

**Question on Notice
No. 1269
Asked on 23 August 2011**

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

Will the Minister advise whether the Department of Corrections (or any of its agencies) has provided any assistance (this includes leasing properties and assisting with or guaranteeing bonds) in relocating parolees (or people on probation) to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands of Russell, Lamb, Karragarra, Macleay and Coochiemudlo Islands and if so, how many individuals have been supported?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services is part of the Department of Community Safety. It funds the Offender Reintegration Support Service (ORSS) which is part of the QCS Integrated Transitional Support Model to assist prisoners with higher risk and reintegration needs, including prisoners exiting custody on a community-based order.

ORSS partners with non-government organisations to provide pre and post release support services to assist prisoners to reintegrate into the community. ORSS provides a range of services that are tailored to the needs of each individual offender and can include transporting offenders from custody and to their initial Probation and Parole appointment, support to apply for Centrelink benefits and accessing a range of services, including doctors, financial counsellors and alcohol and drug services. ORSS is partially funded by the state and federal governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and includes a specific allocation of funding to contracted non government organisations to deliver housing related support services.

The ORSS service in South East Queensland includes the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. However, as at 5 September 2011, there is no record of any current probation and parole offenders who are ORSS clients in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

QCS also administers a post release employment assistance program, Advance2Work, which is delivered by contracted non-government agencies. Advance2Work provides assistance to offenders to gain and maintain employment post release. Offenders are referred by Advance2Work to the Salvation Army Employment Plus that offers assistance to locate and arrange, but not subsidise, their accommodation.

As at 5 September 2011, two (2) offenders in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, supervised by Probation and Parole, are currently involved in the Advance2Work program and have gained assistance to obtain employment by the Salvation Army Employment Plus. Neither of the two offenders have received assistance to locate or arrange accommodation in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

In November 2009 the Macleay Island Reporting Centre was established to enable offenders who reside on the nearby Bay Islands to report as required at minimal cost, ensuring orders of the court are enforced and offenders are able to report as directed. Staff from Redlands District Office visit the Macleay Island Reporting Centre each alternate Wednesday to conduct reporting.