

Question on Notice
No. 1792
Asked on Wednesday, 15 September 2010

MR WENDT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister report on Borallon Correction Centre and the steps being taken there to reduce recidivism, and what steps are being taken to divert lower risk offenders to non-custodial corrective services sanctions?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and acknowledge his keen interest in seeing programs delivered to offenders to reduce re-offending and boost community safety.

Criminogenic Programs

- Borallon Correctional Centre is contracted by Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) to provide a range of rehabilitation services to prisoners. Upon reception into custody offenders are assessed to determine treatment needs to reduce recidivism. Borallon Correctional Centre delivers four programs including:
 - Getting SMART: a moderate intensity group program for substance abusers;
 - Pathways: a high intensity group program for high risk substance abusers;
 - SMART Recovery: a maintenance program designed to consolidate and support the gains made by offenders in the aforementioned interventions; and
 - Making Choices: a high intensity program designed to address criminal thinking styles and low to moderate risk violent behaviour.
- From 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, there were 105 completions of the aforementioned interventions at Borallon Correctional Centre.
- In September 2010, the Cut Your Losses problem gambling program, facilitated by Relationships Australia and funded by the Department of Communities, commenced its pilot in Borallon Correctional Centre.

Transitional Support

- QCS utilises the Integrated Transitional Support Model to assist prisoners to make a successful transition to the community following a period of incarceration.
- The Integrated Transitional Support Model, which commences in custody and can continue in the community after release, is underpinned by the principle of throughcare. Throughcare is a best practice approach to offender re-entry to the community and assists in reducing recidivism.
- Prisoners at Borallon Correctional Centre, as with other placement centres in Queensland, access reintegration planning through the Integrated Transitional Support Model. The model comprises three key components, the Transitions

Release Preparation Program, the Transitional Support Service and the Offender Reintegration Support Service (ORSS). Through this model of support, offenders are assisted to set realistic goals, identify appropriate support networks and put in place practical plans for re settlement after release from custody.

- From 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 at Borallon Correctional Centre, 52 prisoners completed a Transitions Program, 209 accessed the Transitional Support Service, and 78 of these received further support through the Offender Reintegration Support Service.

Drug Intervention Unit Program

- The Borallon Correctional Centre features a Drug Intervention Unit (DIU), which has the objective of providing a therapeutic environment to assist offenders to overcome drug and alcohol addiction.
- The DIU program is based on the 12 step recovery model and a Therapeutic Community framework, combined with the segregation of participants and a holistic program that aims to address physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.
- The DIU program involves assessment of need and risk, detoxification of participants, group and individual intervention, relapse prevention techniques and throughcare support.
- Prisoner participants are required to commit to the philosophy of the DIU program (ie abstinence and the 12 step framework of recovery); explore issues related to their addiction and recovery honestly in a group setting; live in relative isolation for a minimum of 10 weeks; and agree to undertake voluntary drug testing while residing in the DIU.