

2014-2015 Budget Estimates

Report No. 69

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

August 2014

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Chair	Mr Ian Berry MP, Member for Ipswich
Deputy Chair	Mr Peter Wellington MP, Member for Nicklin
Members	Miss Verity Barton MP, Member for Broadwater Mr Bill Byrne MP, Member for Rockhampton Mr Sean Choat MP, Member for Ipswich West Mr Aaron Dillaway MP, Member for Bulimba Mr Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North
Staff	Mr Brook Hastie, Research Director Mr Peter Rogers, Acting Research Director Ms Kelli Longworth, Principal Research Officer Ms Lucy Manderson, Principal Research Officer Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer Mrs Gail Easton, Executive Assistant
Contact details	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
Telephone	+61 7 3406 7307
Fax	+61 7 3406 7070
Email	lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc

Abbreviations

ADCQ	Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
Attorney-General	Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Carmody Inquiry	Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry
CCC	Crime and Corruption Commission
CCYPCG	Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
CMC	Crime and Misconduct Commission
CMGs	Criminal Motorcycle Gangs
Committee	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Department	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
ECQ	Electoral Commission of Queensland
Electoral Act	<i>Electoral Act 1992</i>
FTE	Full time equivalent
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGEM	Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
IP Act	<i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i>
IT	Information Technology
JP	Justice of the Peace
LAMP	Local Area Multicultural Partnerships
LAQ	Legal Aid Queensland
LPITAF	Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Account Fund
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OIC	Office of the Information Commissioner
PACSR	Police and Community Safety Review
PLA	Prostitution Licensing Authority
Police Minister	Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services
PSBA	Public Safety Business Agency

Public Trustee	Public Trustee of Queensland
QCAT	Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QIRC	Queensland Industrial Relations Commission
QPS	Queensland Police Service
Queensland Ombudsman	Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
SES	State Emergency Service
VLAD laws	Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment laws

Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's examination of the Budget Estimates for the 2014-2015 financial year.

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

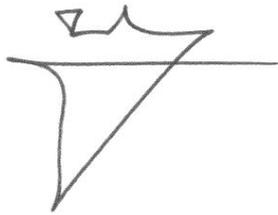
The Committee has made one recommendation as follows:

- The proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2014 for the Committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly, without amendment.

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

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

Finally, I wish to thank the Committee's secretariat and other parliamentary officers for their assistance throughout the Estimates process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Berry', written over a horizontal line.

Ian Berry MP

Chair

1. Introduction

1.1 Role of the Committee

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly which commenced on 18 May 2012 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.¹

The Committee's primary areas of responsibility include:

- Justice and Attorney-General;
- Police Service; and
- Fire and Emergency Services.²

The Committee also has oversight responsibilities for the Office of the Information Commissioner, the Queensland Ombudsman, the Electoral Commissioner and the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor.

On 3 June 2014, the Appropriation Bill 2014 and the estimates for the Committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the Committee for investigation and report.³

On 15 July and 17 July 2014, the Committee conducted public hearings and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Attorney-General), the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and other witnesses. A copy of the transcripts of the Committee's hearings can be accessed on the Parliament's website.

1.2 Aim of this report

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

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

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

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

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

¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 88 and Standing Order 194.

² Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6. The schedule provides that departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations or other administrative units related to the relevant Minister's responsibilities regarding these areas are included.

³ Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

1.3 Participation of other Members

The following members sought, and were granted leave by the Committee to participate in the public hearing and ask questions of witnesses at specified times throughout the two days:

- Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Inala; and
- Mr Carl Judge MP, Member for Yeerongpilly.

2. Recommendation

The Committee makes the following recommendation.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2014 for the Committee's area of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly, without amendment.

3. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

The Attorney-General is the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (the Department). The Department has eight service areas as follows:⁴

Criminal and Civil Justice: which includes Queensland's courts and tribunals, coronial and prosecution services, diversion programs to address causes of offending, and Justice of the Peace and mediation services;

Fair and Safe Work: which supports an industrial relations framework for Queensland's private sector and provides workplace health and safety services, workers' compensation policy advice, and electrical safety services; including developing and enforcing standards and promoting strategies for improved performance;

Legal: which develops and coordinates proposals for justice related legislation, provides advice on and develops law reform and justice policy, and provides independent legal services for public sector agencies and the State;

Human Rights Protection: which provides guardianship services, assistance for victims of crime, and life event registration services (births, deaths and marriages);

Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading: which provides regulatory and consumer protection services across the liquor, gaming, and general services sectors, particularly through: encouraging industry integrity; fostering business and consumer confidence; developing and implementing initiatives to minimise harm from liquor and gambling; and educating and protecting vulnerable consumers;

Youth Justice: which provides youth justice services, including boot camps, conferencing and detention centres; and develops and implements strategies to meet the needs of youth justice clients and their families;

Custodial: which manages Government and privately operated custodial facilities and oversees the containment, supervision and rehabilitation of offenders in correctional centres; and

⁴ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 13.

Probation and Parole: which provides services for the supervision and rehabilitation of offenders in the community.

In addition to its operations across these service areas, in 2014-2015 the Department will administer funds on behalf of the Government (administered items), which were established for managing the following:

- remuneration of judicial officers;
- Appeal Costs Fund payments;
- financial assistance to victims of crime;
- criminal injuries compensation;
- assistance to families of victims of homicide;
- independent agencies:
 - Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland;
 - Crime and Corruption Commission (formerly the Crime and Misconduct Commission);
 - Legal Aid Queensland;
 - Office of the Information Commissioner; and
 - Prostitution Licensing Authority.
- revenue from Fair and Safe Work regulatory fees;
- revenue from Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading regulation; and
- consumer compensation under the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act (PAMDA) Claim Fund.⁵

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 compares the appropriations for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i> ⁶		
departmental services	537,412	1,215,814
equity adjustment	(19,671)	(35,494)
<i>Administered Items</i> ⁷	292,564	298 041
Vote	810,305	1,478,361

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 9.

⁵ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, pages 28-29.

⁶ Controlled items are assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses that are directly controlled by agencies, in that they relate directly to the agency's objectives.

⁷ Administered items are assets liabilities, revenues and expenses that an agency administers on behalf of the Government, but over which the agency does not exercise direct control. Appropriations for administered items relate mainly to transfer payments where the department is acting solely on behalf of the whole of Government, including the distribution of grants payments where the government has no discretion regarding the distribution of those payments; or in relation to the depreciation and maintenance of administered assets.

The Attorney-General's Ministerial portfolio area of responsibility also includes the following statutory authorities and agencies (examined in further detail later in this report):

- Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland;
- Crime and Corruption Commission;
- Legal Aid Queensland;
- Office of the Information Commissioner;
- Prostitution Licensing Authority;
- Electoral Commission of Queensland;
- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman; and
- The Public Trustee of Queensland.⁸

Budgeted capital expenditure for Justice and Attorney-General (including the Public Trust Office, Legal Aid Queensland and Crime and Corruption Commission) for 2014-2015 is \$163.1 million,⁹ of which \$146.6 million is for capital purchases of the Department.

The Department's capital purchases will primarily focus on additional prison infrastructure, correctional centre enhancements, completion of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre expansion, and the programmed renewal and minor works of courthouses and Youth Justice facilities.¹⁰

The following table shows a comparison of the budgets for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.¹¹

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Department of Justice and Attorney-General		
• controlled	1,139,573	1,435,132
• administered	412,495	437,646

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 10.

The total 2014-2015 departmental expenses are expected to be \$1.435 billion.¹² In addition to these controlled expenses, the Department is expected to administer funds of \$437.6 million on behalf of the Government (administered expenses).

Budget highlights for the Department in 2014-2015 include:

- progressing the recommendations of the Police and Community Safety Review (PACSR) and the Queensland Commission of Audit, including the transfer of responsibilities for watchhouses and transport services from the Queensland Police Service to Queensland Corrective Services;
- progressing the Queensland Commission of Audit recommendation to make greater use of information and communication technology (ICT) to drive cost savings and efficiencies in court operations by: developing a 10-Year Blueprint for Justice and Courts Services to plan the

⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 1.

⁹ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 68.

¹⁰ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 68.

¹¹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. Figures for 2013-2014 are adjusted budget figures.

¹² State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, page 31.

- reform of information technology, systems and infrastructure, and obtain best-value-for-money from ICT investment;
- expanding the use of videoconferencing in the courts, developing an online jury management system, and improving registry counter processes;
 - establishing the Office of the Public Guardian in line with the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (the Carmody Inquiry), including installing child advocacy 'hubs' across the State and realigning child visitor functions towards areas of greatest vulnerability;
 - providing funding of \$14 million (\$31.1 million over four years) to contribute to the Safe Night Out Strategy to stamp out alcohol and drug related violence, restore responsible behaviour and ensure all Queenslanders can enjoy a safe night out;
 - progressing the reform of youth justice by continuing the youth boot camp trial and finalising the development of the Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice, to break the cycle of youth crime;
 - providing \$1.6 million for the final year of funding (\$3.5 million over three years) to expand and better support the role of Justices of the Peace (JPs);
 - providing additional funding of \$1.5 million (\$3 million over two years) to support the continuing delivery of sexual offender programs in Queensland correctional facilities, to reduce reoffending and to protect the community;
 - providing additional funding of \$3.7 million in 2014-2015 for continued delivery of prisoner re-entry services to the community to prevent criminal reoffending;
 - managing growth in prisoner numbers by:
 - commencing recommissioning work on Borallon Correctional Centre to deliver 492 beds for male prisoners in 2015-16;
 - commencing work to convert Southern Queensland Correctional Centre into a 312 bed women's facility in 2015-16;
 - delivering 30 additional low security beds for women at Numinbah Correctional Centre;
 - refurbishing and recommissioning the 72 bed Harold Gregg Unit at Townsville Correctional Centre;
 - commissioning an additional 72 cells at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre to increase prison capacity in Far North Queensland; and
 - developing a business case for stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton;
 - reviewing the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* to ensure the legislation is continuing to meet its objectives and the needs of victims of crime in Queensland;
 - reviewing the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* to modernise it, simplify its operation, and ensure it is adequately meeting the community's needs for the registration of births, deaths, marriages and other life events;
 - considering the recommendations and outcomes of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Review;
 - reducing the QLeave levy rate from 1 July 2014 for construction projects from 0.30 per cent to 0.25 per cent under the Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014;
 - streamlining procedures for processing restrictive practices consents by the Office of the Adult Guardian for adults with impaired capacity who exhibit challenging behaviours;

- expanding the Injury Prevention and Management Program to assist participating employers to develop strategies that reduce work-related injuries and fatalities; and
- implementing a ‘one-stop shop’ for safety and workers’ compensation matters. The one-stop shop will merge the internet sites of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, the Electrical Safety Office, WorkCover Queensland and the Workers’ Compensation Regulator.

3.2 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) is an independent statutory body established by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. The ADCQ contributes to the Government’s objectives by: managing complaints received under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*; delivering training to business, government and the community; and promoting public discussion on human rights.¹³

The budget comparison for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland is shown below.¹⁴

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland	5,323	5,366

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 50.

The focus for 2014-2015 for the ADCQ will be on expanding resources for schools and enhancing services to the business community through targeted consultation, education and increased use of online services.¹⁵

3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is an independent specialist agency which strives to combat and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in the public sector in Queensland. The agency was established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to replace the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) from 1 July 2014, following significant reform of the former agency and the renaming of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001* to reflect the changes to body and its operations.

The primary activities of the CCC include:

- investigating organised crime, paedophilia, terrorist activity and other serious crime referred to it for investigation;
- receiving and investigating allegations of serious or systemic corrupt conduct;
- helping recover the proceeds of crime;
- providing the witness protection service for the State of Queensland; and
- conducting research on crime, policing or other relevant matters.¹⁶

¹³ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, page 48.

¹⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

¹⁵ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland, page 48.

¹⁶ Crime and Corruption Commission, ‘CCC commences operation in Queensland – 1 July 2014,’ Media Release, 1 July 2014; Crime and Corruption Commission, Role of the CCC, <https://www.ccc.qld.gov.au/about-the-ccc>, accessed 18 July 2014.

In carrying out these activities, the agency aims to meet four key objectives identified in the both the *CCC 2014-18 Strategic Plan (interim)*,¹⁷ and in the previous *CMC 2013-17 Strategic Plan*.¹⁸ These objectives are:

- reduce the impact of major crime in Queensland;
- reduce the incidence of serious corruption in the public sector;
- an effective witness protection service; and
- an organisation of high public value.

The agency budget comparison for 2013-2014 (Crime and Misconduct Commission) and 2014-2015 is shown below.¹⁹

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Crime and Corruption Commission	49,596	52,954

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 60.

The 2014-2015 Budget includes an allocation of \$1.2 million for the CCC's replacement of computer equipment, other equipment and motor vehicles.²⁰

Identified priorities for the CCC in 2014-2015 are to:

- progress the implementation of changes under the *Crime and Misconduct Amendment and Other Legislation Act 2014*, following on from the legislative review of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001* and the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee's *Report No 90 Inquiry on the CMC's release and destruction of Fitzgerald Inquiry documents*; and
- focus on the delivery of criminal motorcycle gang (CMG) related initiatives.²¹

3.4 Legal Aid Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland's (LAQ) purpose is to provide frontline legal services to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders. These services include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, court and tribunal representation and dispute resolution.²²

The budget comparison for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for Legal Aid Queensland is shown below.²³

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Legal Aid Queensland	125,540	131,909

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 68.

¹⁷ Crime and Corruption Commission, *Crime and Corruption Commission 2014-18 Strategic Plan*, 2014.

¹⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Crime and Misconduct Commission, page 56.

¹⁹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

²⁰ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 69.

²¹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Crime and Misconduct Commission, page 57.

²² State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Legal Aid Queensland, page 66.

²³ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

The Budget allocates \$3.3 million for LAQ to invest on major property, plant and equipment projects; including the refurbishment of offices and replacement of business systems and motor vehicles.²⁴

During 2014-2015, LAQ expects to:

- continue to provide quality frontline legal services;
- complete the Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft 2010 upgrade project;
- complete the LAQ website redevelopment to improve its usability and accessibility;
- complete the first phase of its head office refurbishment to ensure ongoing rental savings; and
- refurbish the Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Woodridge and Southport offices.²⁵

3.5 Office of the Information Commissioner

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

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

The budget comparison for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for the Office of the Information Commissioner is shown below.²⁷

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Office of the Information Commissioner	6,614	6,216

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 76.

Major deliverables for the OIC in 2014-2015 include:

- supporting agencies to meet right to information and information privacy obligations and apply good practices in implementing initiatives such as outsourcing, open data, the 'one-stop shop' portal and increased information sharing;
- reviewing training, information resources and knowledge management systems to reflect any legislative amendments which may arise from the review of the RTI Act and IP Act;
- encouraging agency leaders to champion an open culture to maximise information access;
- promoting greater use of online access to information and administrative access schemes;
- continuing to improve regional awareness and compliance; and
- continuing to finalise external reviews and privacy complaints in a timely manner.²⁸

²⁴ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 69.

²⁵ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Legal Aid Queensland, page 66.

²⁶ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Information Commissioner, page 74.

²⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

3.6 Prostitution Licencing Authority

The Prostitution Licencing Authority (PLA) was established under the *Prostitution Act 1999* and commenced operation on 1 July 2000. Ministerial responsibility for the Act and consequently, the PLA, was transferred to the Attorney-General on 1 November 2013, in response to a recommendation of the final report of the PACSR. Prior to this, the Authority had formed part of the police portfolio.²⁹

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

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

During 2014-2015, the PLA will continue to engage with the Attorney-General and other agencies on proposed refinements to state's sex industry laws.³⁰

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Prostitution Licencing Authority for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.³¹

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Prostitution Licencing Authority	1,502	1,558

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 82.

3.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is an independent statutory authority established by the *Electoral Act 1992*. The ECQ carries out the functions set down in section 7 of the Act, including conducting State elections and by-elections; promoting public awareness of electoral matters; and implementing strategies to encourage elector enrolment and maintain the integrity of electoral rolls.³²

²⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Information Commissioner, page 74.

²⁹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Prostitution Licencing Authority, page 80.

³⁰ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Prostitution Licencing Authority, page 80.

³¹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

³² State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, page 87.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 compares the appropriations for the Electoral Commission of Queensland for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	22,703	54,048
equity adjustment	1,334	610
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	24,037	54,694

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 11.

The major activities of the ECQ in 2014-2015 will include:

- preparation for and the conduct of the election for Queensland's 55th Parliament;
- continued delivery of the Commission's community and awareness program to increase electors' awareness of their responsibilities towards enrolment and voting;
- conduct of industrial elections, as well as protected action ballots as required under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*;
- continued administration of political party registration and financial disclosure requirements;
- delivery of vision-impaired voting systems and processes to enable vision impaired electors to cast their vote in secret;
- creation of a new public website to make key electoral information easier to find as well as being compatible with mobile electronic devices;
- development and progressive roll out of electronic electoral rolls for use at select polling booths to more efficiently and accurately mark names off the electoral roll, reducing queuing times for voters;
- conduct of local government change reviews as requested or legislatively required; and
- management of Queensland's electoral roll in conjunction with the Australian Electoral Commission.³³

The budget comparison for the Electoral Commission of Queensland for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 is shown below.³⁴

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Electoral Commission of Queensland		
• controlled	22,380	54,124
• administered	4,240	4,900

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 89.

³³ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Electoral Commission of Queensland, page 87.

³⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

Budgeted 2014-2015 capital purchases include an allocation of \$0.7 million to finalise the Commission's ICT disaster recovery facility and prepare core election IT systems for the next State general election; and \$0.1 million for the ongoing replacement of plant and equipment.³⁵

3.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The Office of the Queensland Ombudsman (Queensland Ombudsman) is a department for the purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, established under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*.

The Queensland Ombudsman is responsible for investigating complaints and public sector administrative actions, and providing agencies with information and recommendations to enhance their procedures and practice.³⁶

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

- fair and reasonable treatment of people's complaints;
- unfair or unjust public agencies decisions are rectified;
- public sector agencies improve their decision making; and
- to be a capable and accountable organisation.³⁷

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 compares the appropriations for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	7,634	8,222
equity adjustment
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	7,634	8,222

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 12.

Throughout 2014-2015, the Queensland Ombudsman will focus its efforts on continuing to:

- complete high quality investigations;
- use own-initiative investigations to address systemic problems in public administration;
- provide timely assessment and investigation of complaints;
- monitor the implementation of recommendations;
- encourage the use of agency complaints management systems;
- audit agency complaints management systems;
- build community awareness about the Queensland Ombudsman to ensure community members know when and how to access services;

³⁵ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 34.

³⁶ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

³⁷ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, page 107.

- provide equitable access to services and target areas of need;
- deliver high quality training, information and guidance materials; and
- recruit, retain and develop a skilled workforce.³⁸

The budget comparison for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 is shown below.³⁹

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	7,644	8,602

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 109.

The Queensland Ombudsman has been allocated \$0.2 million in 2014-2015 for the ongoing replacement and upgrade of ICT hardware and software and office equipment.⁴⁰

In addition, funds of \$0.5 million annually will be transferred from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (CCYPCG), to support the Queensland Ombudsman's assumption of oversight of the child safety complaints system across government from 1 July 2014. The Queensland Ombudsman assumed responsibility for these activities after the CCYPCG ceased operations on 30 June 2014, as part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry.⁴¹

3.9 Public Trustee of Queensland

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

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

- ensure prudent management of the financial assets of members of the community, with minimum recourse to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) or the courts;
- ensure an orderly succession of property between generations with minimum recourse to the court system;
- assist the Queensland community by making wills free of charge and Enduring Powers of Attorney at an affordable cost; and
- provide members of the community with the assurance that The Public Trustee will act as their attorney.⁴²

In addition to its core services, the Public Trustee also provides the following services:

- trustee services for philanthropic foundations;
- unclaimed moneys processing;

³⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, page 107.

³⁹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁴⁰ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 83.

⁴¹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, page 108.

⁴² State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 123.

- undertaking functions pursuant to various pieces of legislation, including the *Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002*; *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*; and *Trusts Act 1973*; and
- managing the financial affairs of prisoners who fall within Part 7 of the *Public Trustee Act 1978*.

Budget highlights for 2014-2015 include:

- provision of a range of Community Service Obligations (CSOs) at no cost to Government, which are expected to increase by \$2 million to \$30.7 million;
- further investment in upgrading regional offices throughout the State to provide better frontline services to the Queensland regional community;
- a review of frontline service delivery locations in Brisbane to determine whether additional locations are required in suburban areas to meet population growth and the changing demographic needs of Queenslanders;
- assessment and determination of a strategy for existing technology supporting frontline service delivery; and
- developing and implementing an inter-agency program to inform and educate the people of Queensland on the importance of enduring powers of attorney and advanced health directives (Empowering Queenslanders).⁴³

The budget comparison for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for the Public Trustee of Queensland is shown below.⁴⁴

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Public Trustee of Queensland		
• controlled	79,653	87,705
• administered	3,237	3,446

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 125.

Budgeted capital expenditure for the Public Trustee in 2014-2015 includes \$9.3 million to redevelop regional offices and review suburban Brisbane offices, and \$2.7 million for ongoing upgrades to business systems (computer hardware and software).⁴⁵

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

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

- the Queensland courts and their role in administering justice in Queensland;
- the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2014 to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Commission of Audit in delivering faster, more effective justice in Queensland;
- the Government's commitment to implementing reforms in response to recommendations from the Moynihan Review of Queensland's civil and criminal justice systems;

⁴³ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – The Public Trustee of Queensland, page 124.

⁴⁴ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁴⁵ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, pages 69; 71.

- support for an increase in the jurisdiction and numbers of judicial registrars to process minor matters and alleviate court burdens;
- the Government's commitment to the Justice of the Peace scheme, including the JP QCAT trial, operation of JP signing sites, and support of JP training opportunities;
- the reintroduction of the JP Advisory Council and outsourcing of training operations to the JP branch;
- the review of QCAT operations and clearance rates;
- investment in the Community Justice Group Program;
- the cost of court transcription services under outsourcing arrangements compared to previous in-house service costs, and associated savings;
- the use of ICT to drive cost savings and efficiencies in court operations, including the expansion of videoconferencing options for bail, procedural and committal matters; and use of interactive court forums across Queensland;
- the workload of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), including handling of high profile matters such as the trials of Brett Peter Cowan and Gerard Baden Clay;
- changes to the organisational structure of the ODPP resulting from a review into its performance and resourcing by former ODPP Director-General, Brian Stewart;
- the impact of the early guilty plea schemes and economic benefits associated with reduced trial time;
- outcomes achieved through the Indigenous Sentencing List and Queensland Courts Referral process;
- the current whole-of-government review of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER);
- the operation of the offender levy to pay for SPER enforcement and administration costs;
- funding for the provision of legal services by Crown Law, including representation of the State in significant matters;
- selection criteria for the engagement of Crown Law counsel;
- Crown Law's role in relation to the Mental Health Review Tribunal;
- the cost to taxpayers of the High Court challenge to the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013* (VLAD Act) ;
- the impact of the VLAD Act as represented in convictions, sentences of imprisonment, bail refusals and related outcomes;
- the number of people wearing pink jumpsuits in the Queensland corrections system;
- changes to right to information legislation;
- reforms of child sex offender laws and strengthening of penalties for child exploitation material offences;
- the implementation of the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2014* and establishment of the Office of Public Guardian and the Family and Child Commission from 1 July 2014; in response to recommendations of the Carmody Inquiry;
- progressing the Government's response to the Queensland Law Reform Commission's *Report 67: A Review of Queensland's Guardianship Laws*, including plans for draft legislation to ensure Queensland has a strong and accessible guardianship system to protect the rights and interests of people with impaired decision-making capacity;

- the implementation of the Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice;
- the provision of education programs to young offenders in youth detention, and steps to ensure appropriate and cost-effective program delivery;
- the trial of a Family Action Plan Program in key regional centres;
- plans for a Youth Justice Innovation Lab to explore priority issues and develop coordinated and collaborative responses to address underlying causes of youth justice problems;
- the operation of early intervention boot camps and the new motor vehicle offender program;
- current assessments of the outcomes of sentence boot camps, their impact on recidivism, and associated economic benefits due to diversion from detention;
- the decision-making process, decision criteria and decision time-frame surrounding the procurement process for the Hervey Bay boot camp and eventual contract conferral;
- the rationale behind the decision to overturn evaluation panel recommendations in the awarding of the Hervey Bay boot camp contract;
- the potential expansion of the boot camp trial into other areas of the State;
- the implementation of the Safe Night Out Strategy, at a cost of \$44 million over four years;
- the introduction of tougher penalties and creation of a new offence of unlawful striking causing death and related sentencing provisions, to address 'coward punches' and the incidence of alcohol and drug related violence;
- school education and a public awareness campaign to be conducted as part of the Safe Night Out strategy;
- the introduction of Safe Night Precincts in 15 areas across Queensland and establishment of local boards to oversee their governance;
- the introduction of ID scanning regimes in licensed venues that trade past midnight;
- an update on the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*, and government support to victims of violent crime;
- costs associated with the development, implementation and enforcement of the *Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) And Other Acts Amendment Act 2013*, and in defending the legal challenge to the legislation;
- specific legal cost implications of industrial negotiations due to the government's award modernisation;
- the number of staff seconded to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) for the award modernisation process;
- the contribution of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland to reducing serious injury rates across the State;
- the implementation of 2013 reforms to improve the sustainability of workers' compensation in Queensland;
- the merging of the Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority (trading as Q-COMP) into the Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland, and associated consultations and impacts on staffing;
- changes in the number of workplace health and safety inspectors employed by the Department and its agencies across Queensland's regions over the last two years;

- the Government's commitment to the Zero Harm at Work Leadership Program and the promotion of positive work safety cultures through the State's safety ambassador;
- the provision of additional funding to support the expansion of the Injury Prevention and Management Program;
- the incidence of quad bike injuries and fatalities in Queensland, and efforts to engage with the community through quad bike safety education and promotional activities;
- initiatives to raise awareness about asbestos in the community, including public awareness activities and the release of a strategic plan for the safe management of asbestos in Queensland;
- the Government's response to the State Coroner's inquest into fatalities resulting from electric shocks while installing insulation in ceiling spaces in Queensland, including the release of the 'Stay Safer Up There, Switch Off Down Here' campaign;
- Electrical Safety Office initiatives and a recorded reduction in serious workplace electrical incidents from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014;
- the implementation of Queensland's new online renewal system for High Risk licenses;
- an update on the review of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* and the Government's commitment to modernising and improving registration processes and service accessibility (including increased online service capacity);
- the introduction of commemorative birth certificates for certain occasions or milestone years, and review of registration designs;
- initiatives undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading to educate young Queenslanders, including the Buy Smart Competition and Get Out There website and mobile app;
- the amalgamation of the four community benefit funds under the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, and the associated consolidation of funding guidelines and funding rounds, in response to two significant audits undertaken in 2012-2013;
- the current review of body corporate legislation in Queensland;
- ADCQ's fulfilment of targets in the core function areas of complaint management, training and information services;
- ADCQ's engagement with small business operators and local communities, including the work of the Local Area Multicultural Partnerships (LAMP) office in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area;
- the completion of phase one of the ADCQ's schools project and launch of the discrimination and sexual harassment at work resource kit for Queensland senior school students and teachers;
- the development of an educational video and informational materials on 'how to prepare for a QCAT hearing' and key issues such as incapacity in work;
- the cost of the Callinan/Aroney Review of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001*;
- the implementation of the *Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Act 2014* and establishment of the CCC;
- the refocussing of the functions and activities of the state's independent corruption watchdog in response to the Callinan/Aroney report, the PACSR report, and the report of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in relation to the inquiry into the CMC's release and destruction of Fitzgerald inquiry documents;

- measures implemented to ensure that oversight and the operations of the CCC are more transparent;
- the operation of the CCC's serious corruption function, and scope for allocation of CCC resources to investigate links between political donations and public sector administration outcomes;
- additional funding for the CCC to combat organised crime in Queensland in four key areas – proceeds of crime, intelligence hearings, criminal investigations, and organised crime links;
- the opening of new Legal Aid Queensland offices during the last financial year and their impact on the provision of frontline services;
- new funding arrangements for community legal centres through the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Account Fund (LPITAF) and government grants;
- the review of the LPITAF and Government response to its seven recommendations;
- funding for the Queensland Law Society, Supreme Court and community legal centres under the LPITAF and government grants;
- the Government's review of the Electoral Act and implementation of amendments under the *Electoral Reform Amendment Act 2014*;
- funding for the ECQ to handle new voter proof of identity requirements;
- funding for political parties under the Policy Development Fund, including the disbursement time frame and accounting requirements; and
- the Government's commitment to reviewing the ECQ's report on its inquiry into the 2014 Redcliffe by-election.

Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

- the ADCQ's focus on the delivery of frontline services to the business sector, organisations, vulnerable groups and the general community;
- initiatives to address discrimination in Queensland;
- the challenge of quantifying the impacts of initiatives targeting racism and other discrimination, and efforts to develop appropriate evaluative metrics;
- research on the development of discriminatory predispositions and the benefits of public discussion in increasing awareness of unconscious biases;
- the ADCQ's submission to the Federal Government's review of amendments to section 19C of the Commonwealth *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*;
- potential impacts on the ADCQ workload due to the removal of the Federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner;
- the development of strategic partnerships between public agencies and community groups, to promote cooperation and understanding;
- engagement with the Public Safety Business Agency to support its objectives of cultural reform and change;
- preliminary steps to develop a strategic government plan for future housing that meets universal design principles, supporting the needs of the ageing population and roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); and
- the ADCQ's role in encouraging initiatives to ensure citizens' ability to access electoral facilities and exercise their right to vote.

Crime and Corruption Commission

- the finalisation of the CCC's organisational structure to reflect functional changes resulting from the administrative review of the CMC and the *Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*;
- the scope of the CCC's changed remit and focus on defined 'corrupt conduct';
- changes to organisational units and staffing levels;
- the approach to the allocation of resources across the CCC's specialist units, in support of its various organisational objectives;
- new complaint assessment procedures and principles, based on based on best practice in corruption and value for money;
- the comparative proportion and allocation of resources to matters initiated on the basis of CCC investigative activities and complaints made to the Commission;
- the timeliness of CCC investigations and the finalisation of matters;
- the CCC's operating budget as compared to the previous financial year, and the key components of a projected budgetary increase;
- changes to funding in relation to staffing, including increased funding for enterprise bargaining remuneration and salary increases;
- the allocation of resources to gain maximum impact from proceeds of crime activity;
- the total amount of money restrained by the CMC in 2013-2014 and the impact of judicial delay and staff recruitment on the achievement of targets;
- the prioritisation of additional resources to fight serious corruption in Queensland;
- the allocation or scope for resourcing to deal with serious political corruption, including links between political donors and public administration outcomes; and
- measures taken to ensure the independence of the CCC and the increased oversight and transparency of its operations.

Legal Aid Queensland

- LAQ's service delivery model, and mix of private counsel and in-house representation;
- LAQ's quality assurance framework and merit-based recruitment and selection principles;
- auditing of in-house lawyers against case and practice management standards, and equivalent compliance management audits of private counsel;
- the operation of the LAQ complaints management system and regular client satisfaction surveys;
- continuing professional development programs for staff and the introduction of a legal profession supervision policy;
- red tape reduction initiatives including the introduction of standardised disbursement fees to reduce administrative burdens, and a shift towards use of fixed fee amounts;
- the release of an LAQ discussion paper, *Improving criminal law grants of aid*, to ensure best value service provision for criminal law matters across the state;
- LAQ's shift to electronic document management;
- the establishment of a new industry reference group;

- the delivery of services through regional and remote offices, and operation of legal outreach clinics and telephone information helplines;
- funding for community legal centres, including the operation of the Community Legal Education Collaboration Fund; and
- pathways and programs for graduate lawyers to work in Legal Aid Queensland.

Office of the Information Commissioner

- efforts to encourage agency leaders to promote openness in their organisations;
- consideration of external review applications for the release of documents requested under right to information or information privacy applications;
- the trend towards more substantive and complex external review applications as a result of increasing awareness and practice qualities;
- the allocation of resources and staffing to the OIC's external review function; inquiry service for advice and assistance to community agencies; and performance monitoring team;
- the OIC's program of desktop audits of online information agencies; and
- efforts to promote awareness of requirements under the IP Act in rural and regional communities.

Prostitution Licensing Authority

- current business trading conditions for legal brothels.

Electoral Commission of Queensland

- the 2014-2015 budget for the Queensland State election;
- ECQ funding and efforts to educate the community about the State's optional preferential system of voting and how to cast an optional preferential vote;
- the ECQ's proactive efforts to educate electors to ensure their vote is clear and easily validated;
- practical implications of the Government's amendments to the Electoral Act, including the implementation of new voter ID requirements and their operation at the Stafford by-election and upcoming State general election; and
- current voting options and procedures for visually impaired citizens, and plans to have a full service of electronically assisted voting for the next general State election.

Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

- funding for own-initiative investigations to address systematic problems in public administration;
- anticipated workload impacts on the Queensland Ombudsman due to the change in the CCC's investigative focus from 'misconduct' to 'corrupt conduct';
- public interest disclosures received in 2013-2014 as compared with 2012-2013;
- whether the Queensland Ombudsman has jurisdictional responsibility for complaints of misconduct at the local government level;
- the process for assessing complaints and determining whether matters should be investigated and proceeded;

- processes for the referral of matters to the Public Service Commission or other appropriate agencies; and
- professional development programs, training and information sessions for agencies to drive best practice in effective complaints management.

Public Trustee of Queensland

- the Public Trustee's financial planning service provider and conditions and assurances associated with its contractual agreement;
- service standards and requirements for the prudent financial management of funds and property, and the provision of financial planning services to clients;
- insurance measures for protection against flawed advice provided by service providers; and
- the Public Trustee's commitment to continuous business improvement through program restructure and outsourcing arrangements.

4. Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services has Ministerial responsibility for a public safety portfolio that comprises the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA), and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM).⁴⁶

The current portfolio arrangements were established following machinery-of-government changes implemented in November 2013 and subsequent amendments to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* commencing on 1 July 2014; in response to the recommendations of the PACSR.

The QPS is the primary law enforcement agency in the State and is responsible for providing around-the-clock services with a focus on preserving peace and good order; protecting the community; preventing and detecting crime; administering the law fairly and efficiently; and bringing offenders to justice.

Established on 1 November 2013, QFES focuses on enhancing community safety by minimising the impact of fire and emergency incidents on the people, environment and the economy of Queensland.

The PSBA was also established on 1 November 2013, with the purpose of enabling the QPS, QFES and the IGEM to concentrate on frontline service delivery by assuming responsibility for their strategic and corporate service portfolio components, and certain operational functions.

The IGEM previously operated within QFES, but was established as a separate entity from 1 July 2014 (under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* amendments). The IGEM has overall oversight of the delivery of emergency services in Queensland.⁴⁷

4.1 Queensland Police Service

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

- reducing and preventing the incidence of crime, public disorder and road trauma;
- delivering its services with fairness and integrity;

⁴⁶ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, page 2.

⁴⁷ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, page 2.

- collaborating with all sectors of the community to deliver a problem solving approach to crime reduction;
- using technology and innovative strategies to be more mobile, flexible and capable of working across boundaries to deliver services the community needs;
- focussing its resources to identify and deliver efficient services that maximise public safety;
- taking a leading role to prepare the community for managing major events and disasters;
- implementing an environment of continuous improvement based on learning, development and empowered leadership; and
- implementing a proactive intelligence-led integrated service delivery model.⁴⁸

The QPS carries out its activities through two key service areas: Crime and Public Order and Road Safety.

Crime and Public Order

Crime and Public Order services:

- protect personal safety, and prevent and detect related offences, including homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery;
- protect property, and prevent and detect related offences, including unlawful entry, other property damage, motor vehicle theft, and other theft (excluding unlawful entry);
- maintain public order and safety during major events and natural disasters, from planning to recovery; address public space enjoyment, street and nuisance offences, and liquor licensing issues; and engage environmental design to reduce crime including alcohol fuelled violence.

Road Safety

Road safety services enforce traffic law and reduce road trauma through activities including the prevention and detection of: speeding; red light offences; driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs; driving while fatigued; and not wearing seatbelts.

In addition to these key service area missions, the QPS conducts various activities to promote ethical behaviour, discipline and professional practice to ensure the community and visitors to the community have confidence in and respect for Queensland police.⁴⁹

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 compares the appropriations for the Queensland Police Service for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,923,604	1,704,904
equity adjustment	(3,369)	6,157
<i>Administered Items</i>	708	...
Vote	1,920,943	1,711,061

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 13.

⁴⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, page 5.

⁴⁹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, page 11.

In 2014-2015, most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support QPS operational capabilities will be delivered by the PSBA. This includes police accommodation facilities, motor vehicles, vessels and information technology.⁵⁰ However, the QPS will invest \$24.2 million in capital purchases to deliver specific operational equipment, as part of a suite of key 'frontline', 'equipment' and 'community' budget measures.⁵¹ These key budget measures include:

More frontline officers

- \$109.4 million for the additional 567 police officers already recruited in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, and a further 267 officers in 2014-2015, for the third year of the \$358.3 million commitment to provide an extra 1,100 police officers over four years;
- moving the third tranche of 50 existing police positions from behind desks back to the frontline as part of the Government's commitment to return 200 police officers to the frontline over four years; and
- \$0.92 million towards the cost of operating a policing hub on the Gold Coast and to commence a trial of a policing hub in Townsville. The hubs are designed to provide agile, highly visible policing resources with the flexibility to focus on problem places, cases and crime types.

Better equipment

- \$3 million to continue delivering police helicopter services as part of the Government's commitment of \$18 million over four years to deliver police helicopter services on the Gold Coast and in South East Queensland;
- \$3 million for a second police helicopter based in Brisbane at Archerfield; and
- \$27.2 million in additional operational funding and \$1 million in additional capital funding to support the continued deployment of speed and red light cameras throughout Queensland to reduce road trauma and improve road safety.

Safe communities

- \$4.3 million to continue the crackdown on dismantling and eliminating criminal motorcycle gangs (CMGs) across the State;
- \$2.1 million to support the Government's Safe Night Out Strategy to address alcohol and drug related violence which will restore responsible behaviour and provide a safer community; and
- \$1 million for the third year of the Government commitment to provide \$4 million over four years to revitalise Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers.

⁵⁰ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 84.

⁵¹ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 84.

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Queensland Police Service for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.⁵²

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Queensland Police Service		
- controlled	1,931,124	2,070,324
- administered	9,717	9,293

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 9.

4.2 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

The QFES was established on 1 November 2013 to deliver a coordinated emergency service for Queenslanders that engages with communities in disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, in addition to providing traditional hazard response and rescue support. The new department brings together parts of two divisions of the former Department of Community Safety – the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Emergency Management Queensland.⁵³ The QFES also includes the volunteer-based State Emergency Service (SES), which works to enhance community resilience and mitigate risk through various community safety programs.

The key service objectives for QFES include:

- responsive fire and emergency services to reduce the impact of incidents;
- emergency management support to local government and other agencies;
- encouraging communities and individuals to take action in partnership with QFES volunteers and staff to mitigate risk and build resilience; and
- a business and safety environment that provides for good governance, safe work, resource efficiency and effectiveness and value to the community.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 identifies appropriations for QFES for 2014-2015. No comparative estimate is provided for 2013-2014. However, the 2014-2015 Service Delivery Statement for QFES identifies a part-year appropriations estimate of \$47.1 million for 2013-2014 for the period from 1 November 2013 to 30 June 2014, to reflect the establishment of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services from 1 November 2013.⁵⁴

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	..	79,158
equity adjustment
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	..	79,158

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 13.

⁵² The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁵³ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, page 29.

⁵⁴ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, pages 40; 44-45.

In 2014-2015, the QFES will focus on continuing to implement relevant recommendations from the PACSR and the Malone Review, including:

- appointing the Deputy Commissioner with responsibility for Rural Fire Service Queensland, the SES and other volunteer workforces;
- fitting out all rural brigade trucks with red and blue flashing lights;
- providing fully funded essential firefighting equipment and training needs, including protective clothing and communication equipment to Rural Fire Service Queensland volunteers (RFSQ); and
- engaging with volunteers in policy and procedure development.

QFES will also work to progress ongoing red-tape reduction efforts, including implementing identified opportunities and initiatives stemming from the following current review activities:

- reviewing the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008* to identify options to simplify requirements placed on occupiers and owners of buildings; and
- reviewing smoke alarm and fire warden provisions in the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* to assess alarm effectiveness from a safety and compliance perspective, and look at streamlining appointment processes for some categories of fire wardens.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 budgets for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and its previous equivalent departmental service areas.⁵⁵

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	411,747	620,024

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 32.

The 2014-2015 Budget allocates \$8.6 million to the QFES for capital purchases, including \$4.4 million for operational equipment and \$3.1 million for minor works.⁵⁶ However, most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support the QFES operational capabilities will be delivered by the PSBA.

4.3 Public Safety Business Agency

The PSBA was established on 1 November 2013 to provide strategic and corporate services to the QPS, QFES and the IGEM, allowing them to focus on frontline service delivery. In addition to undertaking asset procurement and management for the public safety agencies, the PSBA also executes operational functions including the Queensland Government Air Service, State Government Security, and Blue Cards (Working with Children suitability checks).⁵⁷

The PSBA's objectives, as outlined in its *2014-18 Strategic Plan*, are to:

- ensure a more effective and sustainable approach to delivering public safety outcomes;
- allow frontline staff to focus on delivering professional public safety services to the community;
- enhance the Queensland community's ability to access public safety services, when and where they need them;

⁵⁵ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁵⁶ State Budget 2014-15, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, page 52.

⁵⁷ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, page 49.

- ensure Queenslanders get the best quality public safety services;
- improve the portfolio's efficiency to ensure Queenslanders get value-for-money public safety services;
- increase interoperability and eliminate duplication and waste, within and between the public safety agencies;
- provide transparency and accountability to government and the community; and
- promote innovation and cultural change.⁵⁸

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 compares the appropriations for the Public Safety Business Agency for 2013-2014 (Department of Community Safety) and 2014-2015.

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,326,797	362,287
equity adjustment	(83,353)	(15,949)
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	1,243,444	346,338

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 12.

The 2014-2015 Budget provides \$610.3 million for operating expenditure, of which \$140.7 million is for capital purchases to promote community safety and resilience, and support frontline officers through provision of better equipment and new technology.

Key budget measures include:

More frontline officers

- providing training to police recruits in support of the Government's commitment to deliver an extra 1,100 police officers over four years.

Better equipment

- \$20.2 million for replacement or upgraded police and fire and rescue stations across the State;
- \$3.1 million to deliver three replacement water police catamarans at Cairns, Townsville and Whitsunday at a total project cost of \$12.7 million; and
- \$60.9 million for new and replacement police, fire and emergency service vehicles.

New technology

- funding to deliver a range of information and technology initiatives across the public safety portfolio to help officers work smarter and safer including:
 - \$30 million for the third year of a \$100 million project to replace the existing human resource and payroll systems for the PSBA, QFES, the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Corrective Services with an integrated human resource, payroll and human capital management solution. This solution will provide sustainable and supported human resource and payroll services. It will also provide managers with strategic human resource capability to support workforce development, performance and safety; and

⁵⁸ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, page 49.

- \$18.5 million to continue the delivery of a mobile service capability and expand the mobile device fleet during the upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2014. The mobile devices will enhance officer and community safety by providing real time access to information for officers in the field and free up officer capacity to respond to demands for service.

Safe communities

- allocating resources to support the delivery of security and public safety services for the 2014 G20 World Leaders' Summit;
- progressing legislative amendments to the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004* to ensure more stringent reporting conditions for offenders; and
- leading a review, in partnership with the QPS, to streamline the Working with Children (Blue Card) suitability checks scheme in line with recommendations from the *Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (Carmody) Report*.⁵⁹

The following table outlines a comparison of the Public Safety Business Agency budgets for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.⁶⁰

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
Public Safety Business Agency - controlled	699,426	610,265

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 52.

4.4 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The IGEM was established as a separate statutory authority under amendments to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* on 1 July 2014. The IGEM is tasked with providing assurance and advice that enables confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements.⁶¹ In 2013-2014, its activities were undertaken within QFES.⁶²

The strategic objectives of the IGEM, as identified in its *2014-18 Strategic Plan*, are to:

- provide independent assurance and advice about emergency management arrangements in Queensland;
- provide authoritative reporting that is used by the emergency management sector to fulfil accountabilities and improve outcomes for the community;
- drive a culture of excellence across the emergency management sector by connecting stakeholders, creating partnerships and marshalling expertise; and
- sustain a highly motivated, competent office that embraces change and is committed to delivering continuous improvement.⁶³

⁵⁹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, page 50.

⁶⁰ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁶¹ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 69.

⁶² State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, page 2.

⁶³ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 69.

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2014 identifies the appropriations for Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management for 2014-2015 (appropriations for IGEM functions in 2013-2014 were included within appropriations for QFES).

Appropriations	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	..	3,780
equity adjustment
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	..	3,780

Source: Appropriation Bill 2014, Schedule 2, page 12.

In 2014-2015, the IGEM will focus on progressing a range of strategies to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the PACSR. These strategies include:

- developing, implementing and validating outcome based standards across emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in collaboration with stakeholders;
- providing rigorous oversight that maps and clearly defines accountabilities and shared responsibilities across emergency management;
- providing independent, evidence based advice about emergency management issues;
- setting a forward program of work to provide clear direction on areas of focus for stakeholders;
- designing and implementing a suite of assurance activities, tools and processes that are valued by stakeholders and enable transparent monitoring, evaluation and reporting against the emergency management assurance framework;
- undertaking targeted reviews and system analysis that identify risks and gaps, and prioritising improvements on the basis of community outcomes;
- collaborating with agencies to facilitate solutions and drive a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in emergency management;
- establishing trusted partnerships that promote innovation, interoperability and knowledge transfer across the emergency management sector;
- developing common language and platforms for engagement that connect stakeholders and enable timely and open communication; and
- ensuring lessons identified, research and good practice are contextualised for Queensland and integrated into emergency management standards and practice.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 69.

In 2014-2015, budgeted Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management expenses are estimated to be \$4.5 million (see table below).⁶⁵ The agency budget for IGEM in 2013-2014 was included within the QFES budget estimate, and was not distinguished from other components of QFES expenditure.⁶⁶

Agency	2013-14 \$'000	2014-15 \$'000
The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management - controlled	...	4,495

Source: State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Public Safety Business Agency; and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 71.

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

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

- addressing the balance of offender rights and victim rights in the justice system, and the Government's commitment to getting 'tough on crime';
- structural changes to the Ministerial portfolio and component agencies as a result of the PACSR, including the establishment of the QFES, the PSBA and the IGEM;
- the government's response to PACSR concerns about the balance of effectiveness and efficiency measures employed in agency budgets and reporting, including a focus on continuous improvement of quality systems and ISO9000-compliant standards;
- the delivery of the Government's plan for revitalising frontline services and associated programs of renewal and transformation;
- the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions at stations or units across Queensland within each of the public safety agencies, including levels of graduate recruitment and staff separation since March 2012;
- the Government's commitment to providing 1,100 additional police officers over four years;
- use of police contracts of employment at different rank levels and associated costs and standard contract provisions;
- plans for future use of contract employment in the QPS;
- actions taken to improve the pay and conditions of Queensland firefighters;
- funding for facility, equipment and vehicle upgrades across the QPS and QFES;
- the roll-out of iPhones and iPads to support the QPS' mobile service capability and promote administrative efficiency;
- the commencement of the \$500 million government wireless network to support communication between all emergency services, including the roll-out of digital communication capabilities in time for the 2014 G20 World Summit;
- the expansion of CCTV networks and access to real time footage through mobile devices;

⁶⁵ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2013-2014 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁶⁶ State Budget 2014-15, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 71.

- trends in the number and rate of offences reported across offence categories in Queensland over the last five financial years;
- the number of offences reported across offence categories in each Queensland police district during 2013-2014;
- the number and proportion of arrests resulting in custodial sentences across the different categories of offences;
- criteria for the statistical reporting of crime in Service Delivery Statements;
- localised trends in reported crime rates for Ipswich, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast and South Brisbane;
- the publication of local area crime statistics on the myPolice website and blogs;
- the allocation of police resources across initiatives conducted as part of the Government's four-year, \$20 million campaign to eliminate criminal motorcycle gangs (CMGs) in Queensland;
- the number of arrests, clear-ups, charges, convictions and sentences of imprisonment imposed in relation to CMGs under the VLAD laws, as compared to those recorded in relation to pre-existing laws;
- the number of applications for work licences that have been received and been subject to a security determination under the *Tattoo Parlours Act 2013*, and instances in which adverse security determinations were made;
- the proportional contribution of CMGs to organised crime;
- the proceeds of crime being seized from CMGs as compared to proceeds from fraud and other types of organised crime;
- the overall number of prosecutions under new legislation for 124 offences including the VLAD laws;
- available resources for the timely investigation of high profile people and elected officials;
- the Government's commitment to taskforce policing and the establishment of policing hubs or rapid actions patrols, as part of a revised service delivery model;
- the establishment and activities of Operation Resolute and its component taskforces – Taskforce Maxima and Taskforce Takeback;
- the scope and initiatives of Taskforce Maxima and its focus on the illegal activities of CMGs, including the pursuit of unexplained wealth;
- the scope and initiatives of Taskforce Takeback and its focus on a highly visible and zero tolerance approach to public disorder on the Gold Coast;
- police measures in response to recent high profile murders in the Brisbane CBD;
- efforts to reassure the international student community about public safety in Brisbane and Queensland;
- the staffing and operations of the Railway Squad and its dedicated, visible uniform police presence on the commuter network;
- the implementation of a permanent CBD police beat crew in Ipswich;
- the number of infringement notices issued and the total value of fines issued by the QPS over each of the last five financial years;

- the implementation of the Safer Streets Action Plan and introduction of anti-hooning laws and associated motor vehicle impoundments;
- the ‘Go Fast, Lose Your Car’ public education campaign and new hoon telephone hotline and online reporting system;
- the introduction of anti-weapons legislation to address the trade in illegal weapons;
- the introduction of tougher penalties targeting drug traffickers and amendments to the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* and *Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987*;
- QPS operations to close down illegal drug operations and related promotional exercises to encourage drug laboratory awareness;
- the seizure of clandestine drug laboratories across Queensland, including the 2013 execution of Operation Kilo Faction;
- changes to reporting conditions for child sex offenders under amendments to the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*, including new minimum quarterly reporting requirements and expanded informational detail about biometric reporting capabilities;
- statistical evidence regarding the impact of reporting periods on child sex offender recidivism and the implications with regards to recent reforms;
- the introduction of a kiosk reporting system trial and other technology-based options to manage the increased frequency of required child sex offender reporting;
- coordination with State and Federal agencies through the national reporting scheme for child sex offenders;
- the impact of structural reforms resulting from the government’s response to the Carmody Inquiry recommendations, including the transfer of responsibility for the Blue Card system to the PSBA from 1 July 2014;
- outcomes from Operation Unite and its activities to address alcohol and drug related violence;
- resourcing and increased powers and protection for police to support the QPS’ role in implementing the Safe Night Out Strategy, including the strengthening of offences and penalties for acts of violence against police officers;
- QPS initiatives under the Safe Night Out Strategy, including high-visibility policing in Safe Night Precincts, the exercise of strengthened move-on powers and banning notices, sharing of police banning information across ID scanner networks, and increased penalties for violence against police officers;
- the introduction of legislation addressing suburban out of control parties, including changes in noise abatement provisions, and monitoring and educational efforts surrounding Facebook parties;
- the efforts of police liaison officers in engaging with diverse cultural groups in local Queensland communities through forums and information sharing;
- funding and support for Crime Stoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and community policing bodies across the State;
- trends in the rate of crimes committed against society’s most vulnerable groups;
- the allocation of police resources to improve the sense of safety and security of seniors, Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders, people in the disability sector, and other vulnerable groups;
- the operation of Mobile in Moreton initiative, to provide education to seniors and people with disabilities about how to get out in their community and their rights as users of pathways and roads;

- the introduction of a new SES mobile app and operation of mobile Policelink reporting technology;
- the coordination of the response of over 300 SES workers to be deployed for the 2014 G20 World Summit;
- the Government's commitment to revitalising frontline emergency services in South East Queensland, including initiatives in Toowoomba, the Darling Downs, the Gold Coast and the Ipswich-Somerset region;
- QFES's scheduled building inspection program and community engagement to ensure fire safety compliance, including assistance with practice evacuations and disaster season education and information;
- response times for structural fires over the last three financial years and reasons for an apparent increase in the time taken to respond;
- the incidence of understaffing at fire stations in Queensland; and
- partnership arrangements between the Regional College of Disaster Management and the Australian Emergency Management Institute for the delivery of specialist training.

Queensland Police Service

- the QPS's engagement of taskforce policing and case and place approaches to service delivery;
- the focus on boundary-less policing and communication and cooperation with local, State and Federal agencies;
- resourcing of the State Crime Command's initial assessment team and the prioritisation of investigations;
- the process for referral of investigations to specialist teams based on areas of expertise;
- the operational separation between the Minister and the QPS, and required documentation of any Ministerial directives;
- the availability of resourcing to support QPS involvement in and contribution to parliamentary consideration of proposed laws for Queensland;
- the participation of the QPS in the inquiry into the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2013;
- the current statistical picture of crime in Queensland and the recorded decline in overall crime levels across the state in 2013-2014;
- variance in reported crime statistics, including the impacts of settling periods and collection or reporting methodologies;
- sources of discrepancy between aggregations of individual offences and overall offence totals in the reporting of statistics on myPolice blogs, including informational restrictions, abbreviations and other factors;
- the impact of Operation Resolute on crime levels on the Gold Coast;
- the impact of Taskforce Takeback on participation in CMGs, including evidence of reduced participation and evidence of reduced participation and uptake of opportunities for gang disassociation;
- the activities of the Major Organised Crime Squad and its investigative branches in targeting serious criminal offences and organised crime, including involvement in high level drug trafficking and production;

- the closure of Operation Kilo Faction, ending a long term covert operation and netting \$26 million in drugs and the seizure of \$6 million in property;
- the closure of Operation Kilo Zurich, disrupting a hydroponic cannabis operation worth an estimated \$18 million;
- the reform of the child sex offender reporting framework and the rationale behind the shift to higher frequency reporting over a shorter duration minimum reporting period, in concert with Police Commissioner powers to vary reporting conditions on a discretionary basis;
- the availability of police resources to monitor the increasing number of offenders on the child sex offender register;
- increased detection and reporting of domestic violence;
- links between unemployment and other social problems and the incidence of domestic violence;
- review of administrative requirements associated with domestic violence case management as part of a broader review of the *Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009-2013*;
- an update on progress towards the development of a new draft Domestic and Family Violence Strategy;
- the role of the QPS in implementing the Safe Night Out Strategy;
- training for frontline staff working in 'Safe Night Precincts' under the Safe Night Out Strategy, including management of 'Sober Safe Cells' and training in dealing with people affected by substance abuse and mental health issues;
- changes in the homicide rate and variations in reporting associated with the timing of the finalisation of matters;
- police measures in response to recent high-profile murders in Brisbane CBD;
- police mobilisation and intra-organisational cooperation on high profile cases, such as the Baden Clay murder investigation;
- the activities of the State Drug Squad and Synthetic Drug Operations Unit;
- operation of the Roadside Drug Testing Unit and rates of positive detection;
- the QPS' high visibility road safety policing operations and participation in national seasonal road safety campaigns;
- the establishment of the Road Policing Command, and results from the operation of the Traffic Camera Program and road safety campaigns;
- staffing of police taskforces;
- the operation of Taskforce Integrate in South Brisbane, Ipswich and surrounding areas of South East Queensland, and the use of the taskforce as a template for other State operations;
- efforts to communicate safety messages to international visitors, including the Safer Sunnybank Project;
- the operation of a Rapid Action and Patrol Group from a dedicated hub facility at Varsity Lakes, to deliver a borderless policing response;
- the use of CCTV on the Gold Coast in CBD areas;
- the operation of the Gold Coast police helicopter, and planned introduction of a police helicopter based in the Greater Brisbane area;

- the roll-out of the multi-agency Safer Streets Taskforce in Cairns, in cooperation with State and national departments and three tiers of government;
- the impact of targeted, multi-agency police taskforce efforts in reducing break and enters in Townsville;
- police relationships with local communities and organisations;
- the operation of non-urgent, call-for-service Policelink facilities across the State;
- the establishment of a Police Citizens Youth Club in Aurukun and community engagement with elders and local government to promote youth opportunities;
- the appointment of officers to run youth programs in Weipa and a dedicated officer to deal with child abuse and related issues in the community;
- the introduction of the Indigenous Cadetship Program at the QPS Academy; and
- resourcing of the Stock Squad to support policing in rural areas.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Service

- new portfolio arrangements and the organisational structure of QFES;
- QFES's constituent organisational units and services, including Queensland's fire and rescue firefighters, emergency management specialists, the Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service (SES), and support for volunteer associations including the coast guard and volunteer marine rescue;
- QFES capital works program, including the completion of a new fire and rescue station at Clifton and development of a new station for Pittsworth, and associated vehicle fleet improvements;
- the replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mareeba;
- the new SES headquarters in Cairns;
- the upgrade of operational vehicle capabilities in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, including the development and construction of a new command support trailer to enhance incident management and the installation of thermal imaging cameras on all fire appliances;
- a trial engagement of the Ergon digital radio network with Rural Fire Service volunteers in Warwick, to examine opportunities to enhance radio communications;
- the installation of additional water tanks and water points for firefighting purposes in the Darling Downs and the Western Downs, in collaboration with the Toowoomba Regional Council;
- the delivery of more flood boats to Dalby, Warwick and Miles to support SES groups;
- QFES's role in supporting disaster management at local, district and statewide levels, including the appointment of community liaison officers to help develop engagement initiatives and deliver disaster preparedness messages;
- the provision of disaster management training to local governments and key stakeholders to enhance their preparedness and response capabilities;
- the promotion of proactive hazard risk assessment, and support of local planning and hazard mitigation activities;
- Operation Cool Burn and its contribution to bushfire preparedness;

- letterbox drops and disaster preparedness promotional activities within the Toowoomba Regional Council area, including consultation and collaboration with stakeholders to encourage hazard mitigation efforts;
- QFES's building inspection and active disaster management exercise regimes;
- the Rural Fire Service's Volunteer Community Educator Program, and its important role within the incident command system of keeping communities informed about fire movements and timeframes;
- the signing of an Auxiliary Firefighter Charter between the Government, QFES and the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association, to formalise the working partnership with auxiliary firefighters across Queensland;
- the impacts of system-initiated false alarms, as highlighted in the PACSR as a major service inefficiency;
- the commitment of resources to the investigation of promising national and international false alarm management programs and associated costs;
- a recorded decrease in the average number of unwanted alarms per signalling device; and
- the delivery of specialist training through the Regional College of Disaster Management.

Public Safety Business Agency

- the formation of the PSBA in administrative orders in November 2013, and its subsequent full establishment on 1 July 2014;
- the PSBA's provision of operational services, including the Queensland Government Air Service, State Government Security, and the Blue Card system;
- the agency's focus on the development of the portfolio performance framework and cost attribution model;
- PSBA mapping of portfolio operations and business processes in terms of inputs, outputs, actions, outcomes and measurable parameters;
- the realignment of ICT business processes with ISO accreditation and application of best practice international standards;
- the review and rationalisation of human resources selection, recruitment, discipline and other processes across the portfolio agencies;
- current testing of the internal resource allocation model within the QPS;
- the development of service catalogues to facilitate consistent, standard accredited service delivery;
- the provision of procurement services and PSBA purchase delegations and appropriations for asset purchases; and
- PSBA engagement and cooperation with the Queensland Audit Office.

Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

- the establishment of the IGEM on 1 July 2014 through changes to the *Disaster Management Act 2003*;
- IGEM's mission of enabling confidence in emergency and disaster management arrangements across the State;
- IGEM's main functions of designing and implementing quality assurance frameworks, standards and reviews, and associated strategic planning processes;

- IGEM's engagement to broad stakeholder consultation across local and State Government departments and agencies to draw on established knowledge and expertise in effective performance reviews;
- collaborative efforts to promote cultures of excellence across the sector;
- the development of the emergency management assurance framework, including formulation of purpose or unit-specific outcome-based statements and core principles by practitioners within the sector during IGEM workshops;
- the planned introduction of assurance activities in three tiers or degrees of assessment, beginning with simple self-assessments through to more formal audit activities; and
- scheduled annual assessments of disaster management plans.

STATEMENT OF RESERVATION

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE (LACSC) CONSIDERATION OF THE 2014/2015 PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES

This statement of reservation is submitted by the Member for Rockhampton on behalf of the Labor Opposition.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON ESTIMATES PROCESS

The Opposition members note that the improvements in the Estimates process introduced in 2011 as a result of the new committee system were eroded in the consideration of the 2012-13 Budget Estimates, were further eroded in the consideration of the 2013-14 Budget Estimates, and have now been totally undermined by the consideration of the 2014-15 Budget Estimates.

The decision to hold portfolio Estimates hearings over two days has reduced the capacity of both Government and non-government members to adequately scrutinise the Budget for 2014-15. The decision of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to change the allocation of time between government and non-government members further eroded the capacity of non-government members to properly scrutinise the budget and the Departments.

Another issue of concern was again the time allocated for questions by the Committee. This year, as was the case both last year and the year before, there was no consistent time period allowed for questions and answers by both non-government and government members. An analysis of the time actually allocated to non-government members for questions and answers indicate that only marginally over one third of the time on 15 July 2014 was given to non-government members, the balance being given to government members. I refer to the breakdown of time and question allocation document previously distributed to Committee members by way of illustration.

A perusal of the Estimates Committee transcript for the LACSC illustrates that, although a greater proportion of questions were allocated to non-government members, this was because very short answers were provided by the Attorney-General to non-government questions, so that further questions had to be asked to attempt to elicit comprehensible answers. This is reflected in the number of 'sets' of questions that government and non-government members had – 58 to 32 respectively. Conversely, fulsome responses were provided to Government questions.

Standing Order 181 (e) provides that a member who is not a member of the portfolio committee may, with the committee's leave, ask questions. The Committee granted leave to the Member for Yeerongpilly and the Leader of the Opposition to participate and ask questions throughout the hearing. However, questions were allocated only to members of the Committee. This meant that, during the Attorney-General's appearance before the Committee, the Leader of the Opposition wasn't allocated any additional time or questions. The other non-government members were required

to forego their questions and to defer to the Leader of the Opposition in order for her to be able to ask any questions of the Attorney-General.

The procedure adopted is explained by the following excerpt from page 52 of the Transcript:

I just might make a statement. What I am doing, just for the information of the Leader of the Opposition, is I am offering questions to each member. Now I will offer the next question to the member for Nicklin. I understand you are deferring your questions to the opposition. That is your choice. I will ask the member for Rockhampton if he wishes to ask a question. If he wishes to defer to the Leader of the Opposition, that is his choice. That is the position and that is the fair position.

However, this decision wasn't implemented throughout the hearing, and appeared to change. For example, at page 58 the following exchange took place:

CHAIR: *Member for Rockhampton.*

Mr BYRNE: *I defer.*

CHAIR: *No, you cannot defer. I have offered you the opportunity to ask a question.*

What was apparent to all observers of the proceedings was that the Committee went to great lengths to protect the Attorney-General from any proper scrutiny by non-government members.

However, it was pleasing to see that, after my comments last year that the answers to the questions on notice asked by non-government members were evasive at times, and did not fully address the questions that were asked, there was some improvement this year in the quality and content of the answers provided.

However, this did not carry over into responses to questions taken on notice. Avoidance by the Attorney-General was clearly evident, which is disappointing considering that the questions can merely be re-asked at a later date. The Attorney-General would be better placed to answer what was clearly the intent of the question rather than wasting the Committee's time with evasive non-answers.

If the purpose of Portfolio Budget Estimates is to allow scrutiny of the finances of the portfolio by the Committee, evasiveness by the responsible Minister does not contribute to the openness and transparency in government that the Premier has pledged for the people of Queensland.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)

In response to questions from the committee, both the Attorney-General and the Chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), Dr Ken Levy, provided information about funding for the CCC. The Attorney-General purported to illustrate the effectiveness of increased funding to the CCC by pointing to crime statistics mentioned by the Police Commissioner in a newspaper article. The Attorney-General's reference to '*reductions of 10 per cent of crime **across all crime** (my emphasis) in Queensland*' has since been qualified by the Commissioner.

As the Commissioner has explained, those figures were for 'reported offences, which excludes what are described as 'other offences'. These have increased by 10.4 per cent. An analysis of Queensland Police Service statistics shows that the crime rate in Queensland '**across all crime**' has only dropped 2.1 per cent in the past financial year, which is part of a long-term downward trend in crime.

In fact, the 2.1 per cent reduction is a small reduction following a similar rise of 2 per cent the previous financial year under the Newman Government. This merely brings Queensland back to the same position it was in in terms of crime statistics as when the Newman Government took office.

Questioning by both me and the member for Nicklin related to the amount of proceeds of crime funds restrained by the CCC. There was a significant shortfall in the target of \$18M for the financial year. In fact, the projected budget of \$15M detailed in the budget papers was also not met and only \$13.8M was achieved, a shortfall of 23 per cent.

Non-government members have raised the issue of a failure to ensure that adequate staff and resources were provided to the then CMC when the amendments were made to the criminal proceeds confiscation legislation. We raised the issue with staff of the CMC at the public hearing on the Bill, and were disturbed to learn that no additional funding had been provided at that time.

Whilst it is refreshing to hear from the Acting CCC Chair that some progress has now been made, the long-term planning failure by the Attorney-General has resulted in exactly the situation that I predicted at the time that Bill was being debated, and a shortfall of almost a quarter of the budgeted amount is a serious blight on the Attorney-General's capacity to handle his portfolio.

Anti-Discrimination Commission

I was interested to hear that the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner had made a submission to the Federal Attorney-General's review of section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act*. His submission was based on the Queensland vilification laws introduced by the previous government, because in his view those laws are very strong and balanced. It was his recommendation that if changes are made to section 18C they are based upon Queensland's vilification laws.

Boot Camps

In response to a question I asked about when the decision was made to award the contract for the Early Intervention Boot Camp at Hervey Bay to Hard Yakka, the Attorney-General stated that it was made a short time before the announcement was made on 21 August 2013.

The Attorney-General was unable to adequately explain the basis on which he awarded the contract to Hard Yakka, or the basis on which he ignored the Evaluation Panel's assessment of the capacity of Hard Yakka to deliver a boot camp. He reiterated the reasons provided by the Director-General for some concerns about the group recommended by the evaluation panel contained in his email which had previously been tabled in Parliament, however he was unable to provide any explanation at all as to why he then ignored the next eight groups ranked higher than Hard Yakka by the Evaluation Panel.

Another thing that the Attorney-General was unable to explain was his decision to disregard the PCYC, the group recommended by the Evaluation Panel to operate the Hervey Bay Early Intervention YBC, because of the 'appearance of a potential (conflict) of interest' in the fact that a police officer was on the panel, but that, even though this was equally the case for the Rockhampton YBC, the decision on that boot camp was not beset by a similar concern.

The Attorney had also said that experience in operating boot camps was one of the decisive factors in awarding the contracts. Yet he was unable to explain why he chose Hard Yakka when, under the requirement in the expression of interest of 'evidence of the outcomes achieved from previous programs', the evaluation work sheet from the panel for Hard Yakka rated them as zero where other offerors were rated at four to five in that criterion.

The Attorney-General was unable to provide a Statement of Reasons for his decision to award a tender to a group that had been assessed by his own Department as tenth out of the possible twelve who submitted expressions of interest. The Attorney was also unable to advise how many times he has overturned the recommendations of tender evaluation boards within his department since he has been the minister.

This question was taken on notice, however the Attorney-General evaded providing advice to the Committee on the basis that the boot camps were assessed on an expression of interest basis, rather than a tender basis. The attempts by the Attorney to avoid providing answers on matters that show his incompetence and bungling reached dizzying heights during the consideration of the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Estimates.

The Attorney-General had also detailed what he described as the success of the Early Intervention and Sentenced Youth Boot Camps (YBC) in Queensland. However, the figures quoted during the hearing were distinctly at odds with the figures provided in response to Questions on Notice (QONs) asked by the non-government members prior to the Estimates hearing. The answer to QON No. 20 advised that, as of 30 June 2014, 119 young people had commenced one of the four YBC programs across Queensland. By the date of the hearing, it appears that another two had commenced, as the figure quoted by the Attorney-General was 121.

The answer then went on to advise that 28 young people had commenced the Cairns/Townsville Sentenced YBC program, and that of these young people, one requested a variation to their order and was returned to court for re-sentencing. As at 1 July 2014, there had been no proven offences committed by sentenced boot camp order young people, however, as the answer then went on to explain, courts sentence a young person to a boot camp order for a minimum of three months, up to a maximum of six months. Consequently, none of the young offenders sentenced had completed their court order at this time.

It was therefore rather disingenuous of the Attorney-General to claim in his response to me during the hearing that '*the sentence youth boot camp is providing an 83 per cent success rate in reducing reoffending*'. This was recorded at page 23 of the transcript.

In fact, what the Attorney-General failed to mention was that, prior to young people who had specifically been sentenced to a YBC order undertaking the Lincoln Springs boot camp, 10 voluntary participants from Cleveland Youth Detention centre had completed the boot camp. As the Attorney-General was well aware because he

provided the information in response to the Question on Notice, **of those ten participants**, (at that stage the only people who had actually completed the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp), '**eight voluntary participants of the Sentenced YBC program ... had proven offences since completing the program.**'

Those young people entered the boot camp at Lincoln Springs in late December 2013 and early January 2014. The boot camp is at least three months' duration. This means that, after completing the boot camp in late March/early April, 80 per cent of the young people had '**proven offences**' by 30 June 2014 – within two or three months of completing the boot camp.

It is difficult, based on these figures, to ascertain the basis on which the Attorney-General made the claim to the Committee that '*The programs are working*'.

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

Questioning from the government members of the Committee provided the Attorney-General with the opportunity to again espouse the benefits of the government's Safe Night Out Strategy. This strategy has little support from stakeholders other than the liquor and hotel industries. In fact, the LACSC hearing held on 24 July 2014 saw most of the stakeholders give evidence to the Committee of the significant failings of the bill from their perspective. This is reflected in the majority of submissions received by the Committee.

Court Transcription Services

The Leader of the Opposition asked the Attorney-General questions relating to the outsourcing of court transcription services. When the Attorney-General announced that Auscript had been selected to provide the service, he also announced that the expected savings for the Department was \$6 million per annum.

These expected savings were not realised. In response to question on notice No. 17 for estimates, the Attorney advised that the actual saving was in fact \$2.4 million in its first full year of operation. The Attorney also advised that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General was on track to save a notional \$1.2 million as a result of no longer having to maintain office space.

The Attorney also advised the Committee that he was unaware, at the time he awarded the contract, that Peter Wyatt, his company Auscript and another company that Peter is a director of, InterRISK, had all donated money to the LNP. InterRisk and Peter Wyatt each donated \$5000 and Auscript donated \$2000, which are detailed in the return lodged by the Liberal National Party of Australia in the 1st half year 2012.

The response to QON No. 17 also advises that the cost of purchasing a transcript for a full day's hearing in a civil matter in the Supreme Court rose from \$1,267.90 to \$2,189.88 in the financial year 2013-13 from when it was provided by the State Reporting Bureau and when it was provided by Auscript. This means that the cost for litigants has almost doubled under the outsourced model.

Workplace Health and Safety

The Leader of the Opposition also asked the Attorney-General about the decrease in the number of workplace health and safety inspectors employed by the DJAG. The answer to question on notice No. 14 advises that there are 17 fewer inspectors

employed in Queensland comparing June 2014 with June 2012. The Attorney-General went on to advise that *'we have changed the law saying that militant union thugs have to give 24 hours' notice.'*

The use of such offensive, value-laden and provocative language by the Attorney-General showed a lack of maturity on his part that shows why he is unsuitable to hold the high office of Attorney-General in the Queensland government. His attitude to questions asked about any industrial or workplace health and safety issue by the Leader of the Opposition was an insult to the Committee and to the Estimates process.

Industrial Relations

The Opposition is disappointed the Attorney-General repeatedly refused to reveal the true cost of the Queensland Government of implementing, defending and eventually repealing their anti-democratic union ballot legislation.

The Attorney-General's ideological attempt to place unfair and unconstitutional restrictions on industrial organisations using their funds to participate in public debate cost Queensland taxpayers significant resources – an amount that the Attorney-General refused to reveal in answer to Question on Notice No.15 and again under questioning at the hearing. This is despite very specific requests about internal and external costs being asked of him and despite the duty of the Attorney-General to answer the Question on Notice to the Committee.

Queenslanders have been denied information on how much the Government spent on internal resources and policy work, the implementation and enforcement of the legislation and preparation for and legal costs in defence of the court challenge to the legislation.

Workers' Compensation

The opposition is also disappointed with the lack of evidence-based information being provided to the Committee on the issue of changes to the Workers' Compensation scheme. In trying to defend the Government's radical changes to the Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme, claims were made by the Attorney-General that the scheme was at risk of being unsustainable. That claim is simply not evidenced in the very extensive investigation undertaken by the Parliamentary Finance and Administration Committee. The Committee, dominated by LNP MPs, unanimously recommended in the inquiry report that the Government should not make the drastic changes the Attorney-General subsequently introduced, namely the imposition of a 5% WPI threshold that will deny about half of injured workers in Queensland access to their legal rights.

Criminal Organisation Laws

Questioning of the Attorney-General in relation to criminal organisations failed to elicit any meaningful responses. I asked the Attorney-General how many bikies in Queensland are wearing pink jumpsuits, in accordance with the policy announced by the Newman Government. He took the question on notice, but then failed to respond, merely advising that because the figure fluctuates, he was unable to provide a response.

The following week, after the Premier announced that the decision for bikie prisoners to wear pink jumpsuits was one of the more significant mistakes made by the Newman Government and would be reversed, the Premier's Facebook page advised that there were in fact two such prisoners. The reversal of a decision that affects two people looks more like a policy failure than a policy change from my perspective.

Then later, when the Attorney-General was asked about a February briefing note received under an RTI application that stated that, since November 2013, Queensland Corrective Services has requested advice from the Queensland Police Service in relation to the criminal organisation participant status of 40 prisoners, with only one being confirmed as such to date.

When I asked whether that reflected concerns with the legislation, the Attorney-General started to discuss the stalling of charges under the VLAD and association laws pending the determination of the High Court challenge, and failed to respond to the question asked.

Prostitution Licensing Authority

Judge Boyce, the Chair of the Prostitution Licensing Authority, gave evidence before the committee. He was asked a question by the Member for Ipswich which was based on the premise that because of the high incidence of illegal prostitution which the member stopped short of describing as 'flourishing', that legal brothels '*might be having difficulty in making their organisations profitable*'. This is recorded at page 65 of the transcript.

If this is of such significance to the legal brothel industry as the Member for Ipswich suggested at the Estimates Hearing, it would be incumbent on the member to produce some evidence to the Committee, which might then undertake some inquiry into the matter to determine how significant the issue that the Member for Ipswich raised is.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Crime statistics

The Opposition identified major inconsistencies with the reporting of the Queensland crime statistics as they appeared on the MyPolice Website <http://mypolice.qld.gov.au/> which has been viewed 34 million times. The statistical errors throughout the website have created a real potential to mislead the public as to the true picture of crime in Queensland.

The website publishes crime graphs, including offence numbers for members of the public to compare police regions, districts and division on a yearly or monthly period. The website breaks down offence categories for the same purpose and the data is extracted from the government's Open Data portal.

The error in the website was identified by calculating the total offences for a year and comparing this total with the total amount recorded by adding each individual category of offence. On each and every occasion, the number purported to be the total was less than the actual number of offences.

To help resolve the issue, the Minister was asked to provide the monthly crime statistics to compare them with the number of offences as they appeared on the MyPolice website.

It was identified that the Gold Coast for May 2014 was recorded on the website as having 3010 offences. The Minister's answer indicated that 3939 offences were recorded. That is nearly a 32% increase in actual offences committed on the Gold Coast than was being recorded on the MyPolice website.

The Opposition pointed out in the hearing that the yearly totals as recorded on the MyPolice website were also significantly under-reported and had the potential to mislead the public.

The Minister took the question on notice to provide an explanation to the Committee.

The Minister acknowledged the error and provided the following explanation:

"The difference between the two graphs with one showing 3,952 offences (the correct figure at the time of updating) and the other 3,010 is due to a coding error.

"The graph showing a total of 3,010 offences is only showing a subset of total offences. The subset of offences are assault, sexual offences, robbery, arson, other property damage, unlawful use of motor vehicle, other theft (excl. unlawful entry), drug offences and good order offences.

"The source of this error has been identified and rectified."

The MyPolice website has been fixed and it truly paints a very different picture as to the true picture of crime in Queensland.

By comparing the total number of offences recorded on the MyPolice website for 2013 and 2014 on the day of the Estimates hearing and the date the website was fixed, the number of offences increased by 67% for 2014 and by 40% for 2013. The following table illustrates the increased crime rates as depicted on MyPolice.

Crime Statistics from the MyPolice Website- variance

	Thursday, July 17, 2014	Tuesday, July 22, 2014	Variance
2013	309,729	434,911	40%
2014	128,569	215,095	67%

The media and the public have previously relied on the data sourced from the MyPolice website, as identified by the following article appearing on the Brisbane Times website: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/crime-statistics-tell-varying-stories-on-antigang-laws-20140611-zs4fa.html>

The government no longer publishes the Annual Statistical Review, which could have provided an accurate picture of crime in Queensland. Also, continued publication of the review would prevent some of the controversy surrounding the revelations about the crime statistics, as reported recently by the ABC where the LNP government is being accused of cherry picking crime statistics: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-26/newman-government-accused-of-cherry-picking-on-crime-rate-stats/5626414>

Homicide rate

In the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 budget papers, the Homicide rate in Queensland was represented as 2 per every 100,000 of the population.

The 2014-15 budget papers stated the Homicide rate in Queensland had doubled in the last year. This is a significant increase given the Homicide rate was stable for each of the last three years and the method for calculating estimates in the budget papers has not changed.

The Minister was unable to provide any valid reason for the recording of a doubling of the Homicide rate in the government's budget papers, suggesting it may have to do with offences committed the previous year but solved this year.

The Commissioner stated that: "The figures that I have in front of me suggest that a decrease was reported in the rate of homicide offences, being 23 per cent for this period as opposed to the period reported in the SDS, which equates to 10 offences in terms of raw numbers."

In the end, the question related to the Homicide rate was taken on notice as the Chair of the Committee made the remark: "I want to follow on from what the member for Rockhampton raised. One thing that we found in our inquiry process is the data seems to be all over the place".

The answer provided on notice by the Minister explained the discrepancy as being caused by a rounding error.

The answer provided by the Minister stated:

"The 2014-15 SDS recorded the 2013-14 estimated actual rate of reported homicides as 4 per 100,000 people.

"This was derived by rounding the rate for each quarter (1), to get a figure for 9 months of the financial year (3) and then extrapolating to get an estimated actual rate for the full financial year (4).

"When the quarterly figures are not rounded, the estimated actual rate is 2.5.

"I can advise that the actual reported rate of homicides per 100,000 people in the full 2013-14 financial year was 2 (data extracted as at 9 July 2014). That compares to a rate of 3 in 2012-13. That represents a rate decrease of 24%."

This means that the rate as depicted in the budget papers is incorrect and the rate in the previous budget paper of 2012-13 is also incorrect.

The Opposition believes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to determine the level of success achieved across the portfolio when the performance measures contained in the government's own budget papers are inaccurate and misleading.

Clearly the statistical information the Minister approved before publishing requires further analysis and is difficult to rely on for the purpose of the Estimates hearings.

VLAD laws

During the Estimates hearing, witnesses provided evidence that 40 offenders have had the circumstances of aggravation applied to them under the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act. We heard that of these 40 persons, only 11 are considered members of criminal motorcycle gangs and the remaining form part of other alleged criminal enterprises.

Minister Dempsey, in relation to VLAD, stated: "... 40 on 66 charges where the criminal participant has been alleged as a vicious lawless association associate under the *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013*."

Deputy Commissioner Pointing stated: "Forty are attributed to the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act. Now, of course there are no new offences under that act. Under the VLAD, it is simply a sentencing regime or a circumstance of aggravation."

The number of 40 offenders subject to the VLAD laws is different to the figure the Minister provided in the Estimates Questions on Notice number 16. The number provided by the Minister in that answer is 53 offenders, which is a considerable difference to the number provided in the Estimates hearing.

For the information of the Committee, the answer indicated that 13 offenders have had the allegation that they were a vicious lawless associate withdrawn at court. Some of these offenders have since pleaded guilty and been sentenced to fines, escaping the mandatory 15-year sentences under the VLAD laws.

The Opposition raises this issue to illustrate the large percentage of allegations being withdrawn and to highlight again the statistics being provided by the government through the Estimates process require scrutiny to accurately analyse the performance measures.

Sex offenders

The Opposition has previously placed on the record our concerns with the reduction in the number of years that child sex offenders are required to be on the child sex register. The LNP government's *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* saw mandatory reporting for a convicted child rapist go from 15 years down to 5 years for a first offence and from mandatory life reporting to 10 years for a second rape of a child.

The Opposition supports the increase in yearly reporting to police to more frequent reporting, including through the use of technologies.

Commissioner Stewart gave evidence indicating the reoffending rates of child sex offenders. He told the committee: "The proportion of reoffending is shown to be around 14 per cent to 16 per cent in the first five years after release, four per cent to six per cent at 10 years after release and three per cent to five per cent after 20 years after release. The pattern of reoffending is consistent with recidivist child-sex-offender behaviour in Queensland."

The Opposition remains concerned that, according to the government's own information, some offenders will reoffend in that 5 to 20-year period and not be identified because they have slipped off the register. That the LNP government is willing to risk a reoffending rate of 4 to 6 per cent in the 5 to 10 years after release means they can no longer claim that Queensland is the safest place to raise a family, as the other states have the former government's nationally uniform reporting requirements in place.

Domestic violence statistics

The increase in applications for domestic violence orders and breaches of domestic violence is a worrying trend and all governments must continually improve policing

responses to domestic violence. Importantly, it must be recognised that social and community factors play a role in domestic violence matters which requires a whole of government response, not necessarily a policing response.

When asked about the increase in domestic violence, Minister Dempsey gave a strange explanation when he indicated: “In relation to domestic violence, simply because of there being more police out there, there are more occasions on which police are attending more domestic violence than ever before. What I also want to say is that the occurrences of, as we mentioned before, murders, rapes and sexual offences in relation to domestic violence are down severely as well.”

Evidence from the Gold Coast Crime forum and the Minister’s own parliamentary question on notice have indicated domestic violence is on the rise, not going “down severely” as indicated by the Minister.

With regard to the social factors relating to domestic violence, including the employment rate, the Commissioner indicated that: “It is an unfortunate fact that the Queensland Police Service is dealing with the consequence of a whole range of social issues that are the causal factors of domestic violence. We work very hard with many of the other stakeholders, particularly domestic violence support centres and legal centres, to try to ameliorate the impact of domestic violence in this state. It is true that there has been a trend of recent years to see a rise in the rate of reports of domestic violence.”

The Minister then sought to play politics over this important issue and tried to indicate that the former government was responsible. He implied that police have been unable to attend domestic violence offences because of police numbers, which is recorded in the following exchange:

Mr DEMPSEY: *I say to the member for Rockhampton, if we had not been in such dire straits with the financial situation that was left by the Labor government how many more officers, how many more jobs would police have been able to be out there assisting their communities, how many more resources would be going out to the community sector in relation to domestic violence and so forth? It is all right for him to scream about one angle and then blame, but he has to remember his history when he comes to this committee—through you, Mr Chair.*

Mr BYRNE: *You are saying there is no connection between unemployment and domestic violence?*

Mr DEMPSEY: *You can give it, but you cannot take it.*

Mr BYRNE: *Is that the statement?*

Thankfully, the Commissioner stepped in to indicate that it has never been the case within the Queensland Police Service that domestic violence victims had been given a lower priority and that they have always taken priority over any other outstanding jobs requiring attention. I commend the Commissioner for the following statement and the effort his officers are putting in to reduce domestic violence, given the role they play in the overall social and other contributing factors.

Commissioner Stewart said:

“If I may be given the opportunity to comment, Chair, and thank you for that opportunity, and again thanks, Mr Byrne, for the question. I know how

passionate you are about the safety and security of our most vulnerable people in our community who are our young people, but then probably the second most vulnerable are our women and our elderly. I would like to assure this committee, I would like to assure Mr Byrne, that there is no lack of capacity within the Queensland Police Service to deal with calls for assistance from people in strife, people who are being bashed, people who are being harassed in their homes by a partner or another loved one. That has never been the case. The oath of office that we swear as police officers says, primarily, we are responsible for the safety of our community and that will always take precedence over any other job.”

PSBA

I particularly want to highlight one of the positive initiatives being undertaken by the Public Safety Business Agency. Following the Estimates hearing, the executive of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services also indicated support for the ISO9000 mapping and accreditation.

The Minister was clearly unable to explain what ISO is and how it is being developed throughout his portfolio despite the development of such systems being the major focus of the Keelty Review and the machinery-of-government changes over the last few years.

I am satisfied, despite my previously stated ongoing concerns in relation to shared services models and more importantly the true intentions of the LNP government in this portfolio, that professional and experienced senior executives are employed in the QPS, PSBA, and the QFES and they will eventually have ISO accreditation, which can be used to improve performance management frameworks throughout the portfolio.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Byrne', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Byrne MP

Member for Rockhampton