



Tabled by Trevor Watts MP.  
At LACSC Est hearing  
Date 26 July 2019.  
Signature [Signature]  
Minister for Police and  
Minister for Corrective Services

Ref No: 2019/11188 JF

08 JUL 2019

Mrs Deb Frecklington MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
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Dear Mrs Frecklington

I refer to your recent representations to the Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, about young offenders in watchhouses.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that young offenders may be held in a watchhouse while they are awaiting their first court appearance, sentencing or transfer to a youth detention facility. The QPS works closely and collaboratively with the Department of Youth Justice to manage the accommodation of young offenders in police custody. The safety and wellbeing of all persons in police custody is of a paramount concern to the QPS.

I am advised that no young offender aged 10 years of age has spent more than an overnight stay in a watchhouse and I have been assured that no young offender has ever been placed into a cell with paedophiles.

Further, QPS has advised that young offenders who display or express self-harm ideations are placed into appropriate clothing to ensure the highest standards of safety and wellbeing for the young offenders are maintained, including the provision of clean underwear daily. Each young offender has access to constant clean drinking water in addition to delivered water and milk five times per day.

I have been assured by the QPS that if a young offender held in a watchhouse becomes ill, they are transferred to a hospital for immediate medical treatment and diagnosis.

I can advise that this government is currently funding a number of youth partnership initiatives to divert young people from crime, including high risk youth court, after hours youth diversion services and cultural mentoring.

-2-

I trust this information is helpful to you. Should your office require further information, Ms Ellen McIntyre, Chief of Staff, is available on 3035 8300.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Mark Ryan MP  
**Minister for Police and  
Minister for Corrective Services**

CC: The Honourable Di Farmer MP  
Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence