

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 1, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to page 23 of the SDS regarding the construction of the new \$570 Million Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law, will the Attorney update the committee on the progress of this major infrastructure project and how the new courthouse will contribute to a stronger justice system for Queensland?

Mr Bleijie:

The magnificent Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law was officially opened on 3 August 2012 by the Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, in the presence of the Premier of Queensland, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and in excess of 300 invited guests. The first day of court sittings at the new building was Monday, 27 August 2012, with 28 courts sitting from commencement.

A strong need existed for a new building as the existing Supreme Court and District Court buildings:

- were being fully utilised and were unable to accommodate any further growth in courts;
- were unable to meet the standards of functionality and service required by the court and court users;
- had major age related defects that could not be cost-effectively rectified; and
- did not allow for cross-use of court rooms between the Supreme Court and the District Court due to movement of judges.

The project has now been delivered within budget, scope and time. Although construction only began in 2008, it was preceded by years of careful planning and design. The focus of the project has now turned to the finalisation of remaining works and warranty matters.

Queenslanders now have a modern, innovative, sustainable, accessible and welcoming courthouse to assist the Judges of both the Supreme Court and the District Court in the administration of justice.

The Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law is the largest court building in Australia and, together with the Brisbane Magistrates Court, has created a legal precinct for the CBD that is unique in this country. With 19 floors boasting approximately 60,000 m² of floor space, the building has 39 operative courtrooms with the capacity to expand to 45 in future.

The vastly improved facilities will result in improved delivery of justice services to Queenslanders with enhanced features for victims of crime, jurors, witnesses, persons-in-custody, lawyers, judges and members of the public.

Jurors will experience a large purpose built jury assembly area and lounge along with separate lifts and circulation spaces to ensure they are adequately supported while undertaking such a vital public service.

Vulnerable witnesses will utilise a separate and distinct evidence recording suite and lounge area, well away from members of the public, defendants and other visitors to the court. The suite, accessible via a restricted and secure lift will ensure vulnerable victims of crime such as children and intellectually handicapped persons can be effectively supported during the difficult and confronting process of giving evidence.

Judges and lawyers will operate from a state of the art building fully equipped to handle technological change with all 39 courtrooms equipped to present evidence electronically. Sixteen of those courts are able to utilise external video links to communicate with witnesses anywhere in the world, leading to a reduction in the necessity for witness travel and consequential delays to court proceedings. Wi-fi internet access is available on all floors for lawyers and other court users in preparing for and presenting cases to court.

Persons in custody will experience a large modern court cells facility with access to natural light and greenery, with secure lifts providing access to courts.

Security for all people using the building is paramount with separate paths of travel available for members of the public, jurors, vulnerable witnesses, persons in custody and judges.

The building also features delightful public spaces and sustainability features that support the people of Queensland. Underfloor displacement air-conditioning is utilised to operate only when needed, and along with low energy lighting controlled by movement detection as well as the maximised use of natural light, wasted power in empty spaces can be eliminated. Solar energy is both collected and deflected, with roof mounted panels storing solar energy for selected lighting and water heating, while simultaneously, a computerised external blind system reduces external heat by shading the building according to sun angles.

The harvesting of rain water is also maximised with a 1.2 million litre underground storage tank to collect water for use on air-conditioning chiller units as well as providing for irrigation.

The delivery of the impressive Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law building assures the people of Queensland that their superior courts are open, transparent and accessible both now and for many years to come.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 2, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, and the importance of protecting children within the community, can the Attorney advise the committee what the Government has done to enhance the protection of children and to ensure that Queensland is the safest place for our children going into the next decade?

Mr Bleijie:

One of this Government's highest priorities since being elected has been to ensure that the Queensland child protection system – in particular, frontline services – are revitalised to give families the support they need to keep children safe.

For too long, the Queensland child protection system has been failing children and families. This Government is committed to taking immediate remedial action to get the child protection system back on track. This Government has acted quickly under its First 100 Days Action Plan to establish the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (the Commission) to conduct a full and careful inquiry of the Queensland child protection system.

The Commission, which was established on 1 July 2012, is being led by Commissioner Tim Carmody SC and is due to report to the Premier by 30 April 2013.

The Commission has been set the important task under its terms of reference to deliver an affordable and effective road map for child protection over the next decade, for improved outcomes for Queensland's vulnerable children and families.

The Commission will also review the implementation of recommendations of the 1999 *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions* and the 2004 Crime and Misconduct Commission's inquiry *Protecting Children: an Inquiry into abuse of children in foster care*.

The terms of reference require the Commission in considering its recommendations, to ensure any reforms proposed are affordable and deliverable, taking into account the fiscal position of the State, and provide for effective and efficient outcomes.

To enable the Commission to undertake this important work, this Government has committed \$6M in 2012–13 to support the Commission's operations.

The Commission has seconded officers from across the Queensland Government to ensure the Commission is staffed by experienced legal, research and policy staff representing a range of disciplines. Staff costs have been minimised by home agencies funding the secondments.

The Commission has initiated an extensive program of public hearings across the State, which commenced in Brisbane on 13 August 2012. The public hearing process

is an important aspect of the Commission's work to gather critical evidence and information about how the child protection system is operating.

In September 2012, the Commission released the paper, *Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry: Emerging Issues*. A discussion paper is due to be published by the end of the year.

When the Commission delivers its recommendations in 2013, it will mark an important milestone for Queensland in setting the future direction for the child protection system and positioning Queensland as one of the safest places for children.

One of the most damaging forms of abuse in our community is child sexual abuse. This Government is committed to protecting the community from sexual predators, in particular those who prey on children and has acted quickly to implement election commitments set out in the First 100 days Action Plan, in particular the pledge to strengthen the sentences for repeat child sex offenders.

The *Criminal Law (Two Strike Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Act 2012*, which commenced on 19 July 2012, requires courts to impose a sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years imprisonment, on offenders convicted of certain repeat child sexual offences. This amendment to Queensland's sentencing laws is expected to have a significant deterrent effect.

The Newman Government is also committed to strengthen the laws for certain child sex offences, in particular by significantly increasing the maximum penalties applicable to the child exploitation material offences; offences involving children with an impairment of the mind; and the offence of using the internet to procure a child under 16 to engage in a sexual act.

A new offence of 'grooming' a child will be introduced to specifically target offenders who engage in grooming conduct with the intention of making it easier for them to procure a child to engage in sexual activity. The new offence will carry a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, increasing to 10 years imprisonment where the child is under 12 years.

Further, amendments will be introduced to close the loophole that effectively provides a defence to incest under the Criminal Code for de-facto parents who have sexual relationships with their partner's children who have attained the age of consent but who are not yet adults.

It is anticipated these legislative reforms will be introduced to Parliament by the end of 2012.

Similarly, work is underway to strengthen the penalties for drug dealers who target children. These amendments recognise that children under 16 are particularly vulnerable to adults who expose them to dangerous drugs and potentially introduce them to the addictive and illegal drug culture.

These policies strive to ensure that adequate punishments are handed down by the courts to serious criminal offenders.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 3, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to Page 4 of the SDS regarding the *Gambling too much?* campaign, will the Attorney update the Committee on the Government's commitment to harm minimisation initiatives and resources that have been allocated to encourage responsible gambling and how this has been supported by the industry?

Mr Bleijie:

The Newman Government views problem gambling as a serious issue and is committed to getting the balance right in terms of creating gambling environments that cater to the needs of the recreational gambler, while at the same time ensuring there are a range of measures in place to protect those that are adversely affected by their gambling.

Although problem gamblers make up a very small percentage of the Queensland population – about 0.37 per cent of the adult population – the harm that can be caused affects individuals, their families and the broader community.

Initiatives to minimise gambling harm will be successful if the Government, industry and the community work together with a sense of shared responsibility and purpose. All stakeholders have a role in minimising gambling-related harm. This is why the Government has recently worked closely with the Queensland Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland to launch a new in-venue problem gambling campaign that encourages patrons to consider whether they are gambling too much. We want to reduce the stigma associated with problem gambling and empower people to get help. We have supplied venues across the state with campaign materials and industry has stepped up and strongly supported the campaign.

The Government continues to support a range of other in-venue strategies such as voluntary pre-commitment which has been proven, through State trials of the technology, to encourage players to think about the affordability of their spending. Industry is also actively supporting this initiative with over 40 Queensland gaming venues adopting this technology.

The Queensland Responsible Gambling Code of Practice has recently been updated by industry, in collaboration with Government and community sectors, to ensure that it continues to support responsible gambling environments and be responsive to changing social, cultural and technological developments.

The Government is funding face-to-face, telephone, online and residential inpatient problem gambling treatment services so that people who are experiencing problems with their gambling can get help and get their lives back on track. We have provided approximately \$2.492 million for the first six months of this financial year to this extensive network of services. A review of the system is currently being finalised and will inform funding going forward.

We will continue to work with industry and the community to deliver strategies that are cost-effective and address the needs of Queenslanders affected by problem gambling.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 4, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to pages 12 - 15 of the SDS and the backlogs in the Magistrates Court and Supreme Court, will the Attorney advise the Committee what has been done to reduce the backlogs in these courts to ensure that justice is provided in an efficient, swift and fair manner?

Mr Bleijie:

This Government is committed to ensuring an efficient and effective justice system for all Queenslanders.

When elected, it promised to restore faith and trust in Queensland's justice system by delivering a system of swift and fair justice.

Population growth and changing demographics in Queensland is increasing the demand for justice services.

While it should be noted that the majority of the year's data in the SDS relates to the courts' performance under the previous Government, one of my first priorities as Attorney-General was to respond to the need expressed by the Chief Justice of Queensland, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC regarding judicial officers.

As promised, the number of Supreme Court judges has increased by one, when the Honourable Justice David Jackson QC was sworn in on Wednesday, 10 October 2012.

Mr David O'Connell was appointed and sworn in as the new Coroner for Central Queensland on 15 August 2012. This further appointment will reduce backlogs and assist in easing the distress of families involved in these proceedings.

The provision of resources and specialist expertise to focus solely on coronial matters will mean improved quality and timeliness of investigations.

I have also recently announced that three additional magistrates will be appointed on a permanent basis. As a result, there will be more full-time magistrates sitting throughout Queensland on a daily basis.

I anticipate that the judicial officer appointments will allow the Chief Justice and Chief Magistrate to manage the workloads of their jurisdictions to maintain the Queensland Courts proficient operations.

I am committed to providing all Queenslanders with access to justice regardless of whether they live in the Brisbane CBD or the most remote areas of the State.

I will continue to work with the Chief Justice and the Chief Magistrate, to discuss any issues that impact the Supreme and Magistrates Courts to provide an efficient and effective justice system for all Queenslanders.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 5, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to Page 4 of the SDS with respect Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court), will the Attorney update the Committee on a trial aimed at reducing the backlog of cases at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, as part of the Government's commitment to a swift and fair justice system for all Queenslanders?

Mr Bleijie:

Queensland Justices of the Peace make a substantial voluntary contribution to the administration of justice in Queensland and this Government recognises these Justices of the Peace and is committed to improving, developing and expanding their role.

This Government is also committed to revitalising frontline justice services to ensure that Queenslanders have access to swift and fair justice through a \$3.5 million commitment to reducing backlogs in the justice system.

Utilising appropriately qualified and experienced Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) to hear and decide certain minor civil disputes (including consumer and trader, residential tenancy and minor debt disputes) less than \$3,000 in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) will free up QCAT Adjudicators and Magistrates to deal with more complex matters.

Justices of the Peace who are selected to participate in this pilot will receive specialised QCAT training and support to equip them with the skills to hear these QCAT disputes.

The program will be delivered through a staged and evaluated pilot to ensure that it enhances the fair, quick, economical and informal dispute resolution in QCAT.

This is a major reform which builds on the success of QCAT to date, in providing an integrated tribunal for the resolution of a wide-range of disputes.

Consultation with key stakeholders will be undertaken once scope for the proposal has been finalised.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 6, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to page 45 of the SDS which outlines the value of the property restrained from Criminals acquired through illegal activities, can the Attorney inform the Committee what further steps have been taken to ensure that individuals do not benefit financially from crime?

Mr Bleijie:

The Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) has the responsibility for administering the civil confiscation scheme under the *Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002* (the Act). The civil confiscation scheme administered by the CMC is not dependent upon a person's conviction on criminal charges before confiscation can be effected.

Under the Act, property may be restrained on the basis of a reasonable suspicion of serious crime related activity. The ultimate forfeiture of restrained property is on the basis of proving on the balance of probabilities an individual has engaged in serious crime related activity.

The Act aims to:

- remove the financial gain associated with major crime; and
- diminish the financial capacity of criminals to continue to engage in illegal conduct.

The ultimate aim of the CMC's proceeds of crime function is to ensure that 'crime does not pay' and that the ill-gotten gains from criminal activity can be re-couped for the people of Queensland.

Restraining orders arise from investigations carried out by the CMC or are the result of matters referred to the CMC by the Queensland Police Service and other law enforcement agencies operating within Queensland, including Commonwealth agencies.

The matters referred to the CMC for proceeds of crime action are the result of law enforcement activity which disrupt and dismantle organised crime networks. Such operations prevent individuals benefiting financially from crime by interrupting the continuity of the criminal networks including the imprisonment of key individuals thereby financially incapacitating the criminal networks.

The government is committed to ensuring crime does not pay and the introduction of new unexplained wealth legislation and drug trafficker declarations to target ill-gotten gains of drug criminals was a pre-election commitment and forms part of the Government's Six Month Action Plan.

Unexplained wealth

Unexplained wealth regimes require persons who live beyond their apparent means to justify the legitimacy of their financial circumstances.

The onus of proof is on the individual whose wealth is in dispute. The State does not have to demonstrate that the wealth has been obtained by criminal activity.

Different versions of 'unexplained wealth' exist in Western Australia, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Commonwealth.

Queensland's unexplained wealth regime is contained in the Act. As indicated above, under this regime the State must prove that the respondent engaged in serious crime-related activity in the previous six years.

The Act will be amended to remove this requirement.

Drug trafficking declarations

Drug trafficking declaration schemes generally provide that once a person has been found guilty of certain prescribed drug offences, that person is declared a 'drug trafficker'.

Once a declaration is made, all property owned or effectively controlled by the 'drug trafficker' before the declaration is made, as well as all property that was given away, is automatically forfeited to the State. It does not matter whether the property confiscated was legitimately obtained.

Drug trafficking declaration schemes currently exist in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. A Bill containing a drug trafficking scheme has been introduced into the South Australian Parliament but has not yet been passed.

Consultation

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is currently undertaking targeted consultation with selected key stakeholders on the appropriate legislative format of these election commitments.

In considering the most appropriate legislative model for Queensland, the Government will look at the reported effectiveness of schemes running in other jurisdictions as well as feedback from stakeholders.

I intend introducing amending legislation into the Legislative Assembly by the end of this year.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 7, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to pages 4 and 21 of the SDS regarding financial assistance for victims of crime, will the Attorney inform the committee how the Government is supporting victims of crime through Victim Assist Queensland and funding grants to community organisations?

Mr Bleijie:

Victim Assist Queensland (Victim Assist) was established as a central point of contact for victims of violent crime to provide timely access to specialist support services and financial assistance.

Victims' LinkUp, Victim Assist's specialist information and referral service provides information on financial assistance and specialist services for victims of violent crime. Victims LinkUp assisted over 17,000 client contacts and referred over 600 victims of violent crime to specialist services in 2011-12.

In 2011-12, Victim Assist's financial assistance unit received over 2,000 applications that have resulted in over \$11.5 million in payments for goods and services to assist victims to recover from the physical and psychological impact of violent crime.

Victim Assist has set the following challenging targets for the timely assessment of applications for financial assistance:

- average of 21 days for assessment of urgent applications for interim and funeral assistance;
- average of 90 days for assessment of applications from primary victims of an act of violence and witnesses of less serious acts of violence; and
- average of 180 days for assessment of applications from related victims, witnesses of more serious acts of violence and parents who have been injured as a result of an act of violence against their child. These matters are more complex as the legislation sets a three month waiting period to notify all potential victims of their right to make an application, before an assessor may make a grant of assistance.

In 2011-12, interim assistance applications were assessed in an average of 12 days and funeral assistance applications in an average of seven days. General assessments for primary victims of an act of violence and witnesses of less serious acts of violence were completed in 70 days on average. Assessments for more complex applications from related victims, witnesses of more serious acts of violence and parents who have been injured as a result of an act of violence against their child were completed in 90 days on average.

In addition, Victim Assist promotes the Fundamental Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime declared in Chapter 2 of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*. Last financial year Victim Assist resolved 17 complaints from victims of crime involving

Queensland Government Agencies and piloted an on-line training package on the Justice Principles within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Victim Assist maintains and develops targeted resources for victims of crime including a comprehensive guide for victims of crime in Queensland. In 2011-12, the agency produced a fact sheet and poster targeted at raising awareness of support services available to Indigenous victims of crime and a webpage to support parents and carers of young people who have been injured by violent crime.

The agency also works closely with government and non-government services supporting victims of crime and has provided training, materials and information sessions to more than 600 organisations across the State in last financial year.

Victims of Crime Funding Program

In 2011-12, Victim Assist administered annual recurrent funding of over \$2.2 million to six non-government organisations to support the following specialist victim of crime services:

- Relationships Australia Queensland received \$1.135 million to deliver a State-wide 24 hour telephone service, face to face and telephone counselling for victims of crime.
- The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group received \$348,000 to deliver a State wide service for people in the aftermath of homicide, including crisis response, specialised grief and trauma services, peer support services, court support and 24 hour telephone support.
- Anglicare Southern Queensland received \$43,000 to support an interactive website for men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse or sexual assault, their partners, family, friends and service providers.
- Central Queensland Community Legal Centre received \$94,000 to provide assistance such as court support, referral, information, community education and training in Central Queensland.
- Women Working alongside Women with Intellectual and Learning Disabilities (WWILD) received \$151,000 to support victims of crime with an intellectual disability, particularly women with an intellectual disability who have experienced sexual assault.
- Protect All Children Today received \$188,000 (part year only) to provide court support to young people in the criminal justice system as victims or witnesses to a crime.

Capacity Building Funding Program

Victim Assist also administers one-off funding of \$100,000 per annum to assist non-government organisations to build the capacity of their organisation to provide services to victims of crime.

From 2009-10 to 2011-12, Victim Assist has administered one off grants for the following six organisations totalling \$100,000 each year, under the capacity building funding program:

- Protect All Children Today (PACT) received \$100,000 in 2009-10 to develop and increase its court support volunteers across the State, particularly in regional

areas. PACT received \$10,000 in 2012-13 to develop a culturally appropriate court support program for Thursday Island.

- WWILD received \$60,000 in 2010-11 to develop training resources (a DVD and booklet) for practitioners working with women with an intellectual disability who have experienced violent crime.
- Anglicare Southern Queensland received \$40,000 in 2010-11 to develop and deliver resources and training for practitioners working with men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.
- Family Planning Queensland received \$65,000 in 2011-12 to improve community awareness and support for victims of sexual assault in Yarrabah.
- Centacare, Catholic Archdiocese Rockhampton received \$22,000 in 2011-12 to train court support volunteers in Mackay and Bundaberg.
- Bravehearts Inc received \$13,000 in 2011-12 to train court support volunteers for adult victims of sexual assault in the Southport to Brisbane corridor. In 2012-13, Bravehearts Inc received \$90,000 to develop and deliver a training program for practitioners providing counselling support to people who have experienced child sexual assault.

Expanded Funding Commitment of a further \$2M Over Four Years

The Queensland Government has committed an additional \$2 million over four years to increase the level of front-line support services currently available to victims of violent crime in Queensland. This is new funding that has never been available before and will complement the Victims of Crime Funding program. Incorporated non-government/not-for-profit organisations or a local government with a focus on delivering services to victims of violent crime are eligible to apply for funding.

Organisations that support victims of crime work tirelessly to help victims overcome devastating circumstances to get their lives back and contribute once again in their local community. This funding demonstrates the Government's support for the valuable work being done by these organisations and recognises the significant and vital contributions they make to the State.

A total pool of \$500,000 is available for allocation over each of the four years up to June 2016 under the Extended Program. Individual applications are limited to a maximum annual level of \$200,000.

Applications for this funding are due close on 19 October 2012, and funding arrangements are expected to be in place in early 2013.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 8, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to pages 4 and 25 of the SDS regarding the refurbishment of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre at Townsville, will the Attorney update the committee on the progress of this major infrastructure project and what improvements to the Centre the refurbishment will achieve?

Mr Bleijie:

Upon assuming office I was advised that, under the former Labor Government's stewardship, this project experienced significant delays. The Newman Government is committed to seeing this project completed and will work to ensure this occurs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The expansion of Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville will allow for an additional 48 detention centre bed places, increasing capacity to 96 at the Centre.

The additional accommodation has been designed for 28 additional male beds, six female beds and six flexi beds that can be used for male or females as required and eight independent living beds. This will enable young females from North and far North Queensland, currently accommodated at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre to be detained closer to their communities and families.

As well as providing additional accommodation, increased service delivery capacity will be provided to assist enhanced delivery of educational and vocational training opportunities as well as therapeutic intervention programs that address offending behaviours and enable young people to re-enter their community.

The expansion project involves construction of additional facilities on a new adjacent site, encompassing the new and current facility within an overall secure perimeter fence, demolition of aged infrastructure and refurbishment of current facilities that will be retained. This refurbishment includes necessary upgrades for the security and fire safety systems.

The first and major stage of the project incorporating 20 new buildings, site infrastructure, extended secure perimeter, associated building services and landscaping is substantially completed.

The installation, testing and commissioning of the integrated security system, which is a critical element of the redevelopment is progressing. Current advice from the Managing Contractor is that this work is expected to be completed by the end of March next year.

The first and major stage of the project incorporating 20 new buildings, site infrastructure, extended secure perimeter, associated building services and landscaping is substantially completed. The installation, testing and commissioning of

the integrated security system, which is a critical element of the redevelopment is progressing **and has been the cause of some significant delays**. Current advice from the Managing Contractor is that this work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2013. The second stage of the redevelopment consisting of the refurbishment and upgrading of the existing facilities will commence following the handover and occupation of the Stage 1 facilities.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 9, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to pages 4 and 10 of the SDS regarding the Youth Boot Camp Diversion Program, will the Attorney outline the role these boot camps will play in providing a diversionary option for young offenders?

Mr Bleijie:

The former Labor Government's slap on the wrist approach has created a generation of arrogant repeat offenders who thumb their nose at the Youth Justice system. The Newman Government is committed to changing the culture of youth crime and will trial two youth boot camp programs to divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

The Sentenced Youth Boot Camp to be trialled in Cairns will provide a diversionary option for young people facing detention. The Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp to be trialled on the Gold Coast will provide a program for young people at risk of long-term involvement in crime, before they come into contact with Youth Justice Services. Family involvement and mentoring is an important feature of both programs.

Young people participating in the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp will be referred to the program by sentencing courts. This program will range from three to six months in length depending on the length of the youth justice order imposed by the courts. For the first month, young people will be located at a residential boot camp facility where they will be under 24/7 supervision and engage in structured activities to provide them with stability and discipline. Program activities will also address the issues that contributed to the young person's involvement in crime such as alcohol and drug use, family dysfunction, mental health issues and poor educational attainment.

After the young person exits the residential boot camp facility they will continue to be supervised and participate in structured activities in the community, while serving the remainder of their youth justice order. A mentoring relationship established at the residential boot camp facility will continue on a voluntary basis after the young person completes their youth justice order.

Young people participating in the Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp will be referred to the program by services that have regular contact with young people such as the police, schools and health services.

This program is voluntary and will take up to three months to complete and starts with a ten day boot camp in a natural setting. Young people will have the opportunity to develop skills and re-think issues by participating in activities that place them in challenging situations (such as overnight hikes). After the ten day camp is complete, young people will return to the community and be referred to support services to help them address factors that may lead them to future involvement in crime. Depending

on the needs of the young person, referrals may be made to health services, individual and/or family counselling and flexible learning/employment services. A five day camp will take place at the end of the program to celebrate achievements and reinforce lessons learnt.

A total of 80 young people will participate in the two year trial which will be evaluated to determine if participation in the programs results in a reduced likelihood of involvement in crime.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 10, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

With reference to pages 4 and 23 of the SDS regarding the establishment of a permanent coroner's office in Central Queensland, will the Attorney outline how the establishment of this office will assist to reduce lengthy waiting times for the finalisation of coronial matters in this region?

Mr Bleijie:

This Government has acted swiftly to address pressures on the coronial system by appointing a new Central Coroner, Mr David O'Connell. The Central Coroner is based in Mackay and will investigate reportable deaths in a region extending from Proserpine to Gayndah commencing from 1 October 2012.

The appointment responds to concerns raised in the State Coroner's 2009-10 Annual Report about the disparity in coronial services being provided across the state citing lack of specialised expertise and pressure of general court work in areas not served by a full time coroner.

Until now 70 per cent of reportable deaths have been reported to five full time coroners based in Brisbane, Cairns and Southport. The remaining 30 per cent of deaths have been reported to local magistrate coroners in 16 magistrates court registries across Central and Western Queensland. In recent years it has become more difficult for local coroners to fit coronial work around general court duties and a backlog of cases has grown.

Since 2007-08, there has been a significant increase in demand for coronial services state-wide. From 2007-08 to 2011-12, deaths reported increased by 27 per cent from 3,514 to 4,461. A backlog of cases has also grown and at the end of 2011-12, there were 328 cases that were older than 24 months old.

Any delay in investigating deaths causes unnecessary distress to family members, which is why this Government has taken steps to adequately resource the coronial system.

The establishment of a Central Coroner's office will improve the quality and timeliness of coronial investigations in the region and reduce the backlog of cases because deaths will be investigated by a dedicated coroner with specialist knowledge and full time support staff.

The appointment of full time coroners enhances justice service delivery by taking the pressure off local magistrates and improving access to justice for regional Queenslanders. It facilitates the development of consistent practices and increases productive working relationships with local coronial partners including police and hospitals which contributes significantly to the efficiency of the coronial system.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 11, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 of the 2012-13 Budget, will the Minister advise how many positions (broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract) have been abolished since 26 March 2012 in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, listed by job title, salary level and location and/or departmental region?

Mr Bleijie:

No positions have yet been abolished as a result of the voluntary redundancy process as the first members of staff are not due to leave until 19 October 2012.

Since 26 March 2012, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has abolished 750 positions as follows:

Permanent	578
Temporary	172
Casual	0

It should be noted that the majority relate to the management of the Department's Establishment and would have occurred irrespective of Budget and fiscal repair measures.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 12, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to table 5.4 on page 88 of Budget Paper 2, which shows a decrease in current grants funding by the Queensland Government in 2012-13, will the Minister list all grant funding allocations that have been cut by the Department of Justice and Attorney-general for non-government and community organisations and projects in the 2012-13 State Budget, including the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund, listed in the same format as used by the Health Minister in response to Question on Notice 445?

Mr Bleijie:

After 14 years of wasteful spending by an irresponsible Labor Government, that left Queensland with a legacy of debt and deficit, the Newman Government conducted a thorough review of spending among all Departments to identify areas where savings could be made and efficiency could be improved.

Attachment A provides a list of those grant allocations that were ceased in the 2012-13 budget deliberations.

State funding was ceased to the Queensland Working Women's Service which received \$747,374 from the Queensland Government in 2011-12. The service provides free advice to women on workplace issues and was jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments.

Queensland referred regulatory power over private sector industrial relations to the Commonwealth in 2010. The majority of the working women's service relates to organisations in the federal industrial system. It is therefore appropriate that the Commonwealth provides funds, or makes available the services provided by Queensland Working Women's Service.

The review by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to drive efficiencies and reduce expenditure identified two workplace health and safety grants that could be cut. In 2011-12, DJAG provided grant funding of \$375,000 to Queensland Council of Unions and \$391,324 to Farmsafe Queensland. DJAG has identified that this work can be absorbed through its regional inspectorate, industry programs and dedicated education and advisory services.

I would like to also advise the Committee that DJAG is undertaking a review of the grants provided for Gambling Help Service. In 2011-12, the Government provided \$4.985 million in grants for this purpose to various non-government organisations. The service agreements with the non-government organisations expired on 30 June 2012 and it is important that the government review the efficacy of gambling help services. Funding for existing services has been extended for six months to 31 December 2012 pending the finalisation of the review and deliberations on the future

of these services. The Committee should note no decision has been made to cut or change the level of funding for these services at present.

The Committee has also requested information on the grants allocations from the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) which are not part of the current grants funding by the Queensland Government as disclosed in Budget Paper 2.

The grant allocations from LPITAF totalled \$36.7 million in 2011-12. The 2012-13 grant allocation is forecast to increase to \$36.8 million.

Given the limited LPITAF funding resources available and budgetary pressures across the Community Legal Centre sector, it was necessary to make difficult decisions about the funding allocations to LPITAF beneficiaries. Accordingly, it was determined to cease all recurrent LPITAF and State funding to three groups, effective 30 June 2012.

The LPITAF funding of \$269,126 saved by these changes, has been reprioritised to other CLCs , namely:

- the Women's Legal Service receiving \$250,000 for the next three years to reinstate the rural phone line service; and
- a non-recurrent contribution of \$19,126 to the Caxton Legal Centre to support its Consumer Law Service.

The cessation of State funding to two Community Legal Centres represents a saving of \$47,000 to the Consolidated Fund for the 2012-13 financial year and ongoing.

I have also approved a review be undertaken in the 2012-13 financial year, to consider the current allocation of LPITAF funding provided to LPITAF recipients and the efficiency and effectiveness of current services delivered through these funding arrangements, which incorporates CLC funding.

The objective of the review is to establish a new model of transparent decision-making so that all LPITAF funding allocations are directed and applied in a manner that maximises service delivery to Queenslanders across the state, while ensuring the ongoing viability of the LPITAF. The Queensland Government, through LPITAF, is committed to funding CLCs in the delivery of services to vulnerable Queenslanders.

Attachment A

Organisation	Project	2011-12 funding (ex GST)	End Date
Department of Justice and Attorney General			
Queensland Working Women's Service	Advice to women on Workplace Issues	747,374	30/06/2012
Queensland Council of Unions	Workplace Health and Safety training and education	375,000	30/06/2012
Farmsafe Queensland	Workplace Health and Safety training and education	391,324	30/06/2012
LPITAF			
Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc-Brisbane	Provision of community legal services for Queensland State LPITAF	37,738	30/06/2012
		60,058	
Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland Inc	Provision of community legal services for Queensland State LPITAF	9,888	30/06/2012
		90,114	
Sisters Inside Inc	Provision of community legal services for Queensland LPITAF	114,860	30/06/2012

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 13, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to Schedule 2 in the *Appropriation Bill 2012*, outlining the 2012-13 funding allocations for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, will the Minister list every work unit, branch and/or division that has been abolished within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and the number of staff positions contained within each abolished work area, as part of the process of developing the 2012-13 State Budget?

Mr Bleijie:

As part of the development of the 2012-13 budget process, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General abolished two work units. These were the Sentencing Advisory Council and the Queensland Workplace Rights Ombudsman.

The number of staff positions contained within these work units was:

Work unit	Vacant positions	Filled positions
Sentencing Advisory Council	5	5
Queensland Workplace Rights Ombudsman	0	12

In implementing the budget savings strategies, other work units will be affected. However, the details are still being finalised.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 14, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 9 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General and I ask the Minister to detail what proportion of the reduction of 638 FTE positions can be attributed to each of the Voluntary Separation Program, the Agency Saving Initiatives and the Employment Management Program.

Mr Bleijie:

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General can attribute the proportion of the reduction of 638 FTE positions accordingly:

- Voluntary Separation Program 25%;
- Agency Savings Initiative 47% (it should be noted that this program will span the whole 2012/13 financial year); and
- Establishment Management Program 28%.

**Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**

Question on Notice No. 15, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 14 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General and I ask the Minister, given the very high client satisfaction rate with the WHSQ inspectorate services of 94%, what consultation was undertaken with workplaces before the decision was made to drastically reduce these services?

Mr Bleijie:

Currently, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has a higher ratio of inspectors to employees when compared to Australia as a whole and more specifically to New South Wales and Victoria. Over the next six months the size of the Queensland inspectorate will be reduced to bring inspector numbers in line with the ratio of inspectors to employees in New South Wales and Victoria.

The reduction in inspector numbers will not result in a decline in workplace health and safety inspectors' capacity to respond to critical incidents and complaints.

WHSQ has a history of high client satisfaction.

Clients rate inspectors highly on a number of measures:

- their professional approach;
- taking the time to fully understand the needs and situation of the client;
- making the course of action for the client clear;
- responding adequately to complicated queries or issues;
- listening to the views of the client; and
- their competency, knowledge and skills.

Although already high in 2010, over the last two years there has been an increase in clients' level of satisfaction on all of these measures.

This coincides with a change in focus over the last two years from traditional one-on-one interventions focused on compliance to more advisory interventions. Advisory interventions aim at having a broader impact on workplaces and industry in order to deliver wide ranging and sustained improvements to health and safety management and practice within the workplace.

In 2010, WHSQ re-engineered its business to centralise its incident notifications function. This was implemented to ensure that only those incidents and complaints that need to be dealt with through an inspector contact are referred to the inspectorate. All other notifications are dealt with centrally to create a more efficient and responsive service. This central area, called the Assessment and Advisory Centre, is responsible for triaging of incident notifications and requests for a regulator response to WHS issues. Triaging of events is an essential method of addressing demand for inspector resources and ensures they are targeted toward the areas of greatest need.

For instance, face-to-face interventions will always be required for fatalities whereas a low risk safety complaint about amenities, such as the number of toilets required under a specific code of practice, can be addressed by intervention over the phone.

Delivery of services is also provided through cost-effective and multiple-contact channels such as workshops and on-line resources. Industry films are available on the WHSQ website and YouTube profile and have helped increase awareness of health and safety in the workplace.

Through the use of the internet and specific initiatives WHSQ has been engaging business to implement WHS initiatives which are not controlled by WHSQ. That is, Government becomes the facilitator not the doer.

For example, WHSQ established transport safety networks in nine locations across the state. Over 250 members, primarily from the road freight transport industry, have attended to date to discuss issues such as falls from trucks; loading, unloading and securing loads; hazardous manual tasks; and interactions between forklifts, other mobile plant and pedestrians.

The transport safety networks create an opportunity and environment for transport operators to work together to identify practical, low cost/high impact solutions to the common issues they all face. The networks also provide the opportunity for WHSQ to provide guidance, assistance and targeted information to a priority industry sector in an efficient and direct way.

The Injury Prevention and Management Programme (IPAM) was also established in January 2011. A team of 11 IPAM advisors were employed under this program to assist employers to improve their injury prevention, rehabilitation and return to work systems. The team has been actively working with 200 priority employers since January 2011. They work with the employers for up to a 12 month period, assisting the employers to manage health and safety and get workers back to work faster; with a longer term benefit of cutting workers' compensation premiums. WorkCover data indicates some pleasing trends in employers participating in the program. For the 200 employers who have been case managed, the total statutory claims costs have decreased by more than \$2 million.

This approach will be maintained over the coming years and will not be affected by the slight decline in inspector numbers. Nevertheless, the Newman Government has had to make the tough economic decisions, thanks to the previous Labor Government's legacy of debt and deficits. This will not deter our effort to revitalise frontline services and get value for money for Queensland taxpayers.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 16, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 24 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General and I ask the Minister whether he is prepared to guarantee that there will be no diminution of protection against injury for Queensland workers with the reduction of workplace health and safety inspectors?

Mr Bleijie:

Currently, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has a higher ratio of inspectors to employees when compared to Australia as a whole and more specifically to New South Wales and Victoria. Over the next six months the size of the Queensland inspectorate will be reduced to bring inspector numbers in line with the ratio of inspectors to employees in New South Wales and Victoria.

The reduction in inspector numbers will not result in a decline in work health and safety standards or an inspector's capacity to respond to critical incidents and complaints.

There are over 164,000 employing businesses in Queensland (2010-11) and WHSQ had 216 field active staff in 2011-12 to provide advisory and compliance services. To make the existing inspectorate resources more efficient, over recent years WHSQ has focused on:

- an increasing reliance on education and raising awareness within industry of work health and safety issues through the department's website presence, communication campaigns and on-line materials;
- building an evidenced based approach to strategically target compliance and awareness activity to the areas with the highest rates of injury such as high risk industries including construction, manufacturing, rural and transport; and
- working with WorkCover Queensland to strategically engage poor performing employers to build relevant safety management systems and reduce fatality and injury rates.

For example, the Injury Prevention and Management initiative assists employers whose workers' compensation premiums are capped at twice the industry premium rate to improve their injury prevention and injury management systems. Advisors located across the state have been working directly with employers with the poorest claims rates. Advisors assist those businesses to conduct hazard and safety system assessments and develop safety practices and solutions through business improvement plans. Workers compensation data for the 2011-2012 calendar year shows positive trends in terms of health and safety improvements and a reduction in claims and costs for these employers and overall costs to the workers' compensation scheme.

WHSQ is also investigating delivery models that maximise flexibility. For example, using inspectors based in South East Queensland to go into regional areas to conduct compliance audits during work peaks created during construction of mining projects such as those currently underway in central Queensland. This business model creates responsive and flexible services based on demand rather than appointing permanently based inspectors to those regions.

In addition, over recent years WHSQ has strongly promoted an approach to its staff that where ever possible, innovative strategies need to be employed to ensure that multiple businesses/workers are touched by single interventions. This has been called the “multiplier effect”, the rationale being that with finite resources, WHSQ should only use traditional one-on-one contact with businesses in specific circumstances such as critical incident investigations and complaints management.

Through the use of the internet and specific initiatives WHSQ has been engaging business to implement WHS initiatives which are not controlled by WHSQ. That is, Government as the facilitator not the doer. Encouraging regulatory forces other than direct government regulation will increase compliance with societal expectations which, in turn, mean fewer requirements for direct government regulation. WHSQ is continuing to examine an expansion of these types of initiatives.

The Newman Government has had to make some tough economic decisions, thanks to the previous Labor Government’s legacy of fiscal mismanagement. This will not deter our efforts to revitalise frontline services and get value for money for Queensland taxpayers.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 17, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 51 of the Budget Measures document (Budget Paper Number 4) and the savings of \$8 million in operational savings across all areas of the Department of Justice of Attorney-General and I ask the Minister what services were provided in 2011-12 by the Workplace Rights Ombudsman and whether any other section of the Department will take on responsibility for these functions?

Mr Bleijie:

The Workplace Rights Ombudsman and his staff provided employers and employees advice about their obligations and responsibilities under the State and federal industrial relations systems. They helped during the transition to a National System as a result of the referral of Queensland's industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth.

Now that the referral is complete and the Commonwealth Government has a Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) that undertakes similar work, it is no longer considered necessary for the Queensland Government to maintain the functions associated with this Office.

In 2010, an external consultant appointed to undertake an independent review of the Queensland Workplace Rights Office also reached a similar conclusion; that the Commonwealth should assume full responsibility for the national workplace relations system.

The federal FWO continues to provide industrial relations information and advice to Queensland's private sector employers and employees.

Queensland's industrial relations inspectorate will continue to provide compliance and information services on state industrial relations as well as:

- long service leave entitlements;
- child employment;
- private employment agents; and
- trading hours.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 18, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 51 of the Budget Measures document (Budget Paper Number 4) and the savings of \$8 million in operational savings across all areas of the Department of Justice of Attorney-General and I ask the Minister, as the Department of Justice and attorney-General is responsible for providing advice on justice policy according to page 1 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Budget Paper Number 5) and has a strategic objective to improve frontline justice services, how can they defend the decision to cut funding to Tenant Advice and Advocacy Services across the State?

Mr Bleijie:

The cessation of funding to the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service was not a decision of this Portfolio.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 19, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 55 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Budget Paper Number 5) and I ask the Minister what is the capacity of Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) to provide legal advice, information and advocacy services now that funding has been cut to the Tenants' Union of Queensland (TUQ)? Has additional funding been provided to LAQ or to community legal centres which will now be required to provide the services previously provided by TUQ?

Mr Bleijie:

Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) provides free legal information and referrals about tenancy matters through its website and free state-wide call centre.

Where needed, LAQ will refer clients seeking further assistance about a tenancy matter to the Residential Tenancies Authority, an appropriate community legal centre or the Queensland Law Society.

LAQ does not provide specialist advice or advocacy services for clients in tenancy matters beyond information and referral.

LAQ will continue to fund its information and referral for tenancy matters from within its general Queensland Government funding.

The Labor Government left a legacy of debt and deficit and the Newman Government has made tough decisions to get the State back on track.

Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearing 2012
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Question on Notice No. 20, Thursday, 11 October 2012

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie)

I refer to page 10 of the Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Budget Paper Number 5) and I ask the Minister, given the Government's commitment to Youth justice early intervention programs and the priority to reintegration of juvenile offenders into the community, what alternatives are in place to reengage at-risk young people with education and training so as to discourage offending behaviour now that funding has been cut to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work – Get Set for Work program?

Mr Bleijie:

The Newman Government has had to make tough decisions to repair the legacy of debt and deficit left by the former Labor Government. We are also committed to changing the culture of youth crime and reducing the number of repeat offenders by teaching young people about values, discipline, respect and responsibility.

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work – Get Set for Work* program was a needless duplication of Federal Government initiatives which already supports employment programs for young people. This sort of duplication of funding was typical of the former Labor Government's frivolous approach to spending. Supporting young offenders to get the right support at the right time underpins the Newman Government's approach to helping young offenders make better choices around education and training.

The Government will achieve this through partnerships between Youth Justice Services, the Department of Education, Training and Employment, Queensland Health and other key partner agencies. These partnerships are supported by Collaborative Case Management Panels which enable key stakeholders to work collaboratively in the development of case plans that seek improved outcomes for young offenders.

Youth Justice Employment Project officers (EPO) are also located in Townsville, Hervey Bay, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Ipswich and Woodridge Youth Justice Service Centres. These officers provide intensive support for young people with localised job readiness programs and support the development of local innovative responses.

Further, the Queensland Government has committed \$2 million for a two year youth boot camp trial which is due to commence in Cairns and on the Gold Coast in early 2013. The trials will work with 80 young people over two years. They will likewise be underpinned by government and non-government partnerships and offer intensive case management of young offenders. The boot camp trials will involve discipline, structure, physical training, family support, and social skill development. One of the key aims of the boot camp trials will be to re-engage young people with either education or training.