special Manager to oversee casino operations. The Special Manager, Mr Nicholas Weeks, was appointed in December 2022 to monitor compliance and oversee The Star's activities against a plan approved by Government to remediate The Star's group-wide management and operations towards a return to suitability.

The remaining Gotterson recommendations and further casino reforms have been given effect through further amendments to the *Casino Control Act 1982* which:

- enhance inquiry powers and include a requirement for the powers to be used to review casino entities every 5 years
- increase the maximum penalties for more than 60 offences, and
- remove certain outdated terms, such as "problem gambler" and "responsible gambling".

The legislative changes introduced by the Government also provide for a number of regulation-making powers to facilitate the implementation of reforms relating to:

- mandatory carded play, including the collection and use of player card information
- restrictions on the use of cash
- mandatory pre-commitment and breaks in play, and
- a mandatory code of conduct for casino operators.



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The Government has already outlined to casino stakeholders its proposals for the required regulations and will consider their feedback before consulting more widely with community stakeholders to enable the commencement of these reforms as early as practicable.

Queensland will leverage off The Star's implementation of similar reforms in its New South Wales casino during August 2024, with mandatory carded play proposed to be implemented in The Star's Queensland casinos by 1 October 2024, and by no later than 1 June 2025 at casinos not operated by The Star.

The Government is taking strong proactive action to improve standards in casinos. The regulator has already moved to strengthen and enhance safer gambling and anti-money laundering controls through a review and uplift of The Star's internal control framework. Additional measures include:

- automated casino-specific transaction monitoring rules that, if triggered, require further investigation and scrutiny, and
- new customer probity processes and controls to ensure the risks associated with providing gambling and financial services to criminals and other high-risk individuals are identified and managed effectively.

The Government has also doubled the maximum penalty for contravening an approved control system from 200 to 400 penalty units and increased disciplinary action, including suspension or cancellation of the casino licence and pecuniary penalties of up to \$100 million.

New controls introduced by the Government require customers to be proactively monitored to ensure those at-risk of experiencing gambling harm receive support through the implementation of a time play management program, which sets limits on how long customers are able to gamble in line with recommendations from the Gotterson Report.

The regulator's preliminary compliance program for The Star Brisbane will confirm and build upon the adequacy of the casino's risk and assurance processes, prioritising assessment of controls that promote gambling harm minimisation and customer wellbeing, as well as the integrity of gambling products.

The Star Brisbane casino, within the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development, will not be permitted to open unless the Government, on the advice of the regulator, is confident that it will be operated in accordance with the highest regulatory and community standards, under the remediation plan and Special Manager oversight.

The regulator is also ensuring reform requirements are being implemented in Queensland's smaller casinos, The Reef casino (Cairns) and The Ville casino (Townsville), through a heightened compliance program which is assessing risk and assurance frameworks to identify any areas of weakness and the required steps to implement the necessary improvements to management and operations.

Changes brought about by the Government have also ensured that the regulator will be significantly better resourced, with costs met by casino licensees.



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The supervision levy, introduced through amendments which commenced on 21 June 2024, will support ongoing reform and oversight of casinos, and harm minimisation programs more generally. The levy has been set at \$22.8 M for 2024-25 and will fund existing and additional resources for casino regulatory oversight and the gambling help service system.

The Deputy Director-General Harm Prevention and Regulation has met with Queensland casinos to progress improvements ahead of the incoming legislative amendments and to re-enforce Government and community expectations that casinos are operated with the highest standards of honesty and integrity to protect the interests and wellbeing of Queenslanders.



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Question No. 13:

In reference to page 61 of Budget Paper 3, can the Attorney-General advise how the Queensland Government is supporting courts and tribunals to integrate digital technologies?

Answer:

The Queensland Government has provided significant investment in multiple areas for the digital transformation of courts and tribunals to ensure access to a fair, safe and equitable justice system.

The Courts and Tribunals Digitisation Program (CTDP)

In the 2022-23 Budget, the Queensland Government provided \$45.6 M to fund the CTDP, under Phase 2 of the ICT Strategy Implementation Program. The program also received \$21.8 M from the Integrated Criminal Justice and Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce programs to deliver digital solutions. The CTDP is delivering \$4.7 M in courtroom technology asset replacements in courts and tribunals locations to sustain existing investment in technology, providing contemporary technology capabilities to support digitisation of courts and tribunals.

CTDP is delivering a variety of digital solutions for users to access courts and tribunals that will enable faster access to information and less time spent preparing for matters.

A key priority for courts and tribunals is enabling the legal profession and the broader Queensland community to access courts and tribunals online. As a result, a portal which enables the legal profession to manage a registry committal application online is live in Brisbane, Cairns and Rockhampton and will be rolled out across the State progressively from early 2025 to 2026. The portal will incrementally expand its services over time, and the next online service to be introduced will be for wills and estates by the end of this year. Civil matters in the Supreme Court (Brisbane) and all areas within QCAT will also be accessible online by mid-2025.

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Live List Application

The DFV Live List implemented by CTDP, helps coordinate and triage the hearing of DFV matters ensuring court processes are streamlined and movement of victims around the courthouse and within court is as expedient and safe as possible. This application has been delivered in response to Recommendation 49 of the *Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report 1*, which called for a state-wide plan to improve safety for DFV victims when attending court.



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Following its successful implementation in the Beenleigh Specialist DFV Magistrates Court last year, the application will be progressively rolled out by 30 June 2025 to 13 locations across the State, including the remaining 6 DFV Specialist Magistrates Courts, which includes Southport, Beenleigh, Mount Isa, Townsville (including Palm Island as a circuit of Townsville specialist DV court), Brisbane and Cairns.

QCase

The QCase Civil Case Management System was the final digital application delivered out of the 2019 ICT Strategy Plan, through the ICT Strategy Implementation Program Phase 1, in June 2024. As a result, Queenslanders can now manage civil matters in the Magistrates Courts and minor civil disputes in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) via the QCase online portal, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, from their internet-connected device. This service enables electronic access to files and the ability for parties and their legal representatives to download sealed copies of documents and review listing information.

QCase was delivered in 4 stages:

- Stage 1, QCAT Brisbane, went live on 6 March 2023
- Stage 2, Brisbane Magistrates Court, went live on 8 April 2024, and
- Stages 3 and 4, across 78 court locations in Queensland throughout April to June 2024.

Courts Enterprise Data Platform (EDP)

The Courts EDP is a cloud-based 'one stop shop' which stores data from various courts systems in a reliable and consistent way. Some of the benefits of the EDP are an increase data quality and accessibility and more timely data analysis and report development.

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Investment

The *Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Violence Safety Framework – Delivering Safer Courts 2024-2034* was released on 20 February 2024 in response to Recommendation 49, Report One and Recommendation 52, Report Two from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT). The framework outlines landmark commitments which will ensure that over the next ten years Court Services Queensland has the right operating model, technological capability, and appropriate capability and capacity to meet the evolving needs of court users, while at the same time ensuring their safety.

In response to Recommendation 52, WSJT Report Two, the Government commenced a five-year court technology program in 2023-24. \$5.3 M was committed as a part of the operating budget and \$15.1 M was committed for capital expenditure.

Additional capital expenditure will support the implementation of improved videoconferencing technology across the State and will be delivered as a priority over the next three years. This technology aids the smooth operation of courtrooms and ensures equitable access to justice



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regardless of a person's remote, regional or metropolitan location. Upgrades to 61 courtrooms will be completed to enable evidence to be presented electronically in areas where this was either not previously an option, or where the quality was very poor. 53 remote witness rooms will be established in key locations which will provide safe options for participants attending court and reduce the impact on vulnerable witnesses from giving repeated evidence.

Video-Recorded Evidence in Chief Program

The Department of Justice and the Attorney-General (DJAG) has worked alongside the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to pilot the video-recorded evidence in chief program in Ipswich and Southport Magistrates Courts, which enabled trained police officers to take video-recorded statements to be used as evidence-in-chief in certain DFV proceedings.

Early evaluation of the program identified potential benefits, including increased efficiency and accessibility, as well as reducing the need for complainants to repeat their stories, complainants being more able to confirm statement accuracy, and less likely to withdraw complaints.

The QPS continue to offer video-recorded evidence in chief statements to eligible complainants in pilot locations. Proposed amendments under the Criminal Justice Legislation (Sexual Violence and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2024 will also clarify use of video-recorded evidence in chief statements in committal proceedings.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 14:

In reference to page 71 of Budget Paper 4, can the Attorney-General outline how the Queensland Government is responding to the increasing demand on the Coroners Court of Queensland?

Answer:

The Miles Government is committed to ensuring the Coroners Court of Queensland (CCQ) meets community expectations for comprehensive and timely coronial investigations. CCQ has experienced demand pressures, due to the number of reportable deaths in the system and the increasingly complex work of coroners.

In the 2024-25 Budget, the Miles Government committed an additional \$3.9 M over 4 years and \$1.1 M per annum to manage increased demand and strengthen case management support for delivery of coronial services.

This funding adds to investment provided in the 2023-24 budget for the appointment of three new coroners. In the 2023-24 budget, CCQ received an additional \$18.9 M over 4 years, and \$5.8 M per annum ongoing. This investment recognises CCQ's important work in providing answers to grieving families and delivering recommendations to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future.

As well as increasing the number of coroners from seven to 10, the increased funding uplifted CCQ's cultural capability through the appointment of a Manager, Cultural Capability.

Additional positions to support coroners in their important independent judicial functions include a new Executive Director, two new Director positions, registry operational support staff for the new coroners, and positions that assist the important functions of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board.

These additional positions increased support for coroners in exercising their independent functions, including investigating domestic and family violence deaths.

In 2023-24, the Government also provided increased funding of \$16.5 M over 4 years and \$5.3 M per annum for new conveyancing and funeral services contracts which were executed in February 2024.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 15:

In reference to page 65 of Budget Paper 4, can the Attorney-General outline what initiatives the Queensland Government is implementing to reduce demand on the criminal justice system?

Answer:

To improve community safety and reduce demand on the criminal justice system, it is important to prevent crime happening in the first place, as well as responding to crime when it happens.

In April 2024, the Queensland Government released its *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*. This Plan focuses on continuing to reduce crime rates, and builds on unprecedented investment across multiple areas, including criminal justice, policing, health, education, sport, employment, domestic, family and sexual violence, and housing.

In June 2024, *A Safer Queensland – Queensland Youth Justice Strategy 2024-2028* was released, outlining the government's plan to tackle the root causes of crime and support community safety.

The role of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) in these strategies relates only to offenders which are already within the criminal justice system, rather than in the prevention and front-line responses which fall within the remit of other portfolios.

Fast-Track Sentencing

The Fast-Track sentencing pilot commenced on 1 March 2023 and is operating in Brisbane, Southport, Cairns and Townsville.

The pilot works to identify and rectify the cause of delays in finalising matters before the Childrens Court. This means young people spend less time on remand and have their court matters heard and finalised with expeditiously, so that they can commence their rehabilitation journey and address the root cause of their offending, thereby reducing their risk of re-offending.

The Fast-Track Sentencing pilot will be independently evaluated at the conclusion of the program. Through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*, the Myles Government has committed \$39.14M for strengthening and sustaining court reforms, which includes Fast Track Sentencing.

Courts Innovation Program



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The Courts Innovation Program (CIP) in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General manages and supports courts programs which respond to the needs of people, especially those with multiple and complex needs, who interact with the justice system. These programs link people to health and social services to address the underlying causes of offending and also provide culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to help address over-representation in the criminal justice system both as offenders and victims.

The range of specialist courts and diversionary programs in Queensland courts include the drug and alcohol diversion programs, bail based programs Court Link and Murri Court, as well as the Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court, Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts and the Youth Court (Townsville).

Townsville Youth Court

The Townsville Youth Court is a Childrens Court list operating in Townsville for young people aged between 10 to 17 who are repeat offenders and considered to be at a high risk of re-offending. A dedicated Magistrate hears all matters and proceedings involving young people involved in the Youth Court which enables the magistrate to work directly with the young person and monitor their engagement with intervention programs and services.

The Youth Court commenced in 2017 and its evaluation report was released in 2023.

The evaluation found that the court has an important role to contribute to positive outcomes for vulnerable young people who have repeated contact with the court and noted the critical role of agency partners and non-government service providers in providing holistic wrap-around support to young people and their families to ensure appropriate support and supervision.

Justice Reform Office

The Justice Reform Office (JRO) was established in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in late 2023 to lead evidence-based work to address increasing demand on courts and prisons, modernise Queensland's laws, improve programs to divert people away from the criminal justice system and help people to break the cycle of reoffending.

The JRO is currently working on a range of initiatives including:

- developing performance indicators and measures across the criminal justice system and introducing a justice impact test
- developing a whole-of-government strategy for women and girls in the criminal justice system as accused persons and offenders in response to key recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's second report, and
- developing a justice reinvestment framework for Queensland in partnership with the First Nations Justice Office.



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The Justice Reform Office also provides Secretariat support to the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council (IMAC) which provides evidence-based, victim-centric advice to government on complex criminal justice issues and opportunities to improve support for victims, with a focus on youth justice.

First Nations Justice Office

The First Nations Justice Office is also working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, organisations and other government agencies to develop and implement a co-designed, whole-of-government and community strategy to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system and meet Queensland's National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) justice targets.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 16:

In reference to page 2 of the SDS and page 62 of Budget Paper 4, can the Attorney-General advise how many applications for financial assistance have been received by Victim Assist Queensland in the last financial year, the number of applications finalised in the last financial year and the average timeframe for applications to be processed?

Answer:

The Government is committed to supporting victims of crime in Queensland.

That is why we have committed \$221 M in funding under a targeted victim's support package to help vulnerable Queenslanders when they need it most. This funding includes \$185 M to increase financial assistance limits payable to victims and resources for VAQ.

In 2023-24, Victims Assist Queensland (VAQ) received 19,203 applications for financial assistance. This represents a 157% increase compared to 2022-23 (where 7,463 applications were received). Of the applications registered through to 31 May 2024, 62% of these related to domestic and family violence. The number of applications received in 2023-24 may be subject to change, as some applications received by VAQ are pending registration.

VAQ has experienced a substantial increase in demand following legislative changes in 2023 which increased payment thresholds to all eligible victims.

From 8 December 2023, a range of increases to payments under *the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* commenced including:

- Category A –\$10,000 increased to \$15,000
- Category B –\$3,500 increased to \$9,000
- Category C –\$2,000 increased to \$6,000
- Category D –\$1,000 increased to \$3,000
- Increase in funeral expenses from \$8,000 to \$15,000.
- Increase in distress payments from \$10,000 to \$15,000



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I am advised a decision about an applicant's eligibility for financial assistance was made in relation to 12,573 applications in 2023-24. The processing of financial assistance may occur across different financial years.

The average wait time to decide applications for financial assistance reduced by 53%, from an average of 9.5 months in 2022-23 to an average of 4.4 months in 2023-24.

VAQ prioritises urgent and immediate expenses including funerals, urgent medical treatment, and security and relocation expenses for domestic and family violence victim-survivors.

In February 2024, VAQ introduced an immediate eligibility triage process. A dedicated team reviews and triages primary victim applications to identify whether an eligibility decision can be made based on minimum evidentiary requirements.

Where eligibility is confirmed, assessors are able to grant an immediate assistance payment based on the category of act of violence that eligibility has been determined for. The application then proceeds to further assessment for other types of support available (e.g., assessment of medical or counselling expenses). Where eligibility is unable to be determined, based on the information available, the application progresses for a full assessment.

As at 30 June 2024, applications that were received on or after 1 February 2024 which were assessed as eligible for an immediate payment under this process took an average of 35 days to decide.

As at 30 June 2024, 3,529 applicants have received an immediate payment under this process totalling over \$32M.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 17:

In reference to page 63 of Budget Paper 4, can the Attorney-General provide an update on the transition of Forensic Science Queensland to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General?

Answer:

Recommendation 121 of the 2022 *Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland* proposed that key organisational facets of Queensland's forensic services be enshrined in legislation, and that the forensic service be administered under the justice portfolio.

The Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) Act, which commenced on 1 July 2024, delivers on Recommendation 121 by creating a new and nation-first legislative framework for forensic service delivery in Queensland going forward.

The FSQ Act is designed to ensure high quality, reliable, independent and impartial forensic services for the administration of criminal justice in Queensland by establishing:

- a statutory Director of FSQ to lead forensic service delivery
- an 'office' (the FSQ organisation and staff) to assist the Director in delivering forensic services, and
- an FSQ Advisory Council to monitor and review FSQ policies and procedures.

The FSQ Act also underpins portfolio transfer by providing for the maintenance of existing staff employment terms and conditions. The inclusion of FSQ and its staff in the justice portfolio better reflects and recognises the critical role forensic services play in Queensland's criminal justice system.

In addition to establishing the new statutory arrangements and offices, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General have worked closely with Queensland Health on the 'Machinery of Government' (MoG) transition of the interim FSQ business unit between the relevant agencies.

This MoG transition is a complex and multi-faceted undertaking due to significant differences in processes and systems, that have developed over time, between Queensland Health and other government agencies. These differences include employment awards and agreements, finance systems and IT networks.



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The first phase of the MoG process was achieved on 1 July 2024 with Public Service Departmental Arrangements Notice (No. 4) 2024 effecting the formal transfer of the interim FSQ business unit, and associated staff, from Queensland Health to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

This was supported by a series of immediate practical measures to underpin and recognise the change in portfolio. These included DJAG adopting Queensland Health Human Resources policies for a transitional period to provide continuity and certainty to FSQ staff, application of revised human resources and financial delegations to ensure alignment and accountability within the justice portfolio, establishing the department as an approved visa sponsor to support FSQ's international campaign to recruit additional forensic scientists, inter-agency agreement on interim budget transfer, engagement with relevant unions and the development of information resources for transferring FSQ staff.

The overarching principle of all MoG change planning and implementation is to ensure minimal disruption to FSQ's staff and service provision.

To ensure forensic service continuity, Queensland Health will continue to provide key services and systems to support FSQ day-to-day operations for a transitional period. These include Information Technology (IT) and finance services. FSQ service delivery is continuing as prior to 1 July 2024. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will continue to work with Queensland Health, and other relevant agencies and partners, to investigate and progress additional aspects of the MoG transition as part of a second phase into 2024-25.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 18:

In reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General outline the status of recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports?

Answer:

The Miles Government is well progressed in implementing the reform program set out in the government response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports. On 31 May 2024, the Government tabled and published the second Women's Safety and Justice Reform annual report – which is available at <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/queensland-government-response-womens-safety-justice-taskforce-recommendations/our-progress/reform-annual-reports>. The annual report provides status updates for implementation of all 277 recommendations made by the Taskforce.

The status of recommendations as outlined in the annual report is as follows:

- Report One
 - Delivered – 36
 - In progress – 51
 - Not yet commenced – 2
- Report Two
 - Delivered – 36
 - In progress – 144
 - Not yet commenced – 8

The Government is progressing implementation of 277 recommendations made by the Taskforce, including several transformational systemic and cultural reforms. Transformational change is complex, which is why a staged approach to implementing reforms is critical for success.

Recommendations delivered by the Miles Government includes the passage of landmark legislation, the *Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*, which included amendments to criminalise coercive control and establish a model of affirmative consent.

The Independent Implementation Supervisor, established to oversee implementation of the Government response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports, said “delays were noted across the reform program during the third reporting period, and this is considered



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reasonable given the extensive nature of the reforms and that the reform program remained largely in its initial phases with detailed planning underway.”

The Miles Government will continue to build on this momentum to end domestic, family and sexual violence.

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Question No. 19:

In reference to page 61 of the SDS, can the Attorney-General outline how the Queensland Government is supporting the Electoral Commission of Queensland to deliver the 2024 State General Election?

Answer:

In the 2024–25 Queensland Budget, the government is providing additional funding of \$15.5 M to the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) to facilitate the delivery of the State general election in October 2024. The total funding allocated to the ECQ for the election is \$72.06 M over 3 years.

The ECQ is implementing a range of measures in the lead up to the October 2024 State general election aimed at improving the voter experience. These include:

- Revising expected voting forecasts across in-person voting channels and increasing planned capacity at early voting centres and election day polling booths to service a range of potential demand;
- Expanding early voting opening hours, with polling to be conducted from 8.00am to 6.00pm at all early voting centres operating during the two-week early voting period;
- Increasing the total election workforce, with an expansion of the total number of temporary election staff from approximately 8,000 positions at the local government elections to around 15,000 positions for the State general election;
- Raising the minimum staffing requirements for polling places, with additional issuing officers and queue controllers to be employed at early voting centres and election day polling booths;
- Expanding training provided to all frontline election staff to enhance consistency of service provision at voting channels and locations across Queensland;
- Reviewing early voting centre and polling booth locations to address issues identified and feedback received on specific polling places used at the local government elections;
- Updating the resource allocation (table weighting) methodology, including revising formulas used to predict demand and workload for frontline officers working in polling places;

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- Promoting the availability of early voting options and their expanded operating hours, including through advertising and direct elector communications, to better distribute electoral service demand across the voting period; and
- Enhancing data monitoring and associated resource allocation processes, to facilitate ongoing monitoring and review of voting trends against forecasts to inform any required changes to the service model during the early voting period.

Service design for the 2024 State general election is being informed by the outcomes of the local government elections in March 2024, including the report of an independent review of the elections and its recommendations for improvements to operational delivery.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. 20:

In reference to page 62 of Budget Paper 4, can the Attorney-General outline how the Queensland Government is supporting Community Legal Centres to address workforce pressures?

Answer:

As is the case in many industries and sectors nationwide, Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in Queensland have not been immune to workforce shortages and pressures.

We have heard calls from the CLC sector about the need for parity in salary and conditions between the CLCs and Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS), so that the sector can successfully attract and retain experienced staff.

The Miles Government recognises that our CLCs provide critical services and free legal assistance to some of the most vulnerable in our Queensland community.

That is why the Miles Government has provided vital funding through the 2024-25 State Budget to the CLC sector, including \$12.4M in 2024-25 to provide an uplift in salary and conditions for Community Legal Centre staff to the equivalent of LAQ and ATSILS so that the sector can retain experienced and valuable staff and reduce attrition from the CLC sector.

This funding represents a 75% uplift to eligible CLCs' 2024-25 core State funding.

The Miles Government has also provided \$10.2M in the 2024-25 State Budget to maintain the current level of service delivery and increased salary levels for ATSILS funded from the 2023-24 Budget.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, through the CLC State Program Manager, has already provided contract variations to CLCs for their consideration and approval to enable payment of the additional funding.

The uplift has been welcomed by the sector. Community Legal Centres Queensland Director, Ms Rosslyn Monro stated on 11 June 2024, *"This is a much-needed funding boost for community legal centres and we thank Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath for her support."*

The Miles Government will continue to advocate for stability in the sector at a Commonwealth level with respect to future National Legal Assistance Partnership funding arrangements.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. Cross Bench 01:

Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar

In relation to the high priority recommendation from the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence, to establish a civilian-led, independent Police Integrity Unit by May 2024:

1. Given the recommended deadline has passed, what new target date has the Government set for the independent police integrity unit to be delivered?
2. What is the outcome of any assessments or modelling on the most appropriate model for the Unit, including specifically regarding which complaints against police would be investigated by civilians?
3. Has a working group been established to progress the Commission of Inquiry's recommendation, and a Chair appointed?

(a) When will the terms of reference for the group be published?

Answer:

The Government is working hard to ensure full public confidence in the ability of our police to protect victims of domestic and family violence and hold those who use violence to account.

The Queensland Government acknowledges stakeholder interest in the establishment of a recommended Police Integrity Unit in accordance with recommendations from the *A Call for Change: Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence* (COIDFV).

When the Queensland Government indicated its support in principle for all 78 recommendations of the COIDFV report, it signalled that, given the significance of the recommendations, further consideration would be required to ensure alignment with other report recommendations.

This includes the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reports One and Two; the Independent review into investigations of police-related deaths, and domestic and family violence deaths in Queensland; Professor Peter Coaldrake's public sector reform work; the Commission of Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission; and various coronial recommendations.



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As noted in the November 2023 COIDFV Annual Report and Implementation program, implementation of a Police Integrity Unit will be a complex undertaking and require an appropriate transition period. Such an entity will be unique, as there is no other jurisdiction with a similar model to that suggested by the COIDFV for handling police complaints. This necessitates a significant body of policy development.

Foundational scoping work has been conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland. Further work will be conducted by a stakeholder Working Group to provide robust advice to Government on the Police Integrity Unit. Membership and terms of reference for this group are expected to be finalised in the near future.

The Working Group will be chaired by Mr David Mackie, Public Sector Commissioner, and an initial meeting is scheduled to occur in early August 2024.

The Independent Implementation Supervisor will continue to monitor this work which they noted, in the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reforms Biannual Progress Report 4, is underway.



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ESTIMATES 2024 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question No. Cross Bench 02:

Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

With respect to the government's \$36 million increase for domestic, family and sexual violence services in 2024-25, representing a 20% increase for that year:

- a) What modelling did the government conduct to investigate the impact that a permanent doubling of annual funding would have on this sector's ability to deliver frontline services?
- b) What recommendations from the Hear Her Voice report are encompassed by, or intended to be implemented or fulfilled using the new funding?

Answer:

In April 2024, the government announced a \$36 M funding uplift for all eligible domestic, family and sexual violence (DFS) services in Queensland. In the 2024-25 budget, this 20% core funding uplift was made ongoing. This means that domestic, family and sexual violence funding will increase from \$177.9 M in 2023-24 to \$246.5 M in 2024-25.

The government works closely with DFS service providers and regularly receives advice from individual providers and sector networks about the need for increased funding. In recognition of these funding needs, the Government made the decision to increase funding to DFS service providers by 20% to cover increased business costs and strengthen frontline services.

The ongoing funding will help deliver the following service types:

- frontline domestic, family, and sexual violence services
- programs to take action to address behaviours of persons using violence, and
- new programs that fill gaps in service delivery across the state.

Alongside the 20% funding boost implementation, the Department has renewed all eligible contracts for 5 and 6-year terms. This will result in:

- sexual assault and women's health services having a common contract end date of 30 June 2029, and
- domestic and family violence and people using violence services having a contract end date of 30 June 2030.



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This provides service providers with funding certainty, which will support recruitment and retention of a specialist DFSV workforce.

Whilst the 20% funding uplift is not specifically for the implementation of recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in the two Hear Her Voice reports, it will assist the sector to build capacity to continue to work with the government to implement whole-of-society reforms. Increased core funding provides services with more discretion to use this funding where they identify the greatest need.

Separate funding of \$610.9 million has been allocated to implement the government response to the Taskforce's recommendations.

**Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Police and
Community Safety***

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing

Question on Notice

No. 1

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 – staffing and in relation to sworn police officers, can the Minister provide the following data listed separately by the following categories:

- a) The total number of FTE's as at 1 July 2023;
- b) The total number of FTE's as at 30 June 2024;
- c) The number of medical retirements during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- d) The number of age retirements during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- e) The number of resignations during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- f) The number of dismissals during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- g) The number of officers sworn in during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- h) The number of separations by other means not listed above during the 2023/2024 financial year;
- i) The total number of Commissioned officer positions (FTE equivalent basis); and
- j) The current number of vacant Commissioned officer positions including those that contain an officer acting in a vacant position.

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024.

With the help of \$87.5M announced by the Queensland Government in April 2023 to fund marketing and offer a range of incentives and initiatives, the number of recruit applications has reached historic highs in 2024 and the foreseeable future for police recruiting is delivering upon plans. The QPS advise that as at 30 June 2024 there were 650 recruits employed by the QPS and over 2,300 in the recruitment pipeline.

I am advised by the QPS that, as at 30 June 2024:

- a) The total police officer headcount for 30 June 2023 was 12,225;
- b) The total police officer headcount for 30 June 2024 was 12,341, which is 303 higher than the 2020 FTE baseline;
- c) 77;
- d) 179;
- e) 349;
- f) 19;
- g) 763, with an additional **46** special constables appointed;
- h) 23;
- i) 355; and
- j) The number of substantively vacant approved permanent Commissioned officer positions as at 30 June 2024 was 39 (including those that contain an officer acting in a vacant position).

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing

Question on Notice

No. 2

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 – staffing, can the Minister advise:

- a) How many Special Constables have been appointed since the commencement of the Government's Special Constable policy in April 2023; and
- b) How many recruits with prior policing experience from other jurisdictions have received the \$20,000 relocation bonus and how many have since separated from the QPS.

ANSWER:

In relation to the Committee's question, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service as follows:

- a) As at 30 June 2024, 46 Special Constables have been appointed and the QPS is processing 30 applications.
- b) As at 30 June 2024, there are 35 employees who received an instalment payment under the Interstate and International Policing Incentive.

Additionally, only one employee who received an instalment payment under the Interstate and International Policing Incentive, has separated from the QPS.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 3

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 – policing and community safety services, can the Minister outline the following in relation to policing services, listed separately by Police district in table format:

- a) How many Random Breath Tests were conducted in each of the last five (5) financial years, reported by year;
- b) How many random roadside saliva tests (drug tests) were conducted in each of the last five (5) financial years, reported by year, including the number of positive tests;
- c) Not including the Camera Detected Offence Program (CDOP), how many Traffic Infringement Notices were issued in each of the last five (5) financial years, reported by year; and
- d) The approved Police officer strength for road policing officers including forensic crash officers and highway patrol officers for the last five (5) years.

ANSWER:

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

- (a) The number of Random Breath Tests (RBTs) conducted in 2019-20 was 2,060,785, in 2020-21 was 1,621,479, in 2021-22 was 1,522,964, in 2022-23 was 1,835,302 and in 2023-24 was 1,787,853.

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data sourced from the Intelligence, Tactical and Analysis System (ITAS).
3. Data for districts is the organisational unit of the officer performing the RBT, not where the RBT was taken.
4. Due to RBT's being performed outside of district delegation, there will be large numbers of RBT numbers reported as 'not stated'.
5. Due to RBT data being extracted using the organisational unit of the officer undertaking the RBT, we are unable to provide a district breakdown by geographical location where the RBT was performed at this time.

- (b) The number of positive and the total number of random roadside drug tests conducted in the last five years are detailed in the following tables:

Number of total roadside drug tests by district, Queensland, 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024

District	Number				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Capricornia	4,307	5,828	6,621	4,724	4,321
Darling Downs	5,486	3,774	4,446	4,628	5,192
Far North	2,400	3,076	4,014	3,178	3,258
Gold Coast	4,214	1,276	2,451	3,493	3,795
Ipswich	2,329	1,643	3,218	2,783	3,622
Logan	1,732	2,633	2,617	4,140	5,309
Mackay Whitsunday	2,059	4,422	4,318	3,004	2,562
Moreton	4,522	3,134	3,593	4,303	6,022
Mount Isa	737	581	1,220	1,337	1,691
North Brisbane	4,114	3,235	3,991	4,311	4,495
South Brisbane	3,757	3,850	4,081	7,614	6,966
South West	2,213	1,220	1,096	1,778	1,414
Sunshine Coast	3,621	3,292	4,123	4,084	2,941
Twonville	1,645	1,581	2,362	2,259	3,239
Wide Bay Burnett	3,539	5,122	3,977	4,602	3,934
Not Stated	109	28	28	45	369
Queensland	46,784	44,695	52,156	56,283	59,130

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Drug driving occurrences is a count of occurrences with a Drug Driving or a Drug driving - fail to provide specimen of saliva or blood offence..
3. RDT negative results refer to 'street check' occurrences where the subject is 'RDT negative result'.
4. Drug driving offences refers the number of occurrences and is based on the occurrence start time.
5. RDT negative results are based on the time the offence/test occurred.

Number of drug driving offences by district, Queensland, 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024

Region	Number				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Capricornia	758	849	815	643	771
Darling Downs	1,504	1,081	943	1,188	1,362
Far North	826	898	933	715	773
Gold Coast	1,313	294	611	1,009	963
Ipswich	790	539	577	651	603
Logan	544	441	436	815	927
Mackay Whitsunday	492	691	695	584	556
Moreton	962	790	739	977	994
Mount Isa	75	90	152	282	344
North Brisbane	811	631	727	815	941
South Brisbane	844	824	732	1,013	1,041
South West	321	252	225	444	406
Sunshine Coast	1,179	597	1,043	1,156	851
Twonville	522	588	611	552	1,073
Wide Bay Burnett	736	973	913	861	834
Not Stated	9	5	6	4	68
Queensland	11,686	9,543	10,158	11,709	12,507

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Drug driving offences refer to Drug Driving or a Drug driving - fail to provide specimen of saliva or blood offence.
3. Drug driving offences refers the number of reported offences and is based on the occurrence reported time.
4. RDT negative results are based on the time the offence/test occurred.

(c) The number of traffic infringement notices issued in the last five years are detailed in the following table:

Number of traffic infringement notices by district, Queensland, 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024

District	Number				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Capricornia	25,573	27,508	30,171	27,312	23,521
Darling Downs	17,744	17,443	14,825	14,219	14,876
Far North	16,444	18,020	21,676	20,947	18,412
Gold Coast	23,032	13,855	17,788	23,203	18,990
Ipswich	23,585	20,891	18,157	19,038	18,573
Logan	18,227	16,156	16,729	17,506	16,163
Mackay Whitsunday	13,370	14,975	11,996	10,830	9,164
Moreton	21,572	18,909	20,043	22,513	21,054
Mount Isa	2,408	2,180	3,520	3,329	3,056
North Brisbane	27,640	22,627	28,009	29,405	27,868
South Brisbane	39,838	31,769	35,519	39,857	38,144
South West	7,284	7,125	7,515	6,640	6,849
Susnhine Coast	18,247	15,617	18,021	18,468	14,687
Townsville	12,584	13,717	14,985	12,545	11,076
Wide Bay Burnett	15,606	17,158	18,797	19,551	22,095
Queensland	283,154	257,950	277,751	285,363	264,528

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data has been sourced from QPRIME and may differ from other sources relating to traffic infringements.
3. Infringement data refers to offence code 1465.
4. District shown refers to the location of the offence.
5. Data excludes those detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program (CDOP).

(d) The approved police officer strength for road policing* as at 30 June for the previous 5 years is detailed in the below table:

DISTRICT / COMMAND	30-Jun-24	30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-20
NORTH BRISBANE DISTRICT	58	58	58	58	58
SOUTH BRISBANE DISTRICT	57	57	57	57	57
CAPRICORNIA DISTRICT	32	32	32	32	32
MACKAY WHTSDY DISTRICT	22	21	21	21	21
MORETON DISTRICT	39	40	37	37	37
SUNSHINE COAST DISTRICT	21	21	21	21	21
WIDE BAY BURNETT DISTRICT	30	30	30	30	30
FAR NORTH DISTRICT	37	36	36	36	36
MT ISA DISTRICT	8	8	8	8	8
TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT	27	27	27	27	27
GOLD COAST DISTRICT	43	43	43	44	44
LOGAN DISTRICT	31	31	30	30	28
DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT	31	31	28	26	26
IPSWICH DISTRICT	22	22	22	22	22
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT	8	8	8	10	10

Note: As the Committee's question requests data 'broken down by QPS district', the data provided excludes positions allocated to Road Policing and Regional Support Command.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 4

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 and in relation to the restructuring of Marine Rescue Queensland and the State Emergency Service, can the Minister outline:

- a) how many volunteers now come under the responsibility of the QLD Police Service; and
- b) in relation to Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue Qld what units have transitioned across and which units will be transferring in the next six months.

ANSWER:

I refer the Committee to the responses to Estimates Pre-Hearing Questions on Notice No. 13 and 14 of 2024.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 5

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 – staffing and in relation to the Police Service Executive Leadership Team (ELT), can the Minister provide the following:

- a) Total number of sworn officers in the ELT;
- b) Total number of non-sworn members of the ELT;
- c) The current number of vacancies on the ELT;
- d) The number of members of the ELT acting in a higher position; and
- e) The dates and locations of ELT meetings conducted in the 2023/2024 financial year.

ANSWER:

In relation to the Committee's question, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) at 30 June 2024, as follows:

- a) 27.
- b) 15
- c) The substantive headcount exceeds the approved permanent positions.
- d) 7.

I am advised that, in addition to scheduled weekly ELT operational briefing meetings, formal in-person ELT meetings were held on 8-9 May 2024 in Caloundra; 20-21 February 2024 in Brisbane; 22 November 2023 in Brisbane; 4-5 October 2023 in Toowoomba; and 11 August 2023 in Brisbane.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 6

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 – capital program, in relation to the Caboolture Watchhouse, can the Minister confirm:

- a) If the Caboolture watchhouse will continue to be used for young offenders once the Wacol Youth Remand Centre is operational;
- b) How many QPS officers are deployed there to supervise juvenile offenders; and
- c) Where do Caboolture Police now detain adult offenders who are required to be held in custody in a police watchhouse.

ANSWER:

The Caboolture Watchhouse is an operational police watchhouse, that is owned, operated and managed by the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The Watchhouse currently operates as a hub facility in collaboration with the Department of Youth Justice, Department of Education and community agencies, who provide additional support to the young people in custody at the facility.

- a) The Watchhouse will transition back to “business as usual” following the operationalisation of the Wacol Youth Remand Centre.
- b) The Caboolture Watchhouse Hub has a total of 150 police personnel; including 87 Watchhouse Officers, 45 police officers and 18 civilian support positions. The ‘hub’ incorporates a transport capability that facilitates the movement of young people across the state.
- c) The Caboolture Watchhouse was chosen as a hub watchhouse for young people due its modern design and proximity to other watchhouses. Adults who are arrested within the Caboolture Police division are either taken directly to another watchhouse or are charged at Caboolture Watchhouse and then transported immediately to another watchhouse in the area. No remanded or sentenced adults are held at Caboolture Watchhouse.

As part of the Community Safety Plan for Queensland, the Government committed \$260.50 million to construct a new, state-of-the-art Youth Remand Centre in Wacol and directed \$149.2 million in operating funding to reduce the number of young people in watchhouses and support stronger access to education and therapeutic services. The Wacol Youth Remand Centre will function in addition to two new youth detention centres the Government is building in Woodford and Cairns.

In addition, I understand the LNP did not build any new watchhouses, correctional centres or youth detention centres while in government.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 7

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3 – Police and community safety, in relation to Operation Whiskey

Legion can the Minister advise for the 2023/24 financial year:

- a) How many deployments have been conducted and in what locations;
- b) How many police officers have been involved in each deployment;
- c) A list of each individual officer's substantive position and their usual work unit e.g. Homicide Investigation Unit, Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, Task Force Argos, Child Protection Offender Reporting Unit, etc; and
- d) The full financial cost of Operation Whiskey Legion including overtime and travel allowance etc.

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that Operation Whiskey Legion was commenced in April 2024, by the Police Commissioner to support the QPS' primary focus to keep our community safe, and importantly for the community to feel safe.

This Operation is a locally led, state-supported initiative to proactively address crime within our communities. It is highly visible and overtly recognisable in each area of operation, focusing on offences impacting community safety.

The Operation deploys across the State, delivering a multi-discipline, surge capacity to target high-volume, high-harm crime hotspots. This Operation aims to stop crime by holding offenders to account, stop re-offending, implement contemporary prevention initiatives and inform and support victims.

Operation Whiskey Legion is a significant, protracted operation that works alongside Taskforce Guardian and Operation Whiskey Unison.

During these deployments, up to 30 June 2024, there has been 2,072 adult offenders and 441 juvenile offenders charged with 6,225 offences. 31 offenders were located on return to prison warrants. Other results included:

- 232 high harm offenders located on outstanding warrants and breach of bail conditions. These offenders were charged with serious offences including Armed Robbery, Sexual Assault, Threats to Kill, Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle and serious domestic violence (DV) related offences.
- 172 DFV breaches, 2,183 hotspot patrols conducted at shopping centres and local businesses including mobile beat deployments - patrols of railway stations and transport hubs and major shopping centres.

- 17,993 Random Breath Tests and 758 Random Drug Tests, 3,780 street checks and 4,850 business engagements were conducted.
- Police have conducted multiple major wandering operations with 1,652 people wanded and 21 weapons seized. A further 39 knives were seized through active patrolling and suspect identification. Wandering operations on the Gold Coast located offenders in possession of knives and a set of knuckledusters. Traffic operations have targeted hooning offences and the unlawful entry of motor vehicles.
- Police, Police Liaison Officers and volunteers-in-policing had over 21,855 proactive interactions with the community that included deployments of mobile police beats, mounted police and crime prevention officers.

In relation to the Committee's question, I am advised by the QPS as follows:

- (a) As at 30 June 2024, Operation Whiskey Legion has deployed to seven police districts including Logan, Ipswich, Gold Coast, South Brisbane, Moreton, Mackay-Whitsunday, and North Brisbane.
- (b) For Logan & Ipswich Districts – 149 officers; for Gold Coast District – 263 officers; for South Brisbane District – 380 officers; for Moreton District – 194 officers; for Mackay Whitsunday District – 138 officers; and for North Brisbane District – 458 officers.
- (c) From Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group – one superintendent, four senior sergeants, eight sergeants and 22 senior constables; from Counter-Terrorism Investigation Group – one sergeant, and three senior constables; from Drug and Serious Crime Group – one inspector, two senior sergeants, nine sergeants, 23 senior constables and two Administration Officers/Police Liaison Officers; from Financial and Cyber Crime Group – one senior sergeant, ten sergeants, and 27 senior constables; from Forensic Service Group – two sergeants and four senior constables; from Homicide Group – two senior sergeants, three sergeants, and 28 senior constables; from Integrity and Performance Group – two senior sergeants and two sergeants; from Intelligence Group – two senior sergeants, five sergeants, 12 senior constables, and 12 Administration Officers/Police Liaison Officers; from Operational Equipment and Capability Management – two senior sergeants and five sergeants; from Organised Crime Gangs Group – one superintendent, five senior sergeants, 13 sergeants and 45 senior constables; from Prepare Prevent Protect Group – five sergeants and 19 senior constables; from Road Policing Group – one senior sergeant, seven sergeants and 64 senior constables; from Specialist Response Group – seven sergeants and 50 senior constables; from Specialist Services Group – 12 sergeants, 111 senior constables, four constables and one Administration Officer/Police Liaison Officer; from Community Safety Group – one sergeant, one senior constable, one constable and one Administration Officer/Police Liaison Officer; and from Domestic and Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command – two senior sergeants and one sergeant.

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 and that is as it should be. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald

Inquiry. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

(d) \$1.589M as at 30 June 2024.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 8

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 9 – staffing and in relation to sworn police officers at the Southport*, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Kirwin, and Townsville police stations please provide separately for each station:

- a) Total number of general duties police officers on the current roster that can be deployed as a first response crew, excluding first year constables.
- b) How many actual approved permanent positions are on the roster if these stations were at full strength.

*Not including Watchhouse staff

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024.

With the help of \$87.5M announced by the Queensland Government in April 2023 to fund marketing and offer a range of incentives and initiatives, the number of recruit applications has reached historic highs in 2024 and the foreseeable future for police recruiting is delivering upon plans. The QPS advise that as at 30 June 2024 there were 650 recruits employed by the QPS and over 2,300 in the recruit applicant pipeline. A further 131 police recruits commenced training on 8 July 2024.

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 and that is as it should be. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

As with many organisations, there will be from time to time vacancies or additional personnel at workplace locations. Where vacancies exist, the QPS endeavours to fill those positions as a matter of priority. In addition, when retirements or other personnel movements are expected or planned, the QPS will at times locate additional personnel at these workplace locations to support the transition of those personnel. That may mean that a particular policing establishment may have more personnel than its approved strength on a specific date (for example, 30 June) for a period of time.

In relation to the Committee's question, I am advised by QPS as follows:

- a) As at 30 June 2024 the substantive headcount (including first year constables) for Bundaberg Division was 58 (inc. 4 First Year Constables), for Kirwin Division was 99 (inc. 24 First Year Constables), for Townsville Division was 137 (inc. 32 First

Year Constables), for Southport Division was 99 (inc. 15 First Year Constables), and for Ipswich Division was 88 (inc. 9 First Year Constables).

- b) As at 30 June 2024 the approved permanent police officer positions allocated to Bundaberg Division was 70, to Kirwan Division was 95, to Townsville Division was 127, to Southport Division was 87, and to Ipswich Division was 89.

The Committee should also note that these numbers are divisional only and do not include the number of officers allocated to other divisional, district and central policing functions which support service delivery across the respective District. I am further advised by the QPS that a borderless policing philosophy and priority policing model is applied to direct resources in an effective and timely manner to maximise the organisation's capability to protect and serve the community. The result is a more agile policing response where officers from neighbouring police divisions may assist with service demand.

I am advised by the QPS that there are a number of reasons the QPS does not release details of police rosters and the specific allocation of police resources to the community. The release of operational policing information has the potential to compromise officer safety, as it means that information is in the public domain about methodologies and rostering practices of police personnel. This information could be used inappropriately to inform unlawful activity.

It should be clarified that, on QPS advice, a police roster is not an accurate reflection of the resources available to a police station at any one time. In addition to those officers on a station roster, a police station has at their discretion the resources of specialist police groups that are brought in to attend to an incident or respond to a call. Police stations also have the ability when required to draw on resources from other geographically close police stations or district offices should it be required to effectively provide policing services to the community. Police districts have the discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 9

QUESTION:

With reference to the 900 new police mentioned in page 22 of Budget Paper No. 5, how many of the 98 police funded for the Sunshine coast will be allocated to the Noosa region on a permanent basis, and when?

ANSWER:

Through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*, the Miles Government has committed to uplifting the QPS by 900 police personnel (500 police officers and 400 staff members) for the QPS to meet increasing policing demands and deliver for the Queensland community.

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 and that is as it should be. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

I am advised by the QPS that additional staff member positions will be implemented during the 2024-25 financial year, and the 500 additional police officer positions will be implemented in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.

Initial demand modelling has been undertaken to inform the future allocation of police positions, and it is planned that 98 new police positions will be allocated to North Coast Region in the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 Financial Years. North Coast Region includes the Sunshine Coast District (of which Noosa is a part).

Further details about specific allocations will be provided by the QPS in due course.

The QPS is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024. The QPS advise that as at 30 June 2024 there were 650 recruits employed by the QPS and more than 2,300 in the recruitment pipeline. The combined number of police officers and recruits is currently the highest number in Queensland history.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 10

QUESTION:

With reference to the additional funding provided in the SDS on page 2, what additional allocation will be provided to ensure the Queensland Police Service is appropriately resourced to appeal bail decisions relating to children and young people to higher courts where they consider this to be appropriate, as recommended by the Youth Justice Inquiry?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the QPS, in addition to 398 prosecutor positions, has 13 specialist senior (youth justice) prosecutor positions who are focussed on reviewing charges, bail objections and court bail decisions in relation to young people and who police have objected to bail. The specialist youth justice prosecutors, who service all police districts, scrutinise bail decisions made by the Childrens (Magistrates) Courts and, where appropriate, review those decisions to the Supreme Court for fresh consideration.

Through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*, the Miles Government has committed to uplifting the QPS by 900 police personnel (500 police officers and 400 staff members) for the QPS to meet increasing policing demands and deliver for the Queensland community.

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 and that is as it should be. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. I am advised the QPS is giving careful consideration to how best to allocate the resources provided by the Queensland Government.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing

Question on Notice

No. 11

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the QPS SDS, will the Minister provide (a) the increase in the QPS personnel headcount compared to the baseline QPS personnel budget FTE on 1 July 2020, (b) the increase in the QPS staff member headcount compared to the baseline staff member budget FTE on 1 July 2020 and (c) the increase in the police officer and recruit headcount compared to the baseline police officer budget FTE on 1 July 2020?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that the QPS personnel headcount has increased by **3,338** from the baseline of 15,580 at 30 June 2020 to **18,918** at 30 June 2024, the QPS staff member headcount has increased by **2,579** from the baseline of 3,302 at 30 June 2020 to **5,881 staff** at 30 June 2024 and the police officer and recruit headcount has increased by **953** from the police FTE baseline of 12,038 at 30 June 2020 to **12,991** at 30 June 2024.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 12

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the QPS SDS and the new Miles Government's additional funding for an evidence-based whole of government Community Safety Plan for Queensland, will the Minister advise the funding allocation for the QPS over the forward estimates and ongoing?

ANSWER:

The 2024–25 Queensland Budget includes an additional **\$599.7M** across the forward estimates and **\$185M** ongoing for the Queensland Police Service as part of the ***Community Safety Plan for Queensland***.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 13

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS and the 219 budgeted FTE for the SES, can the Minister please update the Committee on how these positions are being rolled out?

ANSWER:

As part of the recent reforms, this Government provided funding to almost double the State Emergency Service (SES) paid workforce, with an additional 105 full-time equivalent employees over two years,

These additional staff will substantially enhance the support provided to the around 5,000 SES volunteers across Queensland,.

75 of the additional FTE's were allocated in 2023–24, and included:

- 38 positions to enhance the SES' capability in volunteer recruitment, development and retention, communications, strategy, planning, risk, resourcing, readiness, assurance and corporate support functions, and;
- 37 positions to enhance capability in the regions, including 12 Area Controllers, 11 Operational Capability Officers, 7 Community Engagement and Recruitment Officers, and 7 Business Managers.

This has resulted in a substantive headcount of 190 SES staff, as at 30 June 2024.

The final 30 FTE have now been allocated for 2024–25 and will be filled throughout the financial year.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 14

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS and the establishment of Marine Rescue Queensland, will the Minister please advise the Committee of the planned transition timeline for units to Marine Rescue Queensland?

ANSWER:

The reforms being delivered by this Government are supporting a bright future for Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) and the around 2,800 volunteers who keep Queenslanders safe on the water, across the state.

There is a ground swell of grassroots excitement behind these reforms following the initial transitions, which is only possible through the delivery of a \$27 million ongoing annual budget by this Government.

This budget ensures that our marine rescue volunteers have the equipment, support, vessels and resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe on our waterways, now and into the future.

I am advised by the Marine Rescue Queensland Program that a transition schedule has been developed to invite Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) units to join MRQ over the next 12-18 months, in a six phase approach. The transition process will take 10-12 weeks per unit depending on a range of factors and complexities, with multiple units transitioning during each phase.

An initial 2 units have transitioned in Phase 1A.

Phase 1A included the Mackay and Gladstone Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) units, which successfully transitioned with its combined 114 volunteers, on 1 July 2024.

The work on Phase 1B has now commenced and consists of nine units, which are planned to transition before the end of 2024, in line with the planned 10-12 week transition process.

This phase is expected to include VMR Hervey Bay, Jacobs Well, Bribie Island, Thursday Island, Masig, St Pauls, and Coast Guard Caloundra, Cairns and Tin Can Bay.

Units will then be transitioned by region to allow for enhanced operational coordination and stronger local messaging to occur. Units that are identified to have significant complexities will be prioritised based on the balance of operational and community requirements.

Phase 2A consists of five units based in South East Queensland scheduled to transition by the end of 2024 and include: VMR Victoria Point, Currumbin and Southport, and Coast Guard Redland Bay and Southport units. Phase 2B includes VMR units Raby Bay, Manly, North Stradbroke, Brisbane and Coast Guard Redcliffe.

Phase 3 consists of four units based in the North Coast Queensland region which are scheduled to transition in February 2025 and includes Volunteer Marine Rescue Bundaberg and Coast Guard Mooloolaba, Noosa, and Sandy Straits.

Phases 4A and 4B consist of five and four units each, based in the Northern Queensland region scheduled to transition in March 2025 and April 2025 respectively. Phase 4A includes Volunteer Marine Rescue units Midge Point, Whitsunday, Bowen, Burdekin and Townsville. Phase 4B includes Volunteer Marine Rescue Burketown, Karuma, Mornington Island and Coast Guard Ingham.

Phase 5 consists of 5 units based in the Central Queensland region in May 2025 - Volunteer Marine Rescue Round Hill and Coast Guard Keppel Sands, Yeppoon, Thirsty Sound and Rockhampton units.

Phase 6A and 6B consist of four and three units each, based in the Far Northern Queensland region scheduled to transition in June 2025 and July 2025 respectively. Phase 6A includes Volunteer Marine Rescue Port Douglas and Coast Guard Cardwell, Tully and Innisfail. Phase 6B includes Volunteer Marine Rescue Weipa and Coast Guard Cooktown and Cape York.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 15

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the QPS SDS and the Miles Government's commitment to enhancing community safety across Queensland, will the Minister please advise for the FY 2023-24 (a) the number of reviews of youth bail conducted by the QPS, (b) the number of s19B Bail Act applications made by the QPS, and (c) of the number of s19B Bail Act applications made by the QPS how many have been successful on review or have been withdrawn with a positive outcome?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), that in addition to their 398 prosecutor positions, the QPS has 13 specialist Youth Justice Prosecutor positions across the State, covering all police districts. These Youth Justice Prosecutors are focussed on scrutinising bail decisions with respect to young people who have been arrested and kept in custody by police. They provide feedback and training about bail issues to operational police, work with operational police to identify and address young people in the community who are breaching their bail and, where appropriate, bring applications to vary or revoke bail.

Additionally, where Magistrates decide to grant bail to a young person, the Youth Justice Prosecutors assess whether, in their view, the young person presents an unacceptable risk of:

- reoffending;
- failing to appear in court;
- interfering with witnesses or otherwise obstructing the course of justice; or
- offending in a way that endangers the safety of the community or the safety or welfare of a person.

If they determine the young person is an unacceptable risk for any of these reasons, and the conditions imposed upon the bail do not mitigate that risk to an acceptable level, the Youth Justice Prosecutor makes a decision regarding whether an application to review the bail decision should be made to the Supreme Court, where a fresh determination about bail can be made.

The Youth Justice Prosecutors are a valuable resource and support this Government's commitment to addressing youth crime and keeping the community safe.

In relation to the Committee's question, I am advised by QPS as follows:

- a) The QPS conducted 3,395 assessments of youth bail;

- b) The QPS brought 14 section 19B Bail Act bail review applications in the Supreme Court of Queensland; and
- c) Of the 14 section 19B Bail Act bail review applications brought, 12 were either successful on review or were withdrawn with a positive outcome (for example, bail was subsequently revoked in the Childrens (Magistrates) Court).

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 16

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the objective of “protecting property and personal safety”, will the Minister provide an update on preliminary outcomes of the vehicle immobiliser subsidy trial?

ANSWER:

As the Committee notes in its question, the State Government is supporting a vehicle immobiliser subsidy trial. The Trial provides eligible members of the community within the trial locations with a voucher of \$500 to subsidise the cost of a secondary engine vehicle immobilisation device and installation.

The Trial commenced on 2 August 2023 in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. The Trial has been extended until 30 September 2024 to allow more time for members of the community to redeem their vouchers.

Feedback from the community has been positive, and as at 15 July 2024, all vouchers have been issued, with 9,466 immobiliser units already installed. This is a significant achievement.

An evaluation will be undertaken at the conclusion of the Trial, however preliminary outcomes indicate that the Trial has been successful in protecting property and enhancing community safety.

Current records indicate there are **no** confirmed or reportable stolen vehicles, where a trial immobiliser has been installed. In addition, there are currently three known instances where an immobiliser installed as part of the Trial has **successfully prevented** a vehicle from being stolen.

It is hoped that the Trial data will generate an evidence base to support advocacy directed to the Federal Government to consider changes to the Australian Design Rules in relation to motor vehicles and the introduction of a mandatory requirement for all new vehicles to be fitted with a secondary vehicle engine immobiliser by the vehicle manufacturer.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to page 18 of the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management 2024-25 SDS and the 2023-24 Severe Weather Season Review, will the Minister provide an update on the progress of this review?

ANSWER:

On 18 April 2024, the Government released the Terms of Reference for Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (the Office) to undertake a review of Queensland's 2023–24 Severe Weather Season. The review includes the severe storms, tropical cyclones, tropical lows, flooding and bushfires from this period.

A key component of the Review is to engage with impacted communities and consider the view of the community members. The Office is also working closely with relevant Local Governments, State and Commonwealth government agencies and other entities engaged in Disaster Management.

Throughout the 2023–2024 disaster season, 12 disaster events impacted Queensland, including two tropical cyclones crossing the East-coast, record breaking flooding in the Far North, a severe wind event in South East Queensland, severe storms, flooding, and bushfire events.

66 Local Government Areas (LGAs) were impacted and received immediate financial assistance to support disaster recovery.

While the review will encompass all of the season's events, there will be a focus on five severe weather events determined by the severity of the events and impacts for the respective communities. The five events are Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, and associated rainfall and flooding, the Southern Queensland Bushfires, the Northern Queensland bushfires, Tropical Cyclone Jasper, and associated rainfall and flooding, and the South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall

I am advised that the gathering of data and evidence for the review is well advanced. This includes direct engagement with Commonwealth Government agencies, statutory authorities and other representative bodies, Federal Members of Parliament, Queensland Government Directors General and Chief Executive Officers, Queensland Members of Parliament, Commissioners, Local Government Mayors and Chief Executive Officers, Members of Functional Recovery and Resilience Groups, other non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit organisations, government owned corporations and industry and the community

The Office and its partners are conducting a series of community forums to allow disaster affected people to tell their personal stories and experiences.

To date the following forums have taken place:

- Jimboomba, 24 June
- Helensvale, 1 July
- Mt Tamborine, 2 July
- Cape Tribulation, 8 July
- Degarra, 10 July
- Wujal Wujal, 11 July
- Rossville, 12 July
- Tara, 15 July
- Wallangarra, 17 July
- Millmerran, 18 July

Upcoming forums to be held in August are:

- Mossman, 5 August
- Mareeba, 6 August
- Cairns, 7 August

Time still remains for community members and other affected parties to provide a submission to the Office with submissions remaining open until 30 August 2024. The Office encourages all persons, agencies or entities to consider making a submission to better inform the review.

The Inspector-General of Emergency Management is to provide an interim report by 30 July 2024. The final Review Report is to be provided by 29 September 2024.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 18

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the QPS SDS, will the Minister provide an update on youth offender rates in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the youth offender rates from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024 are as follows:

Rate per 100,000					% Change in Rate			
2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2019/2020 vs 2023/2024	2020/2021 vs 2023/2024	2021/2022 vs 2023/2024	2022/2023 vs 2023/2024
2,105	1,942	1,904	1,964	1,885	- 10	- 3	- 1	- 4

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Rates are expressed per 100,000 persons and are calculated based on the estimated residential population of 10 to 17 year olds as of 30 June of each year. The population data for 2023/2024 has been extrapolated using figures from the respective previous period.
3. Population data used to calculate rates has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 19

QUESTION:

With reference to the programs for implementation of domestic and family violence reforms, will the Minister provide an update on the status of implementation of QPS-led recommendations?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that it leads or co-leads nine recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear Her Voice* – Report 1

As at 25 July 2024, all recommendations are in progress with one recommendation fully completed.

I am further advised that the QPS also leads 59 of the 78 recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service response to domestic and family violence – A Call for Change (COIDFV). Of those 78 recommendations, and as at 25 July 2024, 45 have been completed or are ready to deliver, including six led by the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) .

The remaining QPS led recommendations remain in progress.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice No. 20

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on how the \$6 million PCYC Back to Basics program is delivering outcomes for young people in Queensland?

ANSWER:

On 22 August 2023, this Government announced funding of \$6M to deliver the PCYC 'Back to Basics' transition to enhance the delivery of intervention, prevention and diversion programs at PCYC Queensland facilities state-wide. A key aspect of the model is a renewed focus on program delivery including the 'After Dark' programs and 'Drop-In' activities to assist in addressing youth crime issues in local communities.

The QPS, in partnership with PCYC Queensland, is dedicated to bettering the lives of young Queenslanders through delivery of intervention, prevention, and diversion programs. PCYC works closely with local police, helping young people stay off the streets and keeping their communities safe.

I am advised by the QPS that, as a result, 94% of PCYC locations are now offering diversionary programs and there has been **a 408% increase** in After Dark programs has been recorded. PCYC Queensland has delivered more than 300,000 program engagements this calendar year in communities from the Gold Coast to the Cape. This is in addition to other PCYC-related activities.

The transition to the Back-to-Basics operating model is now complete and is supporting QPS frontline through increased early intervention and youth diversionary activities and engagement programs.

I am further advised that for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024:

- 835 After Dark programs have been delivered across 48 clubs state-wide, involving 13,254 participants;
- 1,397 Drop-In programs have been delivered across 46 clubs state-wide, involving 36,094 participants; and
- 1,177 Club & Culture programs have been delivered across 7 clubs (Social Indigenous Clubs) state-wide, involving 44,537 participants.

For the Committee's benefit, that amounts to a total of **93,885** participants getting involved in **3,409 programs** across Queensland in just 6 months.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing

Question on Notice

Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar

QUESTION:

In relation to the use of force accompanied by a weapon by police, could you please advise how many individual instances of use of force were recorded by police officers involving OC spray, tasers and firearms respectively for each of the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, and in how many of those instances the force was exercised:

- a) Against a person who was handcuffed
- b) Against a person under the age of 18
- c) Against a person who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- d) Against a person who was in police custody

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the data required to answer the Member's question is detailed in the table below:

Number of Unique Offenders with Use of Force Reports Involving OC Spray, Firearm or Taser Used by Police, Queensland, 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024

Circumstances of Subjects	Number			
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Subject being handcuffed	10	7	7	11
Juvenile Subject	172	161	153	165
Subject being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	513	479	533	570
Subject in police custody	837	735	778	828

The QPS further advises that an individual may be counted in one or more of the above categories in relation to a single incident.

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data for 'subject being in police custody' is based on the start time of the custody event. For other circumstances, the data is based on the start time of the occurrence.
3. Use of Force data relates to the following force types: OC Spray, Firearm and Taser. This is based on the Use of Force report as entered by police and excludes Injury Reports. There may be multiple types of force recorded in one report.
4. Data for 'subject being in police custody' has been extracted from UOF report in custody report, where the force types include: OC Spray presented, OC Spray stream/foam deployed, Pistol drawn, Pistol fired, Pistol presented, Rifle deployed, Rifle fired, Rifle presented, TASER deployed (probes fired/drive stun), and TASER presented.
5. 'Subject being handcuffed' refers to the Use of Force report where the Physical Restraint field was recorded as 'wrist lock' or Physical Restraint Details contains 'handcuffs'.
6. Juveniles subjects refer to persons aged between 10 and 17 years as at the date of the occurrence.
7. The indigenous identifier refers to the offender's self-identification when they are asked a predetermined question by an officer.
8. The unique offender figures represent a unique offender count. A person with multiple offences (or reports) will be counted once during the reference period.
9. Data provided and verified by Data Services, Research and Analytics, QPS on 23 July 2024.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Estimates Pre-Hearing

Question on Notice

Dr Amy McMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

QUESTION:

In relation to the First Nations Advisory Group to the Queensland Police Service first formed around November 2022, and sacked by email in February 2024:

- a) How many times did the group request to meet with QPS' executive leadership?
- b) How many times did QPS' executive leadership actually meet with the group and what was the duration of the meetings?
- c) On what dates were meetings convened between the First Nations Advisory Group and QPS representatives, and what was the duration of each of those meetings?
- d) What other processes or methods of communication were established for the First Nations Advisory Group to pass on their feedback and recommendations to QPS' executive leadership?
- e) What was the process for dealing with the group's recommendations and/or feedback?
- f) What was the policy preventing Group members publicly discussing their work, QPS, including feedback given to QPS' executive leadership or the QPS, unless authorised, and when was it formulated and put in place?

ANSWER:

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

- Meeting requests were previously not centrally recorded. As such, an accurate response cannot be provided at this time.
- The member timesheets indicate that 16 meetings were scheduled, noting however that for two of these meetings there is no record of member timesheets being submitted.
- Meetings were convened on 1 November 2022, 6 December 2022, 12 January 2023, 17 January 2023, 7 February 2023, 21 February 2023, 1 March 2023, 10 March 2023, 16 May 2023, 23 August 2023, 24 August 2023, 19 September 2023, 6 November 2023 and 21 November 2023.
- The meeting durations varied, with the majority of meetings averaging four to five hours.
- A secretariat email was established for communications between members and the Commissioner's office.
- An action item register was used to record action items.

There was no established policy preventing members from openly or publicly discussing meeting business.

**Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Fire and
Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services***

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

QUESTION:

Broken down by Command, will the Minister advise:

- a) The number of FTE firefighters as at 30 June 2020;
- b) The number of FTE firefighters as at 30 June 2023;
- c) The number of FTE firefighters as at 30 June 2024;
- d) The number of auxiliary firefighters able to respond to an incident as at 30 June 2023;
- e) The number of auxiliary firefighters able to respond to an incident as at 30 June 2024;
- f) The number of Rural Fire Service members as at 30 June 2023; and
- g) The number of Rural Fire Service members as at 30 June 2024

ANSWER:

The Government recognises and appreciates the efforts of the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) workforce, paid and volunteer, who work tirelessly to protect the Queensland community. This is evidenced by an ongoing commitment to grow the workforce model to ensure agility to address areas of population growth and enhance bushfire and emergency management initiatives.

I am advised by QFD that:

- a) As at 5 July 2020, there were 2696.3 Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) FTE firefighters, including 169.8 in the Far Northern Region; 202.5 in Northern Region; 244.1 in Central Region; 290.1 in North Coast Region; 166.4 in South Western Region; 900.6 in Brisbane Region; 576.8 in South Eastern Region; and 146.0 in QFR State Directorate.
- b) As at 2 July 2023, there were 2776.3 QFR FTE firefighters, including 175.8 in Far Northern Region; 220.5 in Northern Region; 252.1 in Central Region; 291.1 in North Coast Region; 181.4 in South Western Region; 901.6 in Brisbane Region; 601.1 in South Eastern Region; and 152.7 in QFR State Directorate.
- c) As at 2 June 2024, there were 2897.3 QFR FTE Firefighters, including 175.8 in Far Northern Region; 221.5 in Northern Region; 264.1 FTE in Central Region; 319.1 FTE in North Coast Region; 187.4 in South Western Region; 912.6 FTE in Brisbane Region; 648.7 FTE in South Eastern Region; and 168.7 in QFR State Directorate.

- d) As at 2 July 2023, the number of auxiliary firefighters available to respond to an incident was 1845, including 237 for the Far Northern Region; 132 for Northern Region; 412 for Central Region; 414 for North Coast Region; 347 for South Western Region; 103 for Brisbane Region; and 200 for South Eastern Region.
- e) As at 2 June 2024, the number of auxiliary firefighters available to respond to an incident was 1857, including 226 for the Far Northern Region; 140 for Northern Region; 422 for Central Region; 413 for North Coast Region; 345 for South Western Region; 106 for Brisbane Region; and 205 for South Eastern Region.
- f) As at 30 June 2023, the number of Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) volunteer members in each Area was 2,658 in Barcaldine and Emerald; 783 in Bundaberg; 1,723 in Burnett; 1,163 in Caboolture; 1,586 in Darling Downs; 1,862 in Far Northern Region RFSQ Northern; 867 in Far Northern Region RFSQ Southern; 1,534 in Gladstone; 1,630 in Mackay; 1,169 in Maryborough; 1,371 in North West; 1,101 in Rockhampton; 1,592 in South Coast; 1,040 in Sunshine Coast; 1,488 in Townsville; 2,236 in Warrego; 989 in West Moreton; and 1,839 in Western Rivers.
- g) As at 30 June 2024, the number of RFSQ volunteer members in each Area was 2,771 in Barcaldine and Emerald; 832 in Bundaberg; 1,727 in Burnett; 1,208 in Caboolture; 1,704 in Darling Downs; 1,840 in Far Northern Region RFSQ Northern; 870 in Far Northern Region RFSQ Southern; 1,573 in Gladstone; 1,613 in Mackay; 1,238 in Maryborough; 1,408 in North West; 1,127 in Rockhampton; 1,578 in South Coast; 1,115 in Sunshine Coast; 1,488 in Townsville; 2,285 in Warrego; 1,021 in West Moreton; and 1,954 in Western Rivers.

In relation to parts a), b), c), d) and e), I am advised by QFD that the number of QFR firefighters is more accurately reported by Region, as opposed to Commands, due to firefighters not being assigned to a specific command and may provide coverage to multiple stations, as required. I am further advised that the RFSQ reports locally through Area Offices, not Commands.

I am further informed, that the FTE data includes all permanent and auxiliary QFR firefighters, noting auxiliary firefighters account for 0.1 of an FTE, with figures provided for the pay period closest to 30 June of the nominated year, with the exception of 2024 data that has been provided as at 2 June 2024 due to regional boundary changes that occurred in June 2024.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 2

QUESTION:

Broken down by Command, will the Minister advise the number of FTE firefighter vacancies as at:

- a) 30 June 2020;
- b) 30 June 2021;
- c) 30 June 2022;
- d) 30 June 2023; and
- e) 30 June 2024

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) that there are occasions where vacancies exist due to personnel moving to another position within the department, resignations or retirements. I am further advised that positions may also be held vacant until Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) recruits graduate and commence in their allocated regions.

Further, where a vacancy exists, QFD endeavours to fill these positions as soon as possible with appropriate operational coverage maintained.

I am advised by QFD that the vacancy breakdown for firefighter vacancies (including station officers, senior firefighters, firefighters and auxiliary) in QFR by the seven regional model is as follows:

- a) I am advised that QFD is unable to identify the total number of FTE firefighter vacancies as at 30 June 2020. This is due to historical reporting functions not aligning as a result of system changes and upgrades.
- b) As at 4 July 2021, 13.0 FTE for Far Northern Region; 22.5 FTE for Northern Region; 19.6 FTE for Central Region; 23.2 for North Coast Region; 18.4 for South Western Region; 57.1 FTE for Brisbane Region; 54.3 FTE for South Eastern Region; and 22 FTE for QFR State Directorate.
- c) As at 3 July 2022, 14.1 FTE for Far Northern Region; 14.5 FTE for Northern Region; 21.4 FTE for Central Region; 22.5 FTE for North Coast Region; 18.0 FTE for South Western Region; 61.8 FTE for Brisbane Region; 54.1 FTE for South Eastern Region; and 22 FTE for QFR State Directorate.
- d) As at 2 July 2023, 13.8 FTE for Far Northern Region; 28.9 FTE for Northern Region; 24.0 FTE for Central Region; 17.0 FTE for North Coast Region; 27.1 FTE for South Western Region; 83.6 FTE for Brisbane Region; 22.2 FTE for South Eastern Region; and 18.7 FTE for QFR State Directorate.
- e) As at 2 June 2024, 17.2 FTE for Far Northern Region; 24.4 FTE for Northern Region; 31.8 FTE for Central Region; 34.5 FTE for North Coast Region; 23.2 FTE for South Western Region; 37.6 FTE for Brisbane Region; 20.9 FTE for South Eastern Region; and 41.7 FTE for QFR State Directorate.

I am advised by QFD that the 2024 figures are provided as at 2 June 2024. This is due to the department being unable to provide the breakdown of FTE firefighter vacancies as at 30 June 2024 due to the transition of reporting functions as a result of the recent QFD reform moving from a seven regional model to a four regional model.

I am further advised by QFD that the number of QFR FTE firefighters is more accurately reported by Region, as opposed to Commands, due to firefighters not being assigned to a specific Command and may provide coverage to multiple stations, as required.

I am further informed, that the FTE data includes all permanent and auxiliary QFR firefighters, noting auxiliary personnel account for 0.1 of an FTE, with figures provided for the pay period closest to 30 June of the nominated year, except for 2024 data that has been provided as at 2 June due to regional boundary changes that occurred from 3 June 2024.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

QUESTION:

With regard to the integration of the Rural Fire Service into the Queensland Fire Department, will the Minister advise:

- a) How many Rural Fire Service facilities are located on privately owned or leased land;
- b) The number and types of Rural Fire Service appliances and equipment stored on privately owned or leased land;
- c) How many Rural Fire Service facilities will require upgrades to meet standards for government-owned facilities; and
- d) The estimated cost of those upgrades.

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) that:

- a) As of 12 July 2024, there are 413 Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) sites leased.
- b) It is acknowledged there are some appliances being stored at leased facilities as well as equipment needed by those brigades to protect their communities, such as trailers, slips-on, chainsaws, drip torches etc. I am further advised that QFD are unable to provide the exact number or types of equipment as there are occasions where Rural Fire Brigades (RFBs) store equipment on privately owned residences to assist with managing bushfire risk. This equipment is relocated dependent on the local need. Further, there are 809 Primary Producer Brigades who are primarily landholders and utilise property-based equipment for response to incidents on their land and neighbouring properties.
- c) In 2024-25, QFD will deliver a condition assessment program of all RFSQ sites and facilities. The outcomes from this program will allow QFD to make informed decisions regarding the status of facilities and what, if any, upgrades and/or maintenance works are required to meet government-owned facilities standards.
- d) Once the condition assessment program is complete, QFD will undertake work to identify the full scope and cost of any upgrades and/or maintenance works required.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 4

QUESTION:

With reference to the Courier Mail article dated March 7th 2024 that states government was handed a 187-page business case calling for communications infrastructure upgrades. Will the Minister advise where funding for this vital equipment is included in the budget and when the upgrades will be completed?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) is a member of the Public Safety Communications Interdepartmental Committee (PSC IDC) which has established the Queensland Critical Communications Modernisation project to deliver appropriate interoperable technology to meet mission critical requirements across Public Safety Agencies.

The Queensland Critical Communications Modernisation project will look to provide our frontline with world class connectivity, equipment to support community safety and health, and drive economic benefits through connecting Queensland services with digital technology.

The project is being led by the Queensland Government Customer and Digital Group within the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The Queensland Critical Communications Modernisation business case will leverage vital work previously completed by QFD, including the approach to the options available for improving public safety communications.

QFD will continue to work closely with the PSC IDC and stakeholders in relation to the Queensland Critical Communications Modernisation project.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise, broken down by financial year, how many Rural Fire Service appliances have been replaced each year for the last five (5) years?

ANSWER:

In 2024-25, the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) budget is \$121.80 million which represents a 20% increase on the 2023-24 budget.

The 2024-25 RFSQ budget includes \$19.5 million for replacement and new rural fire appliances.

The number of Rural Fire Service appliances that have been replaced, as part of the then Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' replacement program, for the last five financial years, from 2019-20 to 2023-24, are as follows:

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
16	28	38	20	20

119 appliances were delivered in 2018-19 following a \$30.1 million injection of funds over two years commencing in 2017-18 as part of the Accelerated Rural Fire Service Fleet Program.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 6

QUESTION:

With regard to disaster events having taken place between 2019-20 and 2023-24, will the QRA advise the total amount allocated to betterment from all grant and funding programs and report separately by year, project and funding recipient?

ANSWER:

Betterment funding is a great example of all levels of government working together to improve the resilience of our communities.

The total of Betterment funding approved since the 2019 Monsoon Floods to build back to a more resilient standard and better protect Queenslanders is \$290 million.

More than \$93 million in these works have been completed and \$197 million currently in delivery.

This funding comprises \$250 million established under Category D of the joint State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), and \$40 million available under the DRFA Efficiencies (Category E) framework.

The following Betterment programs are either complete or currently in delivery:

- 2018-19 Betterment Fund - \$102 million (complete)
- 2020-21 Betterment Fund - \$20 million (Cat E*)
- 2021-22 South East Queensland Floods - \$150 million
- 2021-22 Betterment Fund (Cat E*) - \$20 million
- 2022-23 Betterment Fund - \$100 million

In response to Tropical Cyclone Jasper and the South Queensland Storms in late 2023, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is currently developing a further Betterment Program for approval.

Betterment project by year, project and funding recipient

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2018-19	Aurukun Shire Council	Aurukun Access Road
2018-19	Barcoo Shire Council	Jundah Winton Road
2018-19	Barcoo Shire Council	Jundah Winton Road
2018-19	Burdekin Shire Council	Sandy Camp Road
2018-19	Burdekin Shire Council	Hodel Road
2018-19	Burdekin Shire Council	Coach Road
2018-19	Burke Shire Council	Lawn Hill National Park
2018-19	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Stephenson Road
2018-19	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Scougall Road
2018-19	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Schumann Road
2018-19	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Hamilton Road
2018-19	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Blackman Street (Munro Plains)
2018-19	Cloncurry Shire Council	Sedan Dip Road
2018-19	Cloncurry Shire Council	Sedan Dip Road
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Esk Valley Road R082-00
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Flaggy Road R101-00
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Percy Road R094-00
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Wilton Access R037-00

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Battlecamp Road R012-00
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Melaleuca Street R018-52
2018-19	Cook Shire Council	Oakey Creek Road R033-00
2018-19	Cairns Regional Council	Goldsborough Road
2018-19	Croydon Shire Council	Claraville Road
2018-19	Croydon Shire Council	Guildford Road
2018-19	Croydon Shire Council	Coralie Road
2018-19	Carpentaria Shire Council	Normanton - Burketown Road CL
2018-19	Carpentaria Shire Council	Normanton - Burketown Road CL
2018-19	Charters Towers Regional Council	Dotswood Road
2018-19	Douglas Shire Council	Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Rd
2018-19	Douglas Shire Council	Zig Zag Rd
2018-19	Douglas Shire Council	Cape Tribulation Bloomfield Rd
2018-19	Diamantina Shire Council	Big Red Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Kennedy Developmental Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Landsborough Highway
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Endeavour Valley Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Flinders Highway
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Flinders Highway
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Richmond - Winton Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Burke Developmental Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Richmond - Winton Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Richmond - Winton Road
2018-19	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Kennedy Developmental Road
2018-19	Etheridge Shire Council	Oak Park Road
2018-19	Flinders Shire Council	Dalkeith Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Atkinsons Pocket Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Barbagallos Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Yuruga Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Abergowrie Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Baillies Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Covells Road
2018-19	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Menzies Street
2018-19	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	Elim Road
2018-19	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Kowanyama Street
2018-19	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Kowanyama Street
2018-19	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Pompuraaw Road (Magnificent Creek - Mitchell River)
2018-19	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Pompuraaw Road (Magnificent Creek - Mitchell River)
2018-19	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Pompuraaw Road (Magnificent Creek - Mitchell River)
2018-19	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Portland Road (North)
2018-19	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Pascoe Farms Road
2018-19	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Portland Road (North)
2018-19	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Portland Road (South)
2018-19	Longreach Regional Council	Stonehenge River Rd
2018-19	Longreach Regional Council	Silsoe Rd
2018-19	Longreach Regional Council	Total Rd
2018-19	Mareeba Shire Council	Fossilbrook Road
2018-19	Mareeba Shire Council	Shanty Creek Road North
2018-19	Mareeba Shire Council	Clacherty Road
2018-19	McKinlay Shire Council	Gilliat McKinlay Road
2018-19	McKinlay Shire Council	Dalgonally Millungera Road
2018-19	Mount Isa City Council	Lake Julius Road
2018-19	Mornington Shire Council	Ballaleah Road
2018-19	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	Stones Crossing Access Road
2018-19	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Punsand Bay Road
2018-19	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Pajinka Road
2018-19	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Ferry Road

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2018-19	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Road
2018-19	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Banfield Drive
2018-19	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Wallaby Point Road
2018-19	Richmond Shire Council	Coalbrook Road (Hampstead) (A5)
2018-19	Richmond Shire Council	Walkers Park Road (B4)
2018-19	Richmond Shire Council	Maxwelton - Kynuna Road (A4)
2018-19	Richmond Shire Council	Villadale Road (B2)
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Mill Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Swensen Street
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Bougainville Street
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Mountview Drive
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Pace Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Coast Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Heath Road (north)
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Woodlands Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Forestry Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Purono Parkway
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Ponderosa Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Central Creek Road
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Apjohn Street
2018-19	Townsville City Council	Echlin Street
2018-19	Torres Shire Council	Waiben Esplanade Seawall
2018-19	Whitsunday Regional Council	Rutherford Road-34070
2018-19	Whitsunday Regional Council	Exmoor Road-36025
2018-19	Whitsunday Regional Council	Emu Plains Road-36005
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Old Landsborough Highway
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Olio-Fairview Road (West)
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Cork Mail Road
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Lark Quarry Access
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Corfield Richmond Road
2018-19	Winton Shire Council	Diamantina River Road (Collingwood to Old Cork)
2018-19	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	Bloomfield Falls Road
2018-19	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	Buddabadoo Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Aurukun Shire Council	Aurukun Access Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Balonne Shire Council	Cubbie Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Barcoo Shire Council	Budgerygar Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Bulloo Shire Council	Innamincka Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Bulloo Shire Council	Warry Gate Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	Wooloogarang West Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Douglas Shire Council	Bamboo Creek Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Douglas Shire Council	Poletti Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Douglas Shire Council	Whyanbeel Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Morennan Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Covells Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Gangemis Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Golloglys Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Quabbas Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Capellaris Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Hamleigh Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Orient Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	Alligator Creek Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	Cooktown-Mclvor River Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Road (Magnificent Creek - Mitchell River)
2020-21 (Cat E)	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Portland Road (North)
2020-21 (Cat E)	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	Kuttini Street
2020-21 (Cat E)	Mount Isa City Council	Riversleigh Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Road

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2020-21 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Bentley Street
2020-21 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Dee Street
2020-21 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Lower Weir Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Mossman Street
2020-21 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Two Street
2020-21 (Cat E)	Paroo Shire Council	Jobs Gate Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Quilpie Shire Council	Cooma Road - 56-5B-Eromanga - Combined
2020-21 (Cat E)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Condamine River Road (Killarney)
2020-21 (Cat E)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Alloah Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Carinya Rd
2020-21 (Cat E)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Geiger Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Townsville City Council	Dingo Park Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	Buddabadoo Road
2020-21 (Cat E)	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	Reservoir Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Balonne Shire Council	Mungindi levee
2021-22 (Cat D)	Balonne Shire Council	Whyenbah Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Balonne Shire Council	Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd North
2021-22 (Cat D)	Balonne Shire Council	Jakelwar-Goodooga Rd North
2021-22 (Cat D)	Banana Shire Council	Defence Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Banana Shire Council	Coolum Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Brisbane City Council	Hawera Ct Bridge
2021-22 (Cat D)	Brisbane City Council	Koorngal Dr Bridge
2021-22 (Cat D)	Central Highlands Regional Council	Mt Playfair Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Central Highlands Regional Council	Withersfield Willows Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Central Highlands Regional Council	Wyntoon Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Central Highlands Regional Council	Wyuna Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Carpentaria Shire Council	Dunbar - Kowanyama Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Maryborough - Hervey Bay Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Gold Coast - Springbrook Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Beechmont Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Moonie Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Currumbin Creek - Tomewin Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Toowoomba - Cecil Plains Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Currumbin Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Nerang - Murwillumbah Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Beaudesert - Nerang Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Tamborine - Oxenford Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Mount Sylvia Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Isis Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Castlereagh Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Burnett Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Mount Lindesay Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Lamington National Park Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Moonie Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Murgon - Gayndah Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Dalby - Cecil Plains Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Leichhardt Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Booyal - Dallarnil Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Barwon Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Wide Bay Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Burnett Highway
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Cunningham Arterial Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Bauple - Woolooga Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Running Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Teebar Hall Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Gigoomgan Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Adelaide Street

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2021-22 (Cat D)	City of Gold Coast	Gold Coast Springbrook Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	City of Gold Coast	Smith Road, Bonogin Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Kildonan Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Kioma Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Kondar Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Baldaw Road Captain Creek
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Blackman Gap Road Colosseum
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Bootmaker Drive Roundhill
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Bunker Road Roundhill
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Cross Road Euleilah
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Daisy Dell Road Bororen
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Dillon Road Captain Creek
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	John Clifford Way Lowmead
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Talaba Road Calliope
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Toowell Road Oconnell
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gladstone Regional Council	Taylor Lane Machine Creek
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Maudsley Street
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Moy Pocket Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Cedar Pocket Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Noosa Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Rossmore Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	McLeish Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Wilsons Pocket Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Amamoor Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	North Deep Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Kew Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Gympie Regional Council	Roebuck Street
2021-22 (Cat D)	Ipswich City Council	East Ipswich Catchment
2021-22 (Cat D)	Ipswich City Council	Bradfield Bridge
2021-22 (Cat D)	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Pindi Street Subdivision
2021-22 (Cat D)	Logan City Council	Greenbank Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Logan City Council	New Beith Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Logan City Council	Haven Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Logan City Council	Murcot Street
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Old Laidley Forest Hill Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Brightview Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Dallingers Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Flagstone Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Ingoldsby Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Lefthand Branch Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	McGarrigal Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Paynter Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Rockmount Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Sawpit Gully Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Stockyard Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Thomas Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Upper Flagstone Creek Road 3246
2021-22 (Cat D)	Maranoa Regional Council	Maranoa Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Maranoa Regional Council	Roma Southern Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Barklya Crescent to Bribie Gardens
2021-22 (Cat D)	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Marine outfall multi cell culvert system
2021-22 (Cat D)	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Youngs Crossing Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Pringles Road - Kobble Creek
2021-22 (Cat D)	Moreton Bay Regional Council	Stratton Road - Multiple
2021-22 (Cat D)	Murweh Shire Council	Barngo Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	North Burnett Regional Council	Bon Accord Wetheron Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Noosa Shire Council	Schreibers Road

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2021-22 (Cat D)	Noosa Shire Council	Middle Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Dip Road (Windera)
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Flagstone Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Williams Road (Benarkin North)
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Mercer Springgate Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Goldsworthy Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Hodges Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Kearneys Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Magee Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Manar Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Walkers Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Arthur Street East
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Mondure Crossing Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Nords Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Tim Dwyer Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Weeks Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Finnemores Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Greenview Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Hoggs Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Ironpot Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Jerrards Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Kings Bridge Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Lamperds Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Maidenwell Upper Yarraman Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Manumbar Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Nords Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Old Wondai Road (Southbound1)
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Parkers Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Pedersens Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Recreation Drive
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Smiths Road (Inverlaw)
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Trentham Lane
2021-22 (Cat D)	South Burnett Regional Council	Trouts Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Goldfields Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Talgai West Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Glen Niven Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Kital Road 2
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Connells Bridge Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Merivale Street
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Wheatvale Plains Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Azalea Street
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Charleys Gully Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Coopers Gully Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Fairbanks Lane
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Gillbard Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Halls Road (Yangan)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Jensens Road (Sladevale)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Kays Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Lode Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Mikkelsens Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Pierces Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Pratten - Hendon Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Warner Street (Rosenthal Heights)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Southern Downs Regional Council	Yankee Gully Road
2021-22 (Cat D)	Somerset Regional Council	Patrick Estate Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Somerset Regional Council	Scrub Creek Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Teviotville Rd

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Roadvale Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Rosevale Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Tarome Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Allandale Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Biddaddaba Creek Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Brookland Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Christmas Creek Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Round Mountain Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Croftby Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Wild Pig Creek Rd
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	O'Connor Road (Coalbank)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Windermere Drive (Hodgson Vale)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Blaxland Road (Bowenville)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Brimblecombe Road (Oakey)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Jimna Springs Road (Southbrook)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Kearney Street (Kearneys Spring)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Lagoon Crescenteek Road (West Haldon)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Maria Crescenteek Road (Anduramba)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Umbiram Road (Wyreema)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	Westbrook Wayreema Road (Westbrook)
2021-22 (Cat D)	Toowoomba Regional Council	WestCreek004
2021-22 (Cat D)	Western Downs Regional Council	Wilds Rd W342
2021-22 (Cat D)	Western Downs Regional Council	Sandalwood Av West W248
2021-22 (Cat D)	Western Downs Regional Council	Giligulgul Rd X033
2021-22 (Cat D)	Western Downs Regional Council	Springvale Rd W244
2021-22 (Cat D)	Western Downs Regional Council	Commodity Ct D013
2021-22 (Cat E)	Aurukun Shire Council	Aurukun Access Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Barcoo Shire Council	Connemara Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Blackall Emmet Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Coolatai Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Evora Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Cloncurry Shire Council	Kajabbi Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Croydon Shire Council	Glenora Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Flinders Shire Council	Moondah Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Bakers Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Bellevue Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Bolwarra Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Fantin Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Fossilbrook Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Hurricane Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Karma Waters Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Kondaparinga Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	McBean Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Mount Cardwell Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Mount Misery Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Mount Mulligan - Kondaparinga Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Mount Mulligan Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Nychum Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	OK Mine Road South
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Price Creek Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Springfield Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Sunnymount Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Mareeba Shire Council	Torwood Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Ferry Road

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2021-22 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Farm Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Lower Weir Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Mount Bentley Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Sundowner Ridge Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Tip Bypass Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Paroo Shire Council	Humburn Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Paroo Shire Council	Mount Alfred Road
2021-22 (Cat E)	Quilpie Shire Council	Old Charleville Road - 16-3_4B-Quilpie – Combined
2021-22 (Cat E)	Richmond Shire Council	Richmond - Croydon Road (A1)
2021-22 (Cat E)	Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Dauan (Mt Cornwallis Island) - Reservoir Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Aurukun Shire Council	Aurukun Access Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Barcaldine Regional Council	Aramac-Jericho (West)
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Barcoo Shire Council	Yaraka Retreat Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Boulia Shire Council	Urandangi South Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Burdekin Shire Council	Butler Road (Ayr)
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Cloncurry Shire Council	Granada Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Cloncurry Shire Council	Granada Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Cook Shire Council	Cameron Creek Road R035-00
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Carpentaria Shire Council	Normanton - Burketown Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	Wooloogarang West Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Burke Development Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Gregory Downs Camooweal Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Additional Area Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Arrilalah Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Bogewong Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Bude Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Campsie Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Crossmoor Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Darr River Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Emmet Yaraka Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Glenloch Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Isisford Bimerah Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Kensington Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Mernoo Lane
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Ruthven Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Silsoe Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Stonehenge River Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Tocal Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Longreach Regional Council	Yanburra Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Anu Crescent
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Army Back Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Atambya Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Bond Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Brown Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Danalub Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Jacob Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Kulla Kulla Close
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Langie Draha Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Little Fletcher Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Little Lui Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Lui Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Mimi Close
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Moses Close
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Mudu Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Nawia Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Poi Poi Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Sebasio Street

Year	Funding Recipient	Project / Asset
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Snake Gully Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Stephen Close
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Ware Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Wasiu Street
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Road
2022-2023 (Cat D)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	Butler Bay Road

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 7

QUESTION:

With reference to the Disaster Ready Fund, will the QRA advise-

- a) For round one in 2023-24, the 50 projects approved by the Government and the breakdown of funding source for each project by Federal, State and Council contributions; and
- b) For round two in 2024-25, the list of projects and the value of each?

ANSWER:

a) The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is funded by the Australian Government with projects supported by equivalent recipient contributions, with the exception of Indigenous councils which did not require a co-contribution, or where there was evidence the project will deliver high impact for a disproportionately at-risk community or otherwise contribute to the public benefit where there is a strong demonstrated need.

On 7 June 2023, the Australian Government announced the successful projects funded nationally across Australia through the \$200 million first round of the DRF.

The list of successful projects is published on QRA's website and listed below.

Project	Recipient	Commonwealth Funding	Contribution
Total: 50 Projects		\$84,261,838.31	\$68,590,623.00
The Burdekin Delta Community Disaster Shelters	Bur-Del Co-Operative Advancement Society Limited	\$1,349,000.00	\$1,349,000.00
Flood Mitigation Backflow Device – Water level sensors	Brisbane City Council	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Shoreline Erosion Management - Cowan Cowan, Mulgumpin (Moreton Island)	Brisbane City Council	\$224,000.00	\$224,000.00
Live Stream Flood Monitoring Cameras	Brisbane City Council	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00
Backflow device automation in Brisbane's CBD	Brisbane City Council	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Flood Study Program	Brisbane City Council	\$950,000.00	\$950,000.00
Building Resilience in the Agricultural South Burnett	Burnett Catchment Care Association	\$288,500.00	\$291,520.00

Project	Recipient	Commonwealth Funding	Contribution
Flood Warning Infrastructure Doomadgee West Road – Lagoon and Branch Creek	Burke Shire Council	\$90,919.69	\$95,394.00
Cherbourg Disaster Early Warning System	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	\$292,363.43	\$0.00
Bluff Township Flood Mitigation Channel Construction	Central Highlands Regional Council	\$397,701.71	\$400,000.00
Chinaman Creek Dam, Monitoring and Early Warning Systems Project	Cloncurry Shire Council	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Curry Kids Early Learning Centre – Emergency Generator	Cloncurry Shire Council	\$49,449.00	\$49,450.00
Building Evacuation and Sheltering Capacity - Assessment of places of refuge	Cairns Regional Council	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Power supply security at 3 essential services for community resilience	Croydon Shire Council	\$98,412.00	\$98,412.00
Household Resilience Program - Phase 3	Department of Energy and Public Works	\$20,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00
Small Business Disaster Hub – Upgrade	Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00
State-wide Disaster Ready Imagery	Department of Resources	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,500,000.00
South East Queensland Flood Resilience Program	Energy Queensland Limited	\$8,970,000.00	\$8,970,000.00
Severe Wind Strata Study and Industry Engagement	City of Gold Coast	\$200,000.00	\$275,000.00
Upgrading existing stormwater outlets to gated outlets.	Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
Design and Construct Round Hill Reservoir 2	Gladstone Regional Council	\$4,262,017.10	\$4,372,000.00
Private sector-driven managed retreat of at-risk settlements: An SEQ pilot	Griffith University	\$600,000.00	\$687,000.00
Reprofiling of Castorina Island, Lower Herbert River	Herbert River Improvement Trust	\$255,000.00	\$255,000.00
Flood warning infrastructure resilience upgrades	Isaac Regional Council	\$376,500.00	\$376,500.00
Laidley Disaster Ready Project (Flood) – Phase 1	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	\$2,070,092.00	\$2,070,093.00

Project	Recipient	Commonwealth Funding	Contribution
Detailed Design – Training Wall Levee	Mackay Regional Council	\$555,225.00	\$555,225.00
Dohles Rocks (Griffin) Coastal Hazards Defence Business Case Development	Moreton Bay Regional Council	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Crockatt Park Seawall Renewal	Moreton Bay Regional Council	\$4,500,000.00	\$4,500,000.00
Flinders Parade Cliffs Protection	Moreton Bay Regional Council	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Bray Park - Leone Street - Drainage Construction	Moreton Bay Regional Council	\$2,095,000.00	\$2,095,000.00
Solar Panels and Battery Storage for Disaster Resilience	Mount Isa City Council	\$851,435.00	\$851,435.00
Drainage Investigations Lee Ding Street Catchment	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council	\$47,225.00	\$0.00
Northern Peninsula Area Place of Refuge (Priority 2)	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	\$1,381,000.00	\$506,000.00
Noosa Shire Council's Noosa Main Beach Sea Wall Detailed Design	Noosa Shire Council	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00
Generator Installations – Noosaville Depot, Tewantin Administration Building	Noosa Shire Council	\$98,453.00	\$98,453.00
Pormpuraaw Aerodrome Upgrade	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	\$14,917,374.00	\$0.00
Palm Island Cyclone Shelter (multi-purpose – community hall)	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	\$240,000.00	\$0.00
Paroo Emergency Power	Paroo Shire Council	\$222,625.00	\$222,625.00
Regional Disaster Ready	Neighbourhood Centres Queensland	\$531,924.00	\$537,339.00
Landslide and dam stability risk reduction via multiscale site monitoring	Queensland University of Technology	\$212,701.71	\$318,060.00
Coastal Protection Works–Karragarra Esplanade Seawall–Karragarra Island	Redland City Council	\$173,455.00	\$173,455.00
Fitzroy River Barrage Raising Project Business Case Development	Rockhampton Regional Council	\$685,000.00	\$685,000.00
Evacuation Centre Emergency Generator	Rockhampton Regional Council	\$216,400.00	\$216,400.00
Advanced Communications Module on Disaster Dashboard	Rockhampton Regional Council	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00

Project	Recipient	Commonwealth Funding	Contribution
New Seawall – Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	\$7,950,000.00	\$8,151,000.00
Cool Urban Forests – Street Tree Planting Project	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	\$3,210,000.00	\$3,210,000.00
Toogoolawah (Dingyarra St) flood mitigation project	Somerset Regional Council	\$1,020,816.00	\$1,024,327.00
Setting an urban greening target for the Scenic Rim	Scenic Rim Regional Council	\$111,000.00	\$111,100.00
Detailed Design for the Reconstruction of Duck Creek Road	Scenic Rim Regional Council	\$127,249.67	\$130,835.00
Tide Valve and Gate Study	Townsville City Council	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00

b) I am advised the Commonwealth is currently assessing Queensland's project applications for DRF Round 2.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 8

QUESTION:

With reference to the report dated 2nd December 2022 by the ABC on the alleged assault of a teenage girl at the Wacol facility. Given your predecessor advises two (2) reviews were associated to the alleged incident, will the Minister advise:

- a) Have all recommendations of the review conducted by an external body been fully implemented and, if so, what was the total cost;
- b) Has the review by the Professional Standards and Governance Command been completed and, if so, when was it provided to the Minister;
- c) Have all recommendations of the review by the Professional Standards and Governance Command been implemented and, if so, what was the total cost; and
- d) When will both reviews be made available to the public.

ANSWER:

The recommendations from the review conducted by an external body have been substantively implemented. I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that all recommendations have been considered and addressed and where not implemented as recommended, alternate strategies have been implemented to address the identified issues.

Security upgrades included clearing of vegetation around the perimeter of the precinct to improve visibility, installing additional lighting and CCTV cameras to provide better coverage of the precinct and to assist in detection of unauthorised movements. A new 3-metre-high precinct boundary fence has been installed outside the existing chain wire fence, with CCTV cameras providing visibility along the perimeter line and additional signage to deter unauthorised entry.

Bollards and fencing have been installed to restrict vehicular access within certain areas of the precinct. A boom gate to control vehicle entry to the facility has also been installed with video monitored entry.

These upgrades have significantly enhanced the physical and surveillance security profile of the precinct with a total of approximately \$2 million invested.

I have been advised the review by the Professional Standards and Governance Command has been completed. Queensland Corrective Services advise that due to the operational nature of the report they did not provide a copy of the review to the Minister.

I am advised, all four (4) recommendations of the review by the Professional Standards and Governance Command have been implemented. There was no cost associated with implementing the recommendations.

These reports, by their nature, include sensitive operational information which has the potential to impact the safety and security of the precinct or reveal strategies employed by Queensland Corrective Services' officers in the management of offenders, should they be released publicly. For these reasons the reports will not be released publicly.

I can confirm that in response QCS has enhanced training for staff tailored to their roles, increased collaboration with Queensland Police Service and enhanced case management practices.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 9

QUESTION:

With reference to the increased funding provided in the SDS page 2, what additional allocation is provided to ensure detainees in corrective services, including those transferred from youth justice system, receive appropriate rehabilitation, training and life skills, to reduce recidivism?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) enhances community safety through humane, modern, sustainable, and evidence-informed corrective services to maximise rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. Reducing recidivism is a key part of how QCS contributes to keeping Queenslanders safe.

Addressing recidivism is a complex issue. QCS' professional and dedicated staff work every day as role models and agents of change to ensure prisoners and offenders are less likely to reoffend.

Queensland's 2022-23 recidivism rate of 49.4% was a reduction from the 2021-22 rate of 52.0%.

QCS works to reduce recidivism through prisoner and offender centred assessment, interventions, End-to-End case management, psychological support, and re-entry services.

QCS provides a range of evidence-informed rehabilitation programs, services, education and training opportunities that aim to address offending behaviour and positively re-integrate offenders to the community.

Intervention programs are available to address sexual offending, violent offending, general offending, substance use and psychological wellbeing, complemented by a range of other desistance programs that are provided by external services with expertise in relevant areas.

Education and training options offered in correctional centres include literacy and numeracy programs, vocational education and training, secondary and tertiary education courses. Vocational education and training courses, and units of competencies align to state skill shortages that identify a pathway to employment, including a traineeship or an apprenticeship. Through education and training, prisoners can gain skills in a range of industries, for example welding, mining and hospitality. Valuable life skills can also be developed such as budgeting, cooking, cleaning, laundry and gardening.

Contracted re-entry services also provide both pre and post release support to individuals transitioning to the community.

QCS was allocated \$14.8 million over two (2) years in the 2024-25 budget to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.

The need for intervention to address domestic and family violence is high, with 4,539 of 10,878 prisoners (41.7%) in custody being subject to an imprisonment or remand warrant with a domestic violence offence indicator.

Currently the *Disrupting Family Violence Program* is delivered at Woodford, Wolston, Maryborough and Capricornia Correctional Centres. The additional \$14.8 million allocated to the department to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community will enable increased delivery of domestic and family violence perpetrator programs with planning currently underway to expand on program delivery within QCS correctional centres.

Youth transferred into QCS custody are assessed on an individual basis to identify suitable programs and interventions within the adult system. Consideration is given to potential management including vulnerability, safety and behavioural concerns. Vocational and educational preferences of the youth are also considered in conjunction with best placement where able.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland Fire Department expenses on page 4 of the SDS, what funding increases have been made to address the predicted impact of climate change on the frequency and impact of fires and the needed increases in resources and facilities to mitigate, such as the Tinbeerwah rural fire station?

ANSWER:

With the influence of climate change, disasters such as bushfires are becoming more extreme and complex.

In 2024–25, this Government is providing more than \$1.09 billion for the Queensland Fire Department (QFD), including more than \$960 million in operating funding to support the delivery of essential emergency, safety, mitigation and response services to Queensland. QFD will also have a capital budget of \$138.40 million to fund fire and emergency services facilities, fleet program, and essential operational equipment and information systems across both of QFD's fire services.

With reference to the QFD SDS, the Government has recognised the importance of an increased investment to bolster resources and enhance facilities to respond to our communities during Queensland's fire and severe weather seasons.

One way this funding is being used to address the impact of climate change is through the Rural Fire Service Queensland's (RFSQ) Resource to Risk (R2R) program. The R2R program model will inform the RFSQ's resource asset and investment plans, using data, including emerging patterns in climate change, to deliver an appropriate service with a focus on where it is needed most.

Incorporating brigade, area, district and regional knowledge, the R2R model will apply a careful and considered process to the allocation of resources and infrastructure to RFSQ fire brigades, based on available data and statistics detailing the past, current and future service delivery needs and underpinned by evidence-based decision making.

The RFSQ 2024–25 budget of \$121.8 million will assist to fund the R2R program, as well as funding additional RFSQ staff, new appliances, facilities and equipment, which will benefit all Rural Fire Service Queensland Brigades across the state like the Tinbeerwah and District Rural Fire Brigade in the Noosa Electorate.

This 2024-25 budget allocation for the RSFQ is a 20% increase compared to 2023-24 and will support and enhance fire service delivery in our rural areas and enable QFD to position itself to meet the challenges that Queensland faces both now and into the future due to climate change and the increase in the regularity and intensity of natural events such as bushfire.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, will the Minister please update the Committee on the new Queensland Fire Department and how this will enhance service delivery for Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The establishment of a dedicated fire department will bring renewed focus to firefighting in Queensland, as the state continues to address the increasing challenges of population growth and climate change.

The renewed focus of the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) will result in more people and better equipment for those services.

In 2024–25, this Government is providing more than \$1.09 billion for QFD, including more than \$960 million in operating funding to support the delivery of essential emergency, safety, mitigation and response services to Queensland. QFD will also have a capital budget of \$138.40 million to fund fire and emergency services facilities, fleet program, and essential operational equipment and information systems.

This Government recognises the vital role played by QFD in creating safer communities through contemporary fire and emergency services.

Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) will continue to maintain a responsive service delivering state-of-the-art fire response, rescue, scientific and specialist capabilities to Queensland communities.

QFD is committed to ensuring that it equips QFR with fit-for-purpose vehicles and appliances. QFR has been allocated \$140.3 million for a five-year program from 2025–26 financial year to 2029–30. This funding expects to deliver approximately 202 new and or replacement appliances. The specifications for the type 2 and 3 QFR appliances are currently being developed with consideration to opportunities to enhance innovation on the appliances.

QFR has also been allocated \$5 million in funding to purchase priority fire safety equipment such as thermal imaging cameras and rapid intervention team kits to improve situational awareness and rescue capabilities for Queensland's firefighters.

Key enhancements for Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) service delivery include improved facilities and equipment, uplift of 114 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, better equipment and technology, modern appliances and protections for volunteers.

Operational equipment delivered includes incident management kits, and ICT equipment for staff to be recruited for the 114 FTE uplift. As at 18 July 2024, RFSQ has completed initial recruitment of 37 of the total 114 additional positions committed by government. Recruitment of the remaining 77 additional frontline staff will continue in 2024–25.

By providing additional resources, rural fire brigades and locally based staff can actively participate in community education programs. These programs focus on educating residents about fire safety, evacuation plans, and preventive measures, ultimately contributing to risk reduction. RFSQ continues to actively engage with the community to promote bushfire preparedness. RFSQ has conducted over 120 community engagement activities, including targeted efforts in high-risk locations.

RFSQ's ongoing program to uplift its fleet and equipment statewide continues to enhance RFSQ service delivery. Over a three year period, it is proposed RFSQ will deliver 285 new and replacement trucks, with a budget of \$85 million dedicated to this fleet upgrade.

RFSQ operates over 700 medium attack fire appliances, which play a critical role in firefighting operations. In 2022, QFES committed \$3 million over three years to retrofit the first 205 RFSQ medium attack appliances with a low-pressure crew protection spray (deluge system). This system significantly enhances crew safety during burn-over situations by dispersing water and/or foam over the cab of the appliance. The retrofit program was successfully implemented across the state and completed ahead of schedule in November 2023.

Additionally, QFD has committed an additional \$2.8 million to retrofit a further 210 RFSQ medium appliances over the next two years. To minimise future retrofits, RFSQ appliance specifications have been updated with new safety features, including deluge systems, radiant heat shield curtains and roll-over protection to further increase crew safety.

These investments support the ability of RFSQ personnel to effectively combat fires. Enhanced safety measures reduce the risk of injury during firefighting operations, while more efficient appliances allow quicker response times; minimising damage and saving lives.

QFD plays a vital role in ensuring communities are well informed about bushfire safety, home fire safety and fire escape plans and smoke alarms to reduce loss of life and impacts on the community. With the renewed focus, QFD will invest \$3.55 million in 2024–25 in public safety advertising campaigns to address bushfire and home fire safety.

The Queensland-wide Bushfire Safety campaign, 'Respect it or Regret it', aims to build community capability and resilience, prevent loss of life and minimise damage from bushfires. The first phase in June and July 2024 helped Queenslanders identify and accept risk and encouraged them to prepare their household and property and complete a Bushfire Survival Plan. The second phase from August 2024 will urge residents to base their seasonal planning around bushfire weather conditions and the Fire Danger Ratings and if a fire starts, urges them to take action based on the warnings advice.

The Home Fire Safety 'Plan to Survive' campaign ran from March to June 2024 in the lead up to winter, a historically high-risk period with increased use of heating appliances. The campaign aimed to educate residents that having and practising a home fire escape plan and having interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms can help families survive.

QFD also produces an important smoke alarm search engine marketing campaign that runs year-round by linking Queenslanders searching on Google to accurate information about the legislative requirements. The campaign enables owner-occupiers, landlords, property managers and investors to take action to comply with the smoke alarm legislation as soon as possible, giving them a direct link to authoritative information about how to comply.

The free Safehome program is delivered by QFD operational firefighters to help Queensland residents understand fire safety hazards in and around their homes. Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, 326 Safehome visits were conducted. Residents who are serviced by RFSQ volunteers are offered a property advice visit which includes a Safehome kit and specific information around bushfire safety and preparing their property.

QFR firefighters work with Queensland teachers of year one students to deliver the Fire Ed program. The program aims to build basic fire safety awareness and works to establish trust with firefighters. From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the Fire Ed program was delivered to approximately 45,500 year one students in 690 schools across Queensland.

Fight Fire Fascination is an educational initiative that works with individual young persons aged 3 to 17 who have been involved in at least one concerning fire incident. The program was reinstated by the Labor Government, after it was cut by the LNP in 2012, and is delivered by specially trained operational firefighters to teach respect for fire and develop fire safety skills. The program works in partnership with schools, mental health services, and community agencies to support young persons and their families. From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, firefighters worked with 79 young persons.

In addition, QFD continues to engage with communities at local events across the state to promote the home fire safety message and build relationships with local residents. QFD provided over 25,000 copies of the home fire escape planner tool to residents. A translated instructional version of this product is also available in 11 languages.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 12

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister please update the Committee on the delivery of new and upgraded rural fire brigade facilities across Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Miles Government has committed \$13.6 million of the 2024-25 Queensland Fire Department capital program to continue the delivery of new or upgraded rural fire brigade stations, facilities and land acquisitions across the State. This includes \$11.6 million for new or upgraded rural fire brigade stations, \$1.5 million to upgrade rural fire services facilities, and \$0.5 million for rural land acquisitions.

This funding commitment will provide for new and upgraded infrastructure, including new stations for Abbot Point, Bamaga, Biggenden, Maryborough, Mount Alford, Moore Linville and Mount Ossa brigades. Bell Town, Biddaddaba, Delaneys Creek, Mulgowie, and Swan and Emu Creek brigades will also benefit through replacement stations to ensure contemporary facilities for volunteers.

Further information about the Queensland Fire Department capital program can be found in *Budget Paper No. 3 Capital Statement*.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Minister please advise the Committee on the investment being made in appliances for Rural Fire Service Queensland and how this will benefit volunteers ahead of the upcoming bushfire season?

ANSWER:

Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) plays a crucial role in keeping Queensland communities safe and the government is committed to ensuring that RFSQ is well equipped with fit-for-purpose vehicles and appliances. This includes water tankers; light, medium and heavy attack appliances; command vehicles; support vehicles and utility off-road vehicles.

I am advised that RFSQ's current build program has delivered 40 appliances since 2022-23 with 77 appliances scheduled to be delivered in 2024-25 and 30 appliances to be carried over to 2025-26 due to supply chain challenges.

In 2023-24, it was announced that the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) would invest an additional \$85.35 million to deliver approximately 285 additional RFSQ appliances across three financial years. The tender process has already commenced with some build contracts awarded and the remainder expected to be awarded by the first quarter of 2024-25. Final build numbers and delivery schedules will be confirmed at that time.

In 2024-25, \$19.5 million has been allocated for new and replacement RFSQ appliances to further support the work of our volunteers in reducing the impacts of bushfires on their communities. I am advised that these appliances are designed with the latest safety features and technology ensuring effective firefighting capabilities and enhanced personnel safety.

Further, QFD has also committed an additional \$2.8 million in 2024-25 to retrofit a further 210 RFSQ medium attack appliances over the next two years. This investment follows the successful program completed in November 2023 which saw 205 RFSQ appliances retrofitted with a low-pressure crew protection spray (deluge system). This deluge system provides the crew with a significant increase in safety when faced with a burn over situation.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS outlining the QFD strategic objectives, including safe and effective response to manage consequences of fires and other emergencies, can the Minister please provide information on the work being undertaken to ensure QFD is well prepared and maintains a deployable response capability?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) is well prepared to deploy significant resources to meet emergencies which may face Queensland's communities.

The community benefits from QFD undertaking extensive training in various incident management roles and this training enhances incident management capability across the State. The training includes Rural Fire Service Queensland staff, volunteers and Queensland Fire and Rescue personnel, with level 3 Incident Controllers managing severe incidents and a diverse range of other incident management team roles.

QFD's ability to deploy rapidly is demonstrated by the regular provision of assistance to our international colleagues, including the recent deployment of QFD personnel to Canada. As a respected agency nationally, QFD meets international and interstate requests for assistance and these tested deployments mean that QFD can quickly call upon similar support from other jurisdictions if and when needed.

In addition to deployment readiness, QFD engages in preparedness activities internally and with its partners. These activities include hazard reduction burns, community engagement, community education and media campaigns. These efforts ensure readiness to respond to fires and support interoperability before the upcoming bushfire season. Ground personnel, supported by a significant air operations capability, have proven their significant value in recent bushfire seasons.

Queensland also has access to over 150 call-when-needed aircraft and National Aerial Firefighting Centre contracted aircraft capable of performing water-bombing, airborne coordination, or intelligence gathering functions in support of ground crews during bushfires and other emergency events. A total of 13 contracted services will be available for the 2024-25 bushfire season, beginning in September 2024. QFD Air Operations is currently planning pre-season briefings to assist with preparations for the season and response.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

QUESTION:

With reference to page 13 of the SDS, will the Minister please advise the committee how the Queensland Government has supported the many Queensland communities impacted by natural disasters in 2023–24, including bushfires, flooding, storms and cyclones?

ANSWER:

During the 2023-24 disaster season, Queenslanders have once again been impacted by tropical cyclones, multiple widespread flooding events and devastating bushfires. Communities across 66 of our 77 LGAs have been left with clean-up and recovery tasks from 13 separate natural disaster events that have struck since 1 July 2023.

The current estimate of the reconstruction bill funded under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) exceeds \$2.5 billion.

More than \$78.1 million in personal hardship grants have been paid to bushfire, cyclone, and flood-affected Queenslanders, benefiting approximately 377,500 people.

DRFA assistance to councils and agencies across all affected areas will reimburse them for costs incurred in counter disaster operations, such as sandbagging for floods and waterbombing for bushfires, and provide funding for the restoration of essential public assets like damaged roads, floodways and bridges.

As at 3 July 2024, 1,416 DRFA grants to primary producers, small businesses and not for profit agencies have been approved, valued at more than \$18.64 million. We have recently extended the period to apply for these grants until the end of 2024.

In addition, 33 low interest DRFA disaster assistance loans valued at more than \$3.5 million have been approved to assist small businesses, not for profit organisations and primary producers.

More than \$6.4 million in grants have been approved for 83 Tourism Operators, with more than \$2.3 million already paid.

11,266 initial damage assessments were carried out in disaster-affected communities in the immediate aftermath of the events with minor damage to 1,572 properties, moderate damage to 1,239, severe damage to 393 and 194 properties destroyed.

In April and May, QRA undertook the first Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring operation to monitor recovery progress of properties impacted by Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, and the SQ Christmas Storms.

Following these assessments, I'm pleased to confirm approximately 60 per cent of impacted properties are no longer damaged or have repairs underway.

In May, the latest round of exceptional circumstances DRFA packages was announced by the State and Commonwealth Governments. Combined with

previously announced programs, more than \$247 million has been jointly funded to support recovery.

This includes funding for clean-up efforts, mental health and community wellbeing, the environment, sport and recreation assets, tourism recovery, and to ensure farmers and small businesses get the helping hand they need.

QRA continues to work closely with the Commonwealth to develop further targeted funding packages to support the recovery and resilience of communities hardest hit.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring wherever and whenever disaster strikes, our communities receive the assistance they need to get back on their feet and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

QUESTION:

With reference to page 15 of the SDS, will the Minister please advise the committee how much Betterment funding is currently underway, and has the QRA calculated the avoided costs associated with this program?

ANSWER:

Betterment funding allows councils and state agencies to improve roads, drainage, bridges and floodways to better withstand the impacts of natural disasters.

Since 2013, more than 750 Betterment projects across Queensland have been approved, with more than \$533 million allocated for Betterment programs in response to severe natural disasters.

From an investment of \$244 million in projects across LGAs that have been activated, some on multiple occasions in a given year, it is estimated that approximately \$988 million has been saved in avoided reconstruction costs.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to the objective of Queensland Corrective Services “to provide humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders and prevent crime, making Queensland safer”, will the Minister outline what this government is doing to reduce recidivism?

ANSWER:

This Government announced the 2024-25 budget allocation for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is \$1.882 billion to enhance the safety of Queenslanders through modern, sustainable, and evidence-based corrective services that reduce recidivism.

In the 2024–25 Queensland Budget, the government is providing \$333.6M over 4 years for asset improvements to support the safe operation of correctional centres. The asset improvement program is an investment to the department’s \$5.3 billion building asset base focusing on the replacement of assets nearing end of life as well as expanding the infrastructure services capacity of the system to match the current and future demand requirements. This program incorporates critical infrastructure, life safety systems, capacity relief services, condition backlog, protective security framework compliance and secure prisoner transport.

This Government is also providing \$111.9M over 4 years to construct and operate additional prison capacity to sustainably manage a growing prisoner population. The additional funding supports the short- and medium-term impacts of Queensland’s growing prison population and includes ancillary infrastructure (such as program rooms and office space) for 119 additional low security beds coming online by October 2024 and an additional 64 beds at Palen Creek Correctional Centre to be delivered in 2026.

Further, this Government is providing \$14.8M over 2 years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.

Addressing recidivism is complex in nature and is influenced by many variables. Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) has professional and dedicated staff working every day as role models and agents of change to ensure prisoners and offenders are less likely to reoffend.

Queensland’s 2022-23 recidivism rate of 49.4% was a reduction from the 2021-22 rate of 52.0%.

QCS works to reduce recidivism through prisoner and offender centred assessment, interventions, End-to-End case management, psychological support, and re-entry services.

This government also provides a range of programs, services, education, training, and employment opportunities to prisoners to encourage prosocial behaviour and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

The ability to progress through the correctional system is also a key factor in successful rehabilitation. Prisoners generally start their sentence in secure units and work towards progression to residential units, and, where appropriate, to low security facilities before their release.

The progression model encourages and rewards good behaviour, consequently improving safety for officers and prisoners. If at any point the prisoner breaks the rules, they risk being returned to high security.

Providing prisoners with the opportunity to demonstrate positive behaviours and prove they can abide by the conditions in a low security setting, is a valuable stepping stone to successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

For individuals under community supervision, QCS' Community Corrections officers expertly tailor their supervision and case management to the needs of each offender, to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please provide an update on how this government is managing the increase in prisoner population, as a consequence of being tough on crime?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services has continued to safely manage the demands of the increasing prison population and work collaboratively with other agencies to implement innovative responses to manage the ongoing demand on the criminal justice system.

This Government has implemented a number of short, medium, and long-term strategies to address capacity constraints including:

- The new 1,536-bed health and rehabilitation designed Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC), due to commence commissioning by the end of 2024.
- An expanded Capricornia Correctional Centre, delivering 398 beds across 348 cells to ease the pressures of growing prisoner numbers.
- An additional 736 beds across 492 cells through the re-commissioning of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre.
- The conversion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre to a women's facility in 2018, providing immediate relief to the women's correctional system.
- The delivery of purpose-built bunk beds retrofitted to cells across Queensland to get prisoners off mattresses on the floor, meaning that by the end 2024-25, approximately 6,300 additional beds including more than 3,200 bunk beds will have been delivered since 2015.
- Planning for additional low security capacity to be constructed at Lotus Glen, Townsville and Numinbah correctional centres.

Additionally, some key initiatives progressed by Government to address demand on Queensland's custodial capacity, while also managing and mitigating issues and risks presented by high prisoner numbers, include:

- Implementation of recommendations from the 2016 Queensland Parole System Review centred around increasing rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour and recidivism prior to release.
- Increased funding to support Parole Board Queensland operations and continue efficient consideration of parole matters.
- Expansion of re-entry services to aid the transition of prisoners back into the community to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and returning to custody.
- Commencement of activities to implement an Enhanced Community Corrections Pilot in Townsville to reduce the imprisonment of First Nations peoples.
- Establishment of a dedicated Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Women's System Reform Program Management Office and a Women's Strategy Steering Committee to plan and execute the implementation of the Women's Safety and

Justice Taskforce reforms in response to *Hear her voice – Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system* (Report Two).

QCS, in collaboration with other Government agencies, will continue to develop options to address current and future capacity needs.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please advise what is being done to ensure that the wellbeing of hardworking frontline corrections staff is looked after?

ANSWER:

This Government is committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all frontline staff. Queensland Corrective Services is committed to providing integrated programs and initiatives to support staff wellbeing with a continued focus on preventative and early intervention measures.

This includes the continued delivery of the Mental Health Training Matrix including the *Healthy Minds* mandatory training package for all frontline CCOs and Case Managers within Community Corrections. *Healthy Minds* is an internally developed training package that covers common and complex reactions to trauma, psychological first aid, self-care and resilience. Psychological first aid is an evidence-based early intervention strategy for trauma and vicarious trauma. As at 17 July 2024, 3,142 staff have completed this classroom-based training package and planning has commenced around a refresher training schedule. The Mental Health Training Matrix also involves online training packages via the Learning Management System, including those developed in partnership with industry leaders, that focus on suicide prevention, leadership capability, support pathways and stigma reduction.

Further, QCS implemented a centralised critical incident framework to complement the current trauma-informed, stepped-care approach to critical incident support. QCS commenced various early intervention program trials across the agency including integrated onsite support, wellbeing debriefs and proactive 'well-checks' for high-risk teams.

QCS have also implemented a statewide psychosocial risk management framework to thoroughly identify, assess, control and monitor psychosocial risks across all workgroups and continued partnership with our Employee Assistance Program provider, Converge International. This service offers employees a suite of holistically focused services, proactive engagement with operational sites and management teams and an increased focus on integration and preventative support and the provision of consultancy services to operational and corporate areas of QCS on matters such as managing exposure to trauma, environmental safety, operational training and issues of staff welfare.

In relation to physical wellbeing and in acknowledgement of the need for flexibility of access due to shiftwork, QCS continues to partner with Fitness Passport to help facilitate gym and health club access for staff across the state.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please provide the Committee with an update on progress for the recruitment of more than 800 staff for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services is currently recruiting to roles for the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre located near Gatton.

800+ custodial and non-custodial roles are required for the centre.

Custodial roles include Custodial Correctional Officers (CCOs), Correctional Supervisors, Dog Handlers and Trade Instructors. Non-custodial roles include Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Education and Program Officers, and Administration Officers.

As at 22 July 2024, a total of 325 of the 800 LVCC positions have been filled. This includes, 230 CCOs and 95 non-custodial staff who will provide safety to the adults in custody, and security to the broader Queensland community.

In addition, 116 recruits are currently completing their training in Gatton and Toowoomba and will be appointed to LVCC upon graduation.

Advertising started 10 months ago, in October 2023. All roles are advertised on SmartJobs – the Queensland Government recruitment portal as well as other job platforms and industry noticeboards.

To attract officers to the centre, the department has undertaken its first major advertising campaign. The campaign, which was completed in June 2024, and has been successful in attracting 315,606 hits to its recruitment website, has enabled the department to fill its roles to date.

This major advertising campaign has been refreshed and advertising on social media, radio, in newspapers and on billboards is expected to be available by early August 2024. This is to ensure that the remaining roles are filled for commissioning and centre opening.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minister for Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Crossbench Member Questions

A MACMAHON ASKED MINISTER FOR FIRE AND DISASTER RECOVERY AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON N BOYD);

With reference to parole suspensions, will the Minister advise:

- a) What percentage of people currently in prison are on parole suspension?
- b) For each of 2022-23 and 2023-24, how many parole suspensions were made by the Parole Board Queensland?
- c) How many people are currently in prison on a parole suspension who would otherwise be re-released if they had suitable accommodation?
- d) For 2023-24, how many people received parole suspensions because of
 - i. Breach of parole conditions relating to use of alcohol and/or drugs; or
 - ii. Offending relating to possession of drugs.

ANSWER:

When making decisions, community safety is always the Board's highest priority.

As at 15 July 2024 approximately 15% of the current prison population had an active Parole Board suspension.

In 2023-24, 5,935 people had their parole suspended by the Parole Board Queensland and in 2022-23, 5,806 people had their parole suspended by the Parole Board Queensland.

On 30 June 2024, the Board had identified 76 people whom the Board determined may have otherwise been suitable for re-release for parole, but who did not have satisfactory accommodation available.

The Board does not keep specific data regarding parole suspensions that relate to the use of alcohol or drugs, the possession of drugs or drug possession related offending. I am advised by the Board that to provide the requested data would require a manual examination of all 5,935 suspension files which is considered by the Board to be an unjustifiable use of resources at this time.

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
Crossbench Member Questions

M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR FIRE AND DISASTER RECOVERY AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON N BOYD);

In relation to the use of spit hoods in Queensland prisons, broken down by month for the 2023-24 financial year:

- a) how many times were spit hoods used in each Queensland prison?
- b) how many instances of use were:
 - (i) on women
 - (ii) on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
 - (iii) in low-security facilities
 - (iv) in conjunction with handcuffs

ANSWER:

I am advised that generally accepted data reporting conventions, restrict the release of information where there is a risk that the information might uniquely identify an individual, particularly if it might disclose previously unknown information about that unique individual.

I am advised the common practice is that cells with values of less than three are not reported as they may potentially identify an individual. Consequentially, I am unable to provide the requested data for each Queensland prison for every month as the counts in many cells are below the accepted threshold.

I can advise that at Woodford Correctional Centre during July 2023 safety hoods were used during use of force incidents on four occasions and on three occasions in August 2023. In November 2023, at Townsville Correctional Centre (Male) safety hoods were used during use of force incidents on three occasions and during June 2024 at Woodford Correctional Centre, safety hoods were used during use of force incidents on five occasions. At Borallon Training and Correctional Centre during August 2023, safety hoods were used during use of force incidents on five occasions and during May 2024 at the same centre, safety hoods were used during use of force incidents on three occasions.

During 2023-24, safety hoods were used during use of force incidents, on women prisoners on 12 occasions, on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander prisoners on 55 occasions and on zero occasions at low security facilities.

During 2023-24, safety hoods were used in conjunction with handcuffs on 104 occasions during emergent use of force incidents in Queensland correctional centres.

Members granted leave to attend hearing on 26 July 2024



Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee Estimates 2024

Members granted leave to attend public hearing

Friday, 26 July 2024

(as at 26 July 2024)

Mr David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Tourism	LNP
Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Jobs, Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations	LNP
Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation, Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government	LNP
Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Member for Clayfield Shadow Attorney-General, Shadow Minister for Justice, Shadow Minister for CBD Activation	LNP
Ms Amanda Camm MP, Member for Whitsunday Shadow Minister for Child Protection, Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Shadow Minister for Women's Economic Security	LNP
Mr Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs	LNP
Mr Dan Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety	LNP
Mrs Laura Gerber MP, Member for Currumbin Shadow Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support	LNP
Ms Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego Shadow Minister for Local Government, Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery, Shadow Minister for Volunteers	LNP
Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House	LNP
Mr Brent Mickelberg MP, Member for Buderim Shadow Minister for Employment and Training, Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business, Shadow Minister for Open Data	LNP
Mr Jim McDonald MP, Member for Lockyer	LNP

In accordance with the motion agreed by the Legislative Assembly on 14 June 2024, Mr Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani, and Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar, attended the Estimates hearing of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee after advising the committee of their planned attendance.

Correspondence received following the hearing

Correspondence received following the hearing on 26 July 2024	
1.	Letter from Hon Nikki Boyd MP, Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services dated 1 August 2024, providing further information following the Estimates public hearing on 26 July 2024



Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

1 August, 2024

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email fdrc@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Mr Peter Russo
Chair, Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee
Peter.Russo@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Russo

I am writing to you with regard to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of corrective services which occurred on 26 July, 2024.

As you are aware, debate during this estimates hearing did not always proceed in a civil and orderly manner. In fact, this resulted in the Member for Kawana being warned under Standing Order 185 for disruptive conduct and then asked to withdraw from the hearing for further infractions.

In response to a question from the Member for Burdekin, I was asked whether I was made aware of any allegations involving the former president of the Parole Board, involving allowances. At the time I responded, "Not that I can recall."

While at the time that was correct, I have since been further briefed on this matter. On Monday, July 29, I was reminded of a very short verbal briefing, amongst other briefings, that occurred on June 12 where the Corrective Services Commissioner made mention that there were allegations regarding the Parole Board President and that these had been referred to the appropriate authority for investigation. I am advised the Commissioner was acting on advice of the Crime and Corruption Commission and, as such, it was a very high-level briefing that did not go into detail other than that a matter had been referred.

I also draw your attention to the attached document which I tabled in Parliament yesterday which provides further context.

Additionally, during the Committee's examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of fire, Hansard has recorded (on page 80) a comment I made to the Fire Commissioner:

Ms BOYD: We made an announcement on that on Tuesday.

I have reviewed the video of proceedings and it is difficult to identify exactly what was said from the audio, but I wish to advise, my comment to the Commissioner was, "We are making an announcement on that on Tuesday" as my media schedule from Tuesday, August 30 will reflect.

I also note that in response to a question by the Member for Burdekin recorded on page 83 of the Hansard, I stated "as I understand it, overweight vehicles are not being used" when I should have said, "as I understand it, overweight vehicles are not routinely being used".

If you have any queries, or require any additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Kerryn Manifold, on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP
**Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and
Minister for Corrective Services**
cc cslac@parliament.qld.gov.au

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

I note opposition media statements regarding the management of the Parole Board of Queensland.

It is a matter of public record, due to my statements in the Legislative Assembly, that I held concerns regarding the performance of the Parole Board of Queensland.

Upon being made aware of allegations and issues with the performance of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland, I sought independent advice from Crown Law and then sought a meeting with the former President of the Parole Board Queensland. This meeting occurred on Wednesday, 12 June, 2024.

As I stated at a recent estimates hearing, "during that meeting I stressed the importance of having a parole board that was well managed and operating effectively and one that the community has confidence in".

While it is not best practice for a Minister to divulge private conversations with heads of bodies within their purview, on this occasion and given public commentary by the Opposition, I wish to advise the Parliament that the discussions during this meeting were general in nature, regarding the performance of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland and the parole board itself.

Specific matters, including the allegation raised by the Opposition during the estimates hearing did not form part of the discussion.

Further I reiterate that at no point during or after that meeting, did I request, or suggest that the President of the Parole Board of Queensland tender their resignation.

It is a matter of public record, that the President of the Parole Board of Queensland tendered their resignation to my office on Friday, 14 June, 2024, with a resignation date of Thursday, 12 July, 2024.

As I advised the committee during the hearing, the former President of the Parole Board of Queensland "originally proposed a resignation date of 12 July and, in discussions with my office, agreed to bring that date forward to 4 July".

I wish to advise, for completeness, that a number of issues were raised with my office and myself in relation to the conduct of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland and the parole board in general. This includes matters such as the use of "subject to" parole decisions and the use of acting arrangements that did not follow the cascading order set out in the relevant regulation. Both of these instances, for example, required retrospective legislation.

I have also been advised that the Commissioner of the Queensland Corrective Services has appropriately referred certain allegations in respect of the former President of the Parole Board Queensland to the appropriate authorities.

I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking and dedicated staff of the Parole Board Queensland for their work each and every day. They play an important role in ensuring our community is kept safe, but also ensuring that individuals rights are respected and upheld.

The government has reiterated our expectation of a high functioning parole board to the executive of the Parole Board Queensland and we have commenced a recruitment process to ensure that the next President of the Parole Board Queensland is equipped with the appropriate skills to ensure that Queenslanders have a high functioning parole system.

Documents tabled at hearing – 26 July 2024

Documents tabled at the hearing – 26 July 2024	
1.	Document, titled, “Queensland’s new era of Disaster and Emergency Services”, tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety
2.	Document, titled, “Doing what matters: Police and Community Safety”, tabled by Hon Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety
3.	Document, titled, “Gateway Motorway upgrade – Bracken Ridge to Pine River”, tabled by Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin
4.	Report, titled, “Government response to Queensland Parole System Review 2”, tabled by Hon Nikki Boyd MP, Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services



Queensland's new era of Disaster and Emergency Services

STRONGER
focus on prevention,
preparedness, resilience
and recovery

**CONNECTED AND
COORDINATED**
state disaster and
emergency response

EXPANDED
service capacity
for the future

Building on the state's world-class services
to create a stronger, more resilient Queensland.



Acknowledgment of Country

The Queensland Government honours the cultures, histories and knowledge of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We value the Traditional Custodians of the land and recognise the richness embedded within their diverse languages, cultures, and perspectives.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge their significant and ongoing connection to the lands and waterways on which we live and work.



**The Honourable
Mark Ryan MP**

*Minister for Police and
Community Safety*

Queensland is entering a new era of disaster and emergency services with more capacity and more funding than ever before.

Queensland experiences more natural disasters than any other state. Our vast and varied landscapes, coupled with our differing terrains means we need to be efficient, equipped, and innovative to respond to emergencies and disasters. With the increasing pace and growing demand, our first responders need more support and resources to continue to assist our communities in their lifesaving work.

These changes are the most significant transformational changes to emergency and disaster management within our state. The Queensland Government is investing \$578 million over five years to support these changes and provide more personnel, more resources and more equipment to help keep our communities, Queenslanders and our frontline responders safe.

These transformational changes see Queensland Police Service leading the state's disaster management coordination of first responders, delivering disaster management functions, and hosting the dedicated State Emergency Service (SES) and a new service called Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ). MRQ will bring together two volunteer marine organisations across the state to become a single integrated volunteer marine rescue service for the first time in Queensland.

This commitment is part of the Government's broader plan to deliver a world-class, innovative and inter-connected disaster and emergency management system to keep Queenslanders safe in times of natural disasters or emergencies.



**The Honourable
Nikki Boyd MP**

*Minister for Fire and Disaster
Recovery and Minister for
Corrective Services*

Wide-ranging reforms across Queensland's disaster and emergency response agencies, including Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Reconstruction Authority, will deliver a stronger, more streamlined focus on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

A \$578 million investment over five years will ensure our people have the first-class equipment, training and capabilities needed to keep themselves and their communities safe.

Record funding for our dedicated members and volunteers from the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) will better enable them to protect people, property and the environment within their communities. Not only will there be an additional 114 positions filled to support volunteers, funding is already being invested in new RFSQ facilities, equipment and fleet.

Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) will receive a significant boost in funding and an additional 143 firefighter positions to ensure it continues to provide critical emergency management, fire mitigation programs and services throughout Queensland.

As the agency responsible for the state's coordinated disaster recovery efforts, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will receive additional funding, an additional 30 positions and expanded responsibilities aimed at supporting our communities with disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

These changes will strengthen the state's response to fire, disaster management and emergency services, while providing greater reassurance for Queenslanders when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state.

Total investment

\$578 million
over 5 years

The Queensland Government is investing more than \$578 million over the next five years to boost its world-class disaster and emergency response and recovery services across Queensland.

These reforms are the most significant changes to the state's disaster and emergency management system, increasing the state's disaster coordination effort and boosting frontline support with almost 500 additional full time emergency services staff to further uplift operations across Queensland's fire, disaster and emergency services.

To support these landmark changes a raft of new and amended legislation has been introduced to enhance the state's capability to get ready for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.



This historic investment in Queensland community safety response is:

- › Delivering a more capable, connected and coordinated state disaster and emergency response under the guidance and direction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The new disaster and emergency service response includes the establishment of the Emergency Management and Coordination Command (EMCC) to lead state-wide operations and coordinate responses with local emergency response services.
- › Strengthening the role of State Emergency Services within our community. The changes include creating a separate State Emergency Service legal entity with a dedicated operating budget, increased state-led leadership, more training and equipment, and boosting the important role of our local volunteers across Queensland.
- › Establishing the first-ever, Government coordinated Marine Rescue Queensland. This unique service aims to build support and capability for our local Marine Rescue volunteers, providing more vessels, resources and equipment to help keep Queenslanders safer on our marine waterways.
- › Creating a new Queensland Fire Department as a dedicated service to focus on the state's fire prevention, response and control and respond to the rescue needs of the community.
- › Building a stronger focus on preparedness, resilience and recovery to support our communities when they need it most and ensure resilience capability is led by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as the agency responsible for the state's coordinated disaster recovery efforts.



Delivering a world-class, connected **Disaster and Emergency Response**

The state's frontline disaster and emergency services are uniting to create a stronger, safer response and better support our communities in the face of disaster.

The QPS, EMCC, SES and MRQ have come together under the QPS to strengthen Queensland's first response and ensure our frontline workers and volunteers are better supported in emergency situations. To support a strong coordinated effort up to \$30 million in reoccurring funding has been invested by the Queensland Government.

The new disaster and emergency response under QPS includes:

Boosting the state's disaster coordination of first response

During natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and bushfires, the QPS plays a crucial role in helping to coordinate emergency responses and keeping the community safe by evacuating residents, securing properties, and providing assistance to those in need.

The EMCC, coordinated by QPS, is the epicentre of state's disaster management response, working in partnership with local, district and state disaster groups to deliver vital responses to support Queensland communities. Services from across other agencies have been consolidated into the one EMCC hub and boosted with additional resources to continue to deliver world-class emergency and disaster coordination services for Queensland.



**Steve
Gollschewski**

*Commissioner
Queensland Police Service*

These reforms enhance our capability to provide the best possible frontline support when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state. I welcome the dedicated and highly skilled volunteers and staff.

Up to **\$30 million**
in reoccurring funding
for disaster response and
coordination functions

+160 new disaster
management positions
(across EMCC, SES and MRQ)

SES and Marine Rescue
move under **QPS**
as well as funding for community lifesaving
and emergency services cadets

Continuing to connect local partners to strengthen support

With Queensland facing more natural disasters than ever before, interconnected networks with local councils, businesses and community-based volunteers will continue to play a vital role in our local disaster and emergency response and only strengthen our community services. Managing local community disaster response needs will remain local and EMCC will continue to guide and support local community efforts.

Increasing support for SES and marine rescue volunteers

An integral part of the state's local emergency and disaster response, the SES and MRQ are supported by the QPS disaster and emergency leadership, as part of the new model. These enduring partnerships will be boosted to combine efforts in conducting land and sea search, rescue and emergency service efforts. Volunteers across the state provide invaluable community emergency and rescue services and the QPS will continue to support these important lifesaving services.

Supporting community lifesaving and emergency services

Community lifesaving and rescue services, such as Surf Lifesaving Queensland, Royal Lifesaving Society of Queensland and Police Citizens Youth Club Emergency Services Cadets (PCYC ESC), rely on ongoing Queensland Government funding.

Funding of these crucial community services will continue to be supported under the QPS and to ensure these vital services underpin our local community rescue response.

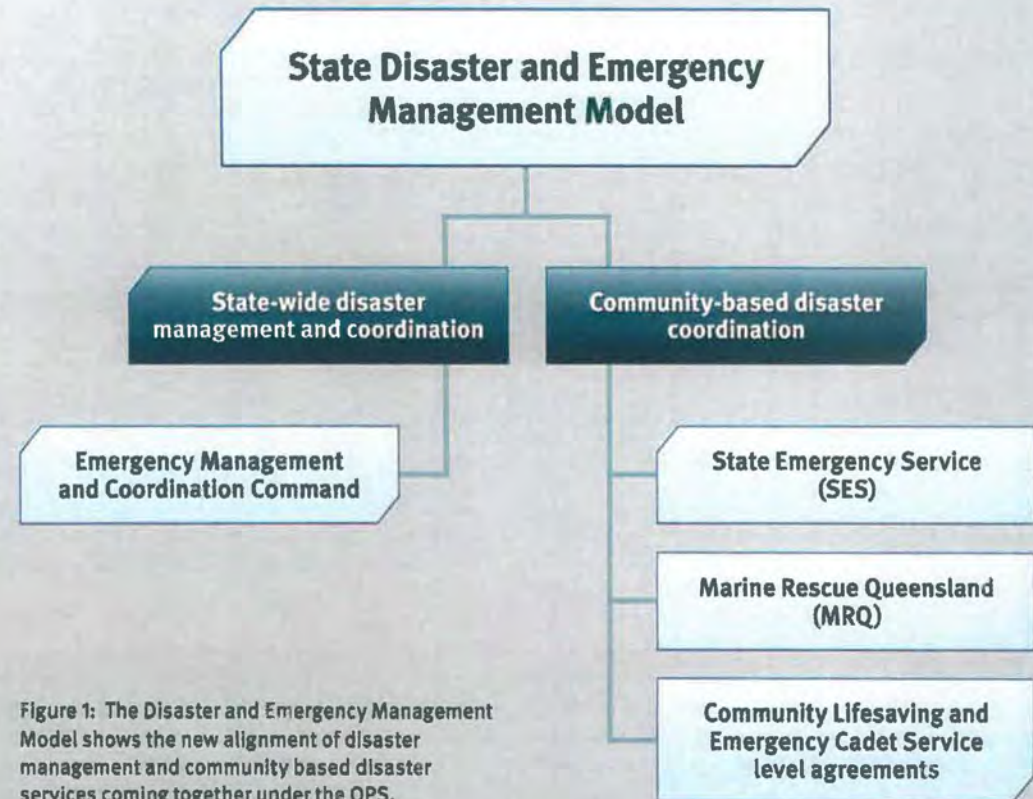


Figure 1: The Disaster and Emergency Management Model shows the new alignment of disaster management and community based disaster services coming together under the QPS.



Strengthening our State Emergency Service

The SES plays a crucial role in supporting local councils and helping local communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, including cyclones, severe storms, floods, and landslides.

In recognition of the importance of SES within our communities, the Queensland Government is boosting its support, creating a dedicated service, under the guidance of the QPS, and funding 105 additional SES support positions, as well as, ongoing investment in crucial capabilities.

New capability investment includes:

- › new SES flood boats
- › support to vehicle and equipment fleets, and
- › establishment of a dedicated SES Registered Training Organisation.

The crucial partnership between councils and SES is one of the most effective approaches to protecting and supporting residents during natural disasters and emergencies and joint funding will continue to ensure SES's success.

\$60 million
record budget

+105
SES support positions



Mark Armstrong

*State Emergency Service
Chief Officer*

The important role of SES has been recognised and elevated through these reforms.

Honouring SES' proud history of dedicated volunteers and members, the government's increased investment and formation of a separate service, will lead to more frontline support and capability when natural disasters and other emergencies impact the state.

Strong partnerships will continue to underpin SES' success. I look forward to boosting our SES support and collaborating with our partners across the state.





MARINE
RESCUE

Establishing one **Marine Rescue Queensland**

Queensland is excited to establish a new service called Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ). MRQ brings together the extraordinary wealth of expertise and diverse geographic knowledge of our existing marine rescue volunteers from Australian Coast Guard Volunteer Association and Volunteer Marine Rescue into the one rescue team, one service, across the state.

Marine rescue volunteers protect Queenslanders on our oceans and waterways and are prepared to do whatever it takes to help save lives on the water and this service will be further supported under the leadership of the QPS.

Creating MRQ demonstrates the importance of our marine rescue volunteers and the commitment of the Queensland Government to ensure our volunteers have the resources and support to carry out this crucial service for our local communities. MRQ aims to further align marine rescue volunteers, the QPS and Water Police to strengthen safety and support for Queenslanders when out and about on the water.

With \$35.38 million investment and 35 full-time personnel to support our volunteers, the new service aims to deliver more frontline support, resources, vessels, capability and equipment.

As more and more Queenslanders enjoy our coastlines and inland waterways, our MRQ safety response will be an essential lifeline for those out and about on the water..

\$35.38 million
to establish MRQ and support
marine rescue services

\$22.3 million
over four years to
replace aging vessels

+35
state support staff
for MRQ

+22
new and replacement
vessels



Tony Wulff

*Marine Rescue Queensland
Chief Officer*

Launching Queensland's first-ever Marine Rescue Queensland is a historic moment for our marine rescue volunteers and the communities they support.

The transition acknowledges the commitment and dedication of volunteers and reinforces the importance of supporting them with resources and equipment to ensure they can continue this valuable lifesaving work.

It is a privilege to lead MRQ and help our communities to be safer on the water.



Building on great foundations

Queensland Fire Department

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) builds on the great foundations of Queensland's fire services. The new QFD comprises Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR), Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ), State Operations Directorate (SOD) and Strategy and Corporate Services (SCS) and has a clear focus on fire prevention, response and control.

The reforms help ensure QFD is best placed to meet the challenges of our ever-changing climate and respond to emergencies and disasters as they impact growing Queensland communities, with additional funding for extra frontline and support positions, and new and improved facilities, training and equipment.

RFSQ's record funding aims to better protect people, property and environment for all Queensland communities. There will be significant investment in new and improved RFSQ facilities, equipment and fleet, and an extra 114 support positions will assist volunteers in doing what they do best.

The changes also recognise the valued service provided by volunteers and ensure greater legal protections for them as they serve their communities during disaster and emergencies.

A significant funding boost for QFR for additional 143 firefighter positions will enhance its multi-hazard response capabilities to help protect Queenslanders and keep communities safe.

As always, the department's focus is on being there for Queensland communities during disasters and emergencies.



+114

new Rural Fire Service
Queensland positions

+143

new firefighters in
Queensland Fire and Rescue

More than
\$85 million
for 3 year fleet build program
RFSQ and QFR



Steve Smith AFSM

*Commissioner
Queensland Fire Department*

These reforms give the department a strong platform to respond to challenges including climate change while continuing to deliver exceptional services to Queenslanders.



Building a strong state-wide **Resilience and Recovery Capability**

Queensland is further investing in our state's resilience and recovery efforts to uplift community disaster preparedness and recovery responsiveness. As part of this major reform, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has received expanded prevention, mitigation and preparedness responsibilities aimed to deliver our mission of stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland communities. QRA is now responsible for state-level hazard and risk functions, including the delivery of a state risk assessment tool, as well as certain community engagement and education activities and campaigns previously delivered by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. This includes the expansion of QRA's Get Ready Queensland brand to include the 'If It's Flooded Forget It' campaign. The Government has invested in 30 new positions for QRA to ensure this uplift in responsibilities is supported.

QRA is the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, and is responsible for coordinating action to improve the resilience of communities and facilitate locally-led disaster recovery. QRA also manages and coordinates the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure betterment and recovery funding within disaster-affected communities. These reform changes will enable QRA to continue to support Queensland communities to be more resilient to disaster events, and to recover more effectively. QRA will remain committed to preparedness and prevention activities that aim to minimise the impacts of disasters on Queensland communities, and looks forward to continue to collaborate with all levels of government to ensure we continue to reduce risk and build readiness to future emergent situations.



30 new positions and associated funding



**Major General
Jake Ellwood (Retd)**

*Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority*

These reforms enhance QRA's strong commitment to bolster disaster preparedness and keep Queenslanders safe by getting ready, reducing risk and building greater resilience and recovery capability.

Tabled by: Minister Ryan
At: CSCAC Estimates
Time/date: 26/7/24 1:29pm
Signature: [Signature]

A STRONGER, SAFER QUEENSLAND.



DOING WHAT MATTERS: *Police & Community Safety*

Minister for Police & Community Safety



Queensland
Government

DOING WHAT MATTERS: BUDGET 2024-25

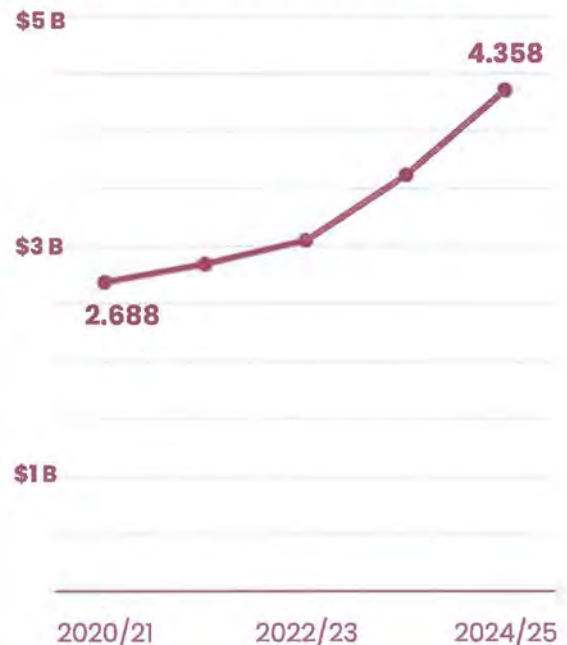
The Police and Community Safety portfolio has a total budget of \$4.36B in 2024-25, to support the delivery of services by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), State Emergency Service (SES) and Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ), and the Office of the Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM)..

The QPS has a total budget of \$4.36B in 2024-25, including:

- Operating budget \$3.7B: QPS \$3.62B | SES \$60M | MRQ \$20M
- Capital budget \$663M

The 2024-25 budget includes an additional \$600M and \$185M ongoing for the QPS as part of the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.

QPS Budget
Operating & Capital



\$600M

Community Safety Plan

\$72M

Community Support

\$260M

Wacol Remand Facility

\$17M

PCYC Queensland

\$11.5M

BullyProof

\$8.5M

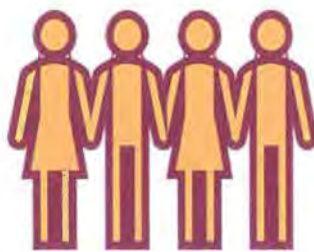
New Tasers

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

The 2024-25 Queensland Budget includes an additional \$600M across the forward estimates and \$185M ongoing for the QPS as part of the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.



Supporting victims



Delivering for our
frontline



Detaining offenders



Intervening when
people offend



Preventing crime
before it occurs

MORE POLICE PERSONNEL FOR QLD

While all Australian police jurisdictions are facing similar labour market challenges, the Government has supported the QPS to be innovative in its employment strategies.

	1 YEAR CHANGE	2020 BASELINE INCREASE
TOTAL POLICE PERSONNEL (HEADCOUNT) <i>As at 30 June 2024</i>	+1,384	+2,646
TOTAL POLICE OFFICERS (HEADCOUNT) <i>As at 30 June 2024</i>	+116	+303
COMBINED POLICE OFFICERS AND RECRUITS (HEADCOUNT) <i>As at 30 June 2024</i>	+468	+953
POLICE OFFICER AND RECRUITS COMBINED <i>QPS <u>forecast</u> for 31 December 2025</i>	+657	+1,879



STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

This government is committed to providing police with the equipment and resources required to support their work and allow them to go about that work as safely as possible.



CRIME STATISTICS (2022-23 vs 2023-24)

Crime rates can rise and fall based on a multitude of factors.

JUVENILE CRIME RATE

OFFENCE TYPE	% CHANGE
Total Offences	-6.7%
Offences Against the Person	+4.8%
Offences Against Property	-7.8%
Other Offences	-9.5%

NON-DFV FLAGGED OFFENCES (adult and juvenile / rate)

OFFENCE TYPE	% CHANGE
Total Offences	-1.9%
Offences Against the Person	+2.4%
Offences Against Property	-2.2%
Other Offences	-2.5%

OVERALL CRIME RATE (adult and juvenile)

OFFENCE TYPE	% CHANGE
Total Offences	-0.1%
Offences Against the Person	+4.8%
Offences Against Property	-1.8%
Other Offences	+0.2%

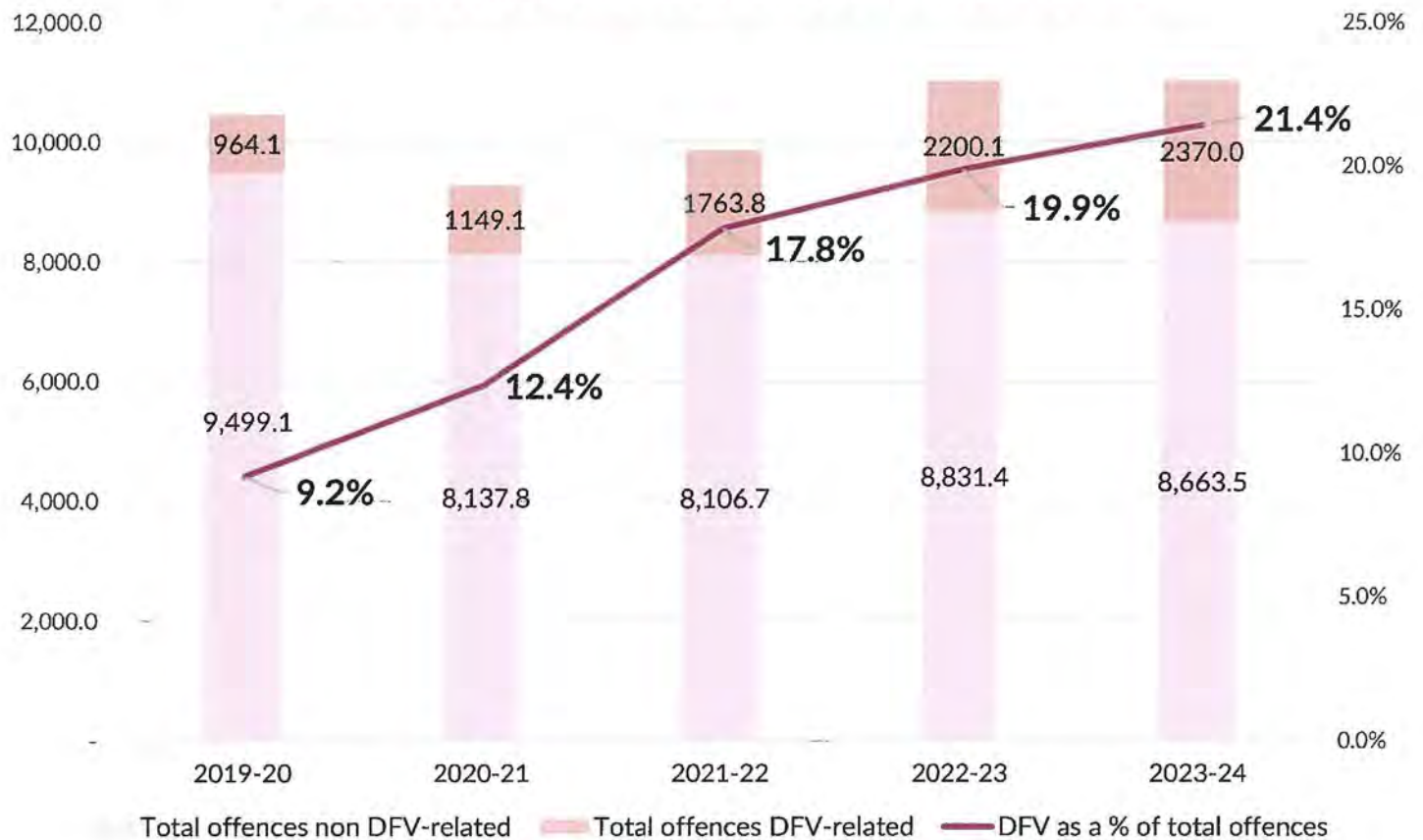
DFV FLAGGED OFFENCES (adult and juvenile / rate)

OFFENCE TYPE	% CHANGE
Total Offences	+7.7%
Offences Against the Person	+8.0%
Offences Against Property	+7.9%
Other Offences	+7.5%

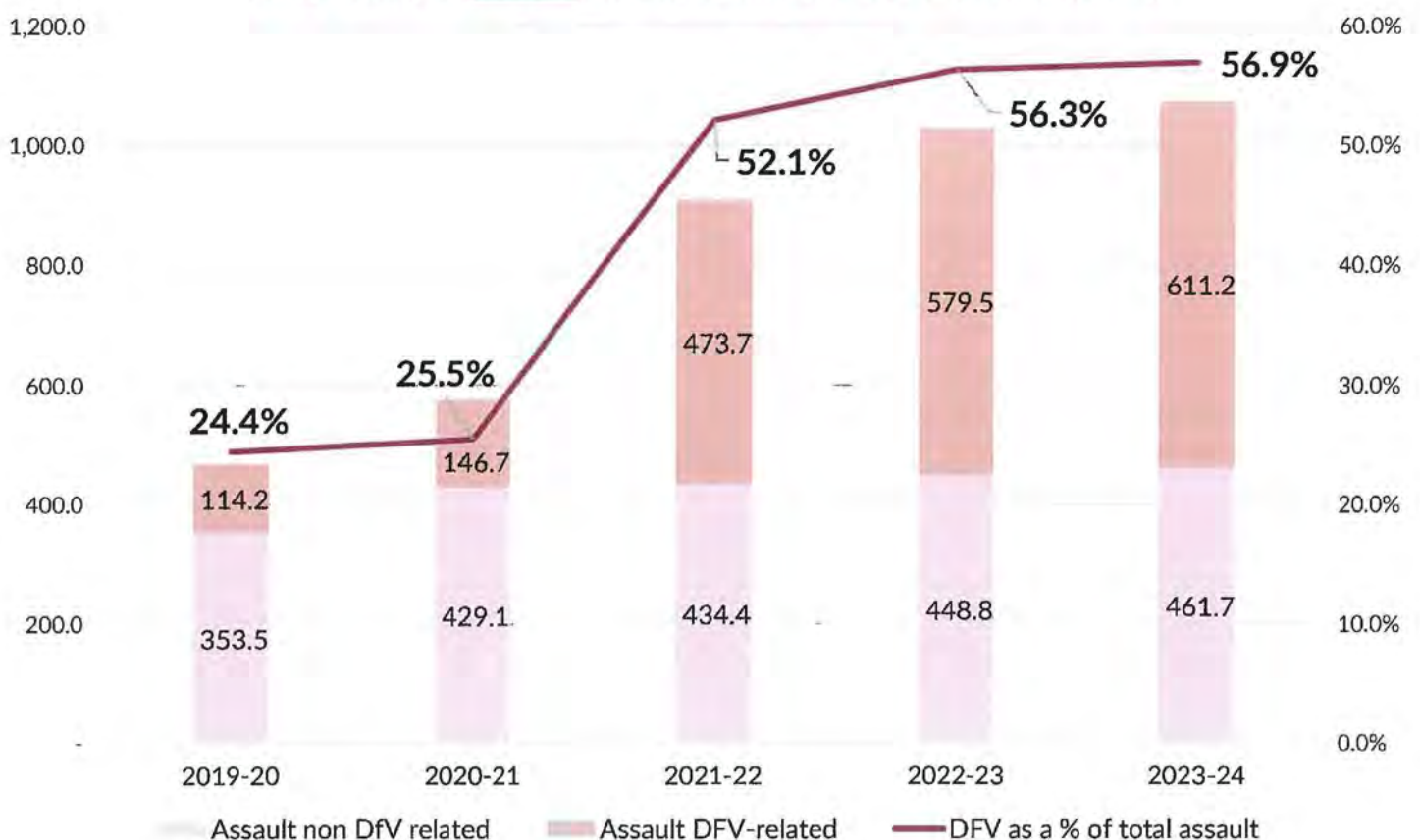
CRIME STATISTICS (CONT.)

Domestic and family violence-related offending comprises an increasing proportion of all offending.

Proportion of total offences that are DFV-related (rates)



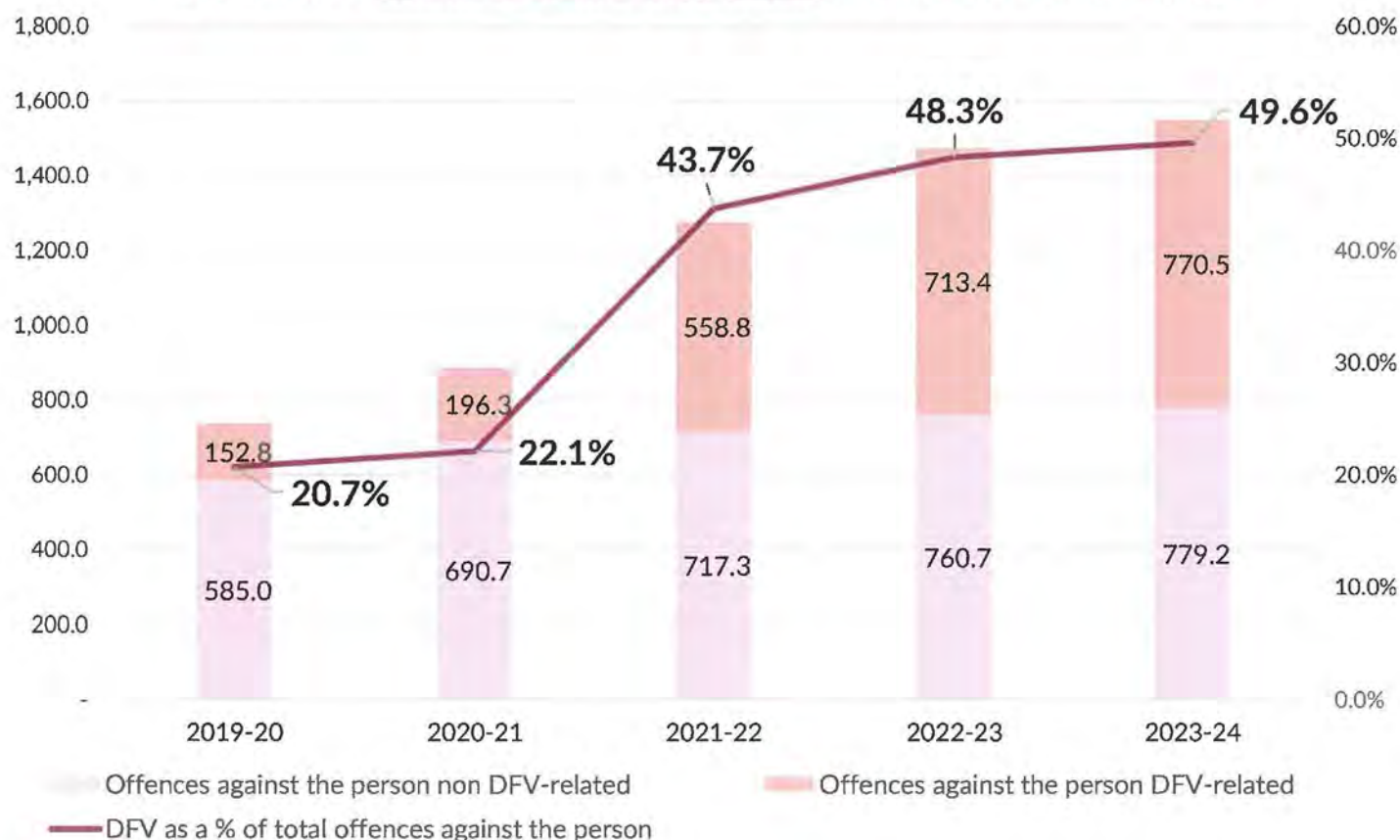
Proportion of assault offences that are DFV-related (rates)



CRIME STATISTICS (CONT.)

Domestic and family violence-related offending comprises an increasing proportion of all offending.

Proportion of offences against the person that are DFV-related (rates)



Proportion of offences against property that are DFV-related (rates)



MARINE RESCUE QUEENSLAND

For the first time, Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) is established under new legislation as the state's first integrated volunteer marine rescue service, with Tony Wulff as its Chief Officer.

- **Budget:** This Government has committed \$27M in annual funding for MRQ. This budget will be allocated to day-to-day operations, resourcing, vessel maintenance, refurbishments and other support.
- **Personnel:** MRQ has been allocated 35 FTE positions for the establishment of MRQ, to accelerate onboarding.
- **Onboarding:** MRQ has officially welcomed its first two volunteer rescue units Mackay and Gladstone. A transition schedule has been developed to invite the remaining Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland units to join MRQ.
- The **Vessel Replacement Program** has an allocated budget of \$22.38M



STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

The State Emergency Service (SES) is now formally established with its own legislation, its own operating budget and its first dedicated Chief Officer, Mark Armstrong.

- **Budget:** In 2024-25, the Government is providing \$60 million to increase resources for the SES, including more support grants.
- **Personnel:** Delivered an additional 105 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to support volunteers in providing critical services across the State.
- **Drones:** Approximately \$600,000 in 2024-25 to increase the fleet with an additional 41 drones to be positioned throughout the State and nearly doubling the number of SES drone pilots to over 100.
- **Training:** A record allocation to enhance SES operational capability and support frontline volunteers.

NEW PERSONNEL TOTAL (FTE POSITIONS)	105
NEW AREA CONTROLLERS	12
NEW OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OFFICERS	11
NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RECRUITMENT OFFICERS	7
NEW BUSINESS SUPPORT PERSONNEL	7
NEW DIRECT CAPABILITY SUPPORT INCLUDING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PERSONNEL	38
ADDITIONAL STAFF TO BE DELIVERED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	30

Tabled by: Minister Ryan
At: CSLAC Estimates
Time/date: 26/7/24 2:45pm
Signature: [Signature]



GATEWAY MOTORWAY UPGRADE - BRACKEN RIDGE TO PINE RIVER

Prospective Announced Under Procurement Awarded Under Delivery Operational

The Gateway Motorway Upgrade - Bracken Ridge to Pine River project will upgrade the road between Bracken Ridge to the Interchange with the Bruce Highway and the Gympie Arterial Road on the southern bank of the Pine River.

The project will replicate the six-lane upgrade of the 11.3-kilometre Nudgee to Deagon Deviation section of the Gateway Motorway.

FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Federal Government	A\$800 million
Queensland Government	A\$200 million

PROJECT HISTORY

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Dec 2020 | The 2020-21 Queensland Budget allocated \$62 million to the project over the next four years, and indicated \$938 million has been committed beyond the forward estimates. This indicates the project has been delayed beyond previous estimates. |
| 2019 | The 2019-20 Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program indicated \$181 million was expected to be spend by FY2022-23 however the 2020-21 Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program delayed this spending. |

Tabled by: MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN
At: CSLAC ESTIMATES
Date: 26/7/24 6:03pm
Signature: [Signature]


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National Network

Local government	Investment ID ^(a)	Commonwealth number	Investment name/Location	Location description	Indicative total cost \$'000	Contributions		Estimated expenditure to 30 June 2019 \$'000	Approved 2019-20 \$'000	Indicative			Work description
						Australian Government \$'000	Queensland Government / Other \$'000			2020-21 \$'000	2021-22 to 2022-23 \$'000	Beyond \$'000	
Brisbane City	805733		Breakfast Creek Bridge	Breakfast Creek	40,200		40,200		5,000	24,000	11,200		Realign track
	805732		Clapham Yard Stabling	Moorooka	298,000		298,000			31,000	210,000	57,000	Construct stabling yard
	805734		Fairfield train station - Salisbury train station	Various stations	57,000		57,000		2,000	20,000	35,000		Upgrade train station/s
	1133501		Gateway Arterial Road (Gateway Motorway - North)	Daagon Deviation - Bruce Highway	600		600			200	400		Link planning
	1134007		Gateway Motorway (Eight Mile Plains - Nudgee)	Port of Brisbane Motorway Interchange	350		350			350			Undertake transport project planning
	805740		Mayne Yard - Relocation	Mayne	22,400		22,400		6,000	1,000	15,400		Relocate facility
	805735		Mayne Yard accessibility	Mayne	97,300		97,300		2,000	36,000	58,300	1,000	Upgrade vehicle and pedestrian access
	805736		Moolabin Power upgrade	Moolabin	18,000		18,000		1,000	17,000			Upgrade power supply
Subtotal Ipswich City													
Ipswich City	606701		Ebbw Vale train station park 'n' ride	Brisbane Road	3,025		3,025	366	1,431	878	350		Construct or upgrade park 'n' ride
	728426 ^(b)		Warrego Highway (Ipswich - Toowoomba)	9.08 - 11.15km	3,263		3,263	150	1,300	1,063	750		Install guardrail
	728477 ^(b)		Warrego Highway (Ipswich - Toowoomba)	7.18 - 9.52km	3,241		3,241	150	1,217	1,124	750		Install guardrail
	728478 ^(b)		Warrego Highway (Ipswich - Toowoomba)	11.32 - 13.10km	3,288		3,288	350	1,190	1,198	750		Install guardrail
Subtotal Ipswich City													
Other works						165,484	49,305		6,293	7,130	201,365		
						648	42		162	204	324		
						100,000	200,000			6,250	181,250	512,500	
						5,924	4,200		3,410	3,638	3,076		
						12,052	4,200		4,289	5,252	6,710		
						11,641	23,296		8,738	8,798	17,401		
						3,673			850	79	2,744		
						14,000	4,667		4,741	4,600	9,326		
							2,610		460	1,100	1,050		
Total: Metropolitan National Network									50,081	170,864	756,146		

Government response to Queensland Parole System Review 2

Tabled by: MINISTER BOYD
At: CSLAC ESTIMATES
Date: 26/7/24 7:37pm
Signature: 



Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide a high-level summary of the Queensland Parole System Review 2 (QPSR 2) Final Report, highlight key Government initiatives, and provide a recommendation-by-recommendation response, including the status of the response to each recommendation.

Introduction

The initial Queensland Parole System Review was commissioned by the Queensland Government and completed by Mr Walter Sofronoff KC in 2016 (2016 QPSR).

Recommendation 1 of the QPSR states 'The Government should commission a review of the parole system in Queensland in five years'. This recommendation was supported by the Queensland Government on 16 February 2017. Accordingly, in January 2023, former District Court Judge, Mr Milton Griffin KC was engaged to undertake this review. The purpose of the review was to conduct a 'health check' of the parole system and consider the progress made on the QPSR recommendations handed down in 2016.

The QPSR 2 Final Report (the Report) was received by Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) in September 2023.

The Report makes 49 recommendations to improve the efficacy of the parole and correctional system as a whole, noting many of the recommendations relate to those made by the 2016 QPSR, with some new proposals borne out of changes in the system since that time.

Recommendations are made in relation to:

- Further review of the parole system and Queensland sentencing regime;
- Current state of the correctional system;
- Legislative framework and sentencing;
- Assessment and management of offenders;
- Rehabilitation programs, mental health, and substance misuse treatment;
- Re-entry services;
- Parole Board Queensland (PBQ);
- Management of offenders in the community;
- Victims and other matters of importance to parole;
- Independent oversight; and
- Technology.

The Report considers the present parole system is operating moderately well, but more can and must be done, and initiatives to target recidivism should be at the forefront of Government policy.

The Report notes, since its inception in 1937, some continuing, fundamental and undisputable factors have been ever-present during the various investigations into parole in Queensland. Prisoner numbers continue to grow and First Nations peoples remain disproportionately represented, comprising 39.0% of Queensland's adult prisoner population as of 1 July 2024.

Further, more people are being imprisoned and there are increased numbers of individuals remanded in custody, which increases overall prisoner numbers.

The Report highlights that the daily cost of monitoring an offender in the community is far less than the daily cost of keeping an offender in prison. As such, more emphasis is required on the rehabilitation aspect of the parole system.

Community safety will always be the Government's and QCS' priority when it comes to parole and community corrections. When an individual is released to a parole order or sentenced to a community-based order, QCS delivers effective supervision strategies to enforce the order conditions set by the Court or PBQ. Since 2016-17, QCS has increased resourcing to improve the management of offenders in the community and strengthen end-to-end case (E2E) management through a number of State Budget funding allocations. E2E case management now applies to all female admissions into custodial and community corrections statewide, and to male admissions into custody at the Townsville Correctional Centre and in Far Northern and Northern region community corrections.

Since the 2016 QPSR, the legislative landscape has changed significantly, including the establishment of PBQ in 2017 and the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld), which commenced in full on 1 January 2020. There have also been amendments to the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (Qld) (CSA), including the No Body No Parole legislation in 2017, the Restricted Prisoners legislation in 2021, and more recently in June 2024, new laws to deliver greater support for victims of crime and ensure victims have more say in Parole Board decisions. These changes have been enacted with the purpose of improving the delivery and suitability of the parole system.

The Report concludes that rehabilitation and recidivism are interrelated and, given the continuing growth in prisoner numbers, the Government must put its efforts and resources into the rehabilitation of prisoners.

The Report outlines the following key findings of the Review:

- prisoner numbers continue to grow, and a coordinated Government strategy is required to reduce re-offending;
- First Nations peoples continue to remain disproportionately represented in prison populations;
- the proper operation of the PBQ affects the prison population;
- current prison infrastructure is significantly overcapacity and unmodernised;
- a lack of sentencing options continues to contribute to large numbers in the parole system;
- the accommodation crisis, affecting Australia broadly, has acute impacts for prisoners;
- the delivery of rehabilitation in prisons (and to a lesser extent, the community) is being seriously impacted by a lack of infrastructure, resources, and staff;
- re-entry services cannot assist many prisoners and, where available, are oversubscribed and overburdened by the urgent accommodation needs of many prisoners;

- implementation of the E2E case management system is in its early stages and its impact cannot be meaningfully assessed at present, with progress requiring further investment;
- mental health and disability needs are not being adequately assessed and treated within custody, and prisoners are being released without adequate community-based support;
- expanded Magistrates Court diversionary options for people with mental illness and/or cognitive impairment should be considered;
- QCS and Queensland Health should be jointly responsible for alcohol and other drug interventions for the forensic population, both in prison and the community;
- Community Corrections requires a clear workload policy;
- there is a lack of non-government services available for offenders in the community to access;
- the current rate of suspensions of parole is unsustainable for the system;
- there have been significant reforms to the parole system for victims and their families; and
- significant legislative changes have occurred to improve the independent oversight of the correctional system, however initiatives are in their infancy.

In light of the many, various and changing factors and pressures which the Review identified, the Report recommends the Queensland Government undertake a review of the parole system and the Queensland sentencing regime within five years from the date of this Review (**Recommendation 1**).

Current state of the correctional system

The Report notes since the 2016 QPSR, Queensland's prisoner population has continued to grow. More people are being imprisoned, partly because of changes in sentencing fashions, probation being used less frequently by courts, and increased numbers of people remanded in custody. Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) also represents a significant proportion of offending and has risen considerably since 2019. Further, the work of PBQ can also impact on prisoner numbers.

On 1 July 2024, QCS facilities were operating at 144.2% capacity, with 10,879 prisoners in custody. This follows a record high of 10,964 prisoners on 24 May 2024. The Report notes the Review consistently heard that capacity issues have resulted in significant infrastructure pressures, affecting both prisoners and staff. However, it is acknowledged that since the 2016 QPSR, QCS has implemented initiatives to manage capacity issues in the men's and women's systems in several ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- The new 1,536-bed health and rehabilitation designed Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC), due to commence commissioning by the end of 2024.
- An expanded Capricornia Correctional Centre, delivering 398 beds across 348 cells to ease the pressures of growing prisoner numbers (June 2021).
- An additional 736 beds across 492 cells through the re-commissioning of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre (July 2018).

- The delivery of purpose-built bunk beds retrofitted to cells across Queensland to get prisoners off mattresses on the floor, meaning that by the end of 2024, approximately 6,000 additional beds, including more than 3,000 bunk beds, will have been delivered since 2015.
- The conversion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre to a women's facility in 2019 (Operation Elevate), providing immediate relief to the women's correctional system.

Whilst reducing prisoner numbers is considered the most effective means to address capacity issues, the Report notes that some Government investment in aging infrastructure and other initiatives to improve service delivery in existing prisons is required to improve the wellbeing and rehabilitation of prisoners in the short term.

Key Government initiatives

In addition to the above, some key initiatives progressed by Government to address demand on Queensland's custodial capacity, while also managing and mitigating issues and risks presented by high prisoner numbers, include:

- Implementation of recommendations from the 2016 QPSR – centred around increasing rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour and recidivism prior to release;
- Increased funding to support PBQ operations and continue efficient consideration of parole matters;
- Expansion of re-entry services to aid the transition of prisoners back into the community to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and returning to custody;
- Commencement of activities to implement an Enhanced Community Corrections Pilot in Townsville to reduce the imprisonment of First Nations peoples;
- Ongoing cross-government collaboration between QCS, the Justice Reform Office in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and other Queensland Government stakeholders, which includes consideration of initiatives to address increasing demand on Queensland's prisons and across the criminal justice system; and
- Establishment of a dedicated Women's System Reform Program Management Office and a Women's Strategy Steering Committee to plan and execute the implementation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reforms in response to *Hear her voice – Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system* (Report Two).

QCS acknowledges more needs to be done to address demand on QCS' custodial capacity and, as such, QCS, in collaboration with other Government agencies, will continue to develop options to address current and future capacity needs.

The Report recommends establishment of an independent strategic panel, to inform a whole of Government strategy to consider initiatives to reduce remand numbers, initiatives for First Nations people, women and people with disability in the criminal justice system, availability of suitable accommodation for prisoners and parolees, services available to people on parole, initiatives to reduce the effects of overcrowding, and methods to reduce the rate of suspension and length of time an offender spends in custody while their parole is suspended (**Recommendation 2**).

Parole in Queensland

The purpose of Queensland's parole system is to keep the community safe, by reducing an offender's risk of reoffending through community supervision by Community Corrections officers and supporting positive changes which continue after the conclusion of an offender's sentence.

In Queensland, the CSA establishes parole as the only form of release from custody, with parole decisions made either by the sentencing court or the PBQ. There are three types of parole in Queensland – Court Ordered Parole (COP), Board Ordered Parole (BOP) and Exceptional Circumstances Parole (ECP).

Following the QPSR, the PBQ came into operation on 3 July 2017. The PBQ operates in a complex operational environment as one component of the broader criminal justice system. It is required to collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders to ensure the risks associated with parole are appropriately identified and managed.

PBQ makes independent decisions regarding the release of prisoners to BOP following advice and recommendations provided by QCS. PBQ also makes decisions to immediately suspend a parole order (including a court-ordered parole order) upon the request of QCS.

The Report highlights the daily cost of accommodating an offender in custody is significantly higher than the daily cost of monitoring an offender in the community. As such, there are clear economic benefits to government if more prisoners, who are eligible and meet the requirements of parole, are released on parole in a timely manner.

There are no recommendations outlined under this chapter of the Report.

Legislative framework and sentencing

All offenders who come before the courts for sentencing, the disposition of those sentences and the manner and tools which courts use for the purpose of punishment, rehabilitation and deterrence are all inextricably interrelated to the way in which the prison, and therefore the parole system, operates.

An offender may enter (or re-enter) the prison system by either being remanded in custody, sentenced to a term of imprisonment, or returned to custody after their parole has been suspended or cancelled. An offender's entry into the parole system will only arise out of a decision made by the court to impose a term of imprisonment.

The Report notes findings and recommendations regarding sentencing and the legislative framework for parole were contained within the 2016 QPSR, however the sentencing framework within which the parole system sits remains largely unchanged. Still, there have been other legislative changes which affect certain offenders' terms of imprisonment, such as the No Body, No Parole and Restricted Prisoner regimes (which are separate to the sentencing decisions made by courts), and in relation to DFV, with changes increasing maximum sentences and reversing the presumption in favour of bail in circumstances where the alleged offender is charged with relevant DFV offences.

Further the Report notes reviews have also examined the sentencing regime and parole system including the Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) *Inquiry into Imprisonment and Recidivism* in August 2019 and the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's *Hear her voice – Report two – Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system* in 2022.

The Report acknowledges there are issues with the current sentencing options which have resulted in high numbers of offenders on parole and high levels of churn and short term stays in prison on suspensions.

Court advisory service

Following discussions with stakeholders, the Report notes an apparent disconnect between the sentencing court's expectations of the rehabilitation provided to offenders in custody and in the community and what is actually able to be achieved in the current corrective services system.

The Report considers the introduction of a dedicated QCS court advisory service necessary in order to strengthen and expand the current limited court advisory functions. It is also considered the most efficient way to provide necessary information to sentencing courts. As such, QCS would require an established framework, dedicated resources, and a centralised oversight structure. This would promote consistency and lift QCS' judicial engagement to be more user centred.

Key Government initiatives

- As part of the Women's Safety Justice Taskforce response being led across government, the government provided funding to design options for a trial of court advisory services to support sentencing courts with greater availability of pre-sentence advice. As such, QCS is in the process of initiating a Court Advisory Project.
- As part of the 2023-24 Budget, the government provided funding and FTEs for the Enhanced Community Corrections Pilot in Townsville. The pilot will focus on court advice, partnerships co-ordination and Community Corrections supervision to maximise rehabilitative outcomes and put downward pressure on rates of recidivism. The pilot's aim is to reduce the imprisonment of First Nations people, who are over-represented in Queensland's prisons, particularly prisons in North Queensland.

The Report makes three recommendations to improve the legislative framework and sentencing, including implementing certain recommendations of the Queensland Productivity Commission 'Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism' and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council 'Community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options' (**Recommendation 3**); implementing a dedicated court advisory service (**Recommendation 4**); and enabling discretion for the sentencing judge to depart from a mandatory non-parole period (**Recommendation 5**).

Assessment and management of offenders

The Report notes, as highlighted in the 2016 QPSR, the proper assessment and management of offenders is critical to reducing re-offending and thereby protecting the community because

the correct identification of needs and risks enables the appropriate allocation of resources. By addressing those needs and risks, the risk of re-offending is reduced.

The 2016 QPSR found that the management of offenders throughout their sentence was 'haphazard and not co-ordinated' and recommended a coordinated case management process. The Report notes QCS has developed the End-to-End (E2E) system, the aim of which is to comprehensively and cohesively map out an offender's journey through incarceration and community supervision. Central to E2E is identifying the risks and needs of offenders and the targeting of services to address those risks and needs.

Currently, E2E is used for male prisoners at the Townsville Correctional Centre, female prisoners in all women's correctional centres, female offenders in Community Corrections statewide and, more recently, male offenders in the Northern and Far Northern regions Community Corrections. The Report acknowledges the roll out has not been fully funded but argues it should occur and as quickly as possible.

Key Government initiatives

- As part of the 2024-25 State Budget, QCS was funded to continue and optimise E2E case management in existing locations to reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and improve outcomes for people in contact with corrective services.

The Report also discusses the security classification of prisoners and references the 2016 QPSR which recommended: 'The government should review the policy restricting placement of sexual offenders and those prisoners convicted for murder or those with a serious violent offence declaration with a view to reintroducing appropriate candidates to low custody facilities'.

This recommendation was not supported by Government, and on 21 July 2020, the CSA was amended to include section 68A, which outlines the restriction on the eligibility for prisoners who have been convicted of a sexual offence or have been convicted of murder or serving a life sentence to transfer to a low security facility.

Changes to the CSA in 2023 enabled the establishment of additional security sub-classifications within low security and high security. QCS is examining whether a new security sub-classification within secure facilities could assist in maintaining community safety while providing rehabilitated prisoners subject to section 68A who are nearing their release date with a pathway to community reintegration.

The Report makes four recommendations for the assessment and management of offenders, including:

- the definition of E2E case management be expanded to include as an expressed goal, the management of offenders towards release into the community (**Recommendation 6**);
- external reviews of E2E at appropriate times (**Recommendation 7**);
- the roll out of E2E to all aspects of QCS' operations (**Recommendation 8**); and

- review of the policy restricting placement of sexual offenders and prisoners convicted of murder and other serious violent offences from placement at low security facilities (**Recommendation 9**).

Rehabilitation programs, mental health, and substance misuse treatment

The 2016 QPSR examined the accessibility and efficacy of rehabilitation services, including programs, mental health and substance misuse treatment within prisons and the community. It found that the system was struggling with the increasing prisoner and offender numbers, thereby placing pressure on facilities and other resources required to deliver services.

The Report highlights whilst many of the recommendations from the 2016 QPSR have been implemented to varying degrees, significant pressures on the correctional system which affect the delivery of rehabilitation options continue, noting increasing prisoner numbers compound the problem. The Report notes that despite dedicated QCS staff and a suite of successful programs, delivery of rehabilitation services to offenders (in particular, those in prison) is sub-optimal and not having sufficient impact, finding program delivery is constrained by a lack of infrastructure, staff and ultimately, funding.

The Report acknowledges various QCS offender behaviour programs, aimed at rehabilitating sexual offenders, violent offenders, and general offenders. It also acknowledges QCS provides various desistance programs and services to support rehabilitation, including substance misuse programs, culturally specific programs, education and vocational training, and psychological support. Prisoners can self-refer and QCS staff can refer prisoners to these programs, however, there is significant demand for services and programs and there can be lengthy wait lists.

The need for offender treatment programs addressing DFV is highlighted in the Report. However, there are significant literature gaps in the DFV literature base globally and no validated high intensity programs exist. This aside, the Report recommends that the Disrupting Family Violence Program (DFVP) currently offered at four Queensland correctional centres be expanded to other correctional centres and delivery through Community Corrections be investigated.

The Report notes the Review observed that DFV offenders are a large part of the prison cohort and are a significant driver of prison population growth and an increase in parole suspensions. As such, having a robust and effective DFV program aimed at reducing that rate is critical.

Key Government initiatives

- As part of the 2024-25 State Budget, the government provided \$14.8 million over two years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs in correctional centres that support rehabilitation and re-entry into the community.
- QCS is currently developing a Domestic and Family Violence Strategy to improve perpetrator accountability and victim-survivor safety by empowering staff and improving practices.
- The introduction of E2E will prioritise offenders' rehabilitation needs while incarcerated and support access to community-based supports and services after their release from prison.

The Report refers to the 2022 Queensland Parliament Mental Health Select Committee *Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders* and notes the Committee cited findings from the Australian Productivity Commission's *Mental Health Inquiry Report* (2020), which found people with mental illness are over-represented throughout the criminal justice system.

The Queensland Forensic Mental Health Service (QFMHS) reported that the Queensland Health Prison Mental Health Service (PMHS) service delivery was impacted by workforce issues and this is exacerbated by the continued growth of prisoner numbers. Further, limited infrastructure and QCS resources within prisons affected the number of rooms available to deliver services.

QFMHS considered the challenges in relation to prisoner numbers, service demand, and infrastructure are long term and not easily changed. Consideration of enhanced diversion options for people with mental illness from the justice system is required.

The Report notes the QPC's *Inquiry into Imprisonment and Recidivism* outlined that individuals with cognitive disability are more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system and are overrepresented in the prison population, particularly among First Nations prisoners. It notes a lack of coordinated service provision for people with disability in prison complicates access to parole and impacts upon successful reintegration. Further, the Report notes funding should enable the engagement of staff to provide ongoing liaison and support, including during the parole process.

Key Government initiatives

- New investment allocated under *Better Care Together: A plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drugs services to 2027* is boosting a range of forensic mental health services including enhancing court liaison services, expanding PMHS services and enhancing community forensic mental health services across the state.
- The Queensland Government, as part of the establishment of LVCC, has provided funding for additional PMHS services and specialist mental health, alcohol and other drug positions to support the implementation of an innovative Specialist Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit.

The Report notes the disability needs of many prisoners are not being adequately identified and those prisoners are being released without the necessary support. The Report notes QCS should be appropriately funded to facilitate and support prisoner access to specialist assessments and disability services on an ongoing basis. This funding should also enable the engagement of staff to provide ongoing liaison and support, including during the parole process. QCS staff should facilitate and support relevant prisoners to engage with specialist services and connect with existing schemes, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Key Government initiatives

- The Queensland State Disability Plan 2022-2027 was introduced in 2022. QCS is committed to implementing the principles of the plan and released the QCS Disability Service Plan 2022-2025.
- QCS is currently developing a Disability Strategy to guide QCS from its current state to a desired end-state in which people with disability in QCS custody, care and under supervision are identified and assessed early, treated with dignity and respect, and have access to the reasonable adjustments and supports they need to participate on equitable terms.
- QCS has established a Disability Services Team to support prisoners and offenders with a disability to access the NDIS across QCS correctional centres.
- The Queensland Government has engaged with the Australian Government to ensure prisoners with an NDIS plan can continue to access the disability supports they are entitled to during their custodial episode.

The Report notes the implementation of relevant 2016 QPSR recommendations appears to have had little impact on the availability and timeliness of mental health services for prisoners. As such, vulnerable cohorts, including women and First Nations people, have been acutely impacted. Growing prisoner numbers have also resulted in increased demand for services and inter-agency infrastructure.

The Report highlights that early diversionary options need to be expanded and made available for people with mental health issues and/or cognitive disability whose risks are more appropriately managed through treatment and support in the community rather than prison.

The Report notes ongoing treatment gaps in the community for the forensic population continue to affect the efficacy of prison-based interventions and the recommendations from the 2016 QPSR, designed to bridge service gaps in the community, require further practical implementation.

The Report acknowledges QCS has a suite of successful programs and has developed programs for women offenders and First Nations people. However, despite QCS' proactive steps since the 2016 QPSR and earnest efforts from staff, there are still opportunities to realise greater community benefit through the delivery of enhanced and expanded rehabilitation services.

Key Government initiatives

- QCS has developed a *QCS Mental Health Strategy 2022-2027*, which provides a strong foundation to assist QCS in achieving its strategic vision: a corrective services system that recognises and supports all people in our custody, care and under supervision living with mental ill health. It centres on improving access to appropriate supports and services for individuals, increasing the awareness and capability of our staff, and implementing innovative and evidence-based initiatives to deliver a person-centred and culturally appropriate service.

- QCS works collaboratively with Queensland Health, including through the *Queensland Prisoner Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025*, to improve the governance and delivery of prisoner health services in Queensland. A Memorandum of Understanding for Prisoner Health Services is also in place between QCS and Queensland Health that details the relationships and responsibilities in relation to the provision of health care services to prisoners.
- Under *Better Care Together: A plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drugs services to 2027*, development and expansion of enhanced models of culturally capable social and emotional wellbeing and mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in correctional centres is taking place.

The Report makes six recommendations in relation to rehabilitation programs, mental health, and substance misuse treatment, including:

- programs introduced since the 2016 QPSR (including substance abuse programs) should undergo a formal external evaluation and validation (**Recommendation 10**);
- ongoing development and evaluation of evidence-based DFV assessment tools and intervention programs, and appropriate resources for delivery of programs (**Recommendation 11**);
- expansion of the DFVP in correctional centres and investigation of delivery through Community Corrections (**Recommendation 12**);
- introduction of legislation to provide Magistrates with greater discretion to divert people with mental illness and/or cognitive disability from the criminal justice system with powers to dismiss charges and impose conditions (**Recommendation 13**);
- ongoing prisoner access to specialist disability assessments and services (**Recommendation 14**); and
- implementation of a model of service to improve and enhance alcohol and other drug interventions and services for offenders, and initiatives to better integrate and coordinate alcohol and other drug interventions (**Recommendation 15**).

Re-entry services

Re-entry services in Queensland are delivered by CREST (Community Re-Entry Services Team) and MARA (the Southeast Queensland Women's Re-Entry Service). These services are designed to provide practical pre and post-release support to prisoners transitioning back into the community. The Report highlights the importance of these services being adequately equipped to provide support, noting the challenges that a prisoner faces following their release into the community is when they require the most intensive support. The Report raises concerns about the limited availability of re-entry services, including culturally appropriate services, and the lack of available post-release accommodation.

Additionally, the Queensland Health PMHS and the Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program (IMHIP) provide transitional support services supported by affiliated non-government organisations for consumers of PMHS and IMHIP exiting custody.

The Report highlights that housing continues to be identified as an issue of primary importance and a significant barrier to parole, with the Australia-wide housing availability crisis

compounding the issue. The Report identifies that the lack of suitable accommodation is resulting in some prisoners being housed in custody when they would otherwise have been deemed suitable for release on parole. Albeit, the Report notes it was beyond the scope of the Review to determine how to resolve the housing crisis for prisoners.

Key Government initiatives

- In 2016, in response to unacceptably high reoffending rates in Aurukun, the Aurukun Justice Reintegration Project (AJRP) was established to provide intensive and coordinated support to released prisoners with the objective of breaking the cycle of reincarceration. In the 2019-20 State Budget, the government provided \$2.541 million over four years and \$0.646 million ongoing to continue the AJRP.
- In 2019, QCS partnered with the St Vincent De Paul Society Queensland to establish the Post Release Supported Accommodation (PRSA) program which houses male prisoners, whose lack of accommodation is preventing their release on parole, for a period of up to 12 weeks. It further provides a Support Worker to assist in identifying ongoing accommodation following this 12-week period.
- In the 2022-23 State Budget, \$1 million was provided to increase the capacity of the existing QCS contracted re-entry services to focus on providing services to people remanded in custody and short sentenced prisoners.
- *Homes For Queenslanders*, the Queensland Government's whole-of-system housing plan, commits to increasing the supply of social and affordable homes, to support people in the private rental market and first homeowners; and to work toward ending homelessness.
- In line with the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce – Hear Her Voice Report 2, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW) has continued the Next Step Home initiative for women exiting custody at risk of homelessness; and also committed to developing and piloting an initiative to assist women on remand in housing need.
- Queensland Health funds the Individual Recovery Support – Transition from Correctional Facilities Program which is delivered by non-government organisations to provide non-clinical psychosocial wraparound support to a person for up to 12 months post release from prison when that person is experiencing a severe mental illness and has been referred by PMHS.

The Report makes five recommendations in relation to re-entry services, including:

- review and expansion of the Post-Release Supported Accommodation Service to cater to more individuals and locations (**Recommendation 16**);
- establishment of a specialised re-entry service for remandees (**Recommendation 17**);
- ensuring culturally appropriate re-entry services for First Nations prisoners (**Recommendation 18**);
- establishment of a resettlement program for long-standing prisoners (**Recommendation 19**); and
- establishment of a targeted accommodation team/s (within QCS) to work closely with stakeholders to locate suitable accommodation for prisoners (**Recommendation 20**).

The Parole Board Queensland

As noted above, establishment of the PBQ was an outcome of the 2016 QPSR which recommended there be one independent parole board for Queensland. The primary purpose of the PBQ is to consider and make evidence-based decisions on applications for parole and similar matters with the view of reintegration and rehabilitation of an offender into the community prior to the end of their sentence. The PBQ is governed by the Ministerial Guidelines to the Parole Board Queensland (Ministerial Guidelines), the PBQ Decision Making Manual, and relevant legislation.

The Report highlights that delays in hearings for parole applications have reduced considerably, however, a number of applications were outside their legislative timeframes, due to requiring further information or being subject to psychiatric and psychological reports. Additional Boards have further assisted in processing an increasing number of parole applications, and parole order suspensions which were not a primary function of the former parole board but are a primary function of the PBQ (as per Recommendation 78 of the 2016 QPSR, which recommended the power to suspend parole be vested solely in the Parole Board).

The Report notes reducing delays associated with parole applications and the subsequent release of prisoners to parole is in the best interests of society as it increases time for reintegration, decreases time spent in custody, reduces prison capacity impacts and reduces the costs associated with imprisonment.

The Report discusses Section 4 of the Ministerial Guidelines which outlines the circumstances in which the PBQ will grant leave to a prisoner or prisoner's agent to appear before the Board. The granting of leave is at the discretion of the Board. The Report highlights the benefits of prisoners appearing virtually before the Board to make oral statements, including allowing the Board to assess the reliability and integrity of the applicant in relation to their application for parole. It is noted that allowing an appearance before the Board for each parole application would not be feasible due to technological and timing restraints.

The Report recognises that in 2019, the PBQ implemented a trial program with one sentencing court, Court Ordered Parole Immediate Eligibility (COIPE), which was designed to expedite the parole hearings for prisoners who had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment and given an immediate parole eligibility date. The purpose of this program was to release these prisoners as close to the date set by the Court unless there was a lawful reason for them to remain incarcerated. The Report encourages the recommencement and expansion of this program to ensure the intention of the sentencing court is actioned.

Key Government initiatives

- The PBQ commenced the Culturally Engaged Release of Indigenous Parolees (CERIP) initiative in 2022 in recognition of the over-representation of First Nations people in custody. This initiative sees a collaborative and culturally sensitive approach to PBQ's consideration of eligible First Nations prisoners' parole applications. It involves PBQ engaging with community justice groups, comprised of Elders and respected community members, from the community the prisoner is from.

- As part of the 2023-24 State Budget, \$23.5 million over two years was allocated to PBQ to continue to support operations and continue efficient considerations of parole matters. This funding supported the continuation of the CERIP initiative, continuation of the Board's fourth, fifth and sixth operating teams, and the establishment of a seventh operating team.

The Report makes nine recommendations in relation to the PBQ, including:

- procedures be implemented, and legislation enacted if necessary, to ensure that any delays by the Parole Board are eliminated and parole ordered as soon as practically and administratively possible when a court has ordered immediate parole eligibility (**Recommendation 21**);
- implementation of specific monitoring and reporting on the rate of pre-release suspension of COP orders and making that information publicly available (**Recommendation 22**);
- the positions of President and Deputy President, PBQ, should be former judicial officers of a State Supreme or District Court, or Federal Court, with suitable, actual judicial experience and appointments be for a period of no more than a total of six years (**Recommendation 23**);
- the CSA be amended to remove the power of the Minister to make Ministerial Guidelines, and legislate amendments for PBQ to make relevant guidelines for its operation (**Recommendation 24**);
- all members of the Board receive initial and continuing education in decision-making and other aspects relevant to their roles, provided by relevant professionals (**Recommendation 25**);
- prisoners be legally represented through a grant of Legal Aid, and that PBQ routinely publish reasons (in full) for making a Restricted Prisoner declaration (**Recommendation 26**);
- the CSA be amended to provide for the composition of the Parole Board as set out in Recommendation 45 and Recommendation 46 of the 2016 QPSR (**Recommendation 27**);
- the CSA be amended to ensure that each person who applies for parole has the right to appear before the Board in person or by video-link at the discretion of the PBQ (**Recommendation 28**); and
- PBQ develop a guideline of relevant criteria by which the discretion to permit appearances by applicants before the board is to be exercised, and that Form 51 should be amended so that it is calibrated to the relevant criteria (**Recommendation 29**).

Management of offenders in the community

Community Corrections supervises offenders subject to probation, intensive corrections orders, reparation orders, COP and BOP. The Report highlights the primary challenge Community Corrections is facing is overall resourcing restrictions and high corresponding workloads of case managers, which are affecting the ability for case managers to meaningfully manage and assist with the rehabilitation of offenders in the community. Whilst the Report acknowledges the significant staffing appointments following the 2016 QPSR, it notes this has not yielded the necessary reduction in offender-to-staff ratio.

The Report notes the effective management of offenders in the community is paramount to ensuring community safety and reducing recidivism. Strategies on how best to complete this

in the current environment of workload pressures, staff shortages and service delivery delays, whilst challenging, is of the utmost importance to break the cycle of reincarceration.

An identified barrier to staff recruitment in the 2016 QPSR was the mandatory degree requirement for case management positions with a recommendation made for this to be removed in conjunction with the implementation of improvements to staff training programs. The new suite of case manager training commenced delivery on 26 June 2023. This enables greater discretion in the requirement for mandatory degree qualifications for case management positions in future recruitment.

Having adequate representation of First Nations people within case management positions was identified as a priority within the 2016 QPSR, particularly given the number of First Nations offenders supervised within the community. However, the Report notes that as of 30 June 2023, only 1.25% of case managers identify as First Nations, below the QCS average of 2.72%. The Report identifies the positive impact that Cultural Liaison Officers (CLOs) have had on the probation and parole process for prisoners and offenders and encourages an increase in the number of CLOs employed.

In consideration of the ongoing workload constraints within Community Corrections, the Report discusses approaches employed in other States, including selective case management used in New South Wales to direct resources to higher risk offenders who pose the greatest risk to community safety, and the use of a Remote Service Delivery Team, who provide on demand case management support through remote supervision of suitable offenders.

Following a recommendation in the 2016 QPSR, changes to the contravention and suspension process were made and the power to suspend a parole order was assigned to the PBQ. However, the Report notes, since then, the suspension rate of parole orders, whilst lower than prior to the 2016 QPSR, remains high, with suspensions occurring often shortly after a prisoner's release from custody and offenders remaining suspended for longer periods of time. In requesting the suspension of a parole order, Community Corrections officers are required to consider the risk the contravention poses and balance this against the protective factors for the offender. These factors include employment, stable accommodation, and engagement with services. The Report highlights the importance of QCS having consistency across Community Corrections jurisdictions and across PBQ in the approach to managing contraventions without suspension, wherever possible.

The Report notes the availability of programs both in custody and in the community was repeatedly raised as an issue throughout the course of the Review, and many of the programs have significant waitlists. For example, the Report discusses the Men's Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program only being offered in the South Coast region.

The Report also notes programs in the community generally have lower completion rates given the reliance on offenders to organise and transport themselves to the program at the appropriate times.

The 2016 QPSR provided a recommendation that Electronic Monitoring (EM) be used, when appropriate, for offenders on parole. Following legislation amendments in 2017, the use of EM in the supervision of offenders in the community commenced. The Report outlines that EM is

a valuable asset that should continue to be utilised in the supervision of offenders in the community.

Key Government initiatives

- Roll-out of a new case management training program that focuses on evidence informed case management and contains on-the-job training support.
- Increased resources and guidelines around alternative disciplinary action.
- Release of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Strategy 2020-2030*, created in consultation with Murridhagun Cultural Centre to ensure inclusive recruitment practices.
- In 2022-23, the government provided additional funding to increase the number of CLO positions across custodial centres and community corrections. Ongoing recruitment of these roles is a priority for QCS.
- Release of the *QCS Reframing the Relationship Plan 2024-2033*.

The Report makes 16 recommendations for the management of offenders in the community, including:

- implementation of the recommendation to remove the mandatory requirement for a degree qualification in human services or criminology for case managers (**Recommendation 30**);
- introduction of dedicated administrative support positions for case managers (**Recommendation 31**);
- Queensland be progressively brought in line with the Australian average offender to staff ratios within three years (**Recommendation 32**);
- recruitment of additional CLOs to have at least two positions in each region (**Recommendation 33**);
- update of Operational Practice Guidelines (OPGs) to ensure there is meaningful engagement with CLOs at the earliest possible stage and at other appropriate times (**Recommendation 34**);
- prioritisation of QCS' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Strategy 2020-2030 to significantly increase the number of First Nations employees (**Recommendation 35**);
- review of each Community Corrections training package five years after its implementation and development and implementation of performance targets for staff training (**Recommendation 36**);
- implementation of a workload model to manage time, resources and priorities for the supervision and case management of offenders in the community (**Recommendation 37**);
- implementation of a Remote Service Delivery Team (**Recommendation 38**);
- OPGs be updated to provide specific guidance to case managers as to what ought to be done for offenders on parole to establish protective factors and address underlying criminogenic needs where services are not available in the community (**Recommendation 39**);
- the E2E case management approach should provide that the initial transition from custody to the community should be prioritised and involve a targeted and more intensive approach of management in the community (**Recommendation 40**);

- regular workshops with Community Corrections staff to discuss and ensure consistency of approach to suspensions and options for alternative action in line with OPGs (**Recommendation 41**);
- continued monitoring and enhanced use of EM (**Recommendation 42**);
- amendment of PBQ guidelines regarding suspending an offender's parole (**Recommendation 43**);
- implementation of a guideline that in the case where an offender's mental health is an issue and they are receiving treatment, wherever possible, their parole is not suspended until information is obtained from Queensland Health (**Recommendation 44**); and
- implementation of a guideline which involves the Prescribed Board Member being required, at the point of a request for an immediate suspension, to consider urgently requesting information that would assist the Parole Board to consider the matter, and a videolink between the offender and the Parole Board, and between the case manager and the Parole Board (**Recommendation 45**).

Victims and other matters of importance to parole

The Report outlines the importance for victims and/or their families to have their voices and opinions heard and to be promptly updated on relevant decisions¹. Information sharing between PBQ, the QPS, and QCS is considered paramount to ensure commitments to victims are steadily met.

Further, the Report considers it reasonable that eligible persons² be notified when an offender is being released on parole and subsequently deported, despite the *Australian Border Force Act 2015* (Cth) and other federal legislation being outside the Queensland Government's control.

The Report also acknowledges the former Legal Affairs and Safety Committee (LASC) inquiry into support provided to victims of crime. Some of the LASC recommendations are specifically relevant to victims who interact with the correctional and parole systems, including reviews of victims' rights, improved coordination of services, increasing access to information, trauma-informed training, and investment in victim support services across the criminal justice system. It is noted the LASC recommendations have been supported or supported-in principle by the Queensland Government and aim to improve practices and outcomes for victims of violent crime, and their families.

Key Government initiatives

- Amendments to the CSA, including the No Body, No Parole legislation in 2017, the Restricted Prisoners legislation in 2021, and more recently in June 2024, new laws to deliver greater support for victims of crime and ensure victims have more say in Parole Board decisions.

¹ By way of an example, the QCS Victims Register (VR) notifies victims of a prisoner's parole eligibility or change to a prisoner's sentence that may impact their custodial period as soon as practical after the chief executive becomes aware of the information, when the prisoner makes an application for a parole order and if the PBQ decides to grant, refuse, suspend or cancel a prisoner's parole order.

² An eligible person is a person registered with the VR. The VR supports victims and eligible persons by informing them about important events in the sentences of the prisoner, or prisoners, who they have registered against.

- Implementation of the No Body, No Parole and Restricted Prisoner schemes.
- Amendments to section 320 of the CSA in 2017, which expanded eligibility criteria for the Victims Register (VR) to victims of domestic violence, and further amendments in 2024 to the legislative framework for the VR, which streamlined the registration process, extended the eligibility criteria and increased flexibility for how an eligible person can engage with the parole process. The 2024 amendments also clarified what information the chief executive may provide to an eligible person where appropriate, including the prisoner or offender's deportation or removal status under the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth) if it is known.
- In May 2022, QCS implemented changes to its Integrated Offender Management System (IOMS) for internal use, allowing for the electronic notification of changes to a prisoner's parole status where a VR flag is recorded.
- In 2024-25 QCS will continue to support victims of crime by enhancing operations of the QCS Victims Register and enshrining a victims of crime voice in PBQ decisions.

In 2021-22, QCS worked in partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to enhance information sharing practices which allowed for Domestic Violence Order (DVO) information provided to QCS by the Queensland Courts to be automatically populated in IOMS. The automatic population of DVO information in IOMS ensures that relevant QCS staff have timely access to contemporary DVO information, enabling staff to implement strategies to mitigate risk regarding DFV.

The Report recommends the Government works with the Federal Government and/or other relevant agencies to ensure that eligible persons on the Victims Register are informed of an offender's immigration detention and/or deportation from Australia (**Recommendation 46**).

Independent Oversight

The 2016 QPSR recommended improved oversight of prisons and custodial environments and this has led to significant reforms being introduced in Queensland, including the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022*, and *Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Act 2023*.

The *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022* established an Inspector of Detention Services, supported by the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, which has independent oversight and responsibility to prepare and publish standards for the conduct of inspections of prisons and other custodial environments. Whilst the jurisdiction of the Inspector is narrower than what was envisaged by Mr Sofronoff KC within the 2016 QPSR, the Report acknowledges the Inspector's office is still in its infancy.

The *Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Act 2023* provides the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture with access to places of detention in Queensland, to interview people, including those detained, as well as broad access to confidential information for the purpose of fulfilling its functions under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

The Official Visitor scheme plays an important role in the Queensland correctional system by reviewing certain orders and key decisions under the CSA, and ensuring a regular, accessible, independent program of visitation to assist prisoners to manage and resolve their complaints.

The Report highlights that there continues to be a lack of transparency for internal inspection reviews conducted by QCS. Whilst it is acknowledged inspection reports could contain confidential information, the lack of publishing limits the efficacy of QCS' oversight function.

Key Government initiatives

- In 2020, QCS introduced an Organisational Performance Framework, which includes the Commissioner's Operational Performance Review (OPR) process. While not independent oversight, the OPR process entails annual face-to-face executive performance meetings with senior managers responsible for each frontline service delivery location and frontline support command. Each command has a set of key performance indicators that form the basis for discussion. The success of individual correctional centres, Community Corrections regions and frontline support commands is identified through a tiered performance rating system to encourage high performance and prevent disengagement from the monitoring process. The framework provides a focus on the five principles of Corrections 2030 to identify the successful achievement of QCS objectives, including safety, excellence, empowerment, respect, and accountability.

The Report recommends as part of the five-year review of the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022*, the Government further consider whether the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Detention Services should extend to oversight of the Official Visitor Scheme and Community Corrections operations and, in the meantime, QCS conduct routine inspections of the performance and effectiveness of Community Corrections (**Recommendation 47**).

Technology

The 2016 QPSR found that IOMS was under critical strain due to increased volume. Whilst changes have been implemented to update IOMS since the 2016 QPSR, the Report highlights how essential it is for IOMS, and other technology servers used by QCS, to be updated in line with new initiatives to ensure effective usability and increased ability of information sharing.

The Report further outlines the barriers that an aging prison infrastructure has on technology, inclusive of Wi-Fi networks and videolink capabilities, and the pressure this places on staff and resources. An investment in updated technology, such as the implementation of in-cell technology, is considered essential to improving prisoners' access to education, rehabilitation and other services, such as health services, whilst also reducing staffing pressures through the use of electronic forms.

Key Government initiatives

- As part of the 2022-23 Budget, the government provided \$30.406 million over four years and \$2.672 million per annum ongoing for the modernisation of IOMS.
- In the 2023-24 Budget, the government provided \$2 million to explore opportunities for prisoner in-cell technology in correctional centres with self-service capabilities and alternatives for service delivery.

- LVCC, expected to commence commissioning in late 2024, will have in-cell technology implemented.
- Work is being undertaken to implement an electronic case management system to create efficiencies within the PBQ.

The Report makes two recommendations in relation to technology, including the implementation of in-cell technology and other initiatives to facilitate prisoner access to education, rehabilitation, other services and entitlements (**Recommendation 48**); and that QCS and PBQ information technology systems continue to be reviewed and upgraded where necessary (**Recommendation 49**).

Conclusion

Overall, the Report provides an overview of the progress the Queensland Government has made towards the 2016 QPSR recommendations whilst also outlining where further improvement is required. The Report raises primary concerns in relation to the continuing growth of prisoner numbers and costs associated with keeping prisoners incarcerated and urges for focus be placed, by both QCS and the Queensland Government, on evidence-based strategies to support successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

The Queensland Government will continue to consider the Report to assess what actions can be taken to improve upon the identified areas. QCS will also continue to work in partnership with justice agency partners to progress reforms that aim to reduce demand on the system while keeping the community safe.

The Queensland Government is committed to community safety and ensuring PBQ can continue to contribute to an efficient, effective, and safe justice system for Queenslanders.

Government Response to Queensland Parole System Review 2 recommendations

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION			
1	<p>The Queensland Government undertake a review of the parole system and the Queensland sentencing regime within five years from the date of this Review.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>Any further review of the parole system or elements of the parole system will be conducted within the context of existing reform work underway across the whole of the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of continuous review and evaluation to ensure policy and procedural measures remain fit-for-purpose.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider the appropriateness, timing and scope of any further reviews of the parole system or elements of the parole system within the context of existing reform work underway across the whole of the criminal justice system. The Justice Reform Office, in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) will work closely with justice agencies, including QCS, to develop, test and implement key justice reform initiatives.</p>
CHAPTER 2 – CURRENT STATE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM			
2	<p>An independent strategic panel be established to inform a whole of Government strategy. The strategy should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initiatives to reduce remand numbers, such as supported bail accommodation. initiatives for First Nations people, including Closing the Gap, women and people with disability in the criminal justice system. 	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>While it is not proposed to establish an independent strategic panel at this time, the Queensland Government is committed to continued improvements to the justice system as part of broader reforms. These broader reforms are supported by continued partnerships across justice agencies including DJAG, the Queensland Police Service (QPS), QCS and Department of Youth Justice.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>A number of intersecting review and inquiry processes are underway across Queensland and nationally. It is important to consider and evaluate these existing reforms when exploring future strategic approaches.</p> <p>The Queensland Government established the Criminal Justice Innovation Office (now the Justice Reform Office) and the First Nations Justice Office in 2023. The Justice Reform Office has been established to develop, test and implement whole-of-Government initiatives to reform the criminal justice</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability of suitable accommodation for prisoners and parolees, both long and short-term. • the services available to people on parole, including but not limited to mental health, alcohol and other drugs and re-entry services to determine which areas require further investment and Government support (alongside any findings and recommendations in this Review) • initiatives to reduce the effects of overcrowding including technological solutions to increase access to rehabilitation programs, education and health services. • methods to reduce the rate of suspension and length of time an offender spends in custody while their parole is suspended. <p>The strategy should identify outcomes and targets which should be the subject of evaluation and public reporting. Appropriate funding should be allocated to support the</p>		<p>system including to address increasing demand on prisons and to help people break the cycle of reoffending.</p> <p>The Justice Reform Office is also leading the development of a whole-of-government strategy for women and girls in the criminal justice system as accused persons and offenders in response to recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT). A range of other initiatives are also being progressed across government in response to WSJT recommendations.</p> <p>The First Nations Justice Office was established to develop and implement a co-designed, whole-of-government and community strategy to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system and meet justice targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>In December 2023, QCS published its <i>Reframing the Relationship Plan 2024-2033</i>. This plan represents a beginning; with a particular focus, and commitment to action, to close the gap on First Nations people's incarceration and victimisation from violence. QCS is developing associated action plans.</p> <p>The experiences of people with disability in the justice system were considered by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission). The Queensland Government has committed to consider all relevant recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission, and publicly report on acceptance and implementation of the recommendations by mid-2024.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	development and implementation of the strategy.		
CHAPTER 3 – PAROLE IN QUEENSLAND			
There are no recommendations outlined under this chapter.			
CHAPTER 4 – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND SENTENCING			
3	The Government, as soon as possible, implement the accepted recommendations and recommendations accepted-in-principle of the Queensland Productivity Commission 'Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism' and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (QSAC) 'Community-based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options.'	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the need to consider community-based sentencing approaches in the whole of justice system context.</p> <p>Work is progressing in response to key recommendations of the WSJT and QSAC through the work of QCS, DJAG, and the QPS. The work of the Justice Reform Office in DJAG continues to be informed by the recommendations of the Queensland Productivity Commission's report on its Inquiry into Imprisonment and Recidivism.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>QCS, in consultation with DJAG, is progressing a response to this recommendation through work responding to WSJT recommendations.</p>
4	The Government, as soon as possible, implement a dedicated court advisory service for all levels of Courts (Magistrates, District and Supreme) across Queensland, including to assist sentencing Courts to formulate bespoke parole conditions when	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government will develop a plan and work towards expansion of court advisory services to support sentencing courts by providing greater availability of pre-sentence advice.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Work has commenced on developing a best practice, fit-for-purpose and sustainable Court Advisory service model to deliver on Recommendation 130 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report 2. This includes scheduled engagement with women, community corrections, courts and</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	making orders for Court Ordered Parole.		non-government stakeholders on practice issues, opportunities and service pathways.
5	Where a sentence is to be imposed for an offence that carries a mandatory non-parole period, the Sentencing Judge should have the discretion to depart from that mandatory period.	NOT SUPPORTED The Queensland Government notes mandatory non-parole periods apply to murder, repeat serious child sex offences, and serious violent offences. The Queensland Government does not support removing mandatory non-parole periods for these serious offences.	NOT APPLICABLE
CHAPTER 5: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS			
6	For those offenders in custody, the definition of End-to-End Case Management (E2E) should be expanded to include as an expressed goal, the management of offenders towards release into the community.	SUPPORTED The Queensland Government supports the expansion of the definition of E2E to include the management of offenders working towards release into the community.	IN PROGRESS E2E has been rolled out to the women's system statewide, and to men in Far Northern and Northern Region Community Corrections and Townsville Correctional Centre. In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded the continuation and optimisation of E2E case management in selected locations to reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and improve outcomes for people in contact with corrective services. The 2024-25 State Budget provides for a team to consider and implement improvements to E2E, which will include considering expanding the definition of E2E to include the management of offenders working towards release into the community.
7	Queensland Corrective Services should commission:	SUPPORTED	ONGOING

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External reviews throughout the gradual implementation of E2E at appropriate times to assess whether the system is operating efficiently and to enhance the future roll-out. External review of the operation of E2E at an appropriate future time to assess its efficacy in improving offender outcomes and reducing recidivism. 	The Queensland Government supports the ongoing external review of E2E throughout its implementation to assess its efficacy and efficiency.	<p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded the continuation and optimisation of E2E case management in selected locations to reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and improve outcomes for people in contact with corrective services.</p> <p>Any further expansion of E2E will be subject to consideration of the outcomes demonstrated in future evaluations.</p>
8	Queensland Corrective Services should move to roll out E2E to all aspects of its operations as quickly as is reasonably practical and should be adequately funded by Government to do so.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the aims and intent of E2E case management.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded the continuation and optimisation of E2E case management in selected locations to reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and improve outcomes for people in contact with corrective services.</p> <p>Any further expansion of E2E will be subject to consideration of the outcomes demonstrated in future evaluations.</p>
9	The Government should review the policy restricting placement of sexual offenders and those prisoners convicted of murder and other serious violent offences with a view to reintroducing appropriate candidates to low security facilities.	<p>NOT SUPPORTED</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes the policy reflects section 68A of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i>. The Queensland Government is not prepared to risk community safety by placing sexual offenders and those prisoners convicted of murder and other serious violent offences in low custody.</p>	NOT APPLICABLE

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		As an alternative, the Queensland Government will explore the creation of a new security classification within secure facilities that maintains community safety while providing rehabilitated prisoners subject to s68A who are nearing their release date with a pathway to improved community reintegration.	
CHAPTER 6: REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT			
10	<p>The programs introduced since the 2016 Review should undergo a formal external evaluation and validation at the earliest available appropriate time.</p> <p>The substance abuse programs provided to offenders should also undergo a formal external evaluation and validation as soon as possible.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the regular evaluation of intervention and rehabilitation programs as part of each programs' 'lifespan'.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>In 2023, QCS commissioned an external review of Alcohol and Other Drugs programs. In response to this review, QCS intends to trial new treatment pathways, streamline referral pathways and update eligibility criteria, continue provision of targeted First Nations and Women's programs and strengthen focus on quality and staff capability.</p> <p>Since 2019, through funding provided through the QPSR reforms, QCS has partnered with St Vincent de Paul to deliver the Post Release Supported Accommodation (PRSA) Program. The PRSA Program was the subject of an independent evaluation delivered in April 2023. The evaluation found universal support across all stakeholders for the PRSA approach of providing accommodation and support for men exiting custody to parole. Additionally, the program generated a small cost saving compared to a man remaining in custody, with additional savings expected with reduced impacts of COVID-19. Evaluation recommendations for</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			<p>improvements to the PRSA program are being considered as part of contract renewal and program improvement activities.</p> <p>The Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) Program was first introduced at Townsville Women's Correctional Centre (TWCC) in 2018, and is known locally as 'Sisters for Change'. In September 2022, 'Sisters for Change' was approved for accreditation by the QCS Offender Program and Services Accreditation Panel. Prior to this, an independent evaluation in 2020 of the TWCC program found that participants perceived prison to be safer and felt more hopeful and positive about the future, with boosted confidence, self-esteem, and life skills.</p> <p>The QCS suite of sexual offending programs has undergone rigorous evaluations since 2010, resulting in reduced re-offending for participants compared with non-participants. To improve outcomes for First Nations men, QCS contracted the University of the Sunshine Coast to develop the Strong Solid Spirt (SSS) program, which was piloted during 2022-23. SSS recommenced at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre in 2023-24, adopting recommendations made following the pilot program. Evaluations of program impact will occur when an adequate sample of completers is available.</p>
11	The Government must prioritise the ongoing development and evaluation of evidence-based Domestic and Family Violence assessment tools and intervention programs and provide appropriate resources to enable effective and	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the ongoing work being undertaken by DJAG as the lead department in developing and evaluating domestic and family violence risk assessment tools and intervention programs. QCS</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Queensland Government provided \$14.8 million over 2 years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.</p> <p>QCS continues to be involved in the consultation process with KPMG, who has been engaged by DJAG, to explore DFV risk assessment perpetrator tools and approaches in response to</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	equitable delivery of the programs.	continues to work with DJAG to consider use in the correctional system.	<p>recommendations 21 and 29 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report 1.</p> <p>QCS continues to utilise the Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) in High Risk Teams across the state.</p> <p>QCS is also currently developing a Domestic and Family Violence Strategy to improve perpetrator accountability and victim-survivor safety by empowering staff and improving practices.</p>
12	Following evaluation of its current Domestic and Family Violence program, Queensland Corrective Services should be resourced to expand the number of correctional centres that are able to deliver it and investigate implementing delivery through Community Corrections.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government remains committed to eradicating all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence, keeping girls, women and families safe, holding those who use violence accountable to create a fair and equitable criminal justice system.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The Queensland Government has invested over \$1.75 billion since 2015 to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence.</p> <p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Queensland Government provided \$14.8 million over 2 years to deliver domestic and family violence perpetrator programs that support rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.</p> <p>QCS Community Corrections supports offenders in the community to access community-based services for DFV, for both victims and perpetrators.</p>
13	The Queensland Government introduce legislation to provide Magistrates with greater discretion to divert people with mental illness and/or cognitive disability from the criminal justice system with powers to dismiss charges and impose conditions which require a person to engage in identified treatment and/or support (where appropriate).	<p>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>The Queensland Government understands that people with mental ill health and/or cognitive disabilities are over-represented at all stages of the criminal justice system and appropriate diversion pathways are important in coordinating justice health responses.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has a commitment to the 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap which</p>	<p>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes the intent of the recommendation and will continue to consider possible opportunities to enable strengthened health and justice responses and appropriate diversion pathways where suitable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		<p>includes a target of reducing the over-representation of First Nations peoples held in custody. Such diversionary pathways may allow First Nations peoples with mental ill health and/or cognitive disabilities to receive the most appropriate support in the community and to reduce recidivism. Further exploration as to how these services would be delivered is required.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes that the main objectives of the <i>Mental Health Act 2016</i> are to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of persons who have a mental illness who do not have the capacity to consent to be treated; and to enable persons to be diverted from the criminal justice system if found to have been of unsound mind at the time of committing an unlawful act or to be unfit for trial and to protect the community if persons diverted from the criminal justice system may be at risk of harming others.</p> <p>The <i>Mental Health Act 2016</i> has several legislative mechanisms in place to meet these objectives including to allow a Magistrates Court to consider mental illness and/or cognitive disabilities in criminal justice</p>	

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		<p>proceedings. This includes the ability to dismiss a complaint for a simple offence if the court is satisfied that the person was of unsound mind and/or unfit for trial. If dismissing a complaint, the court may refer the person to a relevant authority for treatment and/or care. A Magistrate can also order a person appearing before the court to be examined by an authorised doctor.</p> <p>The Queensland Government notes that while there is existing legislation to the general effect of the recommendation, further consideration will be given to possible opportunities to enable strengthened health and justice responses to be in place and appropriate diversion pathways.</p>	
14	Queensland Corrective Services be appropriately funded to facilitate, or otherwise support, prisoner access to specialist disability assessments and/or services on an ongoing basis.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports prisoner access to specialist disability assessments and services they are entitled to.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Co-ordinated centrally, the QCS Disability Services Team supports prisoners and offenders with a disability to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across QCS correctional centres.</p> <p>In the 2023-24 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded enhanced psychological and disability support services in correctional centres, enabling QCS to establish a permanent Disability Services Team.</p> <p>QCS is currently developing a Disability Strategy to guide QCS from its current state to a desired end-state in which people with disability in QCS custody, care and under</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			supervision are identified and assessed early, treated with dignity and respect, and have access to the reasonable adjustments and supports they need to participate on equitable terms.
15	<p>Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health are funded to jointly develop and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A model of service to improve and enhance alcohol and other drug interventions and services for offenders in the community, including those released from custody on parole. • Initiatives to better integrate and coordinate alcohol and other drug interventions available in prison and the community (including the OST program). 	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to providing access and/or referrals to alcohol and drug interventions and services for prisoners and offenders.</p> <p>QCS will continue to work with Queensland Health to consider opportunities for improved integration of alcohol and other drugs services and programs, as part of the development of the next joint Prisoner Health and Wellbeing Strategy in 2025.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>In 2023, QCS commissioned an external review of Alcohol and Other Drugs programs. In response to this review, QCS intends to trial new treatment pathways, streamline referral pathways and update eligibility criteria, continue provision of targeted First Nations and Women's programs and strengthen focus on quality and staff capability.</p> <p>Alcohol and other drug intervention and treatment programs are delivered by QCS staff and external community-based providers. Substantial funding has been allocated to expand delivery through utilisation of community-based providers.</p> <p>First Nations providers are contracted to provide alcohol and other drug intervention and treatment programs for prisoners and offenders.</p> <p>Alcohol and other drug interventions and programs tailored specifically for women are delivered in all women's centres, with the exception of the low custody Helana Jones Centre where women have access to treatment in the community if required.</p> <p>Individual alcohol and other drug counselling services are also delivered in the community by contracted external service providers.</p> <p>QCS supports Queensland Health to deliver Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) for eligible prisoners across Queensland.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			New investment under <i>Better Care Together: a plan for Queensland's state-funded mental health alcohol and other drug services to 2027</i> has been allocated to boost the capacity of alcohol and other drug services in the community, including opioid dependence treatment which will support access for people on release from correctional settings and continue support for their recovery.
CHAPTER 7: RE-ENTRY SERVICES			
16	Queensland Corrective Services should review the operation of the Post-Release Supported Accommodation Service and be resourced to expand the program to cater to more individuals and locations.	<p>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the Post-Release Supported Accommodation (PRSA) program.</p>	<p>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</p> <p>QCS funds an external provider to provide 12 weeks of temporary accommodation in up to 40 headlease properties in Cairns, Townsville, Moreton Bay and Toowoomba, along with case management support to men where accommodation is a barrier to their parole release.</p> <p>An evaluation of the PRSA program was completed in April 2023. The evaluation found the PRSA service model aligns with some elements of good practice, is reaching its target cohort and there are some early indications of positive effects on recidivism.</p> <p>Evaluation recommendations for improvements to the PRSA program are being considered as part of contract renewal and program improvement activities.</p> <p>QCS will continue to explore strategies to expand the program to cater to more individuals and locations. QCS will also continue to work with The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW) to ensure prisoners and offenders who are vulnerable to homelessness are supported through the Queensland Government's Homes for Queenslanders plan.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
17	Queensland Corrective Services should be funded to establish and deliver a specialised re-entry service available to remandees.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government remains committed to providing re-entry services to people in custody, including remandees.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Since 2016, QCS has contracted external service providers to deliver a suite of re-entry services to people in custody. All prisoners regardless of legal status can access information and referrals with the support of the contracted service providers.</p> <p>QCS currently offers all male prisoners, regardless of legal status, access to the 'In Prison Information and Referral Service.' Eligible men being released to Community Corrections and assessed as higher risk can engage in pre- and post-release planning and support.</p> <p>Women prisoners can access pre-release support as well as up to 12-months post-release support regardless of their legal status.</p> <p>Since 2020-21, the Queensland Government has funded an increase to the capacity of the existing QCS contracted re-entry services at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (Queensland's main remand centre) to focus on providing services to men remanded in custody and short sentenced prisoners.</p> <p>In 2024-25, the new statewide Women's Reintegration Service replaced the existing women's re-entry service contracts. It will continue to be available for all incarcerated women including remandees, with improved access to women after release including up to 12-months post-release support to women who are released to liberty, to bail and to community-based supervision. The new service commenced on 1 July 2024.</p> <p>QCS is undertaking a Men's Reintegration Renewal Redesign Project to design a service model to deliver tangible and</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			<p>sustained outcomes for offenders to successfully lower the rate of return to custody and contribute to safer communities. This includes providing for tailored responses to groups that require re-entry services.</p> <p>Any consideration of the need to expand re-entry services for men, including remandees, will be undertaken after the delivery and embedding of the Men's Reintegration Renewal Redesign Project.</p>
18	Queensland Corrective Services should ensure that there are culturally appropriate re-entry services available to all First Nations prisoners.	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>The Queensland Government remains committed to providing culturally appropriate re-entry services for all First Nations prisoners.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Since 2016, QCS has funded external service providers to deliver a range of re-entry services to support men and women to plan for successful reintegration. Male prisoners can access the Community Re-entry Service Team (CREST) service and the new statewide Women's Reintegration Service commenced on 1 July 2024 replacing the previous women's re-entry service contracts.</p> <p>Service delivery expectations for CREST include that service providers work within their service delivery regions to provide support to prisoners returning to remote communities and engage with local community justice groups and community services where appropriate. Certain service delivery regions are also contracted to ensure they employ First Nations staff.</p> <p>The service model of the Women's Reintegration Service requires the implementation of culturally safe practices and develops partnerships with relevant First Nations groups and organisations including Elders. Further, the service model enables prioritisation as needed for priority cohorts including First Nations women. Service providers must be able to demonstrate their workforce includes paid First Nations</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			<p>employees and deliver training around culturally safe practices.</p> <p>In 2016, in response to unacceptably high reoffending rates in Aurukun, the Aurukun Justice Reintegration Project (AJRP) was established to provide intensive and coordinated support to released prisoners with the objective of breaking the cycle of reincarceration. In the 2019-20 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded the ongoing delivery of the AJRP.</p>
19	The Government and Queensland Corrective Services consider the establishment of a resettlement program for long-standing prisoners as a means of staging their exit from custody into the community.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider options to reintroduce a resettlement program for long-standing prisoners. It is noted the viability of work release schemes (which help prisoners in their transition to the community), and the necessity for legislative amendments to require plans for prisoners prior to release, is being investigated and explored through project work relating to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, particularly recommendation 155.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>QCS notes as part of project work relating to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendation 155, the Queensland Government is continuing to investigate and explore the validity of work release schemes.</p> <p>Low security centres facilitate various forms of community service, including work carried out at work camps, to help not-for-profit and non-government organisations.</p>
20	Queensland Corrective Services should establish a targeted accommodation team/s (within Queensland Corrective Services) who work closely with stakeholders (Government and non-Government) to locate	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The Queensland Government's Homes for Queenslanders plan commits to increasing the supply of social and affordable homes, to support people in the private rental market and first</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>People exiting prison can access a broad suite of housing products and services via a state-wide network of Housing Service Centres. This includes support to find and access private rental housing, or to access social housing. DHLGPPW also funds a range of specialist homelessness</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	suitable accommodation for those prisoners who are otherwise unable to locate suitable accommodation.	homeowners; and to work toward ending homelessness. This includes fast-tracking 1 million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 new social homes and a range of temporary supported accommodation and supported housing. Alongside Homes for Queenslanders, <i>Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Roadmap to 2031</i> and <i>Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2027</i> set out the Queensland Government's vision and direction to improve housing outcomes for First Nations peoples living in Queensland.	<p>services (SHS) to deliver temporary supported (crisis) accommodation, supported housing and other support services to people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. Specifically, the QCS Post-Release Supported Accommodation (PRSA) service (detailed above at Recommendation 16) and the Next Step Home SHS, continue to assist people exiting prison at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>QCS will continue to work with DHLGPPW to ensure prisoners and offenders who are vulnerable to homelessness are supported through the Queensland Government's Homes for Queenslanders plan.</p>
CHAPTER 8: PAROLE BOARD			
21	Procedures should be implemented, and legislation enacted if necessary to ensure that any delays by the Parole Board are eliminated and parole ordered as soon as practically and administratively possible when a court has ordered immediate parole eligibility.	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>QCS and the Parole Board Queensland (PBQ) are committed to improving efficiency and timeliness where practicable. This includes implementing recommendations of the KPMG Independent Review of Parole Board Queensland, which was undertaken to provide current state insights and advice on future efficiencies and modernisation considerations for PBQ.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In the 2023-24 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded PBQ to continue to support operations and continue efficient considerations of parole matters. This funding supported the continuation of the Culturally Engaged Release of Indigenous Parolees (CERIP) initiative, continuation of the Board's fourth, fifth and sixth operating teams, and the establishment of a seventh operating team.</p> <p>In addition to this, QCS continues to assist to review and strengthen Board initiatives such as the Court Ordered Immediate Parole Eligibility process.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			QCS will consider additional opportunities to safely increase parole decision making in partnership with the Board and new Board President (to be appointed).
22	The Parole Board Queensland and Queensland Corrective Services should implement specific monitoring and reporting of the rate of pre-release suspension of Court Ordered Parole orders and make that information publicly available.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE The Queensland Government will consider the implementation of specific monitoring and reporting of parole related data, and releasing information where an identifiable benefit exists.	IN PROGRESS QCS is currently supporting the Board to design, build and implement an electronic case management system. This will increase the capacity of the Board to monitor and report on specific matters, including the rate of pre-release suspension of Court Ordered Parole.
23	The positions of President and Deputy President, Parole Board Queensland, should be former judicial officers of a State Supreme or District Court, or Federal Court, with suitable, actual judicial experience and such appointments should be for a period of no more than a total of six years.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE The appointment of President and Deputy Presidents of PBQ are conducted in line with existing legislation, which sets out that the positions must be a former judge of a State court, the High Court or a court constituted under a Commonwealth Act, or must have qualifications, experience or standing the Governor in Council considers equivalent to those offices; and that the president and each deputy president holds office for the term, not longer than five years, stated in the board member's instrument of appointment.	IN PROGRESS The recommendation will be considered as part of future appointment processes.
24	The <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> be amended to remove the power	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT APPLICABLE

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	of the Minister to make Ministerial Guidelines with respect to the Parole Board Queensland and legislate amendments to provide for Parole Board Queensland to make relevant guidelines for its operation.	PBQ performs an administrative decision-making function on behalf of the Government, not a judicial function. It is appropriate for Government to ensure policy oversight of parole, as it does with the other aspects of the correctional system. Section 242E of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> (CSA) is consistent with section 263 of the CSA which provides for the functions of the chief executive, subject to the direction of the Minister.	
25	All members of the Board receive initial and continuing education in decision-making and other aspects relevant to their roles as members of the Parole Board Queensland and that this education be provided by relevant professionals including judicial or former judicial officers.	SUPPORTED Members of PBQ receive initial and continuing education in decision-making and other aspects relevant to their roles as members of the PBQ.	COMPLETE QCS has supported the Board to strengthen its professional development and continuing education function through the temporary provision of a Director, Policy and Practice role to support the Board to deliver these functions. Consideration of continuing the temporary Director, Policy and Practice position will be given when the future operating model of the Board is designed.
26	In relation to Restricted Prisoners and No Body, No Parole matters, that prisoners are legally represented through a grant of Legal Aid. Additionally, that Parole Board Queensland routinely publish their reasons (in full) for making a Restricted Prisoner declaration	FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION In Queensland, representation of parole matters is generally managed through a grant of aid by Legal Aid Queensland or by a specialised Community Legal Centre, such as Prisoners' Legal Service. Determinations around eligibility and scope for Legal Aid Queensland grants	FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION The Board continues to publish Restricted Prisoner declarations on its website.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	pursuant to s 175l(a) of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> .	of aid are a decision for the Legal Aid Queensland Board. PBQ routinely publish their reasons, as appropriate, for making a Restricted Prisoner declaration pursuant to s175l(1)(a) of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> .	
27	The <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> be amended to provide for the composition of the Parole Board as set out in Recommendation 45 and Recommendation 46 of the 2016 Review.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>The <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> allows for the PBQ to convene in the configurations noted in Recommendation 45 and Recommendation 46 of the 2016 QPSR.</p> <p>These recommendations relate to proposed composition of the Parole Board in relation to prisoners who have been sentenced for serious violent or serious sexual offence (Rec 45) and all other applications (rec 46).</p> <p>Recommendations 45 and 46 of the 2016 Review were enacted at the commencement of the PBQ in its current form, via the <i>Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017</i>.</p> <p>To provide PBQ with flexibility to account for different meeting practices, amendments were progressed in the</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>The Board regularly reviews its practices to deliver efficient services. The future appointment of a new President will be a further opportunity to consider its approach to meeting the quorum requirements in certain matters.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		<i>Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021.</i> PBQ's approach to convening its meetings, while complying with legislative requirements, is an operational matter for the Board.	
28	The <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> be amended to ensure that each person who applies for parole has the right to appear before the Board in person or by video-link at the discretion of the Parole Board Queensland.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE Under section 190 of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> , all prisoners may appear before the Board, in person or by video link, at the discretion of the Board.	COMPLETE Requiring every prisoner to appear before the Board would create a significant administrative burden and potential delays in decision making. Prisoners can provide all information they believe relevant to support their parole application. Where necessary, the Board routinely calls for additional information and conducts video-conference discussions with prisoners as appropriate.
29	The Parole Board Queensland develop a guideline of relevant criteria by which the discretion to permit appearances by applicants before the board is to be exercised. Form 51 should be amended so that it is calibrated to the relevant criteria.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE PBQ will consider developing a guideline of relevant criteria by which the discretion to permit appearances by applicants before the PBQ is to be exercised.	IN PROGRESS QCS will highlight this matter for further consideration by the new President of the Board, when appointed.
CHAPTER 9: MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY			
30	Queensland Corrective Services should, as soon as possible, implement the recommendation to remove the mandatory requirement for a degree	SUPPORTED QCS will implement this recommendation as soon as possible.	IN PROGRESS QCS will progress this recommendation as part of the implementation of the Community Corrections Workforce Strategy, which is under development.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	qualification in human services or criminology for case managers.		Consultation will be undertaken with staff to support the successful implementation of any workforce changes.
31	Queensland Corrective Services should, without further delay, introduce new dedicated support positions to provide administrative support to case managers.	SUPPORTED QCS will implement this recommendation as soon as possible.	IN PROGRESS QCS will progress this recommendation as part of the implementation of the Community Corrections Workforce Strategy, which is under development. Consultation will be undertaken with staff to support the successful implementation of any workforce changes.
32	The Government should provide the funding and associated resources necessary to allow Queensland Corrective Services to progressively bring Queensland in line with the Australian average offender to staff ratios within three years to make workloads more manageable and increase the efficacy of case management.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE The Queensland Government is committed to supporting Community Corrections staff to manage their workloads and increase the efficacy of case management.	ONGOING Since 2016-17, the Queensland Government has increased resourcing to improve the management of offenders in the community, including investing in community-based resources through E2E case management. QCS will continue to consider, and provide advice to Government as needed, about the appropriate level of resourcing for Community Corrections.
33	Queensland Corrective Services should prioritise the recruitment of additional Cultural Liaison Officers to ensure that there are at least two positions in each region.	SUPPORTED QCS is prioritising the recruitment of additional Cultural Liaison Officers.	IN PROGRESS In the 2022-23 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded an increase to the number of Cultural Liaison Officer positions across custodial centres and community corrections. Two cultural liaison positions have been allocated to each community corrections region.
34	Operational Practice Guidelines should be updated to ensure there is meaningful engagement	SUPPORTED QCS will update relevant Operational Practice Guidelines to provide	IN PROGRESS QCS' Operational Practice Guideline (OPG) <i>Responding to risk</i> has been updated to include references to engagement

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	with Cultural Liaison Officers at the earliest possible stage and at other times that would be appropriate.	appropriate guidance to ensure there is meaningful engagement with Cultural Liaison Officers at appropriate times.	with a Cultural Liaison Officer, specifically for managing an individual when a risk is elevated.
35	Queensland Corrective Services should prioritise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recruitment Strategy 2020-2030 and if necessary, be funded to engage in consulting and intensive targeted recruitment to significantly increase the number of First Nations employees.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE <i>Queensland Corrective Services Reframing the Relationship Plan 2024-2033</i> includes an objective to trial, evaluate and implement tailored approaches to increase recruitment and retention of First Nations staff.	IN PROGRESS In December 2023, QCS released the <i>Queensland Corrective Services Reframing the Relationship Plan 2024-2033</i> . The Plan is QCS' commitment to action in response to the overrepresentation of First Nations peoples in the correctional system and a cornerstone to a reframed relationship with First Nations peoples. The plan includes an objective to trial, evaluate and implement tailored approaches to increase recruitment and retention of First Nations staff. The plan will be supported by co-designed annual action plans to set out specific initiatives to meet the objectives of the plan.
36	Queensland Corrective Services should review each Community Corrections training package five years after its implementation and consider developing and implementing performance targets to ensure training is delivered to staff promptly and to the maximum number of staff possible across all of the regions.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE QCS will consider reviewing each Community Corrections training package five years post implementation, and consider developing and implementing performance targets to ensure training is delivered to staff promptly and to the maximum number of staff possible across all regions.	NOT STARTED The training will have been operating for 5 years in 2028. Any external evaluative work will be dependent on available funding at that time.
37	Queensland implement a workload model to manage time, resources and priorities. This model should include:	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE QCS will consider a workload model to manage time, resources and priorities.	IN PROGRESS QCS' Streamlining the Management and Allocation of Resources and Talent (SMART) Model Project was delivered in September 2022 to enhance the delivery of best-practice

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case management approach which enforces a focus on prioritising and properly servicing the higher risk offenders. • An ability to track the workload of staff across the state so that it is clear how many of the current cohort of offenders are able to be properly case managed (so that this can inform decisions and be reported on internally within Government). • Legislation that allows a Community Corrections officer (at an appropriate level) the discretion, in appropriate circumstances, to suspend supervision conditions, similar to what operates in New South Wales. • Legislation that imposes a practical limit on supervision and case management to a period of three years, similar to what operates in New South Wales. Serious offenders should be reviewed at the end of the supervision period by the Parole Board Queensland to assess 	<p>Legislative provisions in relation to ceasing supervision early or after a set period will be explored as part of work to consider community based sentencing approaches.</p>	<p>Community Corrections services by designing a flexible, place-based model which ensures the efficient allocation of funding and placement of people across the state.</p> <p>As part of this project a workload tool was developed to assist with the oversight and distribution of resources and has been introduced into practice.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	whether supervision should be extended.		
38	<p>Queensland Corrective Services should implement a Remote Service Delivery Team that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remotely assist Community Corrections offices with workload issues. • Provide training, mentorship and guidance to offices that have a junior workforce. • Send staff to work in regional offices on secondments as required. <p>This team should not be drawn from the current Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions that Community Corrections have and should be established with additional FTE positions.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>QCS will explore the viability of a Remote Service Delivery Team.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Exploring the viability of a Remote Service Delivery Team or similar function is being considered as part of the Community Corrections Workforce Strategy which is under development.</p>
39	<p>The Operational Practice Guidelines should be updated to provide specific guidance to case managers as to what ought to be done for offenders on parole to establish protective factors and address underlying criminogenic needs where services are not available in the community.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>QCS has updated Operational Practice Guidelines to provide greater guidance to officers on delivering effective case management strategies targeting criminogenic needs, including brief interventions, where other intervention providers are unavailable.</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>As part of the roll out of Foundations training for Community Corrections staff, the OPGs were updated.</p> <p>Supporting the Foundations training and the updated OPGs, Alignment training was delivered in 2023 to all frontline community corrections staff. Alignment training equipped existing officers with the most contemporary, best practice skills, tools and resources in offender rehabilitation and</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
			management, enhancing their practice including facilitation of individual brief intervention.
40	The E2E case management approach should provide that the initial transition from custody to the community should be prioritised and involve a targeted and more intensive approach of management in the community, particularly where re-entry services are not available to the offender.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE QCS will consider, through E2E case management, mechanisms to ensure that the process to prepare a prisoner for release to the community is targeted and intensive.	IN PROGRESS E2E has now been implemented across the women's system statewide, and for men in Far Northern and Northern Region Community Corrections and Townsville Correctional Centre. In the 2024-25 State Budget, QCS was funded to continue to deliver E2E case management in existing locations to reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and improve outcomes for people in contact with corrective services.
41	Queensland Corrective Services implement regular workshops with Community Corrections staff, particularly at District Manager level to discuss and ensure consistency of approach to suspensions and options for alternative action in line with the Operational Practice Guidelines.	SUPPORTED QCS will deliver workshops to discuss and ensure consistency in the approach to suspensions and engage with management teams across Community Corrections.	IN PROGRESS QCS is reviewing the service delivery model to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services. This includes reviewing suspension rates and trends, and leveraging capacity to reduce suspension rates through decision making and intervention. This activity will include workshops with District Managers.
42	Queensland Corrective Services continue to monitor and enhance the use of electronic monitoring technology in all areas of the parole system where applicable.	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE QCS will continue to monitor and enhance the use of electronic monitoring technology in all areas of the parole system, where applicable.	IN PROGRESS Procurement for current and high performing electronic monitoring systems and devices is in progress.
43	The Parole Board Queensland guidelines should be amended to provide guidance as to when to	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE	IN PROGRESS

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	<p>suspend an offender's parole. They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect that suspension of parole is a matter of last resort. • Outline other options to be considered. • List protective factors that weigh heavily against suspension, such as stable accommodation, employment, established NDIS funded care and mental health treatment in the community. • Outline that a suspension should only be made if the risk posed by the offender in the community is serious and immediate. 	<p>QCS will work with the PBQ to amend guidelines which provide guidance as to when to suspend an offender's parole with the focus on ensuring community safety.</p>	<p>QCS will work with the new President once appointed to finalise suitable guidelines to cover the consideration of suspension matters.</p>
44	<p>Parole Board Queensland and Queensland Corrective Services should implement a guideline that in the case where an offender's mental health is an issue and they are receiving treatment, wherever possible their parole is not suspended until information is obtained from Queensland Health.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>QCS, in partnership with the PBQ, will consider the development and implementation of a guideline relating to the conditions for the suspension of parole in cases where an offender is experiencing mental health issues for which they are receiving treatment.</p> <p>If considered appropriate, work would be undertaken to ensure any changes to the decision-making process for</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>The Information Sharing Agreement between the PBQ and Queensland Health provides for the sharing of relevant health information to inform parole board decisions, including urgent decisions related to parole suspensions. The Agreement is supported by an operating guideline.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		parole suspensions in this regard are communicated to officers effectively and efficiently.	
45	<p>Parole Board Queensland implement a guideline which involves the Prescribed Board Member being required at the point of a request for an immediate suspension to consider urgently requesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information that would assist the Parole Board to consider the matter. A videolink between the offender and the Parole Board. A videolink between the case manager and the Parole Board. 	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>QCS, in partnership with the PBQ, will consider the development and implementation of a guideline for Prescribed Board Members to consider urgently requesting information associated with an immediate suspension request.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Currently, a board member deciding an immediate suspension request may ask for additional information which they deem necessary to assist them to decide the matter. This can include contacting the supervising office to obtain, or facilitate obtaining, additional information.</p> <p>QCS will work with the new President (when appointed) to develop suitable guidelines to formalise the process and cover the consideration of suspension matters.</p>
CHAPTER 10: VICTIMS AND OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO PAROLE			
46	The Government works with the Federal Government and/or other relevant agencies to ensure that eligible persons on the Victims Register are informed of an offender's immigration detention and/or deportation from Australia.	<p>SUPPORTED</p> <p>QCS will continue to support victims and Eligible Persons on the Victims Register by informing them about important events in the sentences of the prisoner(s) relevant to them.</p> <p>Further, under the Charter of Victims' Rights (set out in the <i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009</i>), victims' rights in</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>The Government recently amended the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> to clarify that the QCS Victims Register may provide an Eligible Person information about the deportation or removal status of the prisoner under the <i>Migration Act 1958</i>.</p> <p>The Australian Border Force is represented at the QCS Victim Agency Services meeting and Victim Support Services meetings with a particular focus on improving information sharing.</p>

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
		relation to when the offender is imprisoned includes the ability for eligible victims to register to be placed on the victims register and be kept informed about convicted offender information.	
CHAPTER 11: INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT			
47	<p>As part of the five-year review of the Act, the Government further consider whether the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Detention Services should extend to oversight of the Official Visitor Scheme and Community Corrections operations.</p> <p>In the meantime, I recommend that Queensland Corrective Services conduct routine inspections of the performance and effectiveness of Community Corrections offices.</p>	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>It is anticipated this recommendation will be considered prior to the five-year review of the <i>Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022</i>.</p> <p>Work on the most appropriate administrative operation of the Official Visitor Scheme will be undertaken, taking into consideration how the Official Visitor Scheme should interact with the Inspector to complement its functions and meet the main purpose of the <i>Detention Services Act 2022</i>.</p> <p>Reviews of Community Corrections operations in each region are undertaken through the QCS Commissioner's Operational Performance Review process.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In 2020, QCS introduced an Organisational Performance Framework, which includes the Commissioner's Operational Performance Review (OPR) process. The OPR process entails annual face-to-face executive performance meetings with senior managers responsible for each frontline service delivery location and frontline support command.</p>
CHAPTER 12: TECHNOLOGY			
48	Queensland Corrective Services receive appropriate funding to	SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE	IN PROGRESS

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	STATUS (as at 1 July 2024)
	implement in-cell technology and other initiatives to facilitate prisoner access to education, rehabilitation, other services and entitlements.	The Queensland Government will implement in-cell technology as part of the commissioning of the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and QCS will continue to explore opportunities for enhanced in-cell technologies in other correctional centres.	<p>As part of the commissioning of the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, QCS is implementing prisoner in-cell technology which will initially include phone calls, video calls (under supervision), viewing of trust accounts, access to reading materials, access to generic educational, legal and rehabilitative materials, canteen purchases and basic entertainment such as free-to-air television and simple games such as solitaire.</p> <p>In the 2023-24 State Budget, the Queensland Government provided \$2 million to explore opportunities for prisoner in-cell technology in correctional centres with self-service capabilities and alternatives for service delivery. This work is in progress.</p>
49	Queensland Corrective Services and Parole Board Queensland information technology systems continue to be reviewed and upgraded where necessary, with appropriate funding.	<p>SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE</p> <p>QCS will continue to review and consider upgrades to information technology systems to ensure its information technology systems are fit for purpose and support a modern correctional system.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>In the 2022-23 State Budget, the Queensland Government funded the Integrated Offender Management System Evolve initiative to ensure system modernisation and risk mitigation could be undertaken.</p> <p>QCS is currently supporting PBQ to design, build and implement an electronic case management process.</p>