

Question on Notice

No. 170

Asked on 28 February 2017

MR I WALKER ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to lockdowns at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 to date (reported separately) –

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) how many lockdowns took place and (b) what was the total amount of damage to facilities from incidents in the centre?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mansfield for his question.

- (a) The number of lockdowns are as follows: 2013 – 5; 2014 – 4; 2015 – 19; 2016 – 34; and 2017– 5 (as at 28 February 2017).
- (b) The damage caused to facilities from incidents at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC) are detailed below. Unfortunately, the damage caused for the years 2013 and 2014 were not sufficiently recorded and therefore cannot be provided. The damage caused for each year is as follows: 2013 – N/A; 2014 – N/A; 2015 - \$105,057; 2016 - \$254,828; and 2017- \$116,645 (as at 21 February 2017). Note for the 2017 year, that \$74,431 of the \$116,645 is from the significant incident that occurred on 30 January 2017.

Further to the above, the Government has committed \$14.6 million to upgrade the security systems at BYDC in order to maintain safety and security of both staff and young people working in these environments. The existing security management system at BYDC was installed in 1999 and is outdated. It is important that our youth detention centres have first class security systems in place to ensure the safety and security of staff and young people.

The upgrade will comprise all hardware and software systems for door monitoring, electronic door control, CCTV monitoring and recording and perimeter alarms. It also provides oversight of electronic operating systems including fire alarms and intercoms. Importantly, all upgrades to the systems at BYDC will ensure that a greater number of CCTV cameras will be available to maintain safety and security of young people and staff.

The provision of such a significant investment into the security of BYDC is testament to the commitment of this Government to ensure the safety and well-being of young people and staff who work in these challenging environments on a daily basis.

This Government continues to ensure that youth detention centres in Queensland are safe for young people and staff and that security at both BYDC and CYDC is maintained.