

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING
QUESTION ON NOTICE
Crossbench Member Questions

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

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

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

ANSWER:

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

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Crossbench Member Questions

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

With reference to parole suspensions, will the Minister advise:

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

ANSWER:

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

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

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

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

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