FRIDAY, 24 JULY 2026

ESTIMATES—JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE—ATTORNEY-GENERAL; JUSTICE; INTEGRITY

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine)
Mr Deputy Speaker (Mr Jon Krause MP, Scenic Rim)

Committee Members

Mr MA Hunt MP—Chair
Mr MC Berkman MP
Hon. GJ Butcher MP
Mr SM Dillon MP
Hon. DE Farmer MP
Mr RD Field MP
Ms ND Marr MP
Mr LP Power MP
Mr PS Russo MP
Hon. MAJ Scanlon MP

Members in Attendance

Ms NA Boyd MP
Dr CAC Rowan MP
Hon. MT Ryan MP

In Attendance

Hon. DK Frecklington, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity
Mr Ben Murphy, Chief of Staff
Mr Zac Dennien, Adviser

Department of Justice
Ms Sarah Cruickshank, Director-General

Crime and Corruption Commission
Mr Bruce Barbour, Chairperson

Electoral Commission of Queensland
Mr Pat Vidgen PSM, Electoral Commissioner

Office of the Information Commissioner
Ms Joanne Kummrow, Information Commissioner

Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner
Ms Linda Waugh, Queensland Integrity Commissioner

Queensland Family and Child Commission
Mr Luke Twyford, Chief Executive and Principal Commissioner

Queensland Human Rights Commission

Ms Deborah Platz APM, Human Rights Commissioner

The committee met at 9.00 am.

Mr SPEAKER: I declare this hearing of the estimates for the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee open. I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

I am Pat Weir, the member for Condamine and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Under the provisions of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 I will preside over today's hearing. The members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee are: Mr Marty Hunt MP, member for Nicklin, who is the chair; Mr Peter Russo MP, member for Toohey, who is the deputy chair; Ms Natalie Marr MP, member for Thuringowa; Mr Russell Field MP, member for Capalaba; the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, member for Gaven, substituting for Melissa McMahon MP, member for Macalister; and Mr Michael Berkman MP, member for Maiwar. The committee is joined by other members who have been granted leave to attend and ask questions at the hearing today.

I remind everyone present that any person may be excluded from the proceedings at the chair's discretion or by order of the committee. Please note that the first three rows of the gallery are reserved for the department, associated schedule 7 entities and ministerial staff supporting the Attorney-General. Members and others who are attending to observe are welcome to sit in the remaining rows or in the gallery upstairs. The committee has authorised its hearing to be broadcast live, televised and photographed. Copies of the committee's conditions for broadcast of proceedings are available from the secretariat. Staff who are assisting our witnesses here today are permitted to use personal electronic devices in the chamber. I ask all present to ensure phones and other electronic devices are switched to silent mode or turned off if not in use. I also remind everyone that food and drink is not permitted in this chamber.

The House has determined the program for the committee's estimates hearing. Today the committee will examine the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 2026 for the portfolio areas of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, the Minister for Police and Emergency Service and the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. I remind honourable members that matters relating to these portfolio areas can only be raised during the times specified for each area as agreed by the House. I refer members to the program set by the House available throughout the chamber and on the committee's webpage.

The first session will examine the proposed expenditure of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity until 12.15 pm. We will suspend proceedings for an intermission from 10.30 am until 10.45 am. I remind everyone that these proceedings are subject to the standing orders and rules of the Legislative Assembly. In respect of government owned corporations and statutory authorities, standing order 180(2) provides that a member may ask any question that the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the relevant appropriation bill or otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate public guarantees are being provided.

On behalf of the committee, I welcome the Attorney-General, the director-general, officials, departmental officers and members of the public. For the benefit of *Hansard* I ask officials to identify themselves the first time they answer a question referred to them by the Attorney-General or the director-general. Please remember to press your microphones on before you start speaking and off when you are finished. I now declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of the Attorney-General and Department of Justice and associated statutory bodies open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Attorney-General, the committee has resolved that you may offer two opening statements of up to five minutes. You may now make your first opening statement if you so wish.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you very much to the committee. The Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we said we would do by building a modern, fit-for-purpose, justice system that prioritises victims. I would like to thank everyone from the Department of Justice for working so hard, not just on this budget and estimates, but every day to deliver faster and fairer justice for Queenslanders. I also extend that gratitude to my ministerial staff.

One of the most effective touchstones of public confidence in good government is scrutiny and accountability concerning taxpayers' money, so as the Minister for Integrity may I also take this opportunity to recognise the invaluable role of estimates proceedings in our democracy. My broad-ranging portfolio includes ensuring a number of statutory bodies are focused on delivering a justice system that prioritises victims, that is fast, fair and transparent and that makes our community safer. While Labor shirked these responsibilities, we are getting on with the job, from restoring the reporting powers of the CCC to strengthening the independence of the Integrity Commissioner to rebuilding capacity at Forensic Science Queensland after Labor's DNA debacle.

The Crisafulli government appointed the Child Death Review Board to examine, under the Queensland Family and Child Commission Act, system responses to child sexual abuse using Ashley Paul Griffith's offending as a case study. The 2026-27 state budget delivers on recommendations of the board's *In plain sight* report with a quarter of a billion dollars to establish the new Queensland Protection Commission. In doing so, we are putting an end to the siloed information, fragmented responsibilities and enormous sector and interagency gaps that previously allowed, under the former Labor government, child sex offenders to escape detection. The QPC will bring the Reportable Conduct Scheme, Child Safe Standards and working with children checks under one roof.

I wish to take this opportunity to provide an update on how the Crisafulli government is investing even further to address Labor's child protection failures. After the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse handed down its recommendations in 2017, Labor committed to implementing a Reportable Conduct Scheme, yet failed to act until the dying days of their administration seven years later. Even then there was no sense of urgency. The Crisafulli government has allocated $4.2 million over two years to fast-track by 12 months the implementation of the Reportable Conduct Scheme for all relevant sectors, which enabled it to start on 1 July this year.

I can reveal today that in the scheme's first three weeks, the Queensland Family and Child Commission has received 205 reportable conduct notifications and opened 174 cases. Of those matters, more than 60 involved alleged criminal conduct and have now been referred to police. As a result of the scheme's information-sharing arrangements, Worker Screening Services have suspended 15 blue cards, which has prevented, in at least one case, a person who sought to move workplaces from starting in the new role. Notifications received to date have come from a range of sectors, with 72 reports coming from the early childhood education and care sector, 40 reports from the accommodation/residential sector, 46 reports from the education sector, 15 reports from the child safety sector and nine reports from the religious sector. That is 127 reports across the early childhood, religious and education sectors alone which could not have been made or investigated under Labor, leaving Queensland children vulnerable to harm.

As well, the Crisafulli government has invested $200 million in this budget to implement our response to 52 recommendations from the commission of inquiry we launched into Queensland's child safety system. Labor's refusal to protect victims across its decade of decline left a costly human toll. After the litany of failures the Crisafulli government is committed to restoring community safety, security and confidence. Our budget is central to that action, strengthening the foundations for the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to opposition questions. We are joined by the member for Morayfield for the first question.

Mr RYAN: My first question is to the Integrity Commissioner in respect of section 12 of the Integrity Act. Ms Waugh, in respect of your functions to provide advice to designated persons on ethics and integrity issues, is the special commissioner role appointed under the Public Sector Act a designated person pursuant to section 12 of the Integrity Act?

Ms Waugh: Yes, it is a statutory office holder.

Mr RYAN: Integrity Commissioner, it is correct under section 20 of the Integrity Act that—

The chief executive of a public service entity may ask for the integrity commissioner's advice on an ethics or integrity issue involving a designated person ...

Ms Waugh: Yes.

Mr RYAN: Integrity Commissioner, Director-General Walker, the chief executive for the Special Commissioner for Regional and Rural Queensland, stated at estimates—

... Mr Cripps sought Integrity Commissioner advice and put together, which is required, a conflict-of-interest declaration to the Premier. One assumes he has appropriately dealt with this matter, particularly given he had received Integrity Commissioner advice.

Commissioner, is it correct that the director-general, as the responsible chief executive for that designated person, can request ethics and integrity advice about them?

Ms Waugh: I may have to take that question on notice. I am not sure in the case of a special commissioner, which is a statutory office holder. It may only be the minister who can seek that advice. I will get a response to you before the end of the hearing.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Just before the end of the hearing, thank you, Ms Waugh.

Mr RYAN: Ms Waugh, page 40 of the SDS states—

- advising the Premier on standard-setting for ethics and integrity issues, when requested

I am advised that a review of the Premier's published diaries for the last financial year contains no meetings with you. Can you advise whether you have been requested by the Premier to provide standard setting for ethics and integrity issues?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: in relation to the question as asked, I seek your clarification with respect to portfolio related matters and whether that question should have been put in the Premier's section on Tuesday of this week, with respect to that portfolio?

Mr RYAN: On that point of order, Speaker, it is about resourcing to the Integrity Commissioner's office and the role of the Integrity Commissioner. It is right that this question be put to the Integrity Commissioner.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: if the point of order that the member for Morayfield puts goes to the budgeting of the Integrity Commissioner, that sits squarely under my budget and the director-general.

Mr RYAN: That is my point, Speaker. It should be answered by the Integrity Commissioner in this session.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: But the question is not to the budget.

Mr SPEAKER: Some of these are a little grey. The Integrity Commissioner can decide whether or not it sits under her remit and answer accordingly.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order: again, I do not believe the question as put relates directly to this session. I would make that point again in relation to the question as framed and asked. Does it potentially need rephrasing in order to comply with this session?

Mr SPEAKER: I will hear the question again so that I am clear. Please repeat the question, member for Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: Can you advise: have you been requested by the Premier to provide standard setting for ethics and integrity issues?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: Mr Speaker, I would submit to you that ministers are not required to disclose discussions with the Integrity Commissioner. That is what they are asking in relation to Integrity Commissioner advice.

Mr SPEAKER: I would assume that the Integrity Commissioner would be well aware of what she can and cannot discuss. I am going to go to the Integrity Commissioner.

Ms Waugh: Those particular functions are all under chapter 3 of the Integrity Act and that is covered by the secrecy provisions of section 24.

Mr RYAN: My next question is to Mr Barbour, the Chair of the CCC. Mr Barbour, the former CCC chairperson said—

If you're using a private email address to conduct official business, the first question that any layperson would ask is 'why are you doing that?'

In respect of the revelations at the Premier's estimates that Special Commissioner Andrew Cripps has allegedly been using his private email for work purposes, does the CCC have adequate resources to investigate this matter?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order in relation to standing order 115: the question as framed by the member for Morayfield appears to be seeking an opinion.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was around resources. I think Mr Barbour will be able to answer that.

Mr Barbour: Any matter that would come to the commission would be appropriately assessed to determine whether or not it should be the subject of an investigation. I do not have any resource constraints that would prevent that process from happening in relation to any matter that came to us.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, in respect of the requirement for the CCC to seek the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions prior to making a decision about whether or not a prosecution will be formally recommended, can you advise the average turnaround time for that advice and whether there have been any delays in getting advice back from the DPP that has prevented you from progressing matters in a timely matter?

Mr Barbour: The memorandum of understanding that has been in place with the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to providing advice on potential prosecutions has been in place since July 2023. The initial dealings in those matters were subject to some delays in relation to specific matters. I am pleased to say that in recent times referrals have been returned within the 10-week timeline that is contemplated for the provision of advice under the MOU. There are occasions when that timeline is not met, but on the whole we are seeing an improvement in terms of the response.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, to confirm, is the CCC satisfied with the current resource arrangements within the CCC and to the DPP to manage advice required under the legislation by the DPP to the CCC to progress matters?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: that is seeking an opinion under standing order 115(c)(i).

Dr ROWAN: On a further point of order, I believe there was also an inference in the question.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not pick up an inference.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: if I can clarify, the honourable member is asking an independent authority to comment on the budget of another section of the ODPP. It is not a budgetary question directed to the CCC. It is a budgetary question about the opinion of the commissioner about the ODPP's budget.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: the question was around resource arrangements within the CCC and the DPP. I am not asking for an opinion. I am asking for the position of the CCC.

Mr SPEAKER: I thought Mr Barbour answered that in the previous question. If you are happy to—

Mr Barbour: I am certainly happy to answer the question from the member, thank you. I have no comment in relation to the Director of Public Prosecutions' budget. That clearly is not a matter for me to speak on. In terms of our budget, I see no impediment to us working effectively with the DPP.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, does your budget contain any additional funding to support the establishment of a police integrity unit in Queensland?

Mr Barbour: We have not received any additional funding in relation to anything associated with a potential police integrity unit.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, does your budget contain any additional funding to support the Crime and Corruption Commission's oversight of the Queensland Police Service complaints?

Mr Barbour: We have not specifically received any additional funding in relation to police complaints. Our existing funding covers those responsibilities.

Ms SCANLON: Has your organisation had any further conversations with government regarding the establishment of a police integrity unit and the appropriate funding required for that?

Mr Barbour: I am limited in terms of what I can say in response to that. I can confirm that we have had two meetings, both in April this year, in relation to matters associated with the PIU, or a potential PIU. Those discussions were categorised as cabinet-in-confidence so I am not in a position to say anything further in relation to that.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, in relation to the CCC's function to 'combat major crime and reduce corruption' outlined on page 18 of the SDS, is it the CCC's position still that there are 'increased risks of actual or perceived corruption' in relation to political donations in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games stemming from the new LNP laws that allow property developers to donate for the purposes of state member and candidate elections?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Speaker: in relation to standing order 115(b)(i), that is a lengthy and subjective preamble.

Mr SPEAKER: It was quite lengthy. I ask the member to be conscious of asking more precise questions. I call Mr Barbour.

Mr Barbour: We are on record as having submitted to the committee that considered that proposed legislative amendment outlining concerns in relation to what we saw as potential corruption risks. The legislation ultimately was passed and has now, of course, become law. We have not seen any reason to depart from our view that was put forward at the stage of it being a bill.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, I table reports that there have been more than $170,000 of donations from property developers to political organisations, primarily the Liberal National Party, since the LNP changed the laws. Does the CCC have the resources—

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on. Right at the beginning of the week I said I will hear the question before taking points of order. Get one of these documents to Mr Barbour, please. Member for Gaven, start your question again, please.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Barbour, I table reports that there have been more than $170,000 of donations from property developers to political organisations, primarily the Liberal National Party, since the LNP changed the laws. Does the CCC have the resources needed to ensure there is adequate oversight and investigation ability to ensure there is no actual or perceived conflict or corruption in state or local government decision-making due to property developers being allowed to donate to political campaigns?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order under standing order 115: there is a lengthy preamble in relation to the question as asked. You have already given a ruling. I would ask you give the member for Gaven some advice with respect to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: I caution the member about the length of the questions, and there were other aspects of that question which I was a little concerned about. Could you rephrase the question for me, please, making it shorter and without any imputations?

Ms SCANLON: Does the CCC have the resources needed to ensure there is adequate oversight and investigation ability to ensure there is no actual or perceived conflict or corruption in state and local government decisions as a result of these changes?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: in relation to the tabled document, I know the member does not need to seek leave from the committee to table that document; however, we do need to be satisfied that it is within standing orders. I am perusing it to satisfy myself of that first, if that is okay. I am looking for the union donations. I cannot see any yet.

Mr SPEAKER: We do not need any commentary. Mr Barbour has a copy?

Mr HUNT: No, no union donations mention in there, I note. I am satisfied.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There probably is.

Mr SPEAKER: Mr Barbour, have you had a chance to look at it?

Mr Barbour: Yes.

Dr ROWAN: A further point of order, Mr Speaker: again, I would raise with respect to the question as put by the member for Gaven, I believe it is seeking an opinion, and I ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: I think Mr Barbour can handle that question. He has been around long enough.

Mr Barbour: What I would say is that any matter which was referred to us which raised those issues of concern as identified would be the subject of assessment, and we would consider whether or not we needed to take any appropriate action. I cannot speak in relation to hypotheticals, but I do not see any resource impediments in our budget which would prevent us from being able to action those matters appropriately.

Ms SCANLON: My next question is to the Electoral Commissioner? Mr Vidgen, the CCC raised concerns about property developer donations and indicated that one of the ways their concerns could be elevated was 'through requiring that all donations from property developers be disclosed via the Electoral Commission of Queensland's electronic disclosure system regardless of the value of the donation and that the origin from a property developer be clearly identifiable and traceable'—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, point of order: you have made a clear direction from the beginning of estimates around lengthy preambles. This is not an opportunity for the shadow minister to make a parliamentary speech.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a valid point or order. Member for Gaven, you are making statements as part of your questions. I ask you to keep your questions much more precise. This is the last caution, otherwise I will start ruling them out of order.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you, Speaker. Has the Electoral Commission progressed anything in this respect within the resources provided for in the budget by the LNP government?

Mr Vidgen: The new prohibited donor laws came into effect on 19 March which apply to the state government election regime. They still apply for local government elections. There is no requirement for the ECQ now to maintain a list or indeed have any oversight of property developer donations. We do not define donations in that regard and we do not examine donations in the framework of whether or not someone may or may not be a property developer.

Ms SCANLON: Human Rights Commissioner, you have been in the role since January. Can you confirm that this is the first time you have appeared before a parliamentary committee?

Ms Platz: I can confirm it is the first time I have appeared before an estimates committee in Queensland.

Ms SCANLON: How many submissions has the Human Rights Commissioner submitted to bills before this parliament under your leadership?

Ms Platz: I would like to give this committee some context in relation to the work that the Human Rights Commission is actually undertaking in order to fully answer that question. We operate under two acts: the Human Rights Act and the Anti-Discrimination Act. The breadth and depth of the stakeholders we have to deal with and the work we do at the Human Rights Commission is enormous.

Coming into this role as commissioner has been a privilege, especially because of the staff that I work with at the Human Rights Commission. It was important for me, coming into the role, to assess where we put our resources so that we can have the greatest impact. For these first five months I have travelled around the state listening to our staff and listening to our stakeholders to understand what their challenges are, where the commission can collaborate and where we can put our resources.

I can tell the committee that in that period I have undertaken 40 stakeholder engagements and delivered five keynote addresses. This has given me insights from the people of Queensland. They tell me about their concerns, and they mainly relate to discrimination—discrimination in the disability sector and discrimination for race, sex and our LGBTQIA+SB community. These debates are not just happening in Queensland; they are happening nationally and globally. It is causing immense harm to our community here in Queensland.

Let me give you a couple of examples. A total 75 per cent of the Jewish community surveyed here in Queensland say that they have suffered vilification, discrimination and anti-Semitism. The national Islamophobia hotline has reported an increase of 620 per cent. Forty-five per cent of our First Nations people here in Queensland who were surveyed report that they have been discriminated against. It has also been reported that one in six people of working age with a disability have suffered discrimination because of their impairment. Members of our LGBTQIA+SB community tell me that at the moment they feel the most unsafe they have ever felt here in Queensland. This is also reflected in our complaints data at the commission. We have seen an enormous increase in our complaints—a 60 per cent increase. While our complaints have increased every year—

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: respectfully, I acknowledge the important work the Human Rights Commission does, but my point of order goes to relevance. My question was very clear around submissions the Human Rights Commissioner has submitted to bills before the parliament under her leadership.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order, member for Moggill?

Dr ROWAN: I do, Mr Speaker. Under standing order 118, the commissioner is being very responsive to the question as asked. There were a number of elements to the question. She is providing important information to the committee about her obligations and also her functions with respect to the matters that were asked by the member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: there were not multiple parts to the question. I simply asked how many submissions the Human Rights Commissioner had submitted to bills before this parliament under her leadership. It is a very straightforward question.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order, member for Nicklin?

Mr HUNT: Yes, Mr Speaker. There is an inference in that question in terms of the workload of the commissioner. I would submit that she is providing important context before she answers.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to ask the commissioner, in the interests of time, to come to the question that was asked. Then we will move on to questions from government members. Could you respond to the question?

Ms Platz: Thank you, Speaker. I do think it is important that we raise the work of the commission because the number of complaints and what we receive are rising, and what we hear from the community is absolutely integral to the work that we do at the commission. Putting submissions forward is only one part of the work we do. In fact, like all other similar jurisdictions in Australia, we do a lot of things other than putting submissions forward. That can include things such as complaint handling, stakeholder engagements, research and policy advice.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: relevance. Respectfully, my question is: how many submissions has the commissioner submitted? While I appreciate the other information, that is my question.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the commissioner to come back to the question, please.

Ms Platz: Thank you, Speaker. I have only been in office since February, so that is a five-month period. Under my leadership, there has been one. For the previous 12 months, there were two.

Mr SPEAKER: Now I will go to government members to ask some questions.

Mr HUNT: My question is to the chairman of the CCC. Given the issues canvassed in the current commission of inquiry into the CFMEU, does the CCC have any corruption concerns around union donations to political parties?

Mr Barbour: As always, the commission is open to considering any matter that is referred to it and assessing it to determine whether or not it is in jurisdiction. Depending on the subject matter of a particular matter that is the subject of complaint, we would review that. Unions, per se, are not UPAs—they are not units of public administration. As such, they in themselves are outside the jurisdiction of the commission.

Ms MARR: My question is for the Attorney-General. Attorney, I refer you to your opening statement. Can you elaborate on how the Reportable Conduct Scheme is protecting Queensland children, and what approaches have been taken in previous years?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Thuringowa for her question. She is someone who is deeply concerned about the safety of children in and around not just where she lives in Townsville but also Queensland. This is a very important question.

One of the core parts of my portfolio is Blue Card Services and the critical work they do—hard work—to protect Queensland children. As I have noted about the 2017 royal commission, they recommended a reportable conduct scheme be established in every jurisdiction. At the time I was in the parliament and the then premier made a big song and dance about doing it but then did not do it. That is deeply distressing, because we know what happened with one of Australia's worst paedophiles—if not the worst, I would submit—Ashley Paul Griffith. He could have been stopped on up to five separate occasions if Queensland had implemented a reportable conduct scheme, as recommended by the royal commission.

That is why we immediately invested that extra money when we came to government. We also brought forward the Reportable Conduct Scheme for all relevant sectors from 1 July this year—and I would like to thank the Premier for his dedication to that to enable us to do that. As I have said, the scheme establishes a consistent framework, requiring organisations that work with children to investigate and report allegations of a reportable conduct by their employees and volunteers.

I thank the members of the QFCC who talked me through how that front webpage would work. The work they have done to get it up and running is quite incredible. As I have said, the numbers in the first three weeks of operation are simply staggering. QFCC has received 205 reportable conduct notifications and opened 174 cases. We need to remember that behind each one of these are children.

Of these reportable conduct allegations, 18.9 per cent include physical violence, 17.9 per cent include child sexual offences and, distressingly, 34.2 per cent include mistreatment of a child. Of those matters, more than 60 involved alleged criminal conduct, and those referrals have now been made to the Queensland police. These are not just numbers; they are people who are potentially predators.

One of the most frightening statistics is that 72 reports—the highest sector number—came from the early childhood, education and care sector, where Griffith's offending was so prolific. This is a sector which would not have been subject to the scheme for another 12 months under the former government. That would have meant these 72 allegations would not have been actioned in this 12 months. Because of our government, the Crisafulli government, the QFCC will ensure these matters are investigated and any relevant action is taken.

In addition to the 205 notifications, the QFCC has received and responded to 96 inquiries relating to the Reportable Conduct Scheme. I acknowledge and thank the QFCC for its work to bring forward the commencement of this scheme, which is already making a tangible contribution to the protection of children.

I note that 15 blue card holders have had their cards suspended in response to the Reportable Conduct Scheme information including, for example, one matter—it is just horrific—where a Queensland man tried to move workplaces after it was alleged he engaged in grooming behaviour with a 16-year-old girl in his care. Blue Card Services has been notified and was able to suspend his card.

In another matter, an organisation identified historical information about a former worker who has since commenced employment at a new school. Through the information sharing under this scheme, that information was provided to the new employer. A reportable conduct investigation commenced and the blue card has been suspended, preventing a further risk while this matter is being investigated.

The Reportable Conduct Scheme is an important tool that builds on the Crisafulli government's comprehensive child protection reforms including: establishing a new Queensland Protection Commission to bring key safeguarding functions under one roof; delivering Daniel's Law, the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register; strengthening the blue card system through new discretionary suspension powers where risks to children are identified, just like I have mentioned; requiring self-disclosure of relevant child protection and domestic violence matters; and expanding blue card requirements to additional child related industries.

I will continue to work with my portfolio to protect Queensland children and strengthen our policies where necessary. After Labor's decade of decline—shocking failures—we must do everything we can to protect Queensland children.

Dr ROWAN: Attorney-General, following on from the question from the member for Nicklin, are there any perceived risks of corruption arising from the involvement of unions in the actions and decisions of the former Labor government, particularly in the context of the CFMEU commission of inquiry and previous union donations to the Labor Party?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I very much thank the member for Moggill for that very important question because it is a topic that is on many Queenslanders' minds as they see the shocking submissions to the CFMEU inquiry—misogyny, bullying, intimidation, tactics that were left run riot under the former Labor government. Several former Labor ministers—we can name two straightaway—continued to allow the CFMEU to run riot through their departments. We have a member of this committee who sits here as the shadow attorney-general who met with the CFMEU and has possibly enjoyed being re-elected by donations from the CFMEU. The member for Gaven is well aware—

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is of public record that the member for Gaven met with the CFMEU. This was I am quite sure—and I am happy to be corrected—after the storming of the TMR offices. You must ask yourself: why was a government so beholden to the union movement? We know why—the figures. I have some figures in front of me. The Centre for Public Integrity report, which analyses union donations, revealed the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party alone over a period of time received from unions $6.3 million in donations and nearly $23 million in affiliation payments.

When it comes to the allegations of corruption, I find it unbelievable that the member for Gaven can sit here and ask questions in relation to political donations when it is her party that accepts union affiliation donations directly to the Queensland Labor Party all whilst we have the CFMEU running roughshod over the Queensland government of the time. Imagine the stress and the terror that some of these former public servants had to talk about.

Andrea Fox, an industrial relations executive, was locked in a room with Mr Ravbar and Mr Kupsch and she was threatened that she would be—this is coming from the CFMEU commission of inquiry—'dragged downstairs and thrown out of the building and onto the street'. I will go further. This is a public servant under those opposite. Imagine this: she thought that Ravbar and Kupsch—CFMEU masters of the former Labor government—were going to get violent at any moment and she prepared to 'duck to avoid the blow that she thought was about to come'.

Kym Bancroft, the newly appointed Deputy Director-General of OIR, attempted to divert CFMEU calls back through the usual triage system. Guess what happened to her, Mr Speaker? She was fired by the former Labor government eight months after starting her job. Do you know the reason that was given to that dedicated public servant who gave frank and fearless advice to a government? She got sacked eight months in. The reason she got sacked was that a particular union was not happy with her.

When we go back to the millions and millions of dollars donated—I know that for a decade nearly $30 million lined Queensland Labor's coffers in affiliation payments and union donations—that is why the Crisafulli government has done exactly what we said we would do. Before the last state election we said we would level the playing field and we would ensure people were not going to be treated as criminals for building houses for the people of Queensland. We are in a housing crisis and we need to ensure we have people who can build houses. The level playing field was committed to.

We have not taken away union donations. I dare say if the shoe were on the other foot those opposite would. Whilst they continue to take union donations from the brutish, thuggish unions who ride roughshod over their former government, we know what will happen if they are ever given the powers of government again—they and their union masters will continue to do what they can to ensure everything stops in Queensland. The Crisafulli government has a completely different attitude. We will always put our public servants first and we will always put the people of Queensland first.

Mr FIELD: My question is to the Attorney-General. With respect to the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU, could the Attorney-General outline how the Crisafulli government is investing in cleaning up the construction industry and uncovering union corruption?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is very important that we talk to this. The commission of inquiry into the CFMEU is approaching its first year. Like I have just stated, we have heard some explosive evidence with allegations of corruption, coercion, bullying, intimidation, violence and misconduct within Queensland's construction industry, not to mention extraordinary allegations concerning the CFMEU's relationship with the former Labor government. I note that our diaries are fully disclosable, and I know it is a matter of public record that the member for Gaven met with the CFMEU. This would have happened when the member for Gaven would have known about these allegations into the CFMEU.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: I take personal offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is a matter of public record that the member for Gaven met with the CFMEU. We have heard about the extraordinary relationships and meetings. Goodness knows what was promised and committed in those meetings. The meetings are in the diary. Goodness me, I hope there were not any public servants at those meetings because I would have felt sorry for them. They would have been unsafe, I am quite sure. We have heard that former Labor minister Grace Grace threatened to rip up a company's contract. This is a contract on the Toowoomba second range. That former Labor minister threatened to rip up a company's contract if they did not negotiate and meet the CFMEU's demands. The CFMEU allegedly had a direct line into the former deputy premier Jackie Trad's office—so did the former CCC chair actually on a Sunday. Anyhow, that is another issue.

Many voices have contributed so far, and I thank those brave witnesses for coming forward. We have also heard distressing comments from former Master Builders chief executive Grant Galvin. He had a 'mental breakdown' and attempted to commit suicide as a result of years of union pressure. The former Labor government did a sweetheart deal with the CFMEU to introduce Best Practice Industry Conditions, the CFMEU tax, which, according to industry, put uncompetitive red tape on construction projects in Queensland.

We know that if BPIC had remained in place up until 2029-30 it would have cost Queenslanders up to $20.6 billion, with project costs up 25 per cent, and we would have had 26,500 fewer homes built, with rents being 8.3 per cent higher. Cross River Rail has blown out from $5.4 billion and a completion date of 2024 to over $19 billion, with completion not likely until 2029, due to Labor's sweetheart deal with the CFMEU and prolonged industrial action on the site. We have invested that $95 million to ensure the CFMEU inquiry can continue its important work to the end of next year. Our government is determined to get to the bottom of union corruption and expose the dodgy deals done by the former government.

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Attorney-General. One of your key deliverables in the 2026-27 budget is to continue to strengthen and streamline worker screening services to keep children and people with disabilities safe and ensure Queenslanders are job and volunteer ready. How is the Queensland Crisafulli government delivering on this commitment in its second budget?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Unlike the former Labor government, our government is committed to strengthening Queensland Worker Screening Services, ensuring they are appropriately funded to deliver strong and responsive screening services. Earlier this year Blue Card Services celebrated its 25-year anniversary. I was pleased to attend and acknowledge the contributions of 19 staff in particular who have dedicated 20 years or more to protecting children. Incredibly, three of the staff have worked at Blue Card since its inception, including Michelle, Annie and Leigh, and I would really like to thank them.

While we reflect on 25 years of work, we know there is always more to be done. We know that they actively monitor 1.1 million Queensland cardholders for any changes to criminal histories and relevant information which may indicate they pose a risk to children. In the last financial year it finalised more than 300,000 blue card applications and prevented more than 6,400 high-risk individuals from working with children. This included suspending 840 blue card holders as a result of using its new discretionary powers which commenced under the Crisafulli government in September last year. These new powers are critical because they allows Blue Card to receive information about individuals who pose an imminent risk to the safety of children. At the Standing Council of Attorneys-General meeting for the National Redress Scheme I strongly advocated for information relating to working with children checks to be shared and considered part of the assessment framework. As a result of this advocacy, important information relating to people alleged to be involved in institutional child sexual abuse is now able to be shared and considered by our Blue Card Services.

We know there is always more work to be done. I am very pleased to also announce that, of the 130 individuals who held current blue cards, a blue card reassessment led to the suspension of three cardholders and another 38 people cancelling their own card when information was put to them. As a direct result of Queensland's advocacy, the sharing of this information has prevented 41 people from continuing to hold a blue card and strengthened the type of information that Blue Card Services relies on for future applications.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Human Rights Commissioner. My question is to clarify your evidence that you have not appeared before any parliamentary committee before today. That is correct; is it not?

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: that question has been answered.

Mr SPEAKER: That was estimates, the first one. This was?

Ms SCANLON: Any committee.

Ms Platz: I have appeared before committees in a federal remit and also in the New South Wales government. I do not recall appearing before this committee.

Ms SCANLON: That was not my question. My question was: it is your evidence that you have not appeared before any parliamentary committee in the Queensland parliament before today?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: there was a different question that was put before that question, so that question was a different question to the original question as asked. Also, the questioning is becoming repetitive in nature, but it is the first point of order in relation to it being a different question to the one that was asked.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a different question, member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy to move on. Commissioner, have you sought Integrity Commissioner advice and/or have any conflict-of-interest management plan in place to ensure there is no actual or perceived conflict in relation to your partner's engagement by the LNP government?

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: 118(b), relevance. I would ask that the member articulate to the committee how that is relevant to the appropriation bill we are examining today.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, point of order: I think it is entirely appropriate that an independent statutory commissioner provide advice about what Integrity Commissioner advice they have sought, particularly as—I table documents—the member's partner's law firm has donated to the Liberal National Party and is a member of the Liberal National Party.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, point of order: is the member for Gaven alleging that a woman cannot stand on her own two feet without her partner?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: in relation to the obligations that any statutory officer has with respect to seeking Integrity Commissioner advice, with respect to either themselves or other related relatives or other entities, all of those matters could be put to other relevant individuals. The information that is sought is confidential in nature with respect to those matters.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, point of order: I take personal offence at the comments just made by the Attorney-General. I am not making any allegations. I am simply asking about the functions of the commissioner. I ask that she withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask Ms Platz to respond to the question.

Ms Platz: I have no knowledge of these donations and the material that is being presented towards me. What I can say is that I have never needed my partner's help to get any role that I have held in the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland governments under both ALP and LNP governments. I think my experience and resume speaks for itself. I do have a conflict management plan, as I should, under the Queensland Public Sector Act and I have sought the advice of the Integrity Commissioner.

Ms SCANLON: My next question is to the Information Commissioner. The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Working Group's summary report stated that some victim-survivors reported situations where their location or personal information was inadvertently disclosed. In respect of your privacy and mandatory notification of data breach policy functions, has this summary report been provided to you for any action?

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: can I clarify what we have been handed?

Ms SCANLON: I am happy to table that document.

Mr SPEAKER: That is the second page of the document that was given to you a moment ago.

Mr HUNT: This is the fully tabled document we are in possession of now that related to the last question?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, apologies: am I able to see that document? I am quite sure the Information Commissioner would like to see it as well.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not relevant. It was a document regarding the last question.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: in relation to questions as asked, if documents are going to be tabled, it would be of assistance if they could be distributed in a timely manner and we could look at them prior to the question, for authentication.

Mr SPEAKER: Correct. It should have been distributed before. What document do I have now? Where did this document come from?

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, we are onto the next question. I have tabled an authenticating document that outlines the question I have just asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Has Ms Kummrow got one of these documents?

Ms Kummrow: I have.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: can we pause to have a quick look at this document to ensure it complies with standing orders?

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: if it assists the committee, the specific functions are on page 4 in the last sentence, 'independent oversight'.

Mr HUNT: Thank you for your indulgence, Mr Speaker. I am satisfied that the document is within the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: I call Ms Kummrow.

Ms Kummrow: I thank the member for her question. With your indulgence, may I seek a repeat of the question due to the delay?

Mr SPEAKER: Certainly.

Ms SCANLON: My question was: in respect of your privacy and mandatory notification of data breach policy functions, has this summary report been provided to you for any action?

Ms Kummrow: It has not been provided.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I just point out that the microphone was not on for that answer. Hansard might not have been able to pick that up.

Mr SPEAKER: Could you repeat your answer with the microphone on?

Ms Kummrow: My office has not been provided with it specifically, although if it is available publicly we will have access to it.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you. Commissioner, has your office taken any action or had any discussion with the Queensland Police Service regarding reports of sensitive personal information being inadvertently disclosed to parties when responding to domestic and family violence matters?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I want to seek clarity in relation to whether this is appropriate for this portfolio section or for a different portfolio section. I want to seek your guidance on that.

Mr SPEAKER: I think it is. I call Ms Kummrow.

Ms Kummrow: I am content to respond to the question. In December 2024 I determined to commence an investigation under my review investigation powers under the Information Privacy Act. A report was tabled in this parliament in December 2025. The name of that report is *Prioritising privacy to keep victims safe: a review of the disclosure of domestic and family violence victims' addresses to offenders by the Queensland Police Service.* In summary, I identified 19 recommendations that were made to the Queensland Police Service, along with findings, and they are set out in that report.

Ms SCANLON: My next question is to the Principal Commissioner from the Queensland Family and Child Commission. I refer to page 46 of the SDS where the QFCC objective is to 'advance the rights, safety and wellbeing of children by collaborating with organisations'. Noting your publicly funded role is to advocate for children's wellbeing, what is the position of the QFCC in respect of children sleeping in child safety offices?

Mr Twyford: My position is manifold. The first is that all children should be valued, loved and safe, particularly those in the care of the state. Based on the data we have, there are more than 800 children in care who are not in their approved placement at any given point in time. Some of those will be with their family that they were removed from, but we know that many will be on the streets and many will be in unsafe situations and being exploited by adults who are seeking to harm them.

Child safety officers perform an amazing function in our society. They respond to deep crises that create intergenerational trauma and harm not just to the children involved but to our whole community. When a child safety officer attends a domestic and family violence scene or a homicide scene, they are the ones who take that child, reassure them and seek to keep them safe. Across all my work and past experience, those child safety officers will find the best place for that child at that point in time. I am aware that from time to time the temporary place that is chosen is an office. It does occur, but from my perspective I think we need to put that on a continuum of what is the best and most appropriate place for a child at any point in time?

Given recent media reporting, I would ask questions around: was it predictable and foreseeable; what was the planning around alternatives; and what other options were trialled? That would become very case specific to that child and to the time and location where that occurred. Ultimately, we have to be driven by what is in the Queensland child protection law—that is, that any child in the child protection system has rights, that those rights are articulated in the act and that every child safety officer and, indeed, every public servant in Queensland should be acting in children's best interests.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you. Principal Commissioner, I refer to page 46 of the SDS where an objective of the QFCC is to 'support First Nations children'. Is it correct that there is currently no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner?

Mr Twyford: I thank the member for the question. Yes, that is correct. Commissioner Natalie Lewis completed her six years of service on 31 May this year and that position is currently vacant.

Ms SCANLON: Principal Commissioner, noting that this budget funds the appointments within the QFCC, can the Principal Commissioner advise, yes or no, did you advocate or support the continuation of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: it must be noted that this position has been vacant under the former Labor government for 15 months. We have already publicly announced that we are setting up the QPC which will mean new legislation before the House.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Speaker—

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: The question was directed to Mr Twyford

Mr HUNT: I have a point of order, Mr Speaker. The member has stipulated 'yes or no'. That is not appropriate to this commissioner, so I would submit that the member should rephrase the question without demands.

Mr SPEAKER: I agree. That is a valid point of order. Member, would you re-ask that question?

Ms SCANLON: Certainly. Principal Commissioner, noting that this budget funds the appointments within the QFCC, can the Principal Commissioner advise: did you advocate or support the continuation of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner?

Mr Twyford: Thank you. In reference to the first part of your question, the appointment of statutory officers is the purview of the Department of Justice and the minister and cabinet. My position plays no role in that function. The short answer is that I have been on the public record advocating for the importance of First Nations leadership, particularly in statutory offices of the child protection system where First Nations children are incredibly overrepresented.

My most public statement was made in 2024-25, when I called for the establishment of an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commission. Both Commissioner Lewis and I and the Australian and New Zealand children's commissioners advocated under Safe and Supported, the national plan, for the creation of a separate office. That public statement is available on our website. Therefore, I think the answer is yes.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, why did the department not advocate for this position to be continued?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there seems to be an inference or an imputation contained within that with respect to the question as asked. It is a definitive statement that is contained in the question. It was not actually a question; it was almost a directive statement.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, I accept that. That is a valid point of order. I will get you to rephrase that question, please, member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: Why was there a decision of the department not to fund or appoint this position?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: it is the same point of order as before. They are suggesting that it is not, which is an inference. The member has had two goes now to ask the question. I would submit that it be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: I will give you one more go, member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the director-general. Can you advise whether the QFCC did raise these questions directly with the department?

Ms Cruickshank: I do not think the commissioner will mind when I point out that he has slightly misspoken. The Department of Justice has no involvement with determining commissioner roles. Statutory appointments and commissioner roles are all the domain of the minister and cabinet. We do not have an advocacy role to play, per se.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, this is the last question before we swap over.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the QFCC commissioner. In respect of your evidence earlier regarding questions about whether children should be sleeping in child safety offices, can you advise: did the QFCC raise these questions directly with Minister Camm's department?

Mr Twyford: I would have to say not directly. I have recently submitted a number of section 35 information requests to the department of child safety and those questions go to where children are and have been placed over the last 18 months where child protection data has not been as available as it has historically been. Those questions have been put to the department and I am advised I will get answers in the second week of August.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to the member for Nicklin for the next question.

Mr HUNT: My question is for Attorney-General. From opposition, you long held concerns that the former government's systems were failing to protect Queensland children. Since coming to government, what have you discovered and how are you working to enhance Queensland's systems and better protect the state's most vulnerable?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thought I might assist the committee by clarifying something in relation to the First Nations leader's position in the QFCC. What the opposition is proposing is, quite frankly, offensive. It is absurd and, like everything that seems to come from the Labor opposition, it is grounded in no truth. I want to point out for the committee—I know that the member would be well aware of this, given she sat around the cabinet table—that the same commissioner role we are talking about was vacant under the former Labor government for, I believe, over seven months in 2017 and then it was vacant again for almost eight months. The principal commissioner has assured me that, while the role is vacant, as we develop the new bill, he has made arrangements to ensure the commission's critical oversight functions and ongoing work to monitor and review the child protection system will continue under his supervision. It will be interesting to see what happens, because the Labor opposition seem to be so averse to speaking the truth about matters and they make things up.

Details really do matter. They matter to the children we are seeking to protect. They matter when a premier of the day and ministers of the day, such as the member for Gaven, commit to protect Queensland children by having a reportable conduct scheme and then completely forget to do it. That matters. It is concerning that we have seen those figures. One of the shadow ministers said that in 2020 the member for Nudgee actually stated, 'A Queensland reportable conduct scheme will be our key focus over the coming year.' Did she just forget? It does not make sense. We are talking about children here, which is why the Queensland government is now putting such a strong focus on the protection of Queensland's children with the setting up of the Queensland Protection Commission.

It is also important to note that the *In plain sight* report—and I would encourage the member for Gaven to read it; it is such an important document—recommended a nation-leading, dedicated intelligence hub to be established within the commission to improve information sharing and identify emerging risks earlier. It is so important that we be proactive in the protection of children, not reactive. The former government likes to put out press releases but then forgets to do the work. What we are actually doing is concentrating first and foremost on how we can best protect children who are the most vulnerable in this state, and that is exactly what we will continue to do—working across those relevant departments to make sure we do not have that siloed information.

Very briefly, I want to touch on the Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System, because it is important to note this. The report found that Queensland had almost as many children in residential care as every other state and territory combined. The member for Gaven can sit here and allege something to one of the executives on this side of the table, but you have to ask: how did we get here? I repeat: there are as many children in residential care in Queensland as in every other state combined. This number has surged by 229 per cent from March 2015 to March 2025. The figures are quite astonishing. The commission of inquiry found that two-thirds—67 per cent—of reported incidents of sexual abuse involved kids in residential care. That is exactly why our government is focusing on making sure we are doing everything we can to protect the most vulnerable children. Unfortunately, as the commissioner has noted, so many of those children are in the care of the state, and those figures ballooned after the four failed child safety ministers of the former government.

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Attorney-General. With respect to Budget Paper 4 relating to investments in Forensic Science Queensland, could the Attorney-General outline how the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's investment into Forensic Science Queensland has impacted victims of crime?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is something that is so close to my heart. If we are talking about the protection of children and Queensland's most vulnerable, we must make sure that the predators no longer stroll around our streets; they should be locked up. One of the issues we faced when we first came to government—and we talked about it from opposition—was Labor's DNA debacle. Two commissions of inquiry under them failed to fix the system. I heard the shadow minister say that it happened under our government. No. I will tell them exactly what is happening. I am proud to say that as part of this year's budget we are investing $37.1 million over four years and $6.9 million per annum ongoing to deliver a modernised Forensic Science Queensland. This funding secures 28 permanent positions and another 16 temporary roles, meaning FSQ will have more bench scientists getting through Labor's backlog sooner.

When we came to office we inherited something that was genuinely nothing short of a national disgrace—601 rape kits. Imagine being the incoming minister and hearing that there are 601 rape kits just sitting on the shelves—thankfully, assumed, in fridges—and more than 11,000 major crime samples left untested, denying victims justice. These are not just figures, and I keep going back to this; they represent real people who have fallen victim to serious crime. What we did was swift. We recognised the seriousness of the situation. We implemented a two-year, $50 million outsourcing strategy and recovery plan to restore confidence in the forensic system. As a result, we have now fully eliminated Labor's backlog of rape kits. With regard to major crime DNA samples—crimes against people—those backlogs have fallen 80 per cent, reducing from 11,703 when we came to government to now 2,408 in July. Of course, we need to continue that work. We have invested more than $100 million into FSQ since coming to office, underscoring the importance we place on supporting victims of crime in this critical area of justice which was neglected by the former government.

In last year's budget we invested $6.3 million to increase the capacity of the Office of the DPP to fast-track the preparation of backlogged DNA cases for court. FSQ has also boosted its court reporting capacity, with 40 scientists gazetted as at April 2026, with 22 in forensic biology and 18 in forensic chemistry. Led by Director Mick Fuller, we have also appointed two new deputy director positions to strengthen leadership capacity across forensic operations and corporate services. We will continue to do whatever it takes to clean up Labor's mess and fix Forensic Science Queensland after a decade of decline under those opposite. I just want to note—because it is on the public record and we do not talk about matters before the courts—that I do understand that there is a matter that the ODPP has put to the Court of Appeal in relation to one of the retested samples.

Ms MARR: Attorney, how many new judicial office positions have been funded across Queensland courts to help have matters heard sooner and give Queenslanders faster access to justice, including in my seat of Thuringowa?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Thuringowa, who has advocated loud and strong for the extra District Court judge. It was an election commitment of the Crisafulli government and we have delivered on that extra District Court judge in Townsville. We have also committed and properly funded the extra magistrate in Mount Isa. People may wonder how that might reflect on Townsville but, as you know, Mount Isa and Townsville—whilst a fair way apart—are quite close in the connections through those two places. Having that extra permanent magistrate—and permanently funded—in Mount Isa means that the acting magistrates from Townsville are not having to commute there. It just makes sense. You would think it could have been done before, but anyhow.

It is important to note our government's commitment to faster access to justice. We know any minute delay in the court system is too long and we know we need to continue to work hard given that we started from such a terrible starting point. We are working through the issues. One thing that is important is that in the Supreme Court of Queensland the Crisafulli government has funded the first additional permanent judge position to that court since 2018. We are now in 2026, so it was long overdue. The workload of the Supreme Court certainly demanded that additional seat. I was pleased to be able to appoint the Hon. Justice Scott McLeod to the court earlier this year against that funding.

As I have already said, we have the net additional two permanent judges in the District Court as well. I have also spoken of our election commitment to have the new District Court judge in Townsville, which is just so important because it directly benefits the seat of Thuringowa, the seat of Townsville and broader seats such as Burdekin and Hinchinbrook so that they will have the opportunity to get their matters heard sooner. We also funded an additional judge for the District Court in January of this year and we appointed Her Honour Judge Dearne Firth, who has taken on the additional responsibilities of Deputy President of QCAT. I would like to acknowledge the work that the Hon. Kerri Mellifont has done in QCAT. She will be going back to her substantive position on the Supreme Court and the Hon. Justice Scott McLeod will be going to head up QCAT as well.

Earlier this year I funded and appointed two acting District Court judges to help address the court backlogs and matters to be heard. In the Magistrates Court there are five new judicial officer positions funded on that court since we came to office. Relevantly, in the 2026-27 budget the Crisafulli government has converted temporary expiring funding for some magistrates to permanent ongoing. Genuinely, member for Thuringowa, it is pretty shocking as a new Attorney-General to discover the former Labor government irresponsibly appointed magistrates for life when the funding was not guaranteed or locked into the budget, so there was temporary funding for a magistrate. They appointed them but then forgot to fund them. It is actually quite mind blowing how they did their budgets, but

anyhow. We have stepped in and we have taken steps to ensure the Magistrates Court has that certainty and, importantly, not the funding cliffs. As a result, four new permanent magistrate appointments can now be made.

In addition to those four, we have delivered on the election commitments for a Mining and Resources Coroner. With regard to all of these judges and magistrates positions that I have referred to, it is important to note that they are not new appointments; rather, they did not exist before the Crisafulli government came to office, so undoubtedly that has increased the capacity of their respective courts to have their matters heard sooner.

Mr SPEAKER: I am conscious that we have four minutes left and there was a question to be responded to by the Integrity Commissioner. Do you have that at hand please?

Ms Waugh: I just wanted to check the Public Sector Act. A special commissioner is a statutory office holder, so they are appointed under section 230 of the Public Sector Act and are a Governor in Council appointment, so it would be the Premier who could seek advice. The director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet could not seek an advice.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that. We have time for one more question from the member for Capalaba.

Mr FIELD: Attorney-General, what measures is the government implementing to support victims of crime and how is the Attorney focused on better access to justice, including for the constituents in my electorate of Capalaba?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Attorney-General and ask you to keep an eye on the clock, because at 10.30 we are having a break.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Okay; give me an indication when you want me to stop. I do want to thank the member for Capalaba, who needs no introduction in this House, for your hard and long dedication to the people of your electorate but also the broader Queensland community. We are changing the laws in direct response to the tragedies that you have faced, so thank you for your hard work and dedication, member for Capalaba.

This budget obviously is prioritising the rights of victims over the rights of offenders. The budget delivers a fully funded $5.2 billion plan to prevent crime, divert and rehabilitate youth offenders and support victims of crime. Priorities include continuing to strengthen youth crime laws and reduce the number of victims where you live and deliver a nation-leading Victims Advocate Service and one-stop shop that will provide targeted support to victims of crime from the beginning to the end.

I also note that in the justice portfolio we have numerous programs for victims—the Queensland Intermediary Scheme, the Sexual Violence Case Management Pilot, the court upgrades and—something that is very close to my heart—the DFV court program with total funding of almost $70 million. I note that this was another thing that was unfunded to the tune of $18 million. We have extended and stretched that funding. We have gotten rid of BPIC. That means that we have been able to upgrade more court safe rooms in courthouses by 25 per cent more. It is quite incredible to get rid of BPIC in order to assist victims of domestic and family violence who are going through the court system. Importantly, we have also ensured we have put the Victim Liaison Service into the ODPP. When I was in Townsville I met a couple of those liaison people who do that work and talk to those victims while their matter is going through the Townsville court. Member for Thuringowa, it was incredible to see the work that they do and I very much want to thank them. I am short on time, so my apologies.

Mr SPEAKER: Very good; thank you. The committee will now adjourn for a short break and the hearing will resume at 10.45 am.

Proceedings suspended from 10.30 am to 10.45 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Welcome back, Attorney-General and officials. The committee will now resume its examination of the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Attorney-General, if you wish, you may make an additional opening statement of no more than five minutes for the portfolio area currently under examination.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is not often I take note of the ACT Labor government, but I came across a story yesterday that drew incredible parallels to what is being uncovered here in Queensland. The article states—

ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry has resigned from cabinet after the Integrity Commission made “serious corrupt conduct” findings against two senior public servants in her portfolio.

It goes on—

The Integrity Commission found the former head of the ACT Education Directorate and Ms Berry's then-chief of staff "dishonestly provided a back door" for the strategic interests of the … (CFMEU) in a multi-million-dollar contract …

Does it sound familiar? Well, it should. Queensland's Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU has uncovered extraordinary evidence demonstrating similar tactics in our state. The only difference here is that there are at least two former Labor ministers alleged to be doing the dirty work of the CFMEU, not two public servants. Our inquiry has heard that, during a meeting with the construction company building Toowoomba's second range crossing upgrade, Labor members for McConnel and Miller allegedly threatened to rip up contracts. It is alleged the member for McConnel said, 'You have to reach an agreement with the CFMEU or we will terminate your contract.' In the ACT, the minister at least had the decency to resign her position after the scandal was uncovered—no such dignity yet from Queensland's former Labor ministers.

We are continuing to deliver better and faster access to justice for victims by putting them first, while under Labor Queenslanders lived in fear as youth offenders roamed free. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are working. In their next phase, Breach Bail, Go to Jail means repeat offenders who commit serious crimes while on bail will be charged with a new offence carrying a mandatory sentence behind bars. Overwhelmingly, Queenslanders are telling us to keep going with stronger laws that are making them feel safer and to ensure they have access to a fairer and faster justice system. They were denied that under Labor's decade of decline.

The Crisafulli government is strengthening the foundations for a fresh start with more than $2 billion allocated in the 2026-27 justice budget. We are continuing to repair the damage of the DNA debacle. Under Labor the state's forensic regime collapsed, with 601 rape kits and more than 11,700 major crime samples left untested. The Crisafulli government has processed every one of those rape kits and reduced the backlog of major crime DNA samples by 70 per cent. The justice budget has allocated $37.1 million to continue clearing the DNA backlog and reinvigorate testing at Forensic Science Queensland.

In addition, criminal prosecution services have been boosted with a $10.6 million investment. Twenty-five extra prosecutors focusing on regional Queensland are joining the ODPP. This is on top of $39.3 million for judges and judicial support services and the delivery of essential justice services that prioritise the rights of victims and generate faster access to justice. There is $11 million to appoint more Supreme and District Court judges to address increasing demand, along with $2.1 million for legal services to support comprehensive and timely coronial investigations.

The Crisafulli government has boosted investment in the Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse Improvement Program to $67.9 million, enabling projects such as the Toowoomba Courthouse upgrade, which I recently opened and which I know, Mr Speaker, will benefit the members of your Condamine electorate, with more to be delivered right across the state. In fact, we had to inject an extra $18.8 million to effectively save the program after it was left unfunded by the former Labor government.

We are also funding regional courthouse upgrades, including in Atherton and a new $1 million investment for Innisfail, and $22 million will go to digital systems to improve timeliness and efficiency of court proceedings throughout Queensland. This is what a modern justice system looks like: digital and secure and focused on faster access. By cleaning up crime and putting victims first we are fostering faster access to justice, recourse and support. After Labor's decade of decline the Crisafulli government is returning safety and confidence to every Queensland community.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to opposition members for questions. I call the member for Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: My first question is to the director-general. In respect of matters revealed at the Premier's estimates regarding private email use by special commissioner Andrew Cripps, will the State Archivist investigate and report on compliance with the Public Records Act in respect of this matter?

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: the question relates to whether an investigation will take place when there has been no allegation formally made. I do not know that the director-general can answer that. The question contains an imputation about an allegation that is not an official complaint, as I understand it, and now he is asking the director-general whether an investigation will take place. The director-general would not even be in possession of that information, I would have thought.

Mr RYAN: On the point of order: is that not a matter for the director-general to answer and not the member for Nicklin?

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general is more than capable of answering it, I would think.

Ms Cruickshank: I am actually not aware that there is anything that is under investigation at this point in time and I do not think it would come to me. I think that is not likely to come anywhere near me. I do know, and I will speak on behalf of the State Archivist here, that she is very astute and quick to look into things that do come into her purview so I would imagine if something was substantiated and given to her to look into she would, but at this stage I am not aware that she is.

Mr RYAN: To the Attorney: pursuant to section 43(3) of the Public Records Act, will you direct the State Archivist to undertake an independent review and investigation into special commissioner Andrew Cripps's potential use of private emails for work purposes as was revealed at the Premier's estimates?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would very much like to thank the member for Morayfield for the question. I did listen to the Premier's estimates and I did understand that this was completely covered—the Premier actually was not asked a question—by the director-general of DPC so I would recommend to the member for Morayfield that maybe he saves his question for the appropriate estimates hearing, which would be the Premier's.

Mr RYAN: Just as a follow-up, my understanding in respect of the relevant legislation is that you have the power to direct the State Archivist, not the Premier. Would you like to update your answer in light of that?

Mr HUNT: Point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I have already told you: do not interrupt the question with points of order.

Mr HUNT: My apologies, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: You have a point of order?

Mr HUNT: I do. You threw me there, sorry.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the Attorney-General was ready to answer it.

Dr ROWAN: I have a point of order. In relation to the rural and regional commissioner's position, it reports to the Premier. The director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet canvassed these matters substantially in testimony that was provided to the estimates committee on Tuesday. Given that the position reports to there, those matters—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Dr ROWAN: The point of order is that the question is not relevant to the Attorney-General at this time.

Mr HUNT: I have recalled my point of order, Mr Speaker, if you would indulge me. My point of order was under 115(b)(ii) that the member is being argumentative in the question. The Attorney answered the question and he is putting back to her an argument to the contrary. The question contains an argument.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the Attorney-General is well capable of answering the question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would refer the member for Morayfield, in answer to the question, back to the Premier's estimates which occurred in this august House on Tuesday where those matters were canvassed and answered in a very prompt and thorough manner by the director-general of DPC. It is interesting to note the member for Morayfield's stark interest in the use of private email addresses. I recall the mangocube issue in this parliament where the member for Miller's private use of an email was not fully disclosed—not disclosed at all—and certainly there was no statement by the then minister to say that all information was on the public record.

Mr RYAN: Point of order on relevance. It was a very direct question. I think the Attorney has answered it.

Mr SPEAKER: Have you finished, Attorney-General?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The one thing I just want to say is the member for Miller was done because he was actually using that private email for official business. He was taking instructions from his paymasters, the ETU.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, was the Department of Justice part of the domestic, family and sexual violence working group?

Ms Cruickshank: I am actually not familiar with the title that you have just alluded to. I may just have to check whether or not some of my team are involved with that. I would imagine if there is a working group that is looking at matters as per the title that you have just read to me that the answer would be yes, but I am not actually familiar with that particular titled working group.

Mr SPEAKER: You will come back to us with that, Director-General?

Ms Cruickshank: I am happy to come back. I think the answer would be yes, but I do need to confirm just because the title sounds a little different.

Ms SCANLON: The CCC, Police Service and the Police Union are supportive of a police integrity unit. The working group summary just referenced, and I note I have tabled that document, outlines 'introduce a civilian review mechanism for escalating concerns about inadequate police response'. Can you advise what the Department of Justice has done in relation to the implementation of a police integrity unit in Queensland?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: in relation to preamble, you have warned the member a number of times. That information could be gleaned from the director-general without that lengthy preamble. She could simply ask the question. She has been warned a number of times about preambles and political statements.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I will allow the question. I call the director-general.

Ms Cruickshank: Obviously I am not going to stray into the space of talking about the substance, if you like, of the conversations that are underway, but I am very happy to confirm that, yes, there have been a series of discussions that have been held—I think Mr Barbour referred to this earlier today—between my officers, the QPS and the CCC. We are continuing to work through a number of different issues. There is probably not much more that I can say about that, but there has been a significant amount of engagement.

Ms SCANLON: When will a police integrity unit be established?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order, Mr Speaker. That would be a policy decision of government, which the former minister fully well knows.

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general is capable of answering that.

Ms Cruickshank: I was actually going to make the same point.

Ms SCANLON: The working group document recommended a number of measures in the legal system space. What has the Department of Justice done in relation to these recommendations of the document I tabled to support victims of domestic and family violence in our justice system?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order: we have not seen the tabled document.

Ms SCANLON: It is the document that I tabled in the last session.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We have not seen that.

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general and the Attorney-General do not have a copy?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No. That was the document that I was seeking and I was handed one about union—

Mr HUNT: Better preparation, member.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy for the director-general to come back later in the session to answer that question.

Mr RYAN: Point of order, Speaker: I know that you have made some remarks before about members at the committee making remarks. I feel the member for Nicklin continues to turn his microphone on and make gratuitous remarks.

Mr SPEAKER: I caution the member for Nicklin. The only time that you need to speak is when making a point of order or asking a question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I have only just seen this document. My understanding is that this report relates to Minister Camm's department and the committee will be scrutinising its estimates next week.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: my question was not to the Attorney-General; it was to the director-general. I am sure she can answer that question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am making a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: She is making a point of order, which she is quite entitled to do.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am making a point of order. I am entitled to do that. This report, if I am correct, comes from Minister Camm's department and her estimates will be scrutinised by the committee next week.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I made that exact point of order in relation to an earlier question with respect to this report being more appropriate for another portfolio section. That was the point that I made earlier.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: the Attorney-General's point of order was not a point of order. In response to the Leader of the House's point of order, the recommendations in this document pertain to the legal system space so they are entirely relevant to the office of Attorney-General.

Mr SPEAKER: Director-General, you would be aware whether or not this comes under your area. Could you respond, please?

Ms Cruickshank: I will try to assist as much as I can, noting that I actually have not seen this document before so I am not clear of its status. Harking back to the previous question the member asked, I still do not know that it is the exact name but there is a DFV cross-agency reference group that is obviously led by Minister Camm's department. I do have some officials who sit on it. It is a mid-level officer group. I do not know if that group has informed this. I cannot actually see that it is in any way connected to our department so I am afraid I do not think I can comment any further on it. Hopefully, that has at least cleared up the cross-agency working group.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, the Premier has said director-general KPIs and goals are set out in the ministerial charter letter issued to their minister. Noting that there are no public status reports about the recommendations released by the LNP government, can you provide to the committee the status of all remaining Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations related to the justice department?

Ms Cruickshank: Unfortunately, no, I cannot, for a similar reason to the one I just alluded to. I am very conscious that the response that the government takes to issues around domestic and family violence and sexual assault are definitely led by a different minister to my own. It is not for me to step into the space of my colleague Director-General Drew to talk about the status of where that is up to. I do obviously, though, take very seriously the role that we would play in contributing to the work and the considerations of that agency and that minister, but I really am reluctant to try to pre-empt something that that minister would obviously have the lead on.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Director-General, for that clarification.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Point of order, Mr Speaker, and this may assist the committee because the former minister may not be aware: whilst all matters of domestic and family violence—

Mr RYAN: Point of order, Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I said I will hear points of order without interruption.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The policy positions around those matters, whilst important to everyone, have been MOG-ed out of the Department of Justice and the oversight sits with the relevant minister. I think it is important that the committee knows that because, under the former government, it was part of Attorney-General so I understand the crossover issues. When it comes to which minister is responsible for reports, it sits with relevant ministers.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that, Attorney-General.

Mr RYAN: On the point of order, Speaker: the time for making a point of order about a question is at the question and not at the end of the answer. A point of order is not an opportunity for the Attorney-General to actually answer a question that was not directed to her.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the Attorney-General was clarifying and clearing up a bit of confusion. I go to the next question and the member for Gaven.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, in relation to the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Advisory Board, can you advise the status of the latest recommendations and when the 2024-25 implementation update will be released?

Ms Cruickshank: DoJ is responsible for coordinating government responses to the board's recommendations, providing six-monthly implementation updates. The 2024-25 annual report, as I guess you know, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 2025. The report contains four recommendations aimed at strengthening system responses to DFV, with a particular focus on fire

related deaths. The government's response to those recommendations is expected to be released shortly, so obviously I am not going to pre-empt what those are going to be. I hope that answers the question.

Mr BERKMAN: Director-General, the government's consultation on reform to sunset clauses finished in October last year. As of now, apartment buyers are not covered by any sunset clause protections, which is an issue that I raised when it was not included in Labor's reforms in 2023. How many submissions to the government's review called for apartment buyers to be protected from unfair sunset clauses?

Ms Cruickshank: I may have to get some additional information. I am not sure I have detail on specific submissions and which ones called for the question that you asked. I will do my best to get that for you before the end of this session. To be clear, it was how many submissions contained—

Mr BERKMAN: How many of those submissions called for apartment buyers to have protections in respect of sunset clauses?

Ms Cruickshank: I will do my best to find that. I suspect that might involve a very speedy re-reading of every single submission, but I will see what I can find for you, member.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly. If it is possible in whatever review is happening, can you identify whether anyone other than developers was arguing to keep sunset clauses in place without protection? I am interested to know if anyone in that particular interest group is making a case.

Ms Cruickshank: I am very happy to look into that. I will ask my team to see what they can find as we are doing this. If it is helpful, I will give a little more information around it. The Department of Justice undertook public consultation to inform the review, and that ran from 1 September to 10 October last year. They did two online surveys, one aimed at obtaining consumer views and one aimed at obtaining property developer views. I suspect that partly answers your question. There is definitely a desire to understand the views from all across the sector and community.

There were 206 survey responses received: 178 were consumer responses and 28 came from the property industry. Peak organisations for consumers, property owners, the property and development industry and also the legal sector were invited to make written submissions to inform the review. Actually, I am told there were only seven written submissions received. Two additional submissions were invited and received from individuals in the legal and finance sectors to seek specialist input. The work in finalising that review is ongoing. That is as much context as I have. If I have anything additional, I will come back.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, does that clear up your question?

Mr BERKMAN: If there is further information that the director-general can come back with then that would be welcome. Director-General, you would be well aware that Queensland has a community titles working group whose role is to review and advise on strata laws. How many times has the Community Titles Legislation Working Group met since October 2024?

Ms Cruickshank: I am just checking I have the right working group. There are a number. Yes, I do have the information. The Community Titles Legislation Working Group has met twice—once on 30 May 2025 and once on 25 February 2026. The comment I would make is—and this goes for a lot of the work that my agency does—there are formal meetings such as the ones I have just referred to and then there are a lot of individual discussions and one-on-one engagements with representatives from the community, the legal fraternity, industry, whatever the issue might be, so I would not want the perception to be that just because there were two working group meetings that is what happened. There would have been ongoing work with the group and with my policy team throughout that period. But the specific two meetings are those dates I just provided.

Mr BERKMAN: Accepting your answer as stated, how is the community and interested stakeholders supposed to know what is going on with the working group if there have only been those two formal meetings and the rest of the work happens outside the formal structure of the working group?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: under standing order 115(b)(ii) that is an argumentative question—'how can they'.

Mr SPEAKER: I am happy with it. I call the director-general.

Ms Cruickshank: I suspect a big part of the answer in that would be the representatives who are on that working group actually have responsibility to engage with their own members and stakeholders in bringing their views to that working group. In terms of how broad a community, business, legal, whatever, those members would have a responsibility to engage. If I cast my eye down the

stakeholder groups, we have the College of Strata Lawyers, we have the Resident Accommodation Managers Association, the Owners Corporation Network, the Law Society, the Real Estate Institute, the Strata Community Association, the Unit Owners Association and the Urban Development Institute, and I think those are expanded members, so there must be some other core members that I do not have in front of me. With the breadth of those organisations—and, as I say, they would have a responsibility to bring the views of their members and where they have garnered their positions from—I think we can be confident they would be bringing their responsibilities to the working group meetings.

Mr BERKMAN: Director-General, New South Wales, I understand, recently legislated principles for strata managers that, among other things, required them to disclose potential conflicts and vendor commissions in order to protect unit owners from getting ripped off. Is the department working on, and is the government considering, similar laws for Queenslanders?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that is asking for a policy matter from the director-general. I think she would be aware of that, too.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sure she is aware of that. I call the director-general.

Ms Cruickshank: I am always so cautious about being repetitive. Yes, I would say I do not want to be drawn on any particular policy position, but I would like to reassure the member the people who are engaging in the working group and leading that policy work would have an eye to all of the feedback that comes from those working groups and from those members, and also would have an eye to what is going on in other jurisdictions. I am sure that will all be factored in, in terms of putting advice to government which, as others have indicated, I clearly will not step into the space of what decisions government might make and what advice we give them to inform that, but it is a broad and extensive process that has been ongoing.

Ms MARR: Can the Attorney-General outline how the government is making Queensland safer through Breach Bail, Go to Jail reforms?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Thuringowa, someone who has been extremely active in her community advocating for these reforms. As the Premier has already announced, the next phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time will tackle those hardcore repeat offenders who commit serious crimes while on bail. We know that victim numbers have fallen by 9.6 per cent in Queensland, but you have to remember, member, when we came to government, victim numbers had skyrocketed 193 per cent under Labor, so it is a huge, high bar that we are trying to reduce. We know more work needs to be done, but it is good to know that those victim numbers are slowly but surely coming down—9.6 per cent, again off an extremely high bar; 193 per cent under the former Labor government. That is what happens when you play with the Youth Justice Act.

I will tell you one thing which is probably a bit off topic—I will get to it—we are not going to do what the Labor Party want to do which is increase the age of criminal responsibility. We will not be doing that. I rule that out here today. In relation to Breach Bail, Go to Jail, by the end of the year, as the Premier has announced, we intend to have a new offence for youth criminals who breach bail. The new offence will expand the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws for crimes committed while on bail. The new offence will have a minimum mandatory sentence for repeat offenders. This is all in response to the weak bail laws under the former Labor government, but also importantly it follows feedback from members such as yourself , the member for Capalaba, the member for Nicklin, the member for Moggill and I have to mention the member for Hinchinbrook as well—he has mentioned it a few times.

I get it. In my own electorate of Nanango, these kids are doing the wrong thing, they are out on bail, they are committing another offence and they are getting away with it. That hardcore repeat offender who is doing the wrong thing and putting the people in our communities in a position where they do not feel safe is what we are trying to tackle. After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, we have a big challenge ahead of us, but we are up for it. That is exactly why we are doing what we said we would do: we will do everything we can to restore safety for Queenslanders.

Mr FIELD: Attorney-General, can you outline how you are bolstering public prosecutions in Queensland and give any examples of how it has impacted access to justice for victims?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I want to thank the hardworking DPP and the ODPP. We have given them the tools and resources they need to ensure victims receive access to justice that they rightfully deserve. It includes an investment of $10.6 million over four years and an investment of $3.7 million annually ongoing to enhance capacity and capability of the Queensland prosecution service and reduce the administrative burden through the additional digital functionality. This is something they have asked for and what we are working towards.

The DPP plays an important role when it comes to Attorney-General appeals. It has the resources to pursue appeals, from my direction, on sentences handed down under former laws, and even under current laws which obviously we are continuing to work towards fixing. I monitor sentences where I believe those sentences do not meet community expectations. I instruct the DPP to appeal the matters. I can indicate from the 2023-24 DPP annual report, the former attorney-general appealed only one sentence. In the last year alone, the DPP has been successful in four matters where I have instructed to appeal an inadequate sentence.

A key example of this is the case of Emma Lovell. Emma Lovell's heinous murder at the hands of a then 17-year-old rocked our state. Under Labor's weak laws, Emma's killer was originally sentenced to 14 years detention with only 70 per cent to be served behind bars. Queensland's Court of Appeal then reduced the sentence to 60 per cent on the killer's appeal—not my appeal; the killer's appeal—meaning the offender could walk free after just eight years and five months. I instructed Crown Law to appeal the sentence. If Emma's killer was sentenced under the LNP Crisafulli government's tough new laws, he would have got life in prison.

I will continue to exercise my power in appealing sentences shackled by the former Labor government's weak laws. In the case of Emma Lovell, this has meant we have been able to seek the right to appeal and be granted an appeal matter to the High Court to seek justice for Emma Lovell's family and the community. Labor's weak laws failed to recognise that the rights of victims should go ahead of the offender. Our laws have changed that so offenders are sentenced to meet our community's expectations.

Mr HUNT: My question is for the Attorney-General. Supporting victims and making Queensland safer are key policy areas of the Crisafulli government. Can you update the committee on the funding and programs the government is prioritising to restore safety where you live, including in my seat of Nicklin?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, member for Nicklin. I give a shout-out and thank you for inviting me to Nambour to visit your courthouse, and I will get to your question in a moment because it is important. As you know, the regional courthouses need a lot of work done to them, and I do call Nambour a regional centre. I spent the entire estimates hearing last year talking about upgrades to courthouses, so I promise not to bore the committee with it too much.

In relation to your courthouse in Nambour, member for Nicklin, it did not have disability access to the top level. It meant that people with disabilities had to do their business in the tiny room that we visited. I thank the hardworking JP who was there that day as well. Our JPs in the community provide an incredible service. Under the Crisafulli government, thanks to your advocacy, Mr Hunt, as the member for Nicklin, we now have a lift in the Nambour courthouse. I know that the hardworking officers and registry staff who work in that Nambour courthouse, along with the visiting magistrates and legal service users, are very thankful for the lift. Well done to you for ensuring that happened.

I also note that we have spent a lot of money—and I have touched on this—in relation to the DFV Courthouse Improvement Program. Member for Nicklin, I know that many of your constituents would attend the court in Maroochydore, and I was very pleased to be able to announce that increase in funding for the Maroochydore courthouse. I have visited the courthouse with Maroochydore MP Fiona Simpson. We are benefiting victims of DFV on the Sunshine Coast by making improvements to the courthouses.

I have worked in the courthouse in Kingaroy, which is identical to the Nambour one. Back in the day, before there was any care or concern for DFV victims, they had to sit outside the courtroom with their perpetrator sitting right beside them. It was always awful. There was nowhere to help your client to get away from their perpetrator. It was very intimidatory. I remember that so clearly, and that is why I am focused on the DFV upgrade program to get those safe rooms. It is often one of the hardest times they will ever go through.

As you know, we have also increased the number of new police recruits. We have the early intervention. We have our Secure Communities Partnership Program and Victims Advocate Service. There is so much I can talk about.

I have talked about the increase in the Office of the DPP. I am very pleased with the victim-centric concentration within the DPP. I have talked about those incredible ladies whom I met in Townsville who literally call people to make sure they know when their matter is coming before the court. It is extremely stressful to go to court—be it your first, second or even third time—and not know what is going on. They ensure they have access to the online portal. I am very proud of the Victims Advocate Service.

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General outline how the Gambling Community Benefit Fund supports Queensland's not-for-profit organisations, including in my own electorate of Moggill?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thanks to the member for Moggill, this is an incredible program. I am very pleased that it is in my department. It is a program that enables all of our communities across the whole of Queensland to benefit from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Each year that fund distributes more than $60 million directly to all of our communities across Queensland. I thank the committee for their hard work in deciding some of the rounds. There are thousands of applications and only enough money to go around for less than a thousand, so it is really difficult. In 2025-26 there were three rounds of the fund, including two standard rounds with $35,000 grants available and one super round, where organisations could apply for up to $100,000. That was in direct response to the cyclones and the storms we had.

You asked about your electorate of Moggill. Several organisations have been recipients of the fund. There was $23,000 for the intraining Running & Triathlon Club to purchase new trailer equipment and first aid training. I know that, being a runner yourself, member for Moggill, you would appreciate that. There was $35,000 for the Pullenvale State School P&C to build a shed and purchase equipment so the P&C can run their fundraising community events. There was $30,000 for Southern Cross Soloists Music to purchase a portable stage to provide free family and community concerts and support both the emerging artists and the community. There was also the Tamborine Mountain orchestra, which is over 50 years old. Mr Speaker, I think the member for Moggill should invite me to that one. That would be exciting. I would like to do that.

There are more than 500 not-for-profit groups across Queensland that shared in more than $31 million across the round, with grants made to help restore community infrastructure, strengthen local resilience and support organisations that were impacted by declared severe weather and other events. This was the big round. Successful recipients who received the maximum grant include: the Weipa state emergency support service groups, which received $100,000 to purchase a new 4x4 vehicle to help their volunteers; and the Mackay & District Hack & Pony Club, which received $100,000 to upgrade safety, functionality and accessibility to their facility after floodwaters submerged the ground floor of their clubhouse.

This next one is much needed, Mr Speaker, because so many Kingaroy people and people from your patch retire to the bay. Hervey Bay Bowls Club received $100,000 to repair their bowling green, which was damaged by floodwater. I should not sledge bowlers, though. Not all bowlers are retired. There is an Australian bowling team in the Commonwealth Games today who may win gold, so let's watch out for that. Go the bowlers! Some may learn to bowl in this new $100,000 bowling green, thanks to the Crisafulli government.

I also note that in the member for Capalaba's electorate Myhorizon Ltd received $35,000 and the Queensland Orchid Society received $3,000. I will not forget the member for Gaven. Member for Gaven, there is a massive list here, so I am not going to read them all out. There was the Nerang Men's Shed, the Gold Coast Snooker and Billiards Club and the baseball club. Member for Nicklin, how can I forget you! There was $35,000 for the Australian Country Music Association. You have to invite me to that one. The Cooroy Community Bowls Club received $35,000. They can compete with Hervey Bay. There was the Mapleton State School P&C and the Nambour Heights Bowls Club.

Member for Thuringowa, I have not forgotten you. Your baseball association received $35,000. There is a horse and pony club at Moondarga—$30,000. Mustangs Baseball only got $1,112, but the Pirates Baseball Club in direct competition got $25,000. The Riverway football club got $35,000. Townsville District Bowhunters Inc. received $5,500. The Nanango electorate also has a bowhunters club. Not many of us do, but we do as well. Maybe they can compete together.

I say to all members of parliament: encourage your communities to put in good applications, ones that really benefit your community. It is a wonderful thing that we can do.

Mr SPEAKER: We might go to non-government members again. I call the member for Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: My question is to the director-general. Director-General, is there a formal policy governing the retention and reappointment of acting magistrates?

Ms Cruickshank: I will have to seek advice. I am not sure. Whilst I am seeing if I can get some advice, I did want to, if it is alright just in real time, respond to one of the earlier lines of questioning around that working group. I just did not want to misinform the committee. I have sought advice, which

is confirmed, that the working group that I knew we were a part of actually is not connected to this report at all. We were not involved in anything around this report. There is a different portfolio policy-type group that my policy team work on for similar matters but not related to this. I just wanted to clear that up. In the absence of having any further advice, on reflection, my other comment would be any appointments, whether acting or ongoing, are a decision of government. I am not aware that there is a policy governing it but even if there was it is not in my purview.

Mr RYAN: In coming back to the committee with the full advice, if there is a policy would the director-general provide the committee with the policy?

Ms Cruickshank: I have a feeling that if there is a policy it is going to be a government policy as opposed to a departmental policy. I am not aware of one. If there is something different, yes, I will return.

Mr RYAN: Director-General, has there been a net loss of acting magistrates since November 2024?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, on a point of clarification, is that not a matter for the courts and the government of the day who make the appointments? That is the point of order to clarify. I do not wish for the members to be misled.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the director-general can answer the question.

Ms Cruickshank: I will do my best to answer the question. I do not know. I am aware, based on conversations I have had with the Chief Magistrate—I obviously have regular engagement with the heads of jurisdiction, noting that obviously what goes on in their jurisdictions is their domain. We have regular meetings and they usually inform me of certain things. I am aware there have been some magistrates who are unwell at different points in time and take time off. My understanding from conversations that I have had with those heads of jurisdiction and particularly the Chief Magistrate is that the additional magistrate appointments are helping address that. I am sorry, but I could not tell you about a net loss or not. I would not have thought there was a net loss. It might be that there are some people who have been on leave and that potentially has impacted the way the Chief Magistrate handles what she allocates for hearings, but she has not said to me it is a problem. That is probably the best I can do, I am afraid.

Mr RYAN: In getting to the bottom of the matter, maybe the Attorney could take that on notice on behalf of the director-general.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No. Point of order—

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Nicklin?

Mr HUNT: The question relates to at any point in time. You are talking about temporary positions. The member asks if there has been a net loss. It is a point-in-time question. They are temporary positions. They are temporary appointments. That could be for a day or a week. I do not think it could be answered.

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general talked about that. If it is going to be taken, it is up to the Attorney.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, Mr Speaker. I am not and I will tell you why. I have just spent a lot of time in this committee talking about the seven extra magistrates—the permanent appointments. These appointments are a matter for government and I do—

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, on a point of order—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He is welcome to ask me the question, Mr Speaker, and I will answer it.

Mr RYAN: The question was directed to the director-general. I have another question for the director-general. Director-General, has there been any court closures or disruptions due to unavailability of acting magistrates?

Ms Cruickshank: Not that I am aware of, no.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the director-general. Can you advise the total budget of advertising spent by the Department of Justice in the 2025-26 financial year?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: it has been well canvassed in these hearings that, with respect to the way the government operates, this is centralised within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and under the Premier's purview. We had these points of order raised yesterday with

respect to other portfolio hearings and very similar questions to this. These matters should have been addressed via the Premier or to the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet at those hearings which were held on Tuesday.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: there was a ruling made last night in the Transport and Main Roads session where the director-general provided this information on the budget of advertising. I would think the director-general could provide that information.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, you have been here for pretty much all of the hearings. I have allowed the director-general to answer that to the best of their ability. I ask the director-general to respond.

Ms Cruickshank: No. Unfortunately, I do not have those figures because it is actually run out of DPC. I have only heard some of the estimates this week. At risk of reiterating various aspects of it, I think you are probably aware that everything from the research that informs how a campaign is going to be designed through to the creative that goes into that campaign through to the media buy through to the evaluation of those things—they are all done by DPC. That means the services that are procured for those purposes are done through DPC, so I do not have those figures.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, while I appreciate that, as I said, last night the Transport and Main Roads director-general was able to provide that information. My question is what campaigns were budgeted by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General?

Dr ROWAN: I am going to raise my point of order again in relation to all of those matters as was provided by the testimony with respect to the director-general in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Premier's estimates hearings. Those matters were canvassed through there. It was very clear as to how machinery-of-government changes have resulted in the centralisation of the advertising processes within the purview of the Premier. I submit to you again that that should have been directed to the relevant hearing on Tuesday.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: my point of order relates to the question having already been answered and that being an argumentative approach by the member.

Mr SPEAKER: It was a slightly different question as it was about programs that were advertised. I will allow the director-general to answer it.

Ms Cruickshank: I am happy to answer the question. The direct answer is there is no line item from either 2025-26 or, for that matter, 2026-27 in the Department of Justice portfolio for advertising.

Ms SCANLON: Just to be clear, Director-General, is it the case that there is no funding from your budget provided to DPC for government advertising for the 2025-26 year?

Ms Cruickshank: That is correct.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, my question is to you. I refer to the answer to prehearing question on notice 3, which states, 'It is also enabling the ODPP to convert 25 junior roles into frontline senior prosecutor roles.' Director-General, can you confirm that, while additional funding has been provided to the DPP, additional positions have not? While there might be additional senior prosecutors, there will be 25 fewer junior roles to support their work?

Ms Cruickshank: I can confirm. This was very much on the basis of work that I did and advice I received from the Director of Public Prosecutions and his senior management team. There were not additional roles allocated for those 25 new prosecutor level appointments. The specific request they made was that, given the changing nature of their structure of work and the organisation that supports it, they wanted government to consider making an investment that would reflect a greater seniority needed within the organisation. They also identified that they have quite a lot of turnover at the particularly lower levels within their organisation and, as a result, have a relatively high vacancy rate.

Yes, your question is correct but it was done at the request of the ODPP. As I understand it, they are very satisfied that government has decided to put that additional funding investment in, but they were very comfortable with the fact it was not for extra positions—that it was actually about being able to use vacant FTE to turn them into more senior roles so they could add to the level within the organisation that conducts prosecutions. A big part of why they had requested that that be considered by government and then that was addressed in the budget goes to the point of the workload of those prosecutors and supporting prosecutors within the ODPP. Very much the approach was how do we lessen the caseload that each and every one of those existing prosecutors have? That is what the 25 speak to.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, of the $95 million allocated across the forwards for the CFMEU inquiry, can you provide a breakdown of the budgeted amount for staff assisting the inquiry, counsel assisting the inquiry, the commissioner and travel?

Ms Cruickshank: I am afraid I cannot because, whilst commissions of inquiry, including that one, might be hosted, if you like, under the portfolio of the Department of Justice, they do run completely independently. The decision around the appointment of the commissioner and any related fees is a decision of government. Everything else that operates within the commission and therefore utilises the budget that you have referred to is completely in the domain of the commissioner and the commission. I do not have visibility of any of those things.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Minister for Integrity, I refer to your charter letter and your responsibilities as integrity minister. Minister, what advice or actions have you taken to support the Premier through the number of integrity crises plaguing the government, including the child safety crisis, the crime crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the housing crisis?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: in relation to the question as asked by the member for Gaven, there are numerous imputations, inferences and, I would also say, misleading statements contained within the question as asked, and therefore it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, if you can ask the question without imputations or arguments. You get one more chance.

Ms SCANLON: Minister, what advice or actions have you taken to support the Premier to ensure there is integrity in this government?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that.

Dr ROWAN: The inference in the question is that there is a lack of integrity in the government. Despite the fact that the member for Gaven tried to rephrase the question, it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Moggill.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What a pleasure it is to answer a question from a member of the former Labor government about integrity in government! Goodness me, where do I start? It is important to note, because history does matter and so do truth and facts. By the way, I note, Mr Speaker, that no-one in the opposition ever mentions former premier Palaszczuk's name, which is interesting given how long she was premier of this state. I did sit on the opposition benches and I distinctly remember when former premier Palaszczuk had to commission an inquiry into her own government's integrity. We had integrity fail, integrity fail, mangocube, integrity fail—it went on and on.

At an estimates hearing like this I remember asking a question of the former premier's DG, I believe it was. I want to make sure I have this right. Was it a former DG who had a direct connection to a government grant? I apologise: it was the chief of staff; it was not the director-general. I think that was Mike Kaiser. I am probably getting them mixed up. Former premier Palaszczuk was forced to announce a formal review into her Labor government. Led by Peter Coaldrake, they actually called it *Let the sunshine in*. I also remember a ministerial statement where the premier of the day said, 'Let the sun shine in.' Then what did the Labor government do? They did not do anything. The report said it was a government that was too tolerant of bullying. We now know that as a result of the CFMEU inquiry. It was a government too tolerating of bullying, misogyny, harassment and intimidation. There were lobbyists unquestioningly attached to the government. Then minister de Brenni was linked to a decision by the independent building watchdog to award a $400,000 contract to former minister de Brenni's recently departed director-general's company. Integrity matters!

We then had mangocube, where the member for Miller was allegedly found to be using his private email to take instructions from the ETU about who should be appointed. They altered reports to remove comments damaging to ministers. They pressured the then integrity commissioner after she began investigating unlawful lobbying. They then altered the State Archivist's reports that were critical of ministers—

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, point of order: if the Attorney-General has nothing relevant to say about integrity in the Crisafulli government then we should move on.

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: the member may regret asking the question, but she did ask about integrity and the minister is providing important historical context in relation to integrity within government. I think she is providing a fulsome answer and I am interested to hear the rest.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, please continue.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Then of course in that former Palaszczuk government we had Jackie Trad. The current Leader of the Opposition sat in the cabinet that allowed Jackie Trad to use public funds to fight the release of a CCC investigation.

We were asked what we have done in the Crisafulli government to restore integrity and confidence to government, and I say that we did what we said we were going to do. We have given reporting powers back to the CCC. That is something the opposition found hard to support because of the culture of fear, intimidation and bullying. It was a closed shop, with the CFMEU and the ETU at the controls of the government—but not under us. We gave reporting powers back to the CCC. Last year's budget included $7.1 million to fund the Integrity Commissioner properly—that is another thing I have done as Minister for Integrity—to give her the certainty and continuation she needs. There are so many; I have just been given a few more notes.

It is important to note that integrity does matter in government. That is why our Premier leads by example. That is why in my role I am doing what we said we were going to do to restore integrity to the government benches. During their decade of decline we had the Coaldrake review and chiefs of staff and former directors-general who were very closely aligned with the Labor Party.

Mr Speaker, I have to mention this one: changing Queensland's electoral system with 18 minutes notice. We always say it was 18 minutes, but I was there and I think we are being generous to the Labor Party. In a very quick 18 minutes—if it was 18 minutes, but let's give them credit—they changed the entire electoral system just to benefit Labor. Let's remember that removed Fitzgerald's recommendation. That was not a government that led with integrity. We are leading with integrity.

Because this is something that was also close to my heart at the time, let's never forget that the current Leader of the Opposition changed the name of the Lady Cilento hospital. The CCC said—

> The lack of transparency and inability to robustly audit the results of a voting website in the CCC's view limits the integrity of a process to engage meaningfully with Queenslanders on matters of public interest.

The Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we said we were going to do.

Mr RUSSO: Director-General, can you confirm if the Gambling Community Benefit Fund program and guidelines are currently under review?

Ms Cruickshank: My apologies for the slight delay. I am not aware they are, no. I was looking perplexed in case I had forgotten something, but, no, I do not think so.

Mr RUSSO: Director-General, when will the next round of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund be released?

Ms Cruickshank: I am probably not able to specifically say that because I believe it will be a decision for the Attorney as to when she chooses to announce it. I might characterise it this way: there has been no change to the frequency with which we run those rounds. As I think the Attorney alluded to in an earlier question, it is eagerly awaited by many community groups and very much oversubscribed in terms of applications. I would suggest it is probably imminent, but it is not for me to say exactly when, I am sorry, member.

Ms MARR: My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer you to page 1 of the SDS of the Department of Justice. Can you give an example of how the Crisafulli government is working with businesses to reduce unnecessary regulation and provide effective regulatory oversight of liquor licensing in Queensland?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you. This gives me an opportunity to speak about a part of my department that I have not spent much time on in this estimates. I am pleased since stepping into this role to have spent time working together with the Queensland Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland to identify opportunities to safely support licensees and reduce red tape. One of the key issues that has been raised with me is the failure of the former government to consider opportunities to support our licensed venues during large international games. Like their preparations or lack thereof for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the former government buried its head in the sand rather than looking for ways to support our community and our licensed venues.

In response to calls from the industry, our government recently ran a targeted trading hour trial to allow eligible licensed pubs and clubs across Queensland to trade between 3 am and 7 am for the Socceroos knockout clash against Egypt. I will say that it did not go the way we wanted it to—the clash, that is; not the trial. We lost against Egypt and that was a shame. I was there; I went to a local pub and really enjoyed it. I have a photo which I am not going to table, but everyone was just sitting there

because it was a really lovely morning. There was food, and most people were actually drinking water or coffee. There were a few hardcore who were trying to drink a Guinness, which I thought was a bit lumpy for that time of the morning. I have to out him: that was my husband drinking the Guinness.

We did that targeted trial. This point is really important: licensed venues were required to open for the primary purpose of broadcasting the game and they had to be approved in advance from OLGR. I want to give a shout-out to OLGR for the work they did in a very short period of time to ensure it went so smoothly. It involved specific and targeted screening processes, with venues excluded if they had any outstanding licensing fees or regulatory matters ongoing. More than 200 licensed venues were approved by the OLGR within a three-day period. That was a mammoth achievement by the regulator. We have received positive feedback from both the Queensland Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland. Importantly, there was very positive feedback from the Queensland Police Service and OLGR inspectors. We are considering the outcomes of this targeted trial within the context of the Night-Life Economy Commissioner's report as Queensland prepares to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Also, in relation to the reduction in regulations, we have updated guideline 40 to make it easier to renovate or modify licensed venues. We have introduced measures to make venues safer by allowing operators to leave the doors of empty gaming machines open after the gaming ends for the day. This may sound trivial but it was raised with me in my first meeting with Richard Deery, the head of QHA. Basically, under the former rules, you had to lock the door of the gaming machine, but if people broke in they would unfortunately smash the gaming machine. Now they can leave the door open which means less damage—not that they should be breaking in in the first place.

We have removed cheques as the default for certain gaming machine payments, aligning with the broader phase-out of cheques. We have progressed regulatory change to authorise the use of facial recognition at licensed liquor and gaming venues for particular harm minimisation purposes, providing clarity for licensees. We have amended how the minimum price of a gaming machine authority is calculated to enable prices to come down when machines do not sell. We have extended the hotel authority transfer fee for three years to stimulate the market and conduct a longer assessment of the trial. OLGR is now: limiting onsite desktop compliance checks during peak trading hours; updating training and guideline materials to better support licensees; and streamlining licensing processes to improve efficiencies.

At the same time, in 2025-26 as at 30 June 2026, OLGR completed nearly 9,000 inspections or investigations and undertook 565 enforcement actions for liquor and gaming related offences across the state. Pleasingly, liquor and gaming enforcement actions have decreased by approximately 63 per cent. This reflects OLGR's uplifted liquor and gaming compliance inspection model which targets critical harm minimisation measures in peak trading periods and supports licensees through an educative approach during off-peak periods.

These are just some of the examples of how I am working together with the industry to support their businesses, maintain effective regulatory oversight of licensees and deliver a safe and vibrant experience for all Queenslanders.

Mr FIELD: My question is for the Attorney-General. What is the government funding as part of the essential justice services in the 2026-27 budget?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank you for the question. As I have said, we are committed to the delivery of essential frontline justice services that place victims at the heart of our justice system. There is $39.3 million being invested with $3.3 million per annum ongoing for judges, judicial support services and the delivery of essential justice services. This investment follows years of chronic underfunding and limited life positions and programs by Labor. Nearly 120 roles in DoJ and LAQ were set to be cut, with no permanent funding. In fact Labor left 22 per cent of the DoJ workforce on temporary contracts.

Funding measures now include judicial resourcing and support, permanently funding seven magistrates and funding for reserve judges. In fact, on the reserve judge issue, I reckon I should table this Facebook post while I have the chance. How good is this. This contains a *Courier-Mail* headline that says, 'Acting judge pauses court for five minutes after hearing child abuse case: A powerful reminder that while the abuse may last only minutes, its impact can last a lifetime'. I will quote the acting judge, who was funded through our budget: 'It robs that child of their innocence, but also many things that they should be able to take for granted.' I will table that Facebook post because I am really pleased to see Corrine McMillan MP supporting our acting judge.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you are not part of the committee so you cannot table that.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Can't I? Okay, I do not need to table it.

Mr SPEAKER: You can seek leave.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Okay, I seek leave to table it. I am sure they can look up their own Facebook page.

Mr SPEAKER: Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Attorney-General, back to you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will return to what I was talking about. Legal Aid Queensland is set to receive $8.6 million and ATSILS will receive $1.4 million. Our significant investments will: continue to support victims to navigate the justice system; have matters heard sooner; drive collaboration across justice portfolios; and prioritise community safety, victims and opportunities for law reform. In addition, we are continuing to prioritise our investments that support victims through our investment in the ODPP, which I have talked about, building greater capacity at FSQ, and getting those matters to court or retried if required. Importantly, there is an investment in the Coroners Court to ensure matters are properly investigated in a timely manner. As you asked, member for Capalaba, this is all about prioritising justice for victims over that of offenders.

Mr HUNT: My question is for the Attorney-General. What progress has the Attorney-General made to deliver her charter letter commitments and election commitments for the justice portfolio?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: How long do I have, Mr Speaker? I prioritise the delivery of my charter letter and my election commitments to keep the promises we made to Queensland when we were elected—doing what we said we were going to do. That is what the Premier keeps saying and that is exactly what we are doing. We are making Queensland safer, ensuring safety where you live no matter where you are. We have enacted the third tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws—47 different ACAT offences—and enacted laws to make electronic monitoring permanent and to remove good-character references in sexual assault matters. I am so pleased with that last one.

The following have been delivered from my charter letter: deliver a justice system, and continue to deliver, a justice system for Queensland that prioritises the rights of victims, is efficient and fair and makes our community safer; boost the capacity of Queensland's justice services to ensure victims' cases are heard sooner; and provide support and increased transparency for victims of crime as they navigate the justice system. That is why I was talking about that online portal. If you have a matter before the court, you can get a number and you can go in and see where your matter is up to.

Importantly, we have reopened the Childrens Court, effectively, to victims, their families and media to restore transparency and continued the rollout of the specialist DFV courts. I am going to continue to talk about that and continue that investment. Importantly, we are protecting our most vulnerable by strengthening and streamlining the blue card system and implementing recommendations from the QFCC inquiry to keep Queensland children safe. Importantly, we are: ensuring the DNA forensic lab is of a world-class standard and can be relied upon to bring justice for Queenslanders; delivering the recommendations from the two previous commissions of inquiry in a thorough and transparent manner; restoring the CCC's powers to report on corruption risks—and I touched on that earlier; creating a public child sex offender register, tick; and establishing the mining warden court—done that—with powers to investigate fatal accidents. Mr Speaker, it would be inappropriate for me to speak on that without acknowledging the tragic accident that has happened on a mine site today. My thoughts and prayers really do go to that person, their family and their workmates. It is a tragedy that no family should ever have to go through. We have established that mining warden court. We have strengthened the independence of the Integrity Commissioner.

In addition, the following has been delivered from the election commitments we took to the 2024 election. We tasked the Child Death Review Board with reviewing system responses to child sexual abuse, using the horrific offending of Ashley Paul Griffith. I want to thank the Child Death Review Board in relation to the *In plain sight* report. That cannot have been easy to work on. We have consulted on anti-discrimination laws in Queensland—and I am proud to say we have commissioned former Justice Flanagan to do that. We are upgrading our court facilities including digital capacity, something that will take a long time but we are continuing, and maintaining existing funding and commitments to QCAT. I love this one: I am going to maintain the age of criminal responsibility. That is a commitment that we are going to stick to. There is also funding for late-night support services to enhance safety in Burleigh Heads. I was down there with the member talking about that not long ago. It is a broad portfolio and we will continue to take decisive action as our government delivers on the commitments we made to Queenslanders.

Ms MARR: Attorney-General, what information can you provide the committee with respect to any improvements in delays and wait times at QCAT since the Crisafulli government came to office?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have mentioned her once before in this session, but I genuinely wish to acknowledge the great working relationship I have had with the QCAT president, and I thank her for the work as she goes back to the Supreme Court. I was pleased to extend her tenure at QCAT. It now comes to an end and she goes back to the Supreme Court. I thank Justice Mellifont for her hard work.

I would also say that the former government was meant to progress a statutory review required under legislation in a timely way, but it took us coming to government to commence that QCAT review. We have made that appointment and it is being led by former justice and tribunal president the Hon. David Thomas. It is a shame that review into the working of QCAT was kicked down the road. Following the last state election, our government has appointed many additional ordinary members and adjudicators at the tribunal and ensured registry staff continue to be funded. This undoubtedly has helped reduce wait times and allowed matters to be heard and resolved quicker.

I am pleased to report that QCAT's performance has significantly improved, with noteworthy reductions in delays for hearing and the time taken to finalise matters. Since the Crisafulli government came to office in October 2024, my department advises me that QCAT has seen the following reductions in wait times for a first hearing in 75 per cent of cases. They are really good numbers. In building matters it has gone from 123 weeks in October 2024 to now 90 weeks. For guardianship it is down to 23 weeks from 35. For neighbourhood disputes, when we took office it was 169 weeks and it is now only 90 weeks. By the way, these are still very long wait times, but we are getting them down. For other civil disputes it was 158 weeks and it is now down to 33. For retail shop leases it is down from 143 weeks to 57 weeks. Again, it is way too long, but they are coming down.

Since the Crisafulli government came to office in October 2024, my department advises me that QCAT has seen the following reductions in the indicative length of time to finalise QCAT matters in 75 per cent of the cases: child protection, guardianship, other civil disputes and retail shop leases. These results demonstrate faster access to justice for Queenslanders. While I acknowledge that some of these delays and wait times are still far too long, there is significant progress in the right direction. The government is still awaiting the recommendations of the QCAT review due to be handed down shortly, which we will consider to improve QCAT's performance in the future to ensure QCAT continues to meet its objectives.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to opposition members for a few questions.

Mr RUSSO: My question is for the director-general. Could you advise if the membership of the Gambling Community Benefit Committee has changed since the change of government? If so, can you provide to the committee the current membership?

Ms Cruickshank: Yes, there have been changes. The changes are very much in the purview of the Attorney. I would guess the membership is available somewhere. I do not have it at hand, but it is very much in the purview of the Attorney-General.

Mr RUSSO: Can that be taken on notice?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The committee has changed. It did change following the resignation of the chair. I thank her for her hard work and recognise her significant health battles.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. I table analysis from the cabinet website, which, I am advised, indicates 28 bills have passed the parliament and their cabinet submissions have not been released. Attorney-General, that list includes three of yours. As the responsible Minister for Integrity, will you release your cabinet submissions and work with your colleagues to release their cabinet documents?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Our government continues to adhere to the same guidelines for the proactive release scheme as the former Labor government did. Cabinet material is released within the standard 30-business-day period and is available on the public website. Consistent with the guidelines in the Cabinet Handbook and Professor Coaldrake's recommendations, there are some exclusions to proactive release. Examples of some exclusions are where items: are not in scope; include deliberative submissions, where further cabinet consideration is required; of course, significant litigation submissions; significant appointment submissions; secret or restricted submissions; and intergovernmental relations submissions. As the Attorney-General and first law officer of the state, many of the matters I take to cabinet include sensitive and privileged information. Ultimately, the final decision-maker on whether a proactive release submission is released is cabinet. It is not appropriate for me to comment on cabinet deliberations.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, I understand the membership of the Gambling Community Benefit Committee is not public, so my question is: when will it be made public?

Ms Cruickshank: Apologies for the delay; I was just checking which website it was on. I am actually advised the membership of the GCBF is public, but it is on the Premier's DPC website—premiers.qld.gov.au—so that is a good question. We should probably put it on our own website since it is public on the Premier's one, so we will do that.

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, with reference to the department budget summary, which shows that there has been a reduction in funding for the 2025-26 year when compared to the 2025-26 actuals, including $15 million for courts and tribunals, a $15 million reduction for legal and prosecutions and a $34.5 million reduction in service delivery and consumer protection, can you advise what steps the department is taking to absorb these reductions?

Ms Cruickshank: There is quite a lot to that question and I am conscious there are also different parts of the SDS and the budget. I think if I take a step back, perhaps the first thing I would like to reassure the committee on is there have been no changes to programs or ongoing staffing that is connected with those programs as a result of the budget. There are differences in the way, certainly from an FTE point of view, it is represented between the different subsections or subgroupings within the way my department is built and the funding allocated against it. I have to apologise: I am probably going to confuse it both for these estimates and for next estimates simply by way of the fact that I am undertaking an organisational restructure at the moment of the Department of Justice which means that I have been doing a number of things that mean that the figures are possibly not as useful or perhaps I would say possibly not as able to be compared apples with apples as usual, but I am happy to explain what those are.

What I have done in the main, which is reflective of why there are some adjustments in those figures, is I have moved different line areas where there were what I would call corporate staff, so people working in areas such as finance, HR, communications or ICT. I am very focused on—which goes to the heart of your question—how I can make the most out of the existing resources that I have and I have determined that the best way I can do that is to centralise those functions. In doing so, it means I have pulled people out of individual divisions which necessarily impacts the way those figures look, both dollars wise and also in terms of FTE. The other thing I have done is quite distinctly move certain teams from some parts to another. One of your questions was around courts. I have moved one of the programs that sits under the courts program into the policy side of things which is the community justice groups team, which was quite large. I have moved that in under the First Nations Justice Office because I really wanted to concentrate the expertise that we have within the department in one area rather than have it spread across the realm.

There are some other more material differences that speak to the dollar side of it. Obviously the commission of inquiry into child safety has now concluded. That was quite a significant amount of our budget for last year compared to this year. We have also had—and I might just find my notes on this—a couple of other programs of work that have come to an end.

Mr SPEAKER: I will just remind you: we have very little time and we have a question that you were going to see if you had any more detail on. I think it was the member for Maiwar's question, was it? Did you have any more to add to that?

Ms Cruickshank: I do. Yes, I am happy to switch to that one now if you would like me to.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, because we have less than two minutes left.

Ms Cruickshank: The only extra information I have, which I suspect is not very different to what I have said before, is that the scope of the review was to look at the effectiveness of the 2023 sunset clause reforms specifically on sunset clauses for the sale of off-the-plan land. Submissions are currently under consideration on the effectiveness of the sunset clauses on the sale of off-the-plan land and any policy or response informed by the review will end up, as I said before, being a matter for government. I am afraid that is the only extra information I have.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, did you have anything to say at the end?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I do.

Mr SPEAKER: You have one minute.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, I would very much like to thank you, Mr Laurie and the committee for your deliberations. I would also like to thank the opposition members who are part of this committee. In particular, I very much wish to thank the Department of Justice, my

director-general and all of the independent statutory bodies that have worked extremely hard to ensure we have a budget that includes faster access to justice and to ensure people and our government organisations are held with the highest integrity. So I very much thank all of the staff who have worked on estimates. It is a huge amount of work. To all of my incredible ministerial staff, thank you very much.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. We have now reached the end of the time allocated for the consideration of the proposed expenditure for the areas of responsibility administered by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. There are no questions outstanding. Thank you Attorney-General, director-general, officials and departmental officers for your attendance. The committee will now adjourn until 1 pm when it will examine the estimates for the portfolio areas of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Thank you.

Proceedings suspended from 12.15 pm to 1.00 pm.

ESTIMATES—JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE—POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

In Attendance

Hon. DG Purdie, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ms Bianca Stone, Chief of Staff

Ms Madeline Toft, Assistant Adviser

Queensland Police Service

Mr Chris Stream APM, Deputy Commissioner, Disaster and Emergency Management

Mr Mark Kelly APM, Deputy Commissioner, People and Assets

Mr Brett Pointing APM, Acting Commissioner

Mr Michael Shears, Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management

Mr Alistair Dawson, Inspector-General of Emergency Management

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The committee met at 1:00pm

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Good afternoon. Welcome back to the Legislative Council chamber. We will now resume proceedings for the estimates hearings today with the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. I am Jon Krause; the member for Scenic Rim and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Under the provisions of the Parliament of Queensland Act, I will preside over today's hearing. The members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee are: Mr Marty Hunt MP, the member for Nicklin and chair; Mr Peter Russo MP, the member for Toohey and deputy chair; Ms Natalie Marr MP, the member for Thuringowa; Mr Russell Field MP, the member for Capalaba; the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, the member for Gaven, substituting for Ms Melissa McMahon MP, the member for Macalister; and Mr Michael Berkman MP, the member for Maiwar. The committee is joined by other members who have been granted leave to attend and ask questions at the hearing today.

I remind everyone present that any person may be excluded from the proceedings at my discretion or by order of the committee. The committee has authorised its hearing to be broadcast live, televised and photographed. Copies of the committee's conditions for the broadcasters of proceedings are available from the secretariat. Staff who are assisting witnesses here today are permitted to use personal electronic devices in the chamber. I ask all present to ensure phones and other electronic devices are switched to silent mode or turned off if not in use. That applies to members as well, please. I remind everyone that food and drink are not permitted in the chamber.

The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure in the Appropriation Bill 2026 for the police portfolio until 2.30 pm. We will then adjourn for a short break until 2.45 pm before examining the emergency services portfolio area until 4.15 pm. I remind honourable members that matters relating to these portfolio areas can only be raised during the time specified for each area, as agreed by the House. I refer members to the program set by the House which is available throughout the chamber and on the committee's webpage.

I remind everyone that these proceedings are subject to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly. In respect of government owned corporations and statutory authorities, standing order 180(2) provides that a member may ask any question that the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the relevant appropriation bill or otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate public guarantees are being provided.

On behalf of the committee, I welcome the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, officials and departmental officers and members of the public. For the benefit of Hansard, I ask officials and advisers to identify themselves the first time they answer a question referred to them by the minister or acting commissioner. Please remember to press your microphones on before you start speaking and, importantly, off when you are finished.

I now declare the proposed expenditure of the portfolio area of the police open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish, you may make an opening statement of no more than five minutes for the portfolio area currently under examination.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all members of the Queensland Police Service, both past and present, sworn and unsworn. I thank you for your service.

The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland—more police, stronger laws, fewer victims. This government is focused on making Queensland safer. Before the October 2024 election the Crisafulli government made a commitment to Queenslanders: to give police the laws and resources they need to restore safety in the community after a decade of decline under the former Labor government—a decade where victim numbers skyrocketed by 193 per cent and police numbers plummeted as fast as morale, a decade of watered-down laws and no consequences for actions that created a generation of untouchables.

We said that we would act, and we have—more police, stronger laws, fewer victims. This is highlighted by the 2026-27 budget, which invests $7.2 billion into making Queensland safer, strengthening the foundations for a fresh start and restoring safety where you live. That includes: a total QPS budget of $4.518 billion including an operating budget of $4.129 billion and a $300 million capital budget for the QPS.

The Crisafulli government backs our police and we now have a record number of officers on the front line. We committed to delivering 1,600 recruits over four years. I am pleased to report that we have exceeded that. In just 18 months we have sworn in almost 2,000 constables. We are strengthening the front line that was decimated by Labor. Under Labor, despite promises and glossy brochures, police numbers increased by just 76 officers. Under the Crisafulli government we have grown the QPS by 752 in less than two years. That is almost 10 times what Labor managed in the whole of their last term. For the first time in the state's history, police numbers have now surged past 13,000 and unplanned attrition has fallen below three per cent, reflecting renewed confidence in the QPS and the direction of this government.

We know that there is still more to do as we rebuild strength, capability and confidence in frontline policing. Part of that is giving police the laws they need to make Queensland safer: Jack's Law, Daniel's Law, new e-mobility legislation, laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists, new strengthened drug laws, laws to combat antisocial behaviour, laws to better protect victims of domestic and family violence, the Crisafulli government's landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time laws and, soon, the Breach Bail, Go to Jail legislation that has been overwhelmingly backed by the community, who want to see tougher consequences for actions and the revolving door of youth criminals slammed shut.

This government has a vastly different approach to Labor, who proudly watered down the laws and celebrated fewer arrests and fewer offenders being held to account. That era is over. The Crisafulli government has funded the largest State Flying Squad in Queensland's history. We have launched Operation Forge and Operation Marshall. That—coupled with more police—means we are seeing more criminals arrested and a return of proactive policing. Police are targeting offenders who were left to run riot under Labor's soft-on-crime approach. Now there are more traffic, drug and weapons offences being detected.

I would like to acknowledge all officers for their dedication and reassure the community that, while we have a long way to go, we are seeing positive early results. In the last financial year there has been a 9.6 per cent reduction in the number of victims in Queensland when compared with the 2023-24 financial year. QPS data shows that break-ins have fallen by 19.5 percent, stolen cars have decreased by five per cent and robberies have dropped by 17.2 per cent. This follows a staggering 193 per cent increase in victims during Labor's decade of decline. This improvement is not by chance—more police, stronger laws, fewer victims and sustained investment in our frontline. Our first budget backed frontline policing with a $147.9 million investment in critical investment, including Taser 10s, body worn cameras, tactical first-aid kits and tyre deflation devices. I am pleased to report to the committee: all 6,546 Taser 10s have now been delivered; every frontline officer now has a tactical first-aid kit, with 12½ thousand delivered; 1,400 tyre deflation devices have been purchased; and 7,826 body worn cameras have been delivered, addressing longstanding shortfalls left by the former Labor government.

We are also delivering vital upgrades and rebuilding police stations across the state, from Edmonton in the Far North to Logan in the south-east. There is still a great deal of work to be done, but Queenslanders can be confident that, under the Crisafulli government, we are making Queensland safer. To assist the committee, I seek leave to table a document highlighting the work of the Queensland police to assist with your deliberations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is leave granted by the committee? Leave is granted. We will start with non-government questions.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, earlier this week we learnt of the whole-of-government advertising spend. Can you confirm the total budget for Queensland Police Service advertising in 2025-26?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: over the series of estimates we have canvassed this and established that the advertising spend sits under the Premier's remit. I would suggest that they should have asked that in the first round of estimates.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: there was a ruling last night in the Transport and Main Roads hearing where this information was, in fact, provided.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, could you restate your question, please?

Mr BUTCHER: Earlier this week we learnt of the whole-of-government advertising spend. Can you confirm the total budget for Queensland Police Service advertising in 2025-26?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was going to deal with the point of order of the member for Nicklin, but do you have a further point of order?

Dr ROWAN: Yes. Now that the question has been restated, the member for Gladstone has referenced the machinery-of-government aspects relating to advertising which sits under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and it has been made clear through the testimony on Tuesday via the Premier and the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that this is a whole-of-government process and therefore questions related to advertising should have been submitted in that session.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: it was determined this morning that the director-general could answer this question, and there was a determination made last night in an estimates hearing, so I ask that this be put to the commissioner.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the same point of order?

Mr HUNT: No. Further to that, the question was put to the director-general this morning and the director-general was unable to answer it and referred us to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. That was the answer to the question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Nicklin, member for Gaven and Leader of the House for all of your points of orders. I have sought some advice and I note that the question references the whole-of-government advertising spend in relation to DPC. There is a second part to the question which is asking for details about QPS advertising spend. If there is any I am sure the Acting Commissioner can answer that so in that respect I will allow the question.

Commissioner Pointing: As mentioned, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, DPC, does provide a centralised coordination role in terms of whole-of-government advertising, including overseeing a cap on advertising spend, and oversight for media placement, through the whole-of-government media buying agency EssenceMediacom, is DPC's responsibility. Total media placement spend is subject to an independent end-of-financial-year audit, as per the standing offer arrangement with EssenceMediacom managed by DPC. DPC publicly releases media placement spend annually so any questions regarding media placement spend should be directed to DPC. I can confirm that as part of the allocation to QPS this year we did receive $23 million with respect to recruiting and part of that funding was to support advertising for recruits and PSOs.

Mr BUTCHER: Can you name the specific campaigns that were actually in that marketing throughout 2025-26? For example, Adult Crime, Adult Time and, as you have already stated, recruiting?

Commissioner Pointing: My apologies, I do not have that level of detail on me.

Mr BUTCHER: Are you happy to take that on notice?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: the commissioner made it clear that that was under DPC and the only one that was under his remit was to do with recruiting. That has been answered.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I think the acting commissioner has answered the question, but I appreciate your point of order. Acting Commissioner, you have concluded your answer?

Commissioner Pointing: I have concluded my answer, thank you.

Mr BUTCHER: What is your budget for QPS advertising?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: sorry to keep interrupting, but the commissioner just said $23 million. I heard him say it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point of order is?

Mr HUNT: The commissioner has answered that question already so it is getting repetitive.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order in response to that point of order: the question has not been answered and this is a new question.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: the commissioner clearly outlined the whole-of-government responsibilities sitting under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and therefore I would submit to you that that was answered and that would be in accordance with the point of order that was raised by the member for Nicklin.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: last night the director-general of TMR provided the allocation towards DPC. What is in their budget, that is what has been asked of the commissioner. That has not been provided yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, this question sounds very similar to the first question that was asked today, which I have allowed and the commissioner has answered. Commissioner, can you answer the question again?

Commissioner Pointing: I am aware that out of about a $23 million allocation to support recruiting, $7 million of that was allocated to support a campaign to attract police recruits and also PSOs.

Mr BUTCHER: Noting your comments to the recent QPU conference about support staff ceasing their work on 30 June, can you advise how many temporary or contract staff ended their employment with your department up to 30 June 2026?

Commissioner Pointing: The comments made at the Police Union conference, which I stand by, were in light of two pieces of reform work that the service has been engaged in over the last 12 months. The first one, of course, being the commissioner's 100-day review which was commissioned by Commissioner Gollschewski, which I took part in; the second piece being the independent financial review, which together provide a road map for organisational modernisation, improved governance, financial sustainability and strengthening frontline capability.

Running parallel to the work of the 100-day review, the independent financial review also examined the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation. In essence, the review found that the QPS had effectively been operating beyond its means in several areas, with historical workforce growth not always supported by ongoing funding. It also identified structural budget pressures, growth and expenditure across supplies and services and governance weaknesses that require correction to ensure long-term sustainability. More importantly, the process moving forward for fiscal reform, given that we have been living beyond our means, is very much around honouring every temporary contract. Every temporary contract has been honoured and no permanent jobs have been lost.

What we will be doing is putting in a process where any vacancies that arise will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and if there is an opportunity—we are basically underfunded for the staff we have got. We have had an overrun over many years that we need to address so every temporary contract has been honoured and with your agreeance I might just hand to Deputy Commissioner Kelly who is actually handling this piece of work and can speak specifically to the question.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: In terms of permanent positions for the QPS, as of 30 June 2025 there were 6,167 positions and as at 30 June 2026 there were 6,178. Both those figures had a point 5. That was an increase in the positions. In terms of the MOHRI, and the simple definition of that is the number of people who are being paid at a point in time, in terms of permanent staff, on 30 June 2025

5,087.3 and as of 30 June 2026 5,378.3. Over that year, we have had an increase of 291 paid permanent staff members. In terms of temporary staff members, Mr Butcher, if I could clarify the question: was that for the year or on 30 June?

Mr BUTCHER: Up to 30 June 2026.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: For the 12 months. It is very complex in terms of temporary staff members. There are three categories: temporary personnel in temporary positions, permanent personnel in temporary positions, and temporary personnel in permanent positions. Would you like me to explain any of that?

Mr BUTCHER: No, I am fine, thanks.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: The sum of all the MOHRI—again, that is the people being paid at a point in time—for temporary personnel and temporary positions as of 30 June 2025 was 345.5. The sum as of 30 June 2026 is 304.5. The sum of all MOHRI for permanent personnel and temporary positions as of 30 June 2025 was 223. That sum as of 30 June 2026 is 138.1. The sum of all MOHRI for temporary personnel and permanent positions as of 30 June 2025 was 431. The sum as of 30 June 2026 was an increase to 463.6. Overall, the sum of all MOHRI as of 30 June 2025 for temporary positions, regardless of whether they are temporary personnel and temporary positions, permanent personnel and temporary positions, or temporary personnel and permanent positions was 999.6. That sum as of 30 June 2026 is 906.2.

Mr BUTCHER: Deputy Commissioner, I think I have the response I need from both yourself and the acting commissioner. I will move on to another question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think there is a fair bit of detail provided to you. Do you wish to ask another question, member for Gladstone?

Mr BUTCHER: Yes, Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we do, Deputy Commissioner, is there anything that you have not read into the record that is needed to make the answer entirely complete or not lacking substance?

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: If you consider permanent and temporary personnel in terms of growth for the year, it is about 200, or 195.6, more people being paid as of 30 June 2026 as compared to 30 June 2025—staff members.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, how many vacancies is the department currently carrying and can you advise if those are frontline or non-frontline positions?

Commissioner Pointing: Deputy Kelly is in charge of people and assets. I might hand over to Deputy Kelly to address that question.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: If I could have one moment, I will grab the briefing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is a bit of detail.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: The QPS budget full-time equivalent as of 30 June 2026 was 19,786. The substantive headcount was 20,176 and the MOHRI FTE was 19,256.4. The QPS budget does include 219 FTE associated with the State Emergency Service, which transitioned to the QPS in June 2024, and 30 full-time equivalents associated with Marine Rescue Queensland. The police officer budget FTE was 13,916 and the substantive headcount as of 30 June was 13,055, the difference between that being 861 in terms of the funded difference. That is for the police officers. During the financial year, the police officer headcount increased by 435.

On top of that, there are also police recruits. There were 240 in the budget and on top of that we had 633 police recruits. That was a substantive headcount at one time because obviously there is flux between intakes and swearing-ins. Special constables: the substantive headcount was 100 and they are funded obviously through police wages.

Mr BUTCHER: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: the question was around how many vacancies are in the department. If you have already clarified that in your answer, I am happy to move on.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: That was the police officers. Would you like the staff members?

Mr BUTCHER: How many vacancies is the department currently carrying and are they frontline or non-frontline if there are vacancies there? How many positions are vacant?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner, you were clarifying the officers.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: Yes, I have clarified the officers. I think I gave that number.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is another element to the question.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: Which is the staff members.

Mr BUTCHER: Yes. How many vacancies are in the department? How many vacancies are currently carried?

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: If I go back to my original statement, the QPS full-time budgeted FTE was 19,786. The substantive headcount was 20,176. That number is greater because it is mixed between police officers and staff members.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Deputy Speaker, on relevance: while I appreciate that information, the question was very specific around vacancies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the point of order, member for Gaven. Is there a further point of order?

Dr ROWAN: Yes, there is, Deputy Speaker. From the deputy commissioner, with respect to the question as asked, there was a reference to the number of positions, both frontline and non-frontline, which—

Mr BUTCHER: Vacancies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. I heard the question.

Dr ROWAN: There was a further element to the question around vacancies. The deputy commissioner is addressing the first element of the question as I heard and providing substantial additional information beyond frontline positions and now to non-frontline positions, which was asked in the first part of the question. I am sure when he runs out of his answer he will come to the vacancy aspect, which is the second part of the question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question was about vacancies and the deputy commissioner is being relevant, in my view, in that he is outlining the substantive headcount as opposed to ones that are employed. There are a couple of elements that he is going through in terms of officers and other staff as well. Perhaps you could come to the end of that, Deputy Commissioner, if you can. I think there was a second element about frontline and non-frontline.

Mr BUTCHER: Deputy Speaker, I am happy to accept the answer that he has given so far. If I could move on?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The question was asked and the deputy commissioner is being relevant to the question as asked. There were multiple facets to the question. He should be allowed to continue and round out his answer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner, do you have further details to add? It is an important question and we should get the full answer.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: In terms of the staff members, I am going off MOHRI because obviously we have financial responsibilities under the Police Service Administration Act in terms of the number of people who are employed, in terms of the budgets. The staff member MOHRI FTE was 5,832.6 as of 30 June 2026, which was 202.6 above the budgeted FTE.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, going back to the question in terms of those temporary positions, what is the change between 30 June 2026 and 1 July 2026, noting the earlier comments about temporaries ending their work as of 30 June 2026?

Commissioner Pointing: Once again, I will hand that question to Deputy Commissioner Kelly, who is in charge of people and assets.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: Temporary positions are created for defined periods to address specific requirements and at the completion of their approved end date, positions are reviewed to assess ongoing needs, legislative requirements and budgetary considerations. My data is slightly different in terms of 30 June and this week in terms of different dates. There were 54 temporary positions within the Queensland Police Service establishment. Those 54 included 13 police positions, so there were 41 staff member positions. Temporary police positions are created for various reasons—different projects—but essentially no new police are brought on because all police, as you would understand, have to come through the academy. Of the 41 positions, as of 30 June, there were nine people in those positions. There was no-one in those other positions at all prior to that. They were sitting there in the establishment on a spreadsheet as a position that had been used for a period of time, but there were nine people in those positions. My understanding is that four of those people did finish those

particular temporary contracts and they have gone on to other roles in the Queensland Police Service. Three people did finish contracts on those dates and they worked in corporate areas—in IT and recruiting and development.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will head to government members' questions for a time.

Mr HUNT: Minister, what critical police equipment has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered to frontline officers to support them in tackling Labor's youth crime crisis, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that failed to support police?

Mr PURDIE: Firstly, I thank the member for Nicklin for the question and acknowledge his three decades of service, protecting Queenslanders as a member of the Queensland Police Service. If we expect our frontline police to confront dangerous offenders, we have a responsibility to give them the very best equipment to do that job safely. This is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing. Today, I am proud to announce a record $14 million investment to equip every Queensland police officer with a brand new Glock 45 Generation 6 service pistol. More than 14,000 new service pistols will replace aging firearms first issued almost three decades ago. Queensland will become the first policing jurisdiction in Australia to upgrade its entire handgun fleet to the latest generation 6 platform. Every frontline officer will have modern, reliable equipment designed to give them greater confidence when responding to the most dangerous situations imaginable. This is not a stand-alone investment. It is the latest step in the Crisafulli government's comprehensive plan to properly equip Queensland police after a decade of Labor neglect.

As prehearing question on notice No. 8 confirms, we have already delivered every one of the 6,546 Taser 10 devices promised at the last election. We completed the statewide rollout of 12,500 TAC first aid kits ahead of schedule. We have delivered more than 7,800 body worn cameras and 1,400 tyre deflation devices to safely stop offenders while reducing the risk associated with high-speed pursuits. These are not nice-to-have items. They are life-saving equipment. Taser 10s provide officers with safer tactical options when confronting violent offenders. TAC first aid kits allow officers to provide immediate life-saving treatment to themselves, their colleagues or members of the public. Body worn cameras strengthen evidence gathering, improve accountability and protect both police and the community. Tyre deflation devices help safely bring dangerous pursuits to an end.

Those opposite spent 10 years asking more of police while giving them less. They watered down the laws. They allowed youth crime to spiral out of control. They left police confronting increasingly dangerous offenders, with aging equipment. Queenslanders deserve better. Our police deserve better. The Crisafulli government is delivering on our commitments: more police, stronger laws, fewer victims.

We have grown the Queensland Police Service to more than 13,000 sworn officers for the first time in our state's history. We have invested almost $148 million in critical frontline police equipment. We have introduced strong new laws to restore consequences for actions. As a result, police data now shows statewide victim numbers are down 9.6 per cent compared with Labor's last full financial year.

The Crisafulli government will never ask police to do an impossible job with yesterday's equipment. We will continue backing the men and women who put themselves between dangerous offenders and innocent Queenslanders. Every decision this government makes is driven by one objective: making Queensland safer.

Mr FIELD: Minister, how is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering fewer victims of crime across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that saw victim numbers skyrocket during Labor's 10 years?

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, member for Capalaba, for the question, and we all know the path that led you here and I acknowledge your unwavering advocacy for victims of crime. The commitment to restoring community safety is deeply personal and you have been a tireless voice for Queenslanders who have suffered at the hands of serious offenders.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the member for Capalaba understands better than most that behind every crime stat is a real victim—a family whose home has been broken into, a business owner forced to clean up after another break-in, someone whose car has been stolen, or a Queenslander left feeling unsafe in their own community. This is why the Crisafulli government has always been focused on one thing: reducing the number of victims of crime. Every Queenslander deserves to be safe where they live, work and raise a family.

Last week, the Queensland Police Service released encouraging new figures. They show the number of victims of crime across Queensland has fallen by 9.6 per cent per capita compared with the 2023-24 financial year—9.6 per cent. It is an encouraging sign that Queensland is heading in the right

direction, but we know there is a long way to go after a decade of decline under Labor that saw victim numbers explode. The QPS data shows reductions in some of the offences that caused the greatest harm to Queensland communities. Victims of unlawful entry offences are down 19.5 per cent. That means more than 7,000 fewer homes and businesses broken into than in 2023-24, Labor's last full financial year in government, while robberies have fallen by 17.2 per cent, and unlawful use of a motor vehicle—stolen vehicles—have fallen by five per cent.

I want to reiterate: this is not job done; there is a long way to go. Victim numbers are still too high. What we are seeing has not happened by accident. They are the result of hardworking police officers being backed by a government that believes in them, police officers who are focused on fighting crime, and the statistics are the result of stronger laws, more police and better equipment and targeted police operations that relentlessly pursue serious repeat offenders.

The QPS has made it clear that intelligence-led policing and targeted operations are helping drive these results. Operations such as Operation Forge have now resulted in more than 4,700 offenders being charged with more than 12,600 offences across Queensland. The State Flying Squad has also played a critical role, supporting local police districts, targeting serious repeat offenders and charging more than 2,600 offenders with around 8,000 offences.

These operations are disrupting offending before more Queenslanders become victims. They are restoring confidence in community safety and they are helping police focus on the offenders causing the greatest harm. Compare that with Labor's decade of decline. Victim numbers skyrocketed by 193 per cent. Youth crime spiralled out of control, police were expected to do more with less, and communities across Queensland were left paying the price.

Queensland voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering: more police, stronger laws, fewer victims.

Labor's approach to crime is vastly different to the Crisafulli government. While Labor celebrated fewer arrests, we will not shy away from locking up crooks. We know proactive policing prevents more people from becoming victims.

We know there is still a long way to go after Labor's decade of decline, but behind every percentage point in these figures is a Queenslander who is spared the trauma of becoming a victim—a family that did not come home to find their house broken into, a small business owner who did not have to clean up after another break-in, someone who still had their car to drive their kids to school the next morning. It is why we are building on the success of our landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time laws with new bail reforms. It is what the community has asked for, and the Crisafulli government is delivering. The Crisafulli government is putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders, we are restoring consequences for actions, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government was elected to do.

Ms MARR: My question is to the Acting Commissioner of Police. Commissioner, can you please explain to the committee the difference between victim numbers and offence numbers and why we have seen offence numbers increase and victim numbers decrease?

Commissioner Pointing: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work undertaken every day by the men and women of the Queensland Police Service across Queensland. Our officers and staff work around the clock to ensure Queensland remains a safe place to live, work and visit. Their dedication and commitment continue to make a tangible difference to community safety. I would like to acknowledge their collective work in reducing victim numbers.

Over the past financial year, Queensland police have arrested more than 125,000 offenders, issued more than 120,000 notices to appear, conducted over 2.5 million roadside breath tests to reduce road trauma and facilitated more than 135,000 referrals to a broad range of support agencies, connecting vulnerable individuals experiencing mental health challenges, homelessness and domestic violence as well as those needing aged care and those with a range of other social issues that need addressing. The impact of this work is reflected in encouraging reductions across several key crime categories that have been previously reported on. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of targeted policing operations and proactive engagement such as Yankee Forge.

Every year the Queensland Police Service produces its crime stats. In fact, they will be released again in September. The QPS manages a range of crime stats. In fact, we publish them monthly. We are very open in terms of publishing our crime data, but they are formally released every year by both the ABS, which does a slightly different comparison because it is looking nationally, and the office of the Queensland Statistician.

If we look at the year in review, we have seen increases in 'other offences'. There are some offences that have victims, and we speak here about break and enters and stolen cars. There is another category of offences that we report on regularly which is called 'other offences'. They have increased by 10 per cent, or 30,605 offences, this year. There is often confusion around this data. This data is very much a measure of police proactivity. I will go through these quickly because they are an indication of the great work that our police are doing around the state every day.

If we look at the year in review, which finished at the end of June this year, drug offences have increased by 20 per cent, or 16,973 offences. That means that in the last year 16,973 more persons have been held accountable for drug related offences than last year. They are linked to increases in drug possession and supply related offences.

In addition to this category of offence, which is 'other offences', good order offences have increased by nine per cent, or 4,315 offences, in the past year. This was largely driven by increases in resist arrest, obstruct police and evade police offences as well as public nuisance type offences.

The next category is that of traffic and related offences. As we know, traffic enforcement is critical to keep our road network safe. This year we have seen an increase of five per cent, or nearly 3,000 offences. Once again, this is a measure of police proactive work. This relates to a focus on road safety and enforcement, which has seen an increase in both drink-driving and drug-driving offences.

The final category I will talk to is that of Weapons Act offences. It has increased by 22 per cent, or 2,171 offences, this year. That reflects an increase in possession and use of dangerous articles and other weapons. This reflects enhanced detection through high-visibility policing and wanding operations such as Jack's Law. Where you see 'other offences', it is in essence a measure of police proactivity. There is no victim attached; it is someone getting arrested for a Weapons Act offence or a drug offence, and the number has increased significantly this year.

Mr HUNT: My question is to the minister. How is the Crisafulli LNP government making Queensland safer, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that resulted in skyrocketing crime rates during Labor's 10 years in government?

Mr PURDIE: The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for, after the number of victims of crime skyrocketed 193 per cent during Labor's decade of decline. Early this month the Crisafulli government announced that we would be expanding our landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to youth bail—Breach Bail, Go to Jail. This will reform Labor's weak bail laws and follows feedback from government MPs and victims, including the members for Nicklin, Capalaba and Thuringowa.

Regional communities are fed up with Labor's generation of serious repeat offenders who continue to terrorise Queenslanders. The next phase of the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, which will be law by the end of the year, includes a new offence for youth criminals who breach bail. The new offence will apply to Adult Crime, Adult Time crimes committed while on bail. The new offence will have a mandatory minimum sentence for these repeat offenders.

In the last financial year almost 1,000 juveniles who had been granted bail breached their bail by committing an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence. This stark statistic shows how important it is to continue strengthening our laws, not weaken them, like we saw under Labor. Bail is a privilege, not a right, and it should be treated as such. The community has had enough and we are listening. The Crisafulli government is committed to making Queensland safer and turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

The youth bail reform builds on the first three phases of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Almost six thousand—5,998 to be exact—juveniles have already been charged with more than 29,000 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time. These results do not happen by chance; they are the direct result of the Crisafulli government's tough-on-crime approach, including Operation Forge, the State Flying Squad and proactively targeting Labor's youth crime crisis.

The results from these proactive operations demonstrate what we can achieve when government backs our front line. That is what the Crisafulli government is delivering. Labor's approach to crime was vastly different. Not only did they celebrate fewer arrests and repeatedly water down the youth crime laws; they even dismissed skyrocketing crime as a media beat-up or, unfortunately, after the Alexandra Hills tragedy, likened it to kids stealing KitKats. Now, as we see positive early results across the state, they continue to vote against our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. The question is: will they vote against strengthening bail laws?

The member for Nicklin and I were on the front line as Labor's youth crime crisis spiralled out of control during their decade of decline. Labor allowed a generation of serious repeat offenders to terrorise communities across the state. The Crisafulli government was elected to deliver more police,

stronger laws and effective early intervention and rehabilitation to fight Labor's youth crime crisis. We are delivering on that commitment by targeting this generation of serious repeat offenders, which has fallen by 16 per cent in the 12 months to July 2025.

Unlike Labor, we will continue to put the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators. Every decision we make will be about strengthening laws and delivering more police to make Queensland safer—unlike Labor, who want to raise the age of criminal responsibility and wind back Adult Crime, Adult Time, if elected. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and we are delivering it. After Labor's decade of decline, we have more police, stronger laws and fewer victims.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go to non-government questions now. I call the member for Gladstone.

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the acting commissioner. Can you explain why the Queensland Police Service compared crime data with the last full financial year of the former Labor government instead of the 2024-25 financial year? I ask because the QPS's own annual report and the Queensland crime report are relying on comparisons to the most recent prior financial year.

Commissioner Pointing: I will just receive my brief on crime data generally. When I started as commissioner there was a range of datasets being circulated. The QPS manages our own data of course that is reported on by the ABS in September every year. Then there is the data that is reported by the Queensland Statistician's Office that comes out annually. In fact, the ABS does two reports a year. In addition, there is the monthly data that we report also every year.

When I first started as commissioner some of that data was being reported financial year to financial year. Of course, then there is the Premier's framework for reducing victims which is the nine offence cohort. There are a lot of different datasets floating around. The data that the QPS publishes monthly—and it appears in our annual report—is done on financial year, and that is reviewed through processes like estimates, the year in review. The framework for the Premier's nine was at the time being compared calendar year to calendar year. We sought to harmonise that data by reverting to a financial year comparison of data.

Mr BUTCHER: Acting Commissioner, was the decision to do this form of comparison one that was made by you?

Commissioner Pointing: It was one that I had been lobbying for since I started simply because I think the traditional data that everyone is used to comparing is by financial year, which is reviewed through processes like estimates, reported on by the ABS and the Queensland Statistician's Office, whereas the Premier's cohort of nine offences was year to year. I sought to harmonise that to make comparisons, I think, more fairly using the same datasets.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, can I just clarify your previous answer to that question? What the opposition is seeking to understand is not the financial year but why the full financial year under Labor was determined?

Commissioner Pointing: I do not think there is any exact science to that. It was simply using full years so we can compare them against full years—so we can compare 2023-24 to 2024-25 to 2025-26.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, my question is to you. What was the total cost of government contracted use of QGAir over 2025-26?

Commissioner Pointing: I will just get the brief on that in the interests of accuracy.

Ms SCANLON: My question also asks for some further information. I am happy to ask that if it aids the acting commissioner in getting that information too.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the acting commissioner has his brief now. What was the first part?

Ms SCANLON: The total cost of the government contracted use of QGAir over 2025-26.

Commissioner Pointing: Queensland Government Air's adjusted annual budget for 2025-26 was $57.572 million, with year-to-date actuals as at 30 June 2026 of $70.9 million. The annual base operating budget for 2026-27 is $58.98 million. As at 30 June 2026, QGAir had a forecasted financial year deficit of $13.3 million, largely driven by maintenance to aircraft et cetera.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, can you furnish the committee with a breakdown of the number of flight legs taken for that cost and which member of the executive government chartered that flight for the period of 2025-26?

Commissioner Pointing: I can. I do have that data. It is clearly in another brief that I will be looking for. Bear with me. There are a lot of briefs. Thank you for your patience. I think I have over 200 briefs and they are not easy to put my hands on quickly. In terms of flights, I have data available for the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the minister and myself. I can read that into the record, if that is okay.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy for you to table that in the interests of time as well.

Commissioner Pointing: I have a summary here. The Premier had 33 total flights. That consisted of 89 total legs. A leg would be, if you fly to Brisbane to Cairns and back, that is two legs. The Premier had 33 flights at 89 legs at a total cost of $983,338.28. The Deputy Premier undertook 10 flights and 21 legs. Minister Purdie had two flights with five legs. I had one flight and one leg.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, I understand QGAir operated a flight from Brisbane to Wellcamp and later Wellcamp to Sydney earlier this year which the Premier was on. This coincided with the LNP workshop held in Toowoomba at the time. Can you advise if the initial Brisbane to Wellcamp leg of the trip was empty—that is, the Premier was not on the flight?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the preamble contained inferences. That information could be asked of the commissioner without the political preamble, I would suggest.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order, member for Nicklin. Member for Gaven, I appreciate the question has been asked. For the clarity of the acting commissioner, could you restate your question about that flight in a direct way? That would be appreciated.

Ms SCANLON: Can you advise if the initial Brisbane to Wellcamp leg of the trip was empty?

Commissioner Pointing: I do not have that data in front of me. I could seek to obtain it, if it is possible.

Ms SCANLON: That would be great. Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, are you happy for that?

Mr PURDIE: We will try to get that information—what is available. As we know from previous estimates, the manifest is held by the charter operator, not necessarily by us. We will see what we have by the end of the session.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We will take a note of that.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, in relation to the $57 million figure you provided before for the QGAir charter costs for government, was that charter cost for government use or the whole budget?

Commissioner Pointing: It has been brought to my attention that that was for the whole budget. I do have the accurate data. Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, $4.357 million has been spent on charter. That totalled 176 flights.

Ms SCANLON: In relation to my question about the Brisbane to Wellcamp leg of the trip, Acting Commissioner, can you also advise what the cost of that specific flight was?

Commissioner Pointing: With your indulgence, I do have the deputy commissioner in charge of that particular here. I would like to call Deputy Commissioner Stream to speak to that question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you need the question to be restated, Deputy Commissioner?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Yes, I would appreciate that.

Ms SCANLON: In relation to the Brisbane to Wellcamp leg of the trip that I referenced previously, my question is: what is the cost of that specific flight?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: In the interests of accuracy, do you have a date in regard to that specific request?

Ms SCANLON: I do not have that in front of me, Deputy Commissioner, but it was in reference to that particular trip, which I am sure you would be able to find, that I have outlined before. If you are unable to provide that information though, I am happy for you to take it on notice.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I have a specific date with a 'Wellcamp' listed as the destination. I can provide that and I will provide this specific date. We have records of a chartered flight which occurred 29 January 2026. That was from Wellcamp to Sydney. There were three passengers located on that aircraft, but we do not specifically hold the manifest details in relation to that. Obviously, with a chartered aircraft, the organisation that is chartered to provide that aircraft holds that manifest. Then on 30 January that charter returned from Sydney to Archerfield, Brisbane with six passengers. I do not have recorded here a leg around those dates. The previous dates were on 21 January, and that

related to a flight from Rockhampton to Archerfield. I do not have a leg recorded here with a chartered aircraft from Brisbane to Wellcamp. I only have records of a chartered flight from Wellcamp to Sydney with three passengers on board.

Ms SCANLON: I am just curious as to how the plane got to Wellcamp and if you can confirm the Premier was not on the flight from Brisbane to Wellcamp.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that question has already been taken on notice.

Ms SCANLON: If not, I would like it to be taken on notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are endeavouring to come back by the end of the session.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I can provide further information. If there was a leg which involved the transfer of an aircraft or a flight leg on the charter which had, as you are suggesting, the Premier, it should have been recorded here. I am happy to seek further clarification on that.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy for that to be taken on notice. I understand the minister has agreed to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, do you agree that the deputy commissioner can come back with any further details around that issue?

Mr PURDIE: By the end of the session I am sure we can dig up that detail.

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, as you would be aware, priority 1 incidents are defined as critical, life-threatening emergencies requiring an immediate, maximum urgency response. In reference to prehearing question on notice 12, is a 4.2-hour response time to a priority 1 domestic violence incident a maximum urgency response?

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: under standing order 115(b)(v), I believe she is asking a hypothetical matter. Unless that particular incident can be authenticated, that appears to be a hypothetical question.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy to table a document for the benefit of the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing that question?

Ms SCANLON: I am tabling a report and I am referencing prehearing question on notice 12.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: we have only just received this report. Can we have a quick pause to ensure it complies with standing orders?

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: this is only for the authentication of the question, which should be sufficient for the Speaker or chair of the committee—or in this case, the Deputy Speaker. It is not to allow the committee to go through every page.

Mr HUNT: Perhaps they could point us to the page that is relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have just received the tabled document. At the very least, the Acting Commissioner needs to have a look at it because the question has been directed to him, so you may want to reference the prehearing question on notice as well. The document has been tabled. The document appears in order for tabling.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: the question is specifically in relation to prehearing question on notice 12. I would have thought the members of the committee would have read that and so have, presumably, the members of the Public Service who provided—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I do not need that commentary. I did not reference committee members in my comment. It is the acting commissioner who may want to refresh his memory about the prehearing question on notice, so perhaps just focus on the questions.

Acting Commissioner, do you need the question to be put again, or do you understand where we are coming from?

Commissioner Pointing: No, I am a little confused. I am not sure whether I am being asked to speak to question on notice 12 or this report.

Ms SCANLON: Question on notice 12.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you restate the question, please, member for Gaven?

Ms SCANLON: With reference to prehearing question on notice 12, is a 4.2-hour response time to a priority 1 domestic violence incident a maximum urgency response?

Commissioner Pointing: Prehearing question on notice 12 breaks up all DV calls for service into five categories. It provides numbers and averages. It does not give any context to any call, so it is impossible to answer that question with any degree of accuracy. In normal circumstances, you respond to code 1 as fast as you can. You can see from the data that police are responding. I think it is giving averages. The heading is actually not on every page. It has 'average time to attend' and point 1 is six minutes. I cannot find the specific number that you are referring to. The data I have for code 1 is showing average time to attend or calls to attended—oh, 'maximum time to attend'. I am sorry. There is one in May. That is the only figure in that whole table that is high. It is impossible to comment on it unless you are able to talk to the officers who were involved. There could be very legitimate reasons that prevented an officer from arriving. Out of all of that data, from January 24—we do not need to read them into the record—code 1, I think they are all very, very impressive responses. I am sure that particular event would have a story to it, but I am not in a position to answer.

Ms SCANLON: With reference to the same question on notice, a DV victim waited 336.6 hours, or almost 16 days, for an urgent code 2 call for assistance in March this year. Why was that?

Commissioner Pointing: The circumstances of every case are different. There could be a thousand different hypothetical scenarios why police could not attend. It could have been negotiated. I am answering a hypothetical with hypotheticals. It is not possible to comment on the data that is there. It would take a review of each specific incident to find out why that outlier was there. All the data does is give maximum time to attend. You would have to talk to the individual officers to give any meaningful context to the question.

Ms SCANLON: Again, a DV waited 713 hours, or almost a month, for a code 3 call for assistance in January this year. Why was that?

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: it is getting repetitive now. The commissioner has already answered that he cannot detail specifics. There are a range of reasons these things can happen, including not being able to find an aggrieved person et cetera.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr HUNT: It is repetitive and the question has been answered.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, the numbers you are referring to: are they in that prehearing question on notice?

Ms SCANLON: Correct.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We did not get to the end of the question you were going to put so I cannot rule on that point of order. Could you put your question, please?

Ms SCANLON: Acting Commissioner, again, a DV victim waited 713 hours, or almost a month, for a code 3 call for assistance in January this year. Why?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: similar to last time, but it also contains an inference that there is not a good reason. The Police Commissioner has already indicated that, without details of specific incidents, there can be a range of legitimate reasons that would be the case. There is an inference because she knows he is not able to answer it. Just to put that on the record: there are inferences in that question.

Mr POWER: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: there is clearly not an inference. It is a statement of fact and a question of why. The question was asked without inference. It is clear that, if this has been a question on notice and no-one has bothered to find out why a victim had 336 hours—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, that is not a point of order. You are making a statement there, but I accept your point of order that you made at the beginning of your contribution.

Mr HUNT: Point of order: in relation to the member for Logan's comments about it not being an inference, to say that a domestic violence victim waited that long is an inference. That figure is related to the time it took—

Mr POWER: It is what the question on notice said.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan and member for Nicklin, I am going to stop both of you there. I heard the question. I am going to seek advice briefly. I have listened to the acting commissioner's answer to the previous question. On all of the points of order, I consider this is a different question. It may have a similar answer but it is a different question. Acting Commissioner, you have the call.

Commissioner Pointing: The QoN seeks advice on the number of DV calls, the average response time for domestic and family violence, the median response and the longest response. It does not seek commentary on specific cases. The QoN has been answered using the framework given. The questions around response times seeking advice on one particular line item would necessarily require an investigation to talk to the actual officer who attended and seek the reason behind that. Certainly, that was not required in the QoN. It was really about the times to response.

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the acting commissioner. Can you guarantee that there have been no changes under this government to call intake processes or thresholds in Policelink or triple-O call centres, particularly in relation to the treatment of domestic and family violence matters?

Commissioner Pointing: Could you repeat the question, please?

Ms SCANLON: Can you guarantee that there have been no changes under this government to call intake processes or thresholds in Policelink or triple-O call centres, particularly in relation to the treatment of domestic and family violence matters?

Commissioner Pointing: Certainly not to my knowledge. I am aware that an additional category of response was added that may be relevant to your question. I think during the 100-day review it was revealed that police were responding to DVs in manners that were not victim-centric. By that I mean there was a direction under the former commissioner, I understand, that police had to respond urgently to every DV. That meant the police could not negotiate a response. The downside to that of course was that the victim may ring the police officer seeking assistance, but they could have been ringing from their workplace or a place that was not safe. The direction actually meant that police had to respond immediately—they had no discretion in that—and that caused a situation where police were attending workplaces or places where the victim did not really want to have that discussion with police. So another category was included, and that is reflected in this data around priority 5 where the response between police and victims is negotiated so it is more victim-centric. That allows police to negotiate with the victim and say, 'Where would you like to meet and at what time?' It empowers the victim more. I think that has been a very positive outcome.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will move now to government questions

Mr BERKMAN: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: is it possible to get a crossbench question at some point during this session?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I did not realise you were there, but also the members of the opposition had not alerted me to the fact that you wanted to ask a question. I am going to the government members.

Mr BERKMAN: I am a permanent member of the committee, for what it is worth, Deputy Speaker, but I guess you are running the show.

Mr HUNT: Deputy Speaker, you will be going back to them at some stage soon?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. I call the member for Nicklin.

Mr HUNT: My question is to the acting commissioner. In light of those previous questions, I want to clarify this with you. Just because a response time is indicated, it does not necessarily mean that a victim was waiting for police for that long, does it?

Commissioner Pointing: Once again, I am reluctant to answer a hypothetical question with a hypothetical answer. This is simply data response time that gives no context. There could be 100 scenarios owing to either one circumstance or a range that prevented an interaction between the police officer and the potential victim. It is not possible to answer unless you did a deep dive.

Mr HUNT: Thank you, commissioner; that is what I was getting at. My question is to the minister. How does ministerial travel on the Government Air Wing compare with the previous 10 years, and what does the usage show?

Mr PURDIE: Before I answer that question and talk about the aviation capability of the Queensland police, I want to highlight that, in relation to the QGAir rotary wing capacity, we have flown 1,950 patients this financial year, conducted 66 search-and-rescue missions, conducted 69 winch rescues and undertaken 43 neonatal transport tasks. When you look at the fixed wing operation, we have transported a total of 6,896 passengers and transported 251 juvenile persons in custody over 148 legs.

When we came to government, we made sure there is a clear protocol in relation to prioritising DonateLife and emergency police responses above ministerial travel. We are determined that we will not be like the previous government, who thought they could fly around the state like Maverick and Goose on duelling charter jets to go to birthday parties and deliver birthday cakes. You certainly will not be seeing that here.

I want to talk about those communities that we travel to. We have made a point of being a government for the whole of Queensland, not just South-East Queensland and Brisbane. This asset allows ministers to visit communities right across this vast state, particularly those that are not easily or reliably serviced by commercial aviation. Queensland is a decentralised state, and governing Queensland means getting out of George Street and into the communities we are elected to serve. This is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing. Every flight undertaken by ministers is conducted in accordance with the longstanding policies and guidelines that have been in place for years. Nothing has changed under this government. Ministerial travel is publicly reported through ministerial diaries and the Queensland government open data portal, just as it has been since the 2014-15 financial year. Queenslanders can see where ministers travel, when they travel and how they travel.

The publicly available figures also tell an interesting story. When Annastacia Palaszczuk was Premier in 2015, she regularly travelled throughout Queensland using the Government Air Wing. In her first year as premier she recorded almost 80 hours of Government Air Wing travel, while her ministers clocked up 314 hours. Over time, as she lost interest in Queensland, those hours steadily declined. By 2022-23, after nearly a decade of Labor decline in office, former premier Palaszczuk had recorded just 30 hours—30.3 to be exact—around one-third of what she flew in her first year. Labor's lack of regard for anyone who lived outside the capital was clear. What Labor was saying is that regional and remote Queensland does not matter. The question for those opposite is: which regional, isolated or remote communities do they not think are important?

The Crisafulli government has a different approach. We believe every Queensland community matters, regardless of its postcode. That is why we are travelling to every corner—from Mornington Island to Mareeba, Cloncurry to Cooktown and Quilpie to Cairns. We have visited disaster zones, met with frontline police and emergency services crews, worked alongside volunteers, local councils and businesses, and delivered on our election commitment where Queenslanders actually live.

Some may see those flights as numbers on a spreadsheet. We see them as time spent listening to Queenslanders, solving problems and delivering for communities that deserve to see their government in person, not just from Brisbane. To specifically answer your question about the former government, in the 2016-17 financial year the then premier took 79.8 hours of flights. For other ministers the number was 314.3, with a total of 394.1. For the period of the estimates we are examining now, it was 127.8 plus 167.6 for a total of 295.4.

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government protecting more victims of domestic and family violence sooner and holding perpetrators to account? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that saw the number of DFV related incidents increase by 218 per cent while Labor was in government?

Mr PURDIE: Every domestic and family violence incident represents a Queenslander who deserves support, protection and a justice system that puts their safety first. Under the former Labor government, DFV related incidents increased by 218 per cent over a decade. That is not just a statistic; that represents thousands of Queenslanders whose lives have been impacted by violence, fear and uncertainty.

The Crisafulli government is delivering nation-leading reform to protect more victims of domestic and family violence sooner and hold perpetrators to account after a decade of inaction under Labor. Between 2012 and 2024, the number of calls for service for DFV incidents increased from 60,000 to more than 192,000—an increase of 218 per cent—with many victims left waiting hours or days for help. As the number of victims continued to climb, Labor repeatedly turned a blind eye to this scourge on our society and left hundreds of reform recommendations gathering dust during their decade of decline. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government has taken immediate action to empower police, protect the vulnerable and prevent harm before it happens.

Police in Queensland respond to a DFV incident every three minutes, a confronting reminder of the scale of this issue and the pressure on our front line. That is why the Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh approach, focused on early intervention, stronger protections and holding perpetrators to account. Our landmark reforms give police the ability to issue on-the-spot police

protection directions, providing immediate protection to victims and reducing the trauma and repeated court processes. Since coming into effect on 1 January, police have issued more than 1,000 police protection directions. We are also rolling out GPS tracking for high-risk offenders and continuing to invest in frontline responses, with dedicated safe spaces at police stations across the state. Domestic and family violence has no place in our society and, unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government will continue listening to the experiences of frontline officers to ensure they have the laws, resources and support they need to protect victims sooner and hold perpetrators to account.

Under Labor, police were leaving the service in droves, with unplanned attrition soaring to 3.3 per cent as frontline officers were forced to do their job with one hand tied behind their back. Under the Crisafulli government the Queensland Police Service has surpassed 13,000 sworn officers for the first time in our history. The Queensland Police Service's own headcount data shows that during Labor's final four years in office police numbers increased by just 76 officers. Since the October 2024 election police officers have increased by 752, but we are not slowing down when it comes to delivering more police, stronger laws and fewer victims. Unlike those opposite, we remain committed to putting the rights of victims ahead of perpetrators, particularly when it comes to domestic and family violence reforms.

We know there is still much work to do after Labor's decade of decline, but every one of these figures represents real progress for real people. It means a perpetrator was held to account sooner before more harm could be done. It means a victim-survivor had a better chance of rebuilding their life. It means police have the tools they need to act decisively and restore safety. This is what these results represent: fewer families living in fear, fewer repeat incidents and fewer Queenslanders paying the price for Labor's soft-on-crime approach. That is what happens when you back police. That is what happens when you have a government that puts victims first.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bearing in mind the time, is there any indication yet of whether you can return with some of that detail that was sought earlier, Acting Commissioner? I am keen that we get it in before the time expires.

Commissioner Pointing: There are three issues I would like to talk to, if that is okay. I would like to make a correction. I have been advised that priority 4, not priority 5, was introduced to negotiate the DV response to ensure our response is victim-centric. I did mention priority 5. It was actually priority 4.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that clarification. There were some that we were endeavouring to get details on by the end of this session.

Commissioner Pointing: I will finish with that. I have one other correction in the interests of accuracy. I would like to hand quickly to Deputy Commissioner Kelly to give some better clarity about the recruiting issue around advertising.

Deputy Commissioner Kelly: In the Service Delivery Statements there is $23 million in 2026-27 to continue recruitment and retention initiatives. The advertising part of that—I think it was mentioned at $7 million—is estimated to be $2.5 million. That is not a definite number because the $23 million envelope is open to doing whatever initiatives we can do to recruit all the police we need. The figure of $7 million related to the previous three financial years. That was $7 million over three years: 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that clarification.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: Queenslanders have a right to know the cost of the King's Counsel to protect the identity of the reported high-profile man.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to ask another question.

Ms SCANLON: I move that the committee moves to a private hearing with the acting commissioner and minister only to address the civil judicial review costs to the taxpayers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let's pause. There has been a request that the committee move into a private meeting. This public session is suspended and the committee will move to meet in private. Given the time for this session is due to expire at 2.30 pm, I would like to thank everyone for their attendance at this public estimates session this afternoon. The hearing is suspended.

Proceedings suspended from 2.28 pm to 2.45 pm.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Welcome back to the Legislative Council chamber, Minister and officials. We will now resume proceedings. I note the following member substitutions for this session: Mr Linus Power MP, member for Logan, who is substituting for Ms Melissa McMahon MP, member for Macalister. I now declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of emergency services open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish, you may make an opening statement of no more than five minutes for this portfolio area under examination. I call the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, chair and members of the committee. As Minister for Emergency Services, I am proud to stand alongside the hardworking staff and volunteers of the State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue Queensland. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary work of all our members. These men and women are not just part of our emergency service system; they are the backbone of it—the first to respond, the last to leave and the ones who turn up when Queenslanders are having their worst day. For a decade Labor treated SES volunteers as an afterthought, expecting them to carry increasing operational loads while leaving them with aging equipment and a system that too often relied on goodwill rather than proper investment. The result was predictable—strain on volunteers and a gradual erosion of confidence in the system they were being asked to prop up. The Crisafulli government has taken a fundamentally different approach. We are investing in our volunteers, because we know that the work they do on the ground in their own communities is the best way to improve Queensland's ability to respond to natural disasters and emergencies.

I am pleased to report that in the past two years SES volunteer numbers have increased by 560 members. The Crisafulli government will always stand up for our communities, and that was again evident at this week's National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting. Whether it be fighting for a fair deal with the Albanese federal government trying to strip the state of disaster funding or ensuring every Queenslander has access to vital information and warnings when they need it, I would call on those opposite to do the same and ask their Labor mates to reconsider ripping funding away from Queensland communities.

During the 2025-26 high-risk weather season Queensland experienced three major events, commencing in December 2025 through to April 2026, including the North Queensland weather events in January which involved the Queensland monsoon trough and Tropical Cyclone Koji, Tropical Low 29U and severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle. The State Disaster Coordination Centre activated three times and was at stand up for a total of 19 days. The SES State Coordination Centre was operational for 68 days during the three major events and a further 22 days in response to other severe weather incidents. Over the 2025-26 high-risk weather season, the SES received a total of 10,222 tasks and 925 agency support requests. The SES also provided interstate assistance, deploying to support Northern Territory operations and Western Australia in response to Tropical Cyclone Narelle.

As we look towards another severe weather season, I am pleased to say the Crisafulli government has invested more than $63 million to strengthen Queensland disaster preparedness and response capabilities. We have delivered new purpose-built vehicles, enhanced support programs for local governments and provided new facilities such as the Deception Bay SES depot. In Far North Queensland the Crisafulli government has already delivered on a key election commitment, with the rollout of five satellite powered ARNI communication trailers. These units, powered by high-capacity battery systems and Starlink satellite technology, provide rapid, stable internet and voice over internet protocol connectivity when traditional networks fail. In real terms, they mean responders can re-establish communication hubs within minutes—when every second counts. The SES has also marked a major milestone, celebrating 50 years of helping Queenslanders through floods, storms, cyclones, search and emergencies.

The Crisafulli government is also committed to ensuring Marine Rescue Queensland reaches its full potential by investing $27 million in this year's budget. After being left in the lurch by Labor, MRQ has now marked a significant milestone in establishing a single, integrated marine rescue service for Queensland. Marine Rescue Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association have confirmed an agreement, which has been signed, paving the way for Queensland's coastguard flotillas to begin transitioning to MRQ—something the former Labor government promised to do but could never achieve. The total number of active volunteers has also swelled. There are now 1,100 Marine Rescue Queensland members who operate from Currumbin to the Torres Strait. These volunteers provide an essential safety net for coastal and offshore communities, often in dangerous and unpredictable

conditions, and that is why they need reliable boats. The Vessel Replacement Program is scheduled to deliver 20 vessels and two tenders. As of 30 June 2026, we have delivered 18 vessels and two tenders. The remaining two vessels are due to be delivered soon. Since coming to government in late 2024, we have moved to fix the mess we inherited from Labor and are continuing to engage in good faith in a plan to futureproof Marine Rescue Queensland for generations to come. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister, for your opening statement. We will go to non-government questions first.

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, I refer to page 8 of the SDS. What is the justification in reducing the operational funding of MRQ by almost $12 million compared to last year's actual spend?

Commissioner Pointing: I might hand that question to Deputy Stream, who is the Deputy Commissioner in charge of Disaster and Emergency Management.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: As part of that portfolio I work with the teams both at the State Emergency Service and at Marine Rescue Queensland as well as look after the emergency response command. I appreciate the time-sensitive nature of the committee hearing, but I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the staff at both the State Emergency Service and Marine Rescue Queensland, particularly the volunteers. I know that you have met numerous volunteers over the years. Without them, Queensland could simply not deliver the type of disaster response that we do. Year after year they turn out and provide a fantastic response and often respond outside of their local areas to disasters right across Queensland—and we did, in fact, see that. I want to acknowledge their efforts.

The 2025-26 base operating budget for SES was $63.04 million, or $78.12 million inclusive of reallocated and deferred funding for the 2024-25 year. That is where you are seeing the difference. The current budget allocation you are seeing does not include reallocated or deferred funding at this point in time.

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, MRQ is about to double in size with the imminent transition of thousands of Coastguard volunteers who will need to be trained and onboarded. How will this be facilitated, with $12 million less budgeted this financial year?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: the deputy commissioner just clarified that the budget was not reduced. I will allow him to explain that.

Mr POWER: What else will you allow?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan!. There is no point of order but, member for Logan, there is no need for that outburst.

Commissioner Pointing: As per the previous question, I might hand to Deputy Commissioner Stream to answer that.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Can I clarify: your question related to Marine Rescue Queensland?

Ms BOYD: Yes.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Could I ask you to repeat the question?

Ms BOYD: Certainly. MRQ is about to double in size with the imminent transition of thousands of Coastguard volunteers who will need to be trained and onboarded. How will that be facilitated, with $12 million less budgeted this financial year?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Again, what we are seeing here is that the base budget has not changed and as of yet the budget does not include reallocated or deferred funding applications. Certainly, the current base budget was previously allocated to include both operating and training costs for the inclusion of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association. You may not have seen it, but it is a fantastic initiative. I have to acknowledge not only the efforts of chief officer Tony Wulff but also the efforts of the other staff and volunteers there who have facilitated this. This year we had the great pleasure of opening a new training academy located at Jacobs Well. It is an excellent facility. Again, through the efforts of chief officer Tony Wulff and his staff, they have been able to obtain some state-of-the-art equipment for training. Part of that state-of-the-art equipment is—I do not like to use the brand—a Furuno system, which is widely used throughout the state for the tracking of both commercial and non-commercial vessels. The introduction of that training academy is excellent. I was there on the day it opened. We had coastguard and Marine Rescue personnel in attendance that day, and the feedback from the volunteers was fantastic. It is basically a state-of-the-art facility, the first of its kind across Australia.

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, I refer to page 9 of the SDS. What is the justification for the further reduction of more than $18 million in the capital budget for MRQ compared to what was spent last year?

Commissioner Pointing: Once again, I will pass to Deputy Stream.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Again, what we are seeing there is that we have not received the total allocation with regard to deferments. Going to the specifics of that allocation, as of 30 June 2026 MRQ's full-year operating expenditure was $21.331 million. A request for the deferral of the unspent funds of $15.408 million to the 2026-27 year has been submitted to Queensland Treasury for consideration.

The MRQ's recurrent capital budget for the financial year 2025-26 is $5 million, in addition to the recurring $5 million. For the financial year 2025-26, the budget includes the deferral from 2024-25 of some $6.621 million for the continuation of capital works and the purchase of 13 new vehicles in tranche 2, which is $0.884 million, resulting in a total of some $12.505 million. At the end of June 2026, Marine Rescue Queensland's full-year capital expenditure is $3.664 million, which includes the expenditure for the purchase of tranche 2 vehicles. The estimated deferral for financial year 2026-27 is $12.897 million, which includes credits received from the disposal of a vessel. MRQ's capital expenditure outlay for properties, facilities and vehicles and outboard engine replacements committed or delivered is $1.780 million for financial year 2025-26. This expenditure includes remediation works for six Marine Rescue Queensland units, buildings or facilities for the full year. Fit-out costs for the north coast regional support centres and the state training academy are not included in this total.

Ms BOYD: In the answer to last year's prehearing question on notice 10, a list of 45 vessels identified for replacement was provided, including 22 coastguard vessels. Why could that list not be updated and expanded upon in this year's prehearing question on notice 18, noting that the coastguard negotiations were underway last year too?

Commissioner Pointing: Once again I will pass to Deputy Commissioner Stream.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I will start with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association vessels. With the deed of agreement just being signed, we are commencing work on working through those vessels, and again under the direction of Chief Officer Tony Wulff. Another part of a great initiative last year was the inclusion of a marine fleet management area. That marine fleet management area includes a marine surveyor, which is a great addition. Normally we would have to go outside of the department and pay additional costs to engage one of those marine fleet surveyors, as well as other experienced staff, in managing large commercial fleets. In fact, I am told that by the end of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association's transition, the Queensland Police Service will operate the largest commercial marine vessel fleet in Australia. Having those resources is really important.

Where am I going with this? Having those resources to properly assess those vessels and prioritise the replacement of those vessels is a piece of undergoing work, as it is across the rest of the Marine Rescue Queensland fleet, with ongoing work and prioritising that work.

Ms BOYD: You are currently not in a position at all to furnish the committee with what the vessels look like?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Not at this point in time. As I said, there is undergoing work with signing and as part of the conditions, and I understand the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association's position completely, some initial assessments have been made, but obviously gaining access, or complete access to make detailed assessments of those vessels, required the signing of that deed of agreement to allow us complete access to those vessels to make those proper assessments. As part of that ongoing assessment there will also be some prioritisation activity. That is also notwithstanding the ability of the chief officer to move contingency vessels which Marine Rescue Queensland possesses now. So we can move those contingency vessels around the state. For instance, if we identified a boat really early on that was owned by the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association that did require some immediate remedial work, we could move one of those contingency vessels to that location.

Ms BOYD: Has there been or will there be any payment made to the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard body as part of the agreement reached, and if so how much?

Commissioner Pointing: I will hand that question to Deputy Commissioner Stream.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I thank the honourable member for the opportunity to talk to this. Once again, I will get the right detail with regard to this. Marine Rescue Queensland has committed $3 million to acquire the Queensland operations of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association.

This significant investment underscores the Queensland government's dedication to ensuring the safety and resilience of our coastal communities and volunteers. This investment will deliver sustained marine rescue capability to Queensland communities and maintain their safety on the water, enhance protections and safety measures for dedicated volunteers who provide critical marine rescue services, and assurances to the community that marine assets, including vessels purchased with locally raised funds, will remain within and continue to serve their respective communities safeguarded through Marine Rescue Queensland's deductible gift recipient public fund.

This investment reflects our commitment to strengthening Queensland Marine Rescue services and support the invaluable contributions of volunteers who play a vital role in protecting our waterways. If I could just go back to that last point there, again under the Chief Officer Mr Wulff's guidance, and his team, what we have been able to do with Marine Rescue Queensland is develop a system where both volunteers and, of course, the general boating community are still able to contribute to marine rescue safety and jointly fund equipment and even vessels and vehicles.

Ms BOYD: I would like to jump back to 2025 prehearing question on notice No. 10. That was the list of vessels from Marine Rescue Queensland that needed replacement over the next five years. Can I ask whether those vessels are now delayed in terms of their expected replacement years?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question needs to be directed to the acting commissioner and then referred on if necessary.

Ms BOYD: Yes, I refer it to the acting commissioner.

Commissioner Pointing: Once again, I will refer that question to Deputy Commissioner Stream, thank you.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I have two documents which I will reference here. First is the Marine Rescue vessel replacement program, which was allocated a budget of some $22.383 million. That was exhausted in the 2025-26 financial year and funding for that commenced in the 2021-22 financial year and will continue to be used to address local Marine Rescue units' costs associated with replacing vessels. Could I ask that you repeat the second part of the question?

Ms BOYD: Specifically with reference to prehearing question on notice 10: the question was whether there is a delay in the delivery of vessels that were stated in the response to that question?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I will read through a list of vessels here.

Ms BOYD: If it is helpful, Deputy Commissioner, you can take it on notice.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I think I can largely answer the question. I will just read through these vessel sections here and then I can talk to some of the other dates for some proposed replacements.

Ms BOYD: The list I have is a two-page list of vessels.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: Yes, I have an extensive list.

Ms BOYD: Deputy Speaker, appreciating that there is a significant response to the question, is it possible for the deputy commissioner to take the question on notice?

Mr HUNT: Point of order: the question was asked—it was a detailed question about 45 vessels—and the deputy commissioner is being responsive. I would like to hear his answer. If she wanted it on notice she should have asked it on notice.

Ms BOYD: I did. It wasn't answered on notice.

Mr POWER: Point of order: obviously this is a follow-up to a question on notice. There are 45 vessels outstanding. We are not going to go through all 45 vessels.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr POWER: The question was how many are outstanding. Just tell us the number.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, that is not a point of order. The question has been asked. It involves some detail. It is up to the deputy commissioner now as to how he answers it. The stipulation is that the deputy commissioner must be relevant. It is up to the minister as to whether something is taken on notice or brought back before the end of the session, not the deputy commissioner. Deputy Commissioner, you have been asked the question. It is up to you how you answer it; as long as you are relevant.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I believe I could have some relevance—I should not say 'some' relevance. I believe I can have relevance to the question. By reading through some of these vessels, you may be able to cross-reference some of those. In that original list, you will note that some of those

vessels were not due for replacement for some years so that build slot is not the case. Also, I should not fail to mention some of the innovative approach that has been adopted by Marine Rescue Queensland. For instance, we are attempting to source—I want to be cautious here because some of it could be commercial-in-confidence, the approach that we are trying to take. I do not like to refer to them necessarily as second-hand vessels, but we are attempting to source vessels that previously had a good life and could be refurbished and could replace some of the vessels on that list at half the cost of building a new vessel. As I said, we are undergoing that process. I am trying to be cautious because, if we are able to source those vessels and refurbish them, as I said, we will be replacing those vessels at half the cost. Obviously I do not want to necessarily jeopardise the commercial process that we are currently undergoing in negotiating sourcing some of those vessels because it is highly likely that there are other persons also in the market to source those vessels, so I am not trying to jeopardise that.

If I go back to the list here, I will start with the operational location. The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association, Cardwell—I will not go through the detail, but there is a vessel there. Delivery is expected for that one in 2026. For the Australian Coast Guard vessel, Brisbane—call sign, MN-11; if I give you that detail then you can reference that—build progress is on track. That has an estimated delivery date of towards the end of August. There is a little bit of variance with some of these dates because what we see is, working with the volunteers—

Ms BOYD: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: I am happy with this answer and I am happy to move along. I am happy to take the question as answered.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not certain that it has been answered.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: it is important in that there was an inference in the question that there are vessels not being maintained. The deputy commissioner is being very comprehensive to allay those fears. To pull him up before he has finished, I think, is inappropriate.

Mr POWER: Point of order: argumentative. There was nothing about replacement. The question has been put. The questioner is satisfied with the answer. Let us move on to more questions. The deputy commissioner has been aware that we have time constraints.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, the committee as a whole is entitled to the answer. It was a detailed question and it is getting a detailed response.

Ms BOYD: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: it was a detailed question, and that is why we put it in as a prehearing question on notice, which was furnished with no response at all.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you have sought further details about that prehearing question on notice which the deputy commissioner is providing.

Ms BOYD: He can answer it and I consider it to be answered. The information I received has answered the question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought there were 45 vessels. I have only heard two referred to so far.

Mr POWER: The question was whether it could have been answered on notice. It was made clear by the deputy commissioner that it was chosen not to be answered.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is not the question.

Mr POWER: We will be writing to the Speaker about this issue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the question that has been put to the deputy commissioner now. Deputy Commissioner, do you have further details to add? If possible, perhaps you can go to the vessels if there has been any change in schedule?

Ms BOYD: It was the number.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: At this stage, we have no information that changes the schedule other than that, obviously, we will continue working with those individual groups. As I said, there are currently some matters underway to source vessels. We are working through that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Commissioner.

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, when will SES local controllers be able to access the VIMS in real time so they can assess the true volunteer capability of their unit, and assess and act on operational capability and capacity that their communities need in a time of disaster?

Commissioner Pointing: I would like to hand that question to Deputy Commissioner Stream.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I will seek the correct brief.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner, do you have the details to hand?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I am just looking for the exact details with regard to VIMS under the general ICT briefs. I am seeking the specific information with regard to VIMS. It is currently being maintained and is now maintained by our IT area within the Queensland Police Service. This brief relates to TAMS. I would like to confirm with the honourable member that you are talking about VIMS?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I am, thank you, Deputy Commissioner. I am happy to come back to it, if you would like.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: If I could be afforded the additional time to seek specific information?

Ms BOYD: Of course. No problems.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I have information on TAMS. I can add another piece of information with regard to that VIMS system and also TAMS. The SES is currently undergoing a review of IT systems, which includes VIMS. We will continue to work on that. I will seek that specific information with regard to VIMS.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, the deputy commissioner wants to seek information before the end of the session. Are you happy for that to occur?

Mr PURDIE: I am happy to bring that back before we finish.

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, with reference to prehearing question on notice No. 16, there are fewer volunteers in the SES who are now trained and qualified than at June 2025. Flood boat operators decreased by 23.8 per cent, working at heights decreased by 1.6 per cent and chainsaw operators saw a 7.6 per cent decrease. Why are there fewer standalone trained and qualified SES volunteers despite volunteer numbers growing?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that was a fairly lengthy preamble. I think the deputy commissioner or acting commissioner got the gist of the question at the end there so I will put the question. Keep the preambles a bit briefer, please.

Commissioner Pointing: I will hand that question to Deputy Stream.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I will not read through the specific numbers but we do certainly acknowledge the reduction in those trained at heights. If I recall that question on notice, there was a separation between two of the skill sets, if you like, but it is the same capability. Working at heights and working on roofs is the same capability. If a person receives that capability training, they are qualified to perform both of those roles. With regard to chainsaw activity and also boats, what we are seeing or experiencing across the SES volunteer cohort is as some people are attaining a certain age, they are no longer comfortable with operating a chainsaw or working at heights—and we certainly accept that—and they are letting those qualifications lapse. That includes all of that.

Specifically with regard to the operation of the flood boat vessels, there were fewer courses conducted. That was a decision made by Chief Officer Mark Armstrong at the time because there was a review—which is now almost completed—to be conducted of flood vessels and the type of flood vessels, in particular in relation to introducing or maintaining those courses, when we were looking at introducing new flood vessels. We have, in fact, received funding for the identification and purchase of a series of pilot vessels, and that includes inflatable vessels which are similar to what Queensland Fire and Rescue uses. That was introduced because of our experiences in floodwater situations. A great example of that is over the last season we have had at Normanton. In that specific example of Normanton, due to flooded infrastructure, what we were seeing with the traditional vessels, and something which is critical for that community—and don't get me wrong, these are vessels that have served their communities for a long time—the vessels were suffering what is called prop strikes, and then you lose a driver within a vessel which creates a dangerous situation, so we thought we would address that.

Again, through the initiative of Chief Officer Mark Armstrong at that time to identify vessels and, in particular, propulsion systems which were safer and better to operate within those flooded communities, there was a decision to suspend or not run as many courses whilst these new vessels were introduced and that the training activity in particular for those flood vessels would be focused on those new vessels, as well as that previous training.

Certainly we have seen a reduction due to volunteers reaching a certain age, and then making a decision that they did not feel comfortable. Again, we fully appreciate that people may have obtained a qualification and then make the decision, 'Look, I do not want to climb on roofs in storms anymore. I

have aged out to a certain extent.' There was a drive by the previous chief officer, and I must also acknowledge the efforts of interim Acting Chief Officer Danny Barty and the staff and volunteers, to recruit a cohort of volunteers, but also to look within the current cohort of volunteers. In some cases it is a big thing to pick up and operate a chainsaw during a storm. We may have volunteers who are happy to—

Ms BOYD: Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Commissioner. We will go to government MPs for some questions.

Ms MARR: Can the minister update the committee on how the Crisafulli LNP government is succeeding where Labor failed by delivering a single, statewide marine rescue service for Queensland.

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question and acknowledge her strong support for volunteers who keep Queenslanders safe on our waterways. Queensland's coastline stretches more than 13,000 kilometres. Every day, thousands of Queenslanders head out on our rivers, bays and oceans to work, fish and enjoy everything our great state has to offer. When something goes wrong on the water, they rely on one thing—highly trained volunteers who are prepared to answer the call day or night. Those volunteers deserve a government that backs them, not one that leaves them stranded in bureaucratic limbo.

When the Crisafulli government came to office, Labor's marine rescue transition was already lost at sea. Despite years of promises, the former Labor government had failed to secure the agreement needed to bring Volunteer Marine Rescue Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard together under one statewide service. They talked about reform, but they failed to deliver it. The Crisafulli government rolled up its sleeves. We did the hard work and we got the result Labor could not achieve. We brought the parties together and we got the job done.

Marine Rescue Queensland has now reached a significant milestone in establishing a single, integrated marine rescue service for Queensland. Marine Rescue Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association have confirmed an agreement has been signed. That agreement paved the way for the coastguard flotillas across Queensland to begin transitioning into Marine Rescue Queensland.

I can confirm that Marine Rescue Queensland has committed $3 million to acquire the Queensland operations of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association. This significant investment underscores the Queensland government's dedication to ensuring the safety and resilience of our coastal communities and volunteers. This investment will deliver sustained marine rescue capabilities to keep Queensland communities safe on the water, enhance protections and safety measures for the dedicated volunteers who provide critical marine rescue services and provide community assurance that marine assets, including vessels purchased with locally raised funds, will remain within and continue to serve their respective communities, safeguarded through MRQ's deductible gift recipient public fund. This investment reflects our commitment to strengthening Queensland's marine rescue services and supporting the invaluable contributions of volunteers who play a vital role in protecting lives on our waterways. This is a major milestone in delivering what Queenslanders were promised years ago: one statewide marine rescue service, one standard of training, one coordinated response and one stronger organisation focused on saving lives.

The transition will bring hundreds of dedicated coastguard volunteers into the Marine Rescue Queensland family, strengthening rescue capabilities from the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast. It will improve consistency, enhance coordination between rescue crews and ensure volunteers have access to the same high standards of training, equipment and operational support wherever they serve. Ultimately, it means a better service for Queenslanders, because when someone is in trouble on the water, what matters is a fast, coordinated and professional rescue response.

Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is backing our volunteers with real investment. Earlier this year, the Crisafulli government opened Queensland's first dedicated Marine Rescue Training Academy on the Gold Coast. The academy will provide consistent, world-class training for more than 1,000 marine rescue volunteers. It will ensure crews are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to respond safely and effectively in some of the most challenging conditions imaginable. This year's budget also includes a further $27 million investment to continue strengthening Marine Rescue Queensland. That investment will support the ongoing transition, build capability and help futureproof the organisation for generations to come.

The Crisafulli government understands that supporting volunteers is about more than words; it is about giving them certainty, it is about investing in their future and it is about ensuring they have the resources they need to continue protecting Queenslanders. After a decade of drift and delay under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering certainty. We are delivering investment. We are delivering the unified marine rescue service Queenslanders were promised but Labor failed to achieve. We will continue working with volunteers in good faith as the transition progresses because stronger volunteer services mean stronger emergency responses, stronger emergency responses mean safer waterways, and safer waterways mean safer Queensland communities. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering.

Mr HUNT: Minister, can you please provide an overview of the 2025-26 severe weather season and how the Crisafulli LNP government supported communities through some of the state's most significant weather events?

Mr PURDIE: Queenslanders know all too well that living in the best state in the nation also means living with some of the most challenging natural disasters in the world. Every wet season tests our preparedness, every severe weather event tests our resilience and every disaster reminds us of the extraordinary Queenslanders who step forward to help complete strangers.

Before I say anything else, I acknowledge every community volunteer and all emergency services workers who answered the call during the 2025-26 severe weather season. Queensland is safer because of your service, your professionalism and your willingness to put others before yourself. I make particular acknowledgement of our SES volunteers, who filled thousands of sandbags, rescued stranded families, cleared fallen trees, made damaged homes safer and worked tirelessly to help communities recover. I also acknowledge the work of our disaster management coordinators, whose work often happens behind the scenes but is absolutely critical to protecting lives. They monitor developing weather systems, coordinate resources across the state, provide timely warnings to Queenslanders and ensure the right people and equipment are in the right places before disaster strikes. Their work saves lives.

The 2025-26 severe weather season was one of sustained operational demand. Between December 2025 and April 2026, Queensland responded to three major severe weather events, including the North Queensland weather events associated with the monsoon trough and Tropical Cyclone Koji, Tropical Low 29U and severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle. Those events brought widespread flooding; prolonged community isolation; major damage to homes and businesses; power and communication outages; school closures; and extensive impacts to roads, bridges, water infrastructure, agriculture and essential public assets.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre activated three separate times and remained at stand-up for a combined 19 days. During that time, teams coordinated the state's emergency response, supported local disaster management groups, issued emergency alerts, maintained state warning maps and disaster dashboards, briefed the government and coordinated major resupply operations into isolated communities. Those operations ensured vulnerable Queenslanders continued to receive essential food, medicine, fuel and other critical supplies when normal transport routes were cut.

Supporting communities does not end when the weather event clears; it continues throughout the recovery process. That is why Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for three major weather events, two severe storm events and eight bushfire events during the season. As of 20 April 2026, 74 of Queensland's 76 local government areas along with one town authority have received assistance under those arrangements, with 25 local governments activated on more than one occasion. That demonstrates not only the scale of the severe weather season but also why strong recovery funding is so critical to Queensland. Those arrangements help local councils restore damaged roads, rebuild essential infrastructure and recover the costs of emergency response operations, while also providing direct assistance to eligible Queenslanders who have lost so much.

That is why the federal government's proposal to reduce Queensland's share of future disaster recovery funding is so deeply concerning. Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the country. No other state experiences the frequency, scale and cost of natural disasters that Queensland communities face year after year. Regional councils simply cannot absorb those costs alone. Queensland families should not receive less support simply because the federal Labor government has decided to change its funding formula. If these arrangements were in place over the past three disaster seasons Queensland would have lost $1.5 billion. I will repeat that for the committee: if these arrangements were in place over the last three years Queensland would have lost $1.5 billion.

The Crisafulli government will continue standing up for Queensland's fair share because our community deserves nothing less. We ask the members opposite on this committee—the Miles Labor opposition—to do the same. Disasters cannot always be prevented, but with strong leadership, effective planning and well-resourced emergency services we can ensure Queenslanders are better prepared, better protected and better supported through every single stage of disasters. This is exactly what the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering, because making Queensland safer is not just about responding to emergencies; it is about backing the people who answer the call, supporting communities through recovery and ensuring Queensland is ready for whatever comes next.

Mr FIELD: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the minister update the committee on the federal Albanese government's proposed national AusAlert warning system and why it is so important that every Queenslander can receive emergency warnings before this new system is rolled out?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for his strong interest in keeping Queensland communities safe before, during and after disasters. Queenslanders know disasters better than any other state. Whether it is cyclones in the Far North, floods across our west, severe storms in the south-east or bushfires in regional communities, Queenslanders rely on timely, accurate and reliable warnings to make life-saving decisions. That is why the Crisafulli government supports improvements to emergency warning technology wherever they make Queensland safer.

If there is better technology available we want to see it succeed, but, unlike those opposite, we will not blindly support the rollout of any system until we know it will work for every Queenslander. That is why on Wednesday I travelled to Melbourne for the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting, to put Queensland's concerns directly to the Commonwealth. I made it clear that Queensland supports the intent of AusAlert, but I also made it clear that Queenslanders cannot be put at risk under the rollout of a warning system that does not warn all Queenslanders.

As Australia's most disaster-prone state, we simply cannot afford to get this wrong. I raised concerns about regional and remote Queenslanders who continue to rely on landline phones during emergencies as well as questions around older devices and connectivity in some of our most isolated communities. Every Queenslander deserves to have confidence that they will receive a warning when lives are on the line, regardless of where they live or what device they use. We welcome the federal government's commitment to continuing the existing emergency alert system while additional capabilities, including landline voice alerts, are developed. This is a positive step, but there are still important questions to be answered, and the Crisafulli government will continue working constructively with the Commonwealth to ensure those gaps are addressed before any transition occurs.

What made Wednesday's discussions even more disappointing is that they came just weeks after the federal Albanese government announced millions of dollars in cuts to Queensland's disaster recovery funding. Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. We spend more on disaster response and recovery than any other state because our communities experience more floods, cyclones, bushfires and severe weather events than anywhere else in the nation. Under the Commonwealth's proposed funding changes, Queensland would have been more than $1.5 billion worse off over the past three years.

In the 2025-26 season alone, Queensland would have lost at least $713 million. That is money that helps rebuild roads, restore bridges, repair public facilities and support disaster-struck communities get back onto their feet. Regional Queensland councils have rightly described these cuts as a sucker punch because they know that the financial burden will ultimately fall on local communities and Queensland councils. Queensland deserves a federal government that backs them before disasters, during disasters and throughout recovery.

The Queensland government will continue standing up for Queensland. We will continue calling on the federal Albanese government to ensure AusAlert works for every Queenslander, no matter where they live. We will continue fighting for Queensland councils to receive their fair share of disaster recovery funding, because when disaster strikes every warning matters, every community matters and every Queenslander matters.

I might just add there was an issue we put firmly on the agenda during the NEMM meeting, and it is timely for all of us, while we have a microphone, to remind all of our constituents and all of the people in our lives that there will be a warning alert sounded at 2 pm on Monday to test AusAlert. We spoke at great length, and I acknowledge the federal minister and all of the ministers around the table for acknowledging this and for the work they are doing on it.

We are very mindful of DV Safe Phone in my electorate and other amazing groups that provide vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence with that service. We know that they rely on that service and those devices, should they need them. We are trying to get the message out to make sure those phones are put on aeroplane mode and not turned on within an hour afterwards. This test is critically important for when disaster strikes, but we want to make sure we get the message out to victims and survivors of domestic and family violence that this test is coming at 2 pm on Monday. As I said, the federal government, to their credit, is working with service providers in Queensland, as we are, to make sure we do everything we can to alert potential victims to take appropriate measures to keep themselves safe.

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management. Can the inspector-general please provide an update on the status of the recommendations made in the significant weather events report 2025, as well as the status of any recommendations made since 2018 in relation to disaster management?

Mr Dawson: During the 2025-26 financial year there were seven reviews that were actively monitored, evaluated and reported on as part of what we term the MER system. The 2017-18 Tropical Cyclone Debbie review was finalised this year, with all recommendations implemented. Nine were implemented and one was actually termed no longer applicable, and that took that out of the MER system. We are now currently looking at six review reports: the 2018-19 *Monsoon trough rainfall and flood review*; the 2018 *Queensland bushfires review*; the 2020-21 *K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire review*; the 2022-23 *Review of Queensland's disaster management arrangements*; the *2023-24 Severe weather season review;* and the 2025 significant weather events reports, which the minister has already touched on around 95 per cent of the state being impacted in that particular event.

Of the six reviews now being actively monitored by the program, 20 recommendations remain open as at 1 July 2025—80 recommendations have been fully implemented. Of the 20 that are currently open and outstanding, 12 are assessed as substantially implemented, five are partially implemented and three are assessed as not yet implemented. It is noted that four of the 20 open recommendations actually relate to my office, the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management. That is because the last recommendation is the monitoring and reporting on all recommendations, and that cannot be finalised until the last recommendation out of each review is finalised. Additionally, a further open recommendation that requires the Office of the IGEM to review the implementation of the machinery-of-government changes and revise Queensland disaster management arrangements in the financial year 2027-28. That will remain open until it is closed post that time.

As demonstrated by the statistics, the recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management are often complex in nature, require coordination across multiple agencies and departments, and may involve long-term planning and implementation considerations to achieve the intended outcomes. One of the more recently finalised recommendations relates to the significant weather events of 2025. That is the latest review. It was recommendation No. 2 in relation to fodder, and that has already been finalised.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go back to non-government questions.

Mr BERKMAN: I was going to put a question to the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, so I am glad you are here. The report that you put out recently on Tropical Cyclone Alfred notes quite explicitly the findings of the National Climate Risk Assessment, specifically that we are seeing 'more intense and extreme' disasters in Queensland as a consequence of climate change. Is it your understanding that this trend is likely to be exacerbated by the ongoing expansion of coal and gas projects and the use of fossil fuels including the expansion of projects like we are seeing in Queensland?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order.

Mr HUNT: I defer to the Leader of the House. I think I know what he is going to say.

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is in relation to the question under standing order 115. It seems to be seeking an opinion. I ask you to consider that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. Member for Maiwar, could you please for my benefit repeat the last part of the question?

Mr BERKMAN: The question was: is it your understanding that this trend is likely to be exacerbated and continue due to the ongoing expansion of coal and gas projects like we are seeing in Queensland?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, I take your point of order. I am not sure that is actually asking for an opinion but rather inviting the inspector-general to talk about the report and the particular elements that the member for Maiwar has mentioned. I will put the question to the inspector-general to talk about the particular elements.

Mr Dawson: I would suggest that our report did not go as far as to include the particular piece that you are asking about—about the gases. What I do know and what I am referring to is material that has been published through NEMA which talks about the complexity versus complicated aspects of emergency management or disaster management.

The complicated piece is that we used to be able to use one or two interventions to resolve a particular challenge. What they have now written, and what I do not disagree with, is that it is now far more complex, so it requires multiple interventions in these complex spaces. If we look at the trend since 2010, there have been 149 events in the state that have attracted disaster relief funding arrangements. This is a matter that has been published by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Mr BERKMAN: Inspector-General, again, in reference to the National Climate Risk Assessment, I point specifically to one part of your report, which states—

It also warns that the country is likely to experience more intense and extreme climate hazards, including in regions where such events have not been experienced before.

My question goes to the note in your report on Tropical Cyclone Alfred that it is 51 years since SEQ experienced a cyclone. In the context of worsening climate impacts, is the work of your office predicated on an understanding that we will see another tropical cyclone hit SEQ, so essentially it is a matter of when, not if?

Mr Dawson: I think it is difficult for me to actually answer the question of how many and when they might occur. What we do know about disasters is that what we are reporting on are the experiences that we gain from talking to the community. You will see that we talk about community engagement with people who will provide us with summations such as 'I've never seen the water this high,' or 'I've never seen the water come from this direction before.' What we have experienced in our reviews are matters of braided rivers, for example, where rivers may flood from one direction into another but equally in the same event may reverse and flood in the opposite way.

We do a lot of research and we do run research forums every year. We do engage with our universities in Queensland, and we have another one coming up in November. Part of this is really around trying to research for the future issues that are coming and what are the challenges. One of the things in disaster management, because it is such a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment, is that it is very hard to actually put our finger on one particular thing. Part of that is are we prepared and are the Queensland disaster management arrangements ready for what can be unexpected events? I think that is probably the way I would sum that up.

Mr BERKMAN: Inspector-General, I hope this is not controversial, but I want to establish whether it is your understanding and the basis of your office's work that climate change has and will continue to put greater strain on Queensland's emergency services?

Mr Dawson: I can sort of answer it but I sort of cannot.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, could you restate the question, please?

Mr BERKMAN: Is it your understanding in your role that the increasing impacts of climate change have and will continue to put greater strain on Queensland's emergency services?

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: it is a bit hypothetical. It is difficult enough to tell the weather tomorrow let alone in a year's time.

Mr BERKMAN: Did you just say that?

Mr HUNT: He is asking the inspector-general to predict future events.

Mr POWER: It is kind of his job to prepare for future events.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I will allow the question. Inspector-General, as it relates to your work as the inspector-general planning for future disaster events, if you could inform the committee.

Mr Dawson: The questions are well put. There are three things I will refer to. The first is that we should always prepare for the worst and hope for the best, not the other way around. Our research is an informed approach as to what we see and why we make commentary in our reports. The history of

the last 10 years shows an increase of events by cascading one into the other, compounding one over the top, and the additional complexity of communities being impacted multiple times by a number of events within the one year.

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. In last year's estimates hearing you indicated that the Emergency Volunteer Advisory Forum comes under the Minister for Volunteers. In Minister Leahy's hearing they stated it was your responsibility. Can you please confirm for the committee that you are the minister responsible for EVAF?

Mr PURDIE: As the member would appreciate, in our ministerial portfolios I now have responsibility for emergency services and Ann Leahy covers recovery, which is why we both sit on NEMMM. New South Wales is the only other state that has that split. We now share responsibility for EVAF. It comes under both of us. Both Ann and I have together been to an EVAF meeting. I know that I have been to one and Ann was there. I am not sure which other ones she has been to. In line with responsibilities and machinery of government as it sits under my portfolio, it was best placed for both of us ministers to share that.

Ms BOYD: How frequently is the forum now required to meet?

Mr PURDIE: I think in my diary there is a meeting coming up soon that I am trying to get to. They have met a couple of times. They have met two or three times since we last spoke. I think it is quarterly. Working on that average, I have been to one and I know my diary manager is sitting on the invite for the next one, which I think is coming up soon.

Ms BOYD: So they meet quarterly and you have been to one in the life of EVAF. What positive action items coming from the Emergency Volunteer Advisory Forum are being funded through this budget?

Mr PURDIE: As I said, this is a joint responsibility. I get invited and Ann Leahy gets invited. We have ministerial staff who go to those, so I just wanted to clarify that. Action items for both meetings included members writing to the federal government to call for support on the fuel crisis and provide feedback on the funding. I have been advised that the pending meeting before my diary person at the moment is 2 September, which I am trying to reschedule. As you would know, EVAF membership is comprised of the following, with two organisations transitioning to become part of MRQ: Australian Red Cross, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association, Marine Rescue Queensland, PCYC Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue, Rural Fire Service Queensland, Queensland Fire Department, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Queensland State Emergency Service Volunteers Association, Royal Lifesaving Society Queensland, Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland, South East Queensland UHF Emergency Service Team, St John Queensland, State Emergency Service, Surf Life Saving Queensland, Marine Rescue Queensland—

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker, point of order: relevance. The question was what positive action items from EVAF are being funded through this budget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, if you could bring your answer to a particular point of relevance, it would be appreciated by the committee.

Mr PURDIE: I might throw over to the State Disaster Coordinator. Obviously through this chain of command he also oversees this.

Deputy Commissioner Stream: From my recollection, I have attended all of the EVAF meetings. The last one was 10 June and I certainly attended two before that. I attended the meeting with both ministers that was held here at Parliament House. One was held at another location and occasionally people dial in. I have attended all of those meetings.

From my recollection, I cannot recall any current requests specifically from those groups for funding from the current budget. I certainly know that one of the key areas those volunteer groups have been looking at is retention and attraction. They have raised issues around the cost of living. As the minister indicated, there was some discussion around fuel costs and other costs in attending training and that type of thing, so it was associated with the cost of living.

Ms BOYD: Minister, given that you are responsible for two volunteer organisations that are comprised of thousands of valued volunteers, why are you only attending the occasional EVAF meeting?

Mr PURDIE: I think I potentially answered that in my last answer. This is a group that is shared across two ministers. The State Disaster Coordinator has attended every one of those meetings. As you would know, my colleague Minister Ann Leahy and I did a parliamentary inquiry in relation to

volunteerism and we appreciate how important it is. For those who have been listening to my contribution today, I have mentioned how important they are. We have increased the number of volunteers. If the member wants to talk about that, I have the number of SES volunteers over the years they were in government. It went down year on year. What we have seen over the last few years, as I have already announced, is that it is up by about 550. We now have 5,555 volunteers across the state in the SES. If the member wants to ask questions about what we are doing to support volunteers and what we are doing to listen to them, I have outlined, as has the State Disaster Coordinator, action items from EVAF. I try to attend every time I can, Minister Ann Leahy tries to attend and the State Disaster Coordinator tries to attend.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go to government questions with the member for Moggill.

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Could the minister please outline how the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is backing our State Emergency Service volunteers who form the backbone of Queensland's disaster capability, including in my own electorate of Moggill?

Mr PURDIE: What a timely question. I welcome the question from the member for Moggill and I acknowledge his strong support for the State Emergency Service volunteers in his local community. I want to extend my thanks, as emergency services minister, on behalf of the 49 volunteers at the Moggill SES group for his continued advocacy and support.

Queensland's State Emergency Service volunteers are the backbone of our disaster response capability. They are ordinary Queenslanders who do extraordinary things. They are the volunteers who leave their own families behind to help complete strangers. They answer the call at all hours of the day and night, often in dangerous conditions, often without knowing when they will return home. We know that, when disasters strike, the men and women in orange are the first to step forward and the last to leave. They are there before the storm arrives, they are there during the emergency and they are still there long after the headlines have moved on, helping communities recover and rebuild.

That is why the Crisafulli government is proud to be backing our State Emergency Service volunteers with the resources, equipment and support they deserve after a decade of neglect under Labor. Just this week the Crisafulli government announced more than $3 million in new support grants to strengthen local State Emergency Service units across Queensland. Those grants will help volunteers purchase new operational equipment, upgrade aging facilities, improve local capability and ensure they are better prepared before the next season arrives.

The member for Capalaba will be pleased to know that the Redland Bay State Emergency Service group was among the successful recipients, receiving more than $57,000 for a vehicle upgrade that will strengthen its ability to respond when the local community needs assistance. This is about much more than replacing vehicles or purchasing equipment; it is about ensuring volunteers have the tools they need to safely carry out the important work Queenslanders rely on every year. It is about giving them confidence that their government values the service they provide.

Just a few weeks ago I was honoured to join hundreds of volunteers from across the state to celebrate 50 years of the Queensland State Emergency Service. For half a century these remarkable Queenslanders have answered the call whenever their communities needed them most—during cyclones, floods, storms, search-and-rescue operations, missing person searches, land rescues and countless other emergencies. They have protected lives, protected homes and helped communities recover from some of Queensland's most challenging events. Their commitment, courage and selflessness have helped define what community service looks like in this state. That legacy deserves more than recognition; it deserves ongoing investment and practical support.

Under the former Labor government State Emergency Service volunteer numbers were heading in the wrong direction, falling below 5,000 statewide. The Crisafulli government is turning that around. Over the past two years, volunteer numbers have increased by more than 560 members. That means hundreds more Queenslanders are choosing to serve their communities. It is a strong vote of confidence in an organisation that is growing stronger under this government.

The Crisafulli government has also invested more than $63 million in strengthening Queensland's disaster preparedness and response capability. That includes better facilities, new operational vehicles, enhanced communication capabilities and modern equipment to support volunteers wherever they serve. Preparedness cannot begin when a cyclone is already crossing the coast; it starts long before disaster strikes—by investing in the people who protect our communities, by giving them the equipment they need and by ensuring they know their government stands behind them.

After a decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is restoring support for our State Emergency Service volunteers. We are investing in better equipment, stronger capabilities, better facilities and growing volunteer numbers—because Queensland volunteers deserve nothing less. We will continue standing shoulder to shoulder with the men and women in orange as they protect Queensland communities for the next 50 years and beyond.

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government bolstering disaster readiness in North Queensland and Far North Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternatives that saw emergency services personnel under-resourced during the last decade?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. Queenslanders, particularly those living in North Queensland and Far North Queensland, know all too well the destructive impacts of cyclones, floods and severe weather. They understand that, when disaster strikes, communities rely on one thing above all else: a fast, coordinated and well-resourced emergency response. That is why the Crisafulli government is committed to strengthening disaster readiness across Queensland. We are giving our hardworking emergency service personnel and volunteers the equipment, technology and support they need before disaster occurs—because preparedness saves lives.

Last week while in Cairns I was proud to announce the delivery of three additional satellite powered Airbridge Resilient Network Infrastructure trailers to the Far North State Emergency Service. That brings the state's fleet to five trailers strategically positioned and ready to deploy ahead of Queensland's high-risk severe weather season. These trailers are much more than pieces of equipment; they are mobile communication hubs powered by high-capacity battery systems, supported by Starlink satellite technology and capable of restoring vital communications when traditional networks fail. When communities lose power, when phone towers are damaged or when roads are cut, these trailers can be rapidly deployed to reconnect emergency responders and local communities. They allow responders to establish communications in minutes, they allow families to connect with loved ones, they help emergency services coordinate rescue and recovery operations and they ensure critical information continues to flow when Queenslanders need it most. That is the difference modern technology can make during a disaster. It is also the difference that investment makes.

While I was in Cairns last week, I was also pleased to launch the Queensland SES's new FlyCart heavy-lift drone. This remarkable new capability can transport critical supplies, emergency equipment and communications gear into areas cut off by floodwaters, landslides or other natural disasters. It is another example of the Crisafulli government embracing innovative technology to support our emergency services and help Queenslanders when they need it most.

The Crisafulli government made a commitment to strengthen disaster communications in Queensland's most vulnerable communities, and we have delivered on that commitment. Unlike those opposite, we understand that emergency services cannot wait until disaster strikes before they receive the resources they need. Under Labor, too much critical infrastructure was allowed to age, too many volunteers were expected to do more with less and communities were often left waiting. The Crisafulli government has taken a fundamentally different approach. We are investing before the next emergency, not after it—because we know the State Emergency Service is not simply part of Queensland's emergency response; it is the backbone of it. Every day, thousands of volunteers stand ready to help complete strangers. They leave their families, their jobs and their own homes to help Queenslanders through their darkest moments. That commitment deserves more than our gratitude; it deserves proper investment.

In the past two years State Emergency Service volunteer numbers have increased, as I said, by more than 560 members. That means more trained volunteers ready to support their communities when disaster strikes. The Crisafulli government is investing to strengthen Queensland's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. It deserves respect and it deserves a government that will continue backing them with the resources they need. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is delivering because stronger emergency services means stronger communities, and stronger communities means a more resilient and safer Queensland.

Mr HUNT: I have a question for the minister. Can the minister update the House on the Albanese Labor government's proposed disaster funding reforms and what they mean for Queensland communities and regional councils?

Mr PURDIE: If I could, I might ask you to keep track of the time because I would love to allow a couple of minutes, if we are not going back to opposition questions, to thank staff for all of the work that has gone into it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We still have time for that. There is also a question on notice to be responded to in relation to VIMS. We have six minutes to go, Minister.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thought we had only three, so I appreciate that. I have already touched on some of this, but it is worth reinforcing. I thank the member for the question and acknowledge his strong advocacy for disaster-affected communities across the north coast. On Wednesday I joined the Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, the Hon. Ann Leahy, at the Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne to stand up for Queensland. Together, we made it abundantly clear that the Crisafulli government will not support reforms that unfairly shift the cost of disasters onto Queenslanders. Queensland knows better than any other state that disasters are not a matter of if; they are a matter of when. Every wet season, every bushfire season and every severe storm reminds us that Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the country. That is exactly why disaster funding arrangements must reflect reality, not Labor Albanese ideology.

Unfortunately, the federal government has proposed changes that would leave Queensland significantly worse off and shift an unfair financial burden onto local councils. The Crisafulli government remains strenuously opposed to reforms that drastically increase the share of disaster recovery costs borne by state and local governments. In Melbourne, Minister Leahy and I made it clear that Queensland simply cannot absorb these additional costs. We also made it clear that, while the Commonwealth has claimed councils will not lose money, the reality on the ground tells a very different story.

Queensland already spends more on disaster response and recovery than any other state. We invest more than $90 per Queenslander on disaster recovery. That compares with around $60 per person in New South Wales and it is almost three times what several other jurisdictions spend. That is not because Queensland spends recklessly; it is because Queensland experiences more floods, more cyclones, more severe storms and more natural disasters than anywhere else in the nation. Queensland carries Australia's disaster burden, yet under the federal Albanese government's proposed funding model Queensland would have been more than $1.5 billion worse off over the last three years. In the 2025-26 severe weather season alone, Queensland would have lost at least $713 million. Those are extraordinary figures.

I have been told we are running out of time, but I want to make a call again to those opposite. We are doing everything we can. I want to acknowledge the mayors who travelled down to Melbourne and even protested outside the meeting, calling for their fair share. As a government and as local members across the state, we are demanding that the federal government not leave Queenslanders stranded in our hour of need. I again call on those opposite, the Labor opposition, to call on their comrades in Canberra to not short-change Queensland in our hour of need.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now might be the opportune time to ask the minister or acting commissioner for the question around VIMS to be reported back to the committee.

Commissioner Pointing: We are in a position to report back to the committee. I will hand over to DC Stream to report back.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Commissioner, do you have some information for the committee around VIMS?

Deputy Commissioner Stream: I do. This is in reply to the honourable member's earlier question. It is a two-stage project. The first stage, which the honourable member will remember, involved work which continued on from the disaster reform work which required removal of those systems from the Queensland Fire Department infrastructure and transfer across to the QPS infrastructure. I have been informed that there is two months left to facilitate that complete change or removal from infrastructure. Then the timeframe is not completely known because, as part of that work, it will sit behind the Queensland Police Service firewall and there is work underway to enhance accessibility, which will be required for those local controllers to access that system. That will include information such as volunteer records, attendance history, operator appointments and other role-specific information required to support operational decision-making.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

Mr POWER: I have a point of clarification. Regarding question 18, would the minister indulge us to take on notice to give a fulsome answer, as he did last year, on the vessels needed for replacement?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: they had an opportunity to get that answer and they pulled them up.

Mr POWER: It is a question for the minister, with respect.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand. I do not think the minister is taking any questions on notice.

Mr PURDIE: No.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has confirmed that.

Mr POWER: I am asking if he would indulge us and take it on notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, we have less than a minute. Would you like to thank some people?

Mr PURDIE: I would dearly like to do so. Firstly, thank you to all members of the committee and the secretariat for your deliberation of the estimates in relation to these portfolios. I want to thank all the departmental staff. You can see from all the folders we have here the work that goes into it. It is an important time of year for all departments. Even though a lot of the questions were not asked, the fact that we have gone through our department, asked these questions and diligently put together these briefs shows how very important this is for all of our agencies.

I want to thank not just the acting commissioner but also the deputy commissioners from whom you have heard today. I also thank both the chief officers from MRQ and the SES, sitting behind me. There are a lot more people in other rooms who have helped put this all together. We would not have been able to do it without them, so I do dearly want to thank them. As I did in my opening address, I want to thank all of our frontline personnel, whether you wear the blue, the orange or the Marine Rescue Queensland uniform. As I have outlined today, we rely on you heavily and this government has your back.

I got in big trouble last year for not thanking the staff in my office, so I want to today thank the staff in my office who have also worked really hard to get us ready for today. Once again, I thank you for your time, and hopefully this has been helpful to your deliberations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have now reached the end of the time allocated to examine the proposed expenditure for the emergency services portfolio area. Thank you, Minister, officials and departmental officers for your attendance. The committee will now adjourn until 4.45 pm, when it will examine the estimates for the portfolio areas of the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services.

Proceedings suspended from 4.16 pm to 4.45 pm.

ESTIMATES—JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE—YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT; CORRECTIVE SERVICES

In Attendance

Hon. LJ Gerber MP, Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

Mr Ian Kaye, Chief of Staff

Ms Fabiana Vitali, Head of Policy

Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support

Mr Michael Drane, Director-General

Ms Megan Giles, Acting Deputy Director-General

Ms Mel Harris-Tutt, Chief Finance Officer

Queensland Corrective Services

Superintendent Steven Scougall, Chief of Staff

Mr Paul Stewart APM, Chief Executive

The committee met at 4:45pm



Mr SPEAKER: Good afternoon. We will now resume proceedings. For the benefit of those who have just joined us, I am Pat Weir, the member for Condamine and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Under the provisions of the Parliament of Queensland Act, I will preside over today's hearing. Members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee are: Mr Marty Hunt, member for Nicklin; Mr Peter Russo, member for Toohey; Ms Natalie Marr, member for Thuringowa; Mr Sean Dillon, member for Gregory, who is substituting for Mr Russell Field, member for Capalaba; the Hon. Di Farmer, member for Bulimba, who is substituting for Ms Melissa McMahon, member for Macalister; and Mr Michael Berkman MP, member for Maiwar. The committee will be joined by other members who have been granted leave to attend and ask questions at today's hearing.

I remind everyone present that any person may be excluded from the proceedings at the chair's discretion or by order of the committee. The committee has authorised its hearing to be broadcast live, televised and photographed. Copies of the committee's conditions for broadcasters of proceedings are available from the secretariat. Staff who are assisting our witnesses here today are permitted to use personal electronic devices in the chamber. I ask all present to ensure phones and other electronic devices are switched to silent mode or turned off if not in use. I also remind everyone that food and drink is not permitted in this chamber.

The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure in the Appropriation Bill 2026 for the youth justice and victim support portfolio area until 6.45 pm. We will then adjourn for a short break until 7 pm and then examine the portfolio area of corrective services until 8 pm. I remind honourable members that matters relating to these portfolio areas can only be raised during the time specified for each area, as agreed by the House. I refer members to the program set by the House, which is available throughout the chamber and on the committee's webpage. I also remind everyone that these proceedings are subject to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly. In respect of government owned corporations and statutory authorities, standing order 180(2) provides that a member may ask any question that the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the relevant Appropriation Bill or otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate public guarantees are being provided.

On behalf of the committee, I welcome the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, officials and departmental officers and members of the public. For the benefit of Hansard, I ask officials and advisers to identify themselves the first time they answer a question referred to them by the minister or the director-general. Please remember to press your

microphone on before you start speaking and off when you are finished. I now declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of youth justice and victim support open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish, you may make an opening statement of no more than five minutes for the portfolio area currently under examination. Thank you, Minister.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, chair and members of the committee. I want to acknowledge the Director-General, Mr Michael Drane, and every staff member, both in my ministerial department and across the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. I also wish to sincerely congratulate Mr Drane on his appointment as director-general. He brings more than two decades of operational and strategic experience in youth justice and human services across frontline operations, policy and reform. His leadership is instrumental as we continue to deliver on the Crisafulli government's unwavering commitment to make Queensland safer, supporting victims of crime and improving outcomes for young people, and I am very grateful for his continued service in this space.

After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer—just like we promised. We are delivering strong laws to restore consequences for action, more early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn young lives away from crime, more police, more support for victims and the infrastructure needed to keep Queenslanders safe. That is exactly what this budget delivers—a record $7.2 billion to make Queensland safer. This is more than six times the investment Labor made towards community safety in Labor's last budget. We are already restoring consequences for action with our landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, which now apply to 47 offences, and as a result of Adult Crime, Adult Time we have seen victim numbers drop 9.6 per cent in the last two financial years.

After a decade of weak laws and skyrocketing numbers of youth offenders and victims of crime, it will take time to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis, and that is why we are going even further and building upon those laws with the next phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time—Breach Bail, Go to Jail. Following consultation by our local members, particularly in regional communities hit hardest by Labor's youth crime crisis, it is clear Queenslanders are fed up with serious repeat offenders being released on bail, only to commit another serious offence. We have listened and we are strengthening our laws. It is simple: if you commit an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence while you are on bail, you will go to jail for a mandatory period of time. Overwhelmingly, Queenslanders are telling us our strong laws are working and they want us to keep going, and that is what we will do. We will keep driving down victim numbers and making Queensland safer.

Alongside our strong laws, we are also investing in early intervention and rehabilitation. They must go hand in hand. Today I am pleased to update the committee that the Crisafulli government has delivered 73 new early intervention programs right across Queensland, and we have lots more to come. We must turn young lives away from crime to prevent the next generation of youth offenders, and that is exactly what these programs do.

Our Regional Reset programs support at-risk youth showing early signs of disengagement, antisocial or criminal behaviour and they help get them back on track and re-engaged in education and the community. We have delivered several Regional Reset programs across the state. Today I can announce that the new provider has been selected by the department to deliver the Regional Reset program in Far North Queensland.

Unlike the former Labor government, who did not respect taxpayers' money and did not ensure programs delivered outcomes, the Crisafulli government will always respect taxpayers' dollars and ensure our programs deliver for communities to reduce crime. Not only are we delivering programs to stop crime before it starts, we are also investing in intensive rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime and reduce the number of serious repeat offenders with our Staying on Track program. Now youth offenders exiting detention receive 12 months of support post release. This is compared to the previous Labor government's approach, where youth were only given 72 hours of support, which led to skyrocketing reoffending rates.

Alongside these programs, the Crisafulli government is also delivering more support for victims of crime who, for the past decade under Labor, were left as an afterthought. That is why this budget provides funding for 196 staff. This is a record number of trained professionals supporting victims of crime as part of our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service. Today I can provide the committee with a delivery update on the Victims Advocate Service. The model will include a 24/7 call centre, website

and embedded victim liaison officers across seven departments. The service will operate as a central front door for victim support in Queensland and is to be launched by the end of the year. The Victims Advocate Service was designed by victims for victims to address the current gaps in the system and ensure no Queenslander is left to navigate the justice system alone.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the hardworking staff across the youth justice and victim support department. Whether you work in detention, supervise youth offenders, deliver early intervention and rehabilitation or support victims, your work is critical to restoring safety where Queenslanders live. I thank every staff member in the department for their professionalism, dedication and service to Queensland. I welcome questions from this oversight committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. We will start with questions from the opposition.

Ms FARMER: My question is to the director-general. Director-General, can you please confirm the total budget for advertising from your department in 2025-26?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order again relates to what we have canvassed a number of times—namely, how whole-of-government processes for government advertising under this government relate to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was well canvassed on Tuesday during the Premier's session and by the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I submit to you again: that should have been put in that portfolio session. I understand there have been some rulings; however, that is what occurs under the current government.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: this point of order from the Leader of the House is frivolous, persistent and an attempt to disrupt the committee. You have made a ruling in multiple committee hearings and I ask the member be brought to order.

Mr SPEAKER: I will look after who is being brought to order and who is not. I do not need any other chatter in amongst it all. The director-general is well capable of answering the question. If he has those figures, he will give them. Director-General, the question is to you.

Mr Drane: It is the case that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is responsible for a centralised coordination role in all government media placement. The oversight of all government media placement is conducted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. DPC, as I understand it, release public annual spend in relation to government media placement. That is conducted annually. Any questions regarding media placement or advertising spend should be directed to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, of the money that has been allocated for your department from the Premier and Cabinet budget, can you name the specific campaigns for your department that were from that budgeted amount—for example, Adult Crime, Adult Time?

Mr Drane: There was no budget allocation from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the department. On that basis, I am unaware of what spend was allocated to any media campaign.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, could I clarify if was there a budget allocation for your department?

Mr SPEAKER: It is becoming repetitive but I will let you answer this and then we will move on.

Mr Drane: No, there was no advertising budget for the department. That advertising campaign is centrally coordinated and managed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Ms FARMER: I have another question to the director-general. A leaked Queensland Police Service community sentiment survey shows that Queenslanders give the LNP government 2.1 out of 10 on addressing youth crime. Has your department undertaken any public sentiment testing or market research on the new Adult Crime, Adult Time youth justice laws?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I ask under standing order 115 whether the member could authenticate the basis of a number of elements in the question.

Ms FARMER: Mr Speaker, I have tabled it previously in parliament, but I am happy to circulate it as well. This is the document I am referring to.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: under standing order 115(b)(iii), I think the question contains an inference that is not necessary to get the information from the director-general. This does not need to be put to the director-general to obtain the information. I would submit that the question should be re-asked without the inference at the start.

Ms FARMER: Hopefully I am understanding what is required here. Director-General, has your department undertaken any public sentiment testing or market research on the new Adult Crime, Adult Time laws?

Mr Drane: The department is predominately, as a line agency, budgeted and resourced to administer frontline services to youth justice and victim support and 96 per cent of the department's budget is dedicated to frontline resources. Accordingly, we do not have a budget and we have not undertaken any market research or sentiment testing.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, the government's election commitment promised every single youth leaving detention would receive 12-months worth of intensive rehab support, supervision support, education and community connection. Can you confirm that every single youth leaving detention is on a 12-month Staying on Track plan?

Mr Drane: It is the case that the election commitment, namely Staying on Track, has been progressively implemented since late 2025, around October, give or take with certain providers. It is the case that every young person that has exited detention since that period of time has been allocated a Staying on Track provider. I might just get to hand the brief so that I can furnish the member and the committee with the numbers. Originally 15 organisations were funded to deliver 23 services right throughout Queensland—that is statewide—for every single young person exiting detention across the state. As the member knows, there are four youth detention centres in Queensland predominantly based in the south-east corner and in Townsville.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, in the response to question on notice 639 it was confirmed that between 1 January and 31 March this year 396 distinct young offenders have served a period in detention and have been discharged. Given your previous answer that every youth leaving detention goes on a Staying on Track plan, is it correct that those 396 commenced their 12-month Staying on Track plan?

Mr Drane: Could you restate the last part of that?

Ms FARMER: The QoN 639 response referred to 396 distinct young offenders who between 1 January and 31 March—and given your previous answer we can assume that they all were referred to a Staying on Track program and were discharged—served a period in detention and were discharged. Would it be correct that those 396 commenced a Staying on Track program when they were discharged?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker, under standing order 115. It is a very lengthy statement and preamble. I ask you to consider that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, the questions have been quite lengthy. I will ask you to condense those questions. We will allow this one. The director-general is ready to respond.

Ms FARMER: Would those 396 people have started a 12-month Staying on Track plan?

Mr Drane: Yes, that is correct. It is the case that every young person exiting custody is referred to and allocated a Staying on Track provider. It is probably worth noting too, because I note the QoN references the number of distinct young people in custody during that period of time, that Staying on Track commences for young people before they exit detention. In fact, there is a period where providers are allocated such that they come into the detention centres to form relationships and rapport with young people so as to better support their transition from custody. What also happens during that period of time is those providers are then working with families as well. It is correct to infer that any young people discharged, as per the statement in the QoN, would have been allocated a Staying on Track provider.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, in that same question on notice it states that 218 young people reoffended and 126 re-entered detention. It is correct then that a large share of the young people who have been in contact with Staying on Track have already reoffended.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that was a statement not a question. I would ask that the member rephrase that. It was put as a political statement not a question.

Ms FARMER: I am happy to do that. Director-General, is it correct that a large share of the young people who have been in contact with Staying on Track have already reoffended?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: can I clarify which question on notice we are referring to?

Ms FARMER: Question on notice 639 of 2026. It is obviously readily available in parliament, but I am happy to circulate the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have that question?

Mr Drane: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: Please respond, if you could.

Mr Drane: As I alluded to earlier, the Staying on Track program started in October 2025 and so every single young person who has exited a Queensland youth detention centre since that point of time has been allocated a Staying on Track provider. I do not know that it is open to me to attribute, as per the data in the QoN that the member has referred to, anything from those numbers for a number of reasons. One, the program, as the member said in her question, is a 12-month support program. It has only been operating for nine months. Even young people who exited detention in October 2025 would not have received any sufficient period of service delivery for the department to attribute any re-offending or changes from the program. In fact, the program is still in its infancy.

Ms FARMER: Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on. The director-general is being directly responsive. I will let him finish his response.

Mr Drane: I was going to say that equally the numbers in the QoN do not necessarily give effect to the amount of service provided by the Staying on Track provider, an example of which could be a young person was allocated a provider, may have had a week with that provider, may have had a bail application and exited custody. Again, I make the point that it is not appropriate to attribute any meaning to the data in the QoN as it concerns the Staying on Track program simply because there has not been a sufficient period of time for the program to have been operating. Secondly, there is no assurance, just on those numbers, about how much of that service provision has been provided to individual young people.

Ms FARMER: My question was more about the fact that those young people have reoffended rather than the value of the program.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker, in relation to it being question time not statement time. I would ask you to draw the member back to the questions.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a fair point of order. The Director-General has answered the question. Go to your next question, please. We are not here for statements.

Ms FARMER: Of those who reoffended and re-enter detention, do they then restart their 12-month Staying on Track program when they are re-released?

Mr Drane: Yes, that is correct, but probably most importantly that young person is allocated to the same Staying on Track provider for obvious reasons. That is to ensure there is continuity in their relationship and rapport. That Staying on Track provider is then equally engaged with the department's case management processes to determine what went wrong the first time upon their exit from custody so that they can apply those learnings to support their transition. But, yes, the 12 months support and transition is available at the point of time the young people exit custody.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, how many temporary or contract staff ended their employment with your department in 2025-26?

Mr Drane: That is quite specific, so I will ask my colleagues if they can get that information to hand. Whilst they are gathering that information, I would say that, as you would see in the budget papers, the department has had an increase in FTEs. I think it is approximately an eight per cent growth this year compared to last year. In fact, the department has had incremental growth year on year. It is the case that it is the highest number of staff funded and employed by the department certainly during my tenure. From memory—I think I saw this data just this morning—there were approximately 10 temporary staff less as at 30 June this year than there were at 30 June 2025—10.42 is the correct figure. There are fewer temporary staff as at 30 June 2026 compared to 30 June 2025, but there are actually 62.08 more permanently funded FTE in those same time comparisons.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, do those numbers include the victim liaison officers who finished on 30 June 2026?

Mr Drane: I am not clear on what positions the member is referring to.

Ms FARMER: Is it okay for me to clarify?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, clarify that question, please, member for Bulimba.

Ms FARMER: They were victim liaison officers with restorative justice.

Mr Drane: I think the member may be referring to the former government's allocation of temporary, time-limited FTE to the restorative justice expansion project. From memory, there are 16 FTE that were always intended to be time limited because of a significant backlog in the number of restorative justice conference referrals. That funding was not ongoing; it was always time limited.

I would also say that, in the Making Queensland Safer tranche 1 reforms of December 2024, restorative justice was removed as a sentencing option in and of itself for all Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. Consequently, that meant obviously a reduction in the number of court ordered or court sentenced restorative justice conference referrals since that period, meaning that those 16 time-limited FTE allocated under the former government had performed their role in terms of clearing the entire backlog of outstanding restorative justice conference referrals. No staff lost their jobs in that process. To be clear, there were staff redeployed to existing vacancies across the department, including other restorative justice roles.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, based on your answer, how many temporary, time-limited FTEs in your department ended in 2025-26?

Mr Drane: You are referring to programs beyond restorative justice?

Ms FARMER: Yes, any time-limited temporary staff.

Mr Drane: If it is okay, I will gather that information.

Ms FARMER: I am happy to take that later. Speaker, is that taken on notice?

Mr SPEAKER: No.

Mr Drane: If it is okay, through the minister, I will get that information before the end of the session.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, why was the JT Academy not funded in 2026-27?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I think that is probably a policy question for government rather than the director-general.

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general is well aware of what is and is not a policy question and can answer accordingly. Director-General?

Mr Drane: It is the case that the JT Academy are currently funded by the department. In fact, they received one of the Kickstarter grants through our first round, as I understand it. There are some 63 recipients of funding through that program. The member might be referring to a previous outsourced service delivery contract that was again committed to under the previous government. It was always time limited and came to its natural end during the 2025-26 financial year.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to the government members for questions.

Mr HUNT: Minister, LNP members of parliament, including myself, have been calling for Breach Bail, Go to Jail. Could you update the committee on the next phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time, including the government's Making Queensland Safer plan in the budget, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I want to acknowledge the member for Nicklin for his longstanding commitment to community safety in Queensland through his work as chair of this parliamentary committee as well as as a local member. He has consistently stood with victims, frontline workers, including frontline police officers, and communities that are calling for stronger youth justice laws. Queenslanders expect that when a youth offender commits a serious crime while on bail there will be real consequences for that action. They expect victims to come first. Queenslanders expect repeat offenders to be held accountable and they expect governments to act. That is exactly why the Crisafulli government is delivering both in this budget and with the next phase of Adult Crime, Adult Time bail reform laws.

After a decade of Labor weakening the youth justice laws and creating a generation of serious repeat offenders who believed there were no real consequences for their behaviour, communities told us they had had enough. Queenslanders are tired of seeing the same repeat offenders granted bail only to commit another serious offence, leaving more victims in their wake. That is why the Crisafulli government has listened.

Following consultation with victims, police, frontline workers and communities right across Queensland, it is clear Queenslanders want stronger bail laws for youth offenders. That is why we will be delivering Breach Bail, Go to Jail as the next phase of our landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms. The message is simple: if you commit a serious Adult Crime, Adult Time offence while on bail, you will

go to jail. The next phase of our government's Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms will include a new offence for youth criminals who breach bail. The offence will apply to Adult Crime, Adult Time crimes committed while on bail, and the new offence will have a mandatory minimum sentence for those repeat offenders because bail is not a right; it is a privilege.

This reform sits alongside $24.4 million and $8.3 million ongoing for new bail support programs to reduce reoffending, because strong laws must go hand in hand with investment in support services to reduce crime. That is exactly what this budget delivers. Our Risk Response Bail program in the budget provides specifically targeted support to youth aged 10 to 17 and their families to address their individual risks and needs and ensure that they understand and comply with their bail conditions, including electronic monitoring, and that they do not reoffend while on bail. It will work alongside the Crisafulli government's other programs, including our nation-leading Staying on Track program, to provide a continuum of support for youth across the youth justice system.

Our strong laws and record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation are starting to show results. Queensland police data shows that victim numbers are down 9.6 per cent over the past two financial years. Today I can also reveal that proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences have decreased 39 per cent over the past two financial years, from 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2026. That is a significant impact. In the first 18 months of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, serious repeat offenders have dropped 24 per cent.

Compare that to Labor's record, where victim numbers rose 193 per cent and where serious repeat offender numbers increased 64 per cent. For 10 years, the former Labor government weakened Queensland's youth justice laws. They put the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims and created a generation of hardcore serious repeat offenders who knew there were no consequences for their actions. We know there is a lot more work to be done to come off that high base, but the Crisafulli government is doing that work and we will not stop delivering early intervention, rehabilitation and strong laws to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis and restore safety where Queenslanders live.

Ms MARR: Will the minister update the committee on how the Crisafulli government's $50 million Regional Reset program is delivering intensive early intervention for at-risk young people across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question and acknowledge her strong commitment to restoring safety in North Queensland and ensuring at-risk young people receive the structure, discipline, support and early intervention they need to make better choices and turn away from a life of crime.

The Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer with stronger laws, more police and early intervention and rehabilitation. That stands in stark contrast to the former Labor government who weakened Queensland's youth justice laws, who made detention a last resort and who failed to invest in the early intervention needed to drive down crime in this state. It will take time to clean up this mess, but the Crisafulli government will not stop delivering to drive down crime.

While our strong laws are taking dangerous youth offenders off the streets and starting to show results, we are also turning young lives away from crime with early intervention to prevent the next generation of youth offenders. For those young people who need more intensive intervention, we are delivering our $50 million Regional Reset program to intervene before at-risk youth become entrenched in the youth justice system. Programs have been rolled out right across all nine locations, giving at-risk people access to structured one- to three-week reset camps, mentoring and ongoing family support, and I am pleased to announce today that Jabalbina has been selected by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support to deliver the Regional Reset program for Far North Queensland for at-risk youth aged eight to 17.

Regional Reset gives at-risk youth an opportunity to hit the reset button. They are put in a positive, disciplined environment that gives them the support they need to make better choices and steer away from crime. Each program is tailored to the unique needs of its local community, meaning contractual requirements between providers can vary. However, all providers must deliver one- to three-week reset camps in locations with appropriate facilities and ensure their programs reduce offending, re-engage young people with education and employment, and strengthen family and community connections. During their Regional Reset camps, youth participate in activities to develop their emotional, social and physical wellbeing, including life and employment skills, training, mentoring, education, family counselling and cultural engagement. After the camp, youths and their families receive follow-up support to help embed those positive behaviours at home. It is designed to help young people build life skills, reconnect with education and employment, strengthen family relationships and

address the behaviours that place those young people at risk of offending in the first place. By implementing intensive early-intervention programs, alongside our tough laws, we will help break the cycle of crime and have fewer youth offenders, fewer victims of crime and safer communities.

The former Labor government failed to intervene early enough and allowed too many young people to progress from disengagement and antisocial behaviour into entrenched, serious repeat offending. The Crisafulli government is taking the opposite approach by tackling crime before it begins. We are also ensuring programs deliver outcomes and are regularly monitored by the department to respect taxpayer money and to ensure our early intervention and rehabilitation programs deliver to reduce crime in communities.

Unlike the former Labor government, we will not judge success by announcements or expenditure alone. We will hold providers accountable and respect Queenslanders' money and remain focused on programs that work. That is how we turn young lives away from crime, prevent the next generation of youth offenders and restore safety where Queenslanders live. By implementing early intervention programs alongside our tough laws, we will help break the cycle of crime and have fewer youth offenders, fewer victims of crime and safer communities.

Mr DILLON: Minister, could you please update the committee on how the Crisafulli government's investment in the Victims Advocate Service is progressing and how it will improve support for victims?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Gregory for the question and I want to acknowledge his commitment to ensuring victims of crime, particularly those living in regional and remote Queensland, get the support they deserve in their hour of need, support that is practical and timely. He has been an amazing advocate for victims of crime right across his own electorate but particularly for those living in remote and regional Queensland.

The Crisafulli government is delivering a new, nation-leading Victims Advocate Service, the most significant reform to victim support services in decades. The Crisafulli government has committed $50 million across five years with $10 million ongoing to establish the service which will be operational by the end of the year. For too long, victims were forced to navigate a fragmented system, repeatedly retelling their trauma while trying to work out where to go for help. The Victims Advocate Service is a one-stop shop for victims of crime, providing tailored support, information, advocacy and referrals throughout the entire justice process. As I have announced today, the model includes a central online hub and a 24/7 call centre so victims can receive immediate support when they need it most.

The Victims Advocate Service will operate as a central front door for victim support in Queensland. As I have also announced today, it will have dedicated Victims Advocate Service liaison officers embedded across seven departments to ensure a coordinated, clear and streamlined response to help break down those barriers that victims face across government. This will ensure victims are not left to navigate the complex system alone. It will reduce the number of times victims have to repeat their story and relive their trauma. Importantly, the service has been developed in consultation with victims, victim support organisations and stakeholders to ensure its design reflects the real experiences and meets the needs of victims. More than 600 victims, victim support groups and stakeholders have been involved in the extensive consultation process, because this is about delivering practical, coordinated and enduring support that places victims at the centre of the system.

For too long, under the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments, the rights of offenders came before the rights of victims. Weak laws, no consequences for actions and a fragmented victim support system created more victims and left Queenslanders feeling unsafe in their own homes and in their communities. Under the previous Labor government, victims of crime rose 193 per cent. The rights of offenders were put first and victims were not given the support they deserved. While offenders had established pathways through the justice system, victims were too often expected to navigate the complex and disconnected services by themselves, repeatedly having to explain the trauma, having to explain what happened to them and advocate for their own needs at one of the most difficult times in their lives. Despite years of reviews, reports and recommendations, Labor failed to deliver the coordinated support that victims deserve.

Our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service will change this because every victim deserves to be treated with compassion, with respect and dignity, to receive the support they need and when they need it most. Our Victims Advocate Service complements our strong laws—Adult Crime, Adult Time and the Breach Bail, Go to Jail reforms—backed by record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation, all of which works together to see both fewer victims of crime and increased support for victims of crime. We made a commitment to Queenslanders to restore safety where you live and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state and to provide more support for victims of crime, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

Ms MARR: Minister, could you provide an update on the Staying on Track program and share any early evidence or feedback demonstrating how it is helping reduce youth reoffending following release from detention?

Mrs GERBER: I want to thank the member for the question and again acknowledge her commitment to ensuring young people get the support they need and are able to turn their lives away from crime and back into meaningful engagements like education, training or employment.

The Crisafulli government is delivering a record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation, and that includes our nation-leading $225 million Staying on Track program. We have always said that strong laws must go hand in hand with rehabilitation and support to turn young lives away from crime, and that is exactly what we are delivering. The Staying on Track program provides up to 12 months of rehabilitation support for youths exiting detention, including at least six months of intensive support to reintegrate them into the community and stop them falling back into a cycle of crime. Staying on Track works by partnering youth offenders in detention with a mentor so they can receive tailored, high-intensity support to transition back into the community and reduce the risk of reoffending. The program uses a network of mentors, family support and community engagement to help youth strengthen life skills, build positive relationships and reduce reoffending, laying the foundations for long-term change.

Today I can provide a significant update on the progress of Staying on Track. Since Staying on Track was implemented, there have been almost 3,000 visits by mentors in youth detention centres. That means that youth offenders are receiving crucial rehabilitation support early on to help them turn their lives around, to prevent reoffending and to help them prepare for the transition back into community once they are released.

Inside detention, mentors help support youth offenders with things like making sure they have suitable accommodation when they leave detention, connecting them with support services, planning how that young person will comply with their conditions upon release and putting practical steps in place so that the young person can head back to school, start a trade or get a job post release. When they are released back into community, that same mentor will regularly visit the youth at home and provide ongoing support to make sure they stay on the right path.

It is still early days. Staying on Track is a 12-month program and no youth has fully completed the program yet. However, some of the feedback we have received from families and mentors already indicate that Staying on Track is making a difference. I have some direct quotes from families and youth in the Staying on Track program with Life Without Barriers. They said, 'We've had a young person spend their first Christmas with carers after five years', 'We've seen young people rebuild relationships with their parents and return home', 'We've helped kids go to their first job interviews' and, 'A young person recently walked away from a stolen car situation and said, "It's just not worth it," and that one moment was a huge win for us.' Those quotes speak for themselves.

This program is turning young lives around. It is making a difference and it is reducing crime. It provides young people with great structure, strengthened connections to education and employment and more consistent support during the period when they are most at risk of offending. That is in stark contrast to what the previous Labor government provided.

I note that the previous minister was asking some questions around Staying on Track. What she did not acknowledge was that under her leadership and her government youth were only ever provided with 72 hours of support. Even then, it was only for serious repeat offenders, and even then the Auditor-General found that 30 per cent of serious repeat offenders did not get their measly 72 hours of support. The previous Labor government has absolutely no track record when it comes to rehabilitating youth exiting detention.

It gets worse. It was only given to a small number of youth offenders leaving detention. Do you know what that approach led to under the previous Labor government? It led to 94 per cent of youth offenders reoffending within 12 months and victim numbers rising 193 per cent. While communities were dealing with the consequences of the previous Labor government not delivering strong laws and failing to deliver the early intervention that youths needed when they left detention, Queenslanders were left with the revolving door of youth crime that failed both victims and offenders. We know that there is a lot more work to be done, but we are working every single day to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis by delivering a youth justice system that restores consequences for actions and meaningful rehabilitation so we see fewer victims of crime and safer communities.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go back to non-government members for some questions.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, I refer to the minister's comments about Jabalbina being announced as the new Regional Reset provider. Is it correct that the program will be run at the Mungalli Falls Outdoor Education Centre, operated by former LNP MP Michael Trout?

Mr Drane: I will just get that information to hand.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there is an inference in that question.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: it is a matter of fact again. I think these points of order are designed to be frivolous and vexatious, and I ask that the member be brought to order.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the director-general is seeking that information.

Mr Drane: I do not have the information to hand about the specific location on which the program will be delivered. If it is okay, through the minister, I will come back to that before the end of the session.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have another question, member for Bulimba?

Ms FARMER: Director-General, I table a letter from The MaraWay—and I will circulate that now—who were a Regional Reset provider. This was sent to the minister and copied to the Premier, me and others. MaraWay say their service agreement was entirely different from the tender and inconsistent with the stated early intervention intention of the program in tender under which they were selected. Director-General, why was the service agreement altered from the tender document and government election commitment?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that question contained an inference and imputation. I suggest she could ask, 'Was it altered?' She suggested that it has been altered, so there is an inference in the question.

Mr SPEAKER: The director-general can say if it was or was not. I call the director-general.

Mr Drane: Just for clarity, the member is referring to the highlighted paragraphs on the first page of that correspondence; is that correct?

Ms FARMER: Yes, and there are other sections through there.

Mr SPEAKER: Are they all highlighted?

Ms FARMER: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: You might want to take a moment to have a look at that, Director-General.

Mr Drane: I see three highlighted paragraphs in that correspondence that speak to the question as I understand it to be. My response to that would be that these are assertions made by the contract provider. I do not agree with the assertions as made in the correspondence.

It is the case that the Regional Reset program was subject to an open tender process. The organisation applied through that process. It was conducted in accordance with Queensland Procurement Policy. There was a significant procurement plan in place. An independent probity adviser was engaged, and the then director-general chose to execute contracts with nine providers to give effect to the Regional Reset in nine locations across the state.

I would submit that if The MaraWay were unclear about the program intent they should not have executed the contract. The department remains clear that they failed to execute the requirements under the contract they were funded to deliver.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have another question, member for Bulimba?

Ms FARMER: Director-General, in the response to question on notice No. 177, the minister states 'the department routinely monitors service delivery to ensure outcomes', which was a reason given for cancelling MaraWay's contract. Director-General, will you apply the same degree of monitoring to Yabun Panjoo?

Mr Drane: Yes, it is the case the department routinely monitors the performance and delivery of all contracted service providers. At last count, there are some 61 organisations delivering over 105 services funded by the department of youth justice and further grants providers—63 through the Kickstarter, 73 in total early intervention providers. Each and every single one of those providers is managed in accordance with a contract management plan, essentially, and their performance is routinely monitored. I think that answers the question.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, how were Yabun Panjoo selected to deliver the Regional Reset programs in Mount Isa and Townsville which I understand means a total of $10.5 million in contracted value?

Mr Drane: I will just check the funding amount that you referenced. I am not sure that is consistent with my understanding of the contracts. I refer to my earlier answer though. The Regional Reset program was an open tender procurement process. It was conducted in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy. There was a significant procurement plan in place because of the value of the contracts. An independent panel and an independent probity adviser were engaged, as is consistent practice for significant procurement of that value. The panel made recommendations to the then director-general and he executed the contracts.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, the Yabun Panjoo Facebook page follows 12 people—almost 70 per cent of them are adult content creators including OnlyFans creators. Director-General, is it appropriate that taxpayer-funded contractors who work with troubled young people almost exclusively follow profiles promoting adult content?

Dr ROWAN: Point of order: there are a number of points of order in there. There are some inferences and imputations. I would ask for authentication. I will leave it at that for the point of order at this stage.

Mr SPEAKER: Can the member authenticate that allegation?

Ms FARMER: Speaker, if I can get your guidance on this. I am happy to show it to you, but I do not know that it is actually appropriate to table in parliament. I do have a redacted version.

Mr SPEAKER: You can show it to me.

Mr HUNT: I also have a point of order in the meantime, Mr Speaker, in relation to standing order 118(b) on relevance to our examination of the Appropriation Bill. The director-general has already outlined the robust process. Who somebody's social media page follows I would say is not relevant to our appropriation hearing today.

Dr ROWAN: Just to the member for Bulimba's point of order, I do accept that there is some concern about the potential material. I want that acknowledged on the record. I did have to raise that point of order around authentication, but I do accept there might be some material that needs to be viewed privately.

Ms FARMER: Speaker, I am happy to move on if it is problematic.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. Let's move on. Next question, member for Bulimba.

Mr HUNT: An inference has been made though, Mr Speaker. I will probably be writing to you.

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: given the discussion around this, I think it would be important to finalise that matter in relation to the document and the authentication with respect to the fact that the question has been put and there was an attempt to actually table or provide some information. I submit that perhaps under the standing orders that should be at least viewed by you as the Speaker and the Clerk.

Mr SPEAKER: I have seen the document that was handed over and we will not be tabling it.

Ms FARMER: I am happy to withdraw the question, Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Unless the director-general wanted to—

Mrs GERBER: Point of order: the member for Bulimba has just said she is happy to withdraw the question, so I think she should.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's move on. Next question.

Ms FARMER: My question is to the minister. Minister, Yabun Panjoo staff have made it widely known in Townsville that they met with the Premier during the election campaign at the Fairfield McDonald's and that the Premier told them they would be the first people he would call after the election. They have also made it known that if anyone questions them about what they are doing they just 'ring David' or your office to 'fix it'. Is this correct?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there are a few imputations in that one that could probably not be authenticated, but I invite the member to try to authenticate that.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the minister is more than happy to respond.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker, I completely reject the imputations in that question. What I will say is that I as the minister, and I know the Premier, meet with many, many stakeholders and victims right across Queensland and that our Regional Reset providers are delivering programs that are changing lives and turning young people away from crime. Yabun Panjoo is one of our Regional Reset providers.

They are delivering Regional Reset in an area that has been long forgotten by Labor. In fact, under Labor Townsville and Mount Isa were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. The previous Labor government, under that failed minister who is currently asking questions, failed to deliver effective early intervention, failed to deliver fewer victims of crime. In fact, probably the reason these questions are being asked is that the member for Bulimba does not support our Regional Reset programs—

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker.

Mrs GERBER:—just like she does not support Breach Bail, Go to Jail, just like they voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker: I take offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. Mr Speaker, it is a fact they voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time and I put to you that they do not support Breach Bail, Go to Jail.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker: a withdrawal is supposed to be unqualified, and I do not believe that is what the member just did.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, withdraw again.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have anything to add to the Regional Reset program?

Mrs GERBER: Yes. Our Regional Reset program is critical, but it is also a fact that Labor voted against Adult Crime, Adult Time and I put it to you that they do not support Breach Bail, Go to Jail. Our Regional Reset programs and early intervention work hand in hand with our strong laws. Those strong laws are Adult Crime, Adult Time and the next stage of Adult Crime, Adult Time which is Breach Bail, Go to Jail.

Our Regional Reset programs are delivered in nine locations right across Queensland. Two of those locations have been spoken about by the member who is asking the question. They are there to deliver a reset to youth who otherwise would be falling into a life of crime. We are talking about early intervention—targeting youth who are showing early signs of engagement in criminal activity, who are perhaps showing early signs of antisocial behaviour—to be able to provide those youth with a more intensive form of reset. The one- to three-week reset camps that are delivered by our Regional Reset providers allow for those youth to get the intense support that they need to be able to reset those behaviours so we can turn around that crime rate.

In resetting those behaviours, what we are doing is intervening early. We are investing in early intervention so that we see fewer victims of crime. That is in stark contrast to what the former Labor government did. Victims of crime skyrocketed 193 per cent and serious offenders went up 64 per cent under them. Our strong Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, which work alongside Regional Reset, which work alongside our early intervention programs, have seen a 34 per cent reduction in Adult Crime, Adult Time proven offences in the first two financial years.

Our Regional Reset providers are critical. It is very important to note, and it is my view, that the member who is asking the question does not support these Regional Reset providers and does not support these programs.

Ms FARMER: Point of order: I take personal offence and ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: We will move on.

Mrs GERBER: I will conclude. I will just round it out. These Regional Reset providers are in nine locations and they are delivering critical early intervention to help drive down the number of victims in this state but also so that we see young offenders turning away from a life of crime. It is critically important that we deliver early intervention and rehabilitation, and our budget delivers a record investment in early intervention and rehabilitation—$560 million.

Ms FARMER: Speaker, thank you. I do believe I have an answer to my question.

Mrs GERBER: Today we have announced 73 new early intervention programs right across Queensland and that includes our Regional Reset providers.

Mr SPEAKER: We will move on to the next question.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, I want to go back to the Jabalbina matter. When was that contract awarded to that particular provider?

Mr Drane: Whilst I get that information to hand, perhaps if I can go back to your earlier question about the location. You asked about the location. I am advised that the Jabalbina Regional Reset will be delivered in two locations: the Daintree River Station and the Mungalli Falls Outdoor Education Centre. With respect to your last question around when the contract was executed, I am getting that information to hand. Suffice to say, it was very recently. In fact, it was on 1 July this year.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, did the minister exclude herself from decision-making about Jabalbina at the Mungalli Falls Outdoor Education Centre given the operator's links to the LNP and the Crisafulli government?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there is a clear inference in that question. There is a clear imputation and inference in that question, Mr Speaker, and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, there is an imputation in that question.

Ms FARMER: Could I re-ask that and change it, Speaker?

Mr HUNT: Now that the damage is done.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: the minister has clearly referenced the inference or imputation and has requested a decision with respect to its being ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: You have been here for a long time, member for Bulimba, and you know the rules. Stating a question and trying to get a second go after you have made a statement is not going to happen. I am going to rule it out of order.

Mr BERKMAN: I have a question for the director-general. Prehearing question on notice No. 19 asks for data on the frequency and severity of offending by young people exiting detention in the 12 months ending 30 June. The answer to that question says that it is unable to be produced 'as framed' in the question. You would be aware, Mr Drane, that I asked that question with reference to an earlier question on notice because that earlier question included precisely the data I am seeking but for a different 12-month period. Director-General, can you confirm that it is in fact possible to generate the same dataset but for children exiting detention in the 12-month period ending 30 June 2025?

Mr Drane: As I understand the question, it was asking for comparable data between the earlier question on notice, namely 117 of 2024, and the same series of data for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2025; is that correct?

Mr BERKMAN: That is correct. It is asking for the same dataset but just with respect to a different 12-month period.

Mr Drane: It may be the case that the interpretation of that data was that it was seeking a comparison of the two cohorts, and that probably contextualises the answer in the first paragraph in that there are a number of statistical anomalies in trying to compare the two cohorts for a number of reasons, but namely because pre and post offending encapsulates both cohorts in both time periods. That is the simplest way I can explain it. To answer the second part of your question, it is possible to produce reoffending rates and reductions in frequency and severity but not comparable to different cohorts over time.

Mr BERKMAN: If I understand your answer, you said verbatim that it is possible to generate that data. Can you please generate that data and provide it to the committee, which was the intention of the question on notice even if it was not conveyed that way.

Mr Drane: I will endeavour to see if we have that data available. Just to be clear, is the member seeking reductions in frequency and severity of offending for all youth?

Mr BERKMAN: For youth exiting detention in the 12-month period leading up to 30 June 2025.

Mr Drane: Yes, we will see if we can get that information for you before the end of the session, through the minister.

Mr BERKMAN: Similar to that earlier question on notice, if it could be broken down by detention centre and with respect to children who are Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as was the case in the earlier question.

Mr Drane: I will see what we can do in the timeframe.

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, point of order: the member has asked a question on notice which has been answered by the department in the best way they can. He is now seeking to reprosecute that question and get another answer in relation to the same question. I would put it that this hearing is not the appropriate place for this question and that the member needs to seek that information in another way. As I said, he is trying to reprosecute a question on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: I think it is fine. The director-general has taken it on notice and will come back at the end before we finish.

Mr BERKMAN: I would very much appreciate it. To be clear, I was simply trying to ask the same question again. If that was not clear, I apologise for that. It is clear now that the director-general has said he is able to produce that data—

Mr HUNT: I think he said he would try.

Mr BERKMAN: He said it is able to be produced—

Mr SPEAKER: No cross-chamber chatter. We are moving on.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, point of order: the chair is consistently interjecting with his microphone on in an entirely disorderly fashion. All I can do is ask that you play a role and ask that he not cut across the rest of the committee's proceedings.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a fair point of order, member for Maiwar. I have been clear since we started this estimates process that one person speaks at one time. If you have a point of order, make your point of order. We are not going to have cross-table chatter or chatter across the length of the table. We will now go to government questions.

Mr DILLON: Minister, could you outline how the Crisafulli government is investing in evidence-based early intervention programs to prevent young people from entering the youth justice system in the first place?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Gregory for the question because I know how invested he is in ensuring there is effective intervention, particularly in his own electorate. The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to restore safety where you live and ensure there are fewer victims of crime in this state. After a decade of decline under Labor Queenslanders deserve a fresh start, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

For 10 years the previous Labor government weakened Queensland's youth crime laws, prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims, closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families and removed consequences for serious offending. They made detention a last resort, they abolished breach of bail as an offence and they created a generation of serious hardcore repeat offenders. They still have a policy platform to go back to the way they were and raise the age of criminal responsibility so that youth aged 10 to 14 are not held accountable for their actions. They oversaw a staggering 193 per cent increase in the number of victims of crime. That is Labor's legacy.

The Crisafulli government is hard at work delivering on our plan to restore safety to Queensland with tougher laws, more police and new youth crime-fighting intervention and rehabilitation programs. Our Making Queensland Safer plan is starting to show some results. The latest police data shows that there is a 9.6 per cent decrease in victim numbers when compared to Labor's last financial year. This is a good start, but we know there is more work to be done. From day one we have been clear that one of the best ways to prevent crime is to intervene early to stop young people committing crime and entering the youth justice system in the first place. That is why we are continuing to deliver on our $115 million investment in early intervention.

I am proud to update the committee today that we have delivered 63 Kickstarter programs right across Queensland—63 new early intervention programs right across the state—and we have lots more to come. These programs are delivered by local organisations that know their communities, understand the challenges facing local families and know how to engage young people before they become entrenched in crime. Right across Queensland, young people are learning a trade and developing vocational skills like carpentry and barbering. They are reconnecting with education, participating in family mentoring, developing life skills and building positive relationships with trusted adults. They are receiving the support, structure and opportunities they need to choose a different path. That means more at-risk young people turning their lives around and heading towards a brighter future. Ultimately, it means fewer youth going on to become serious repeat offenders and fewer victims of crime.

I know that the member has been a very strong advocate for the team at Reason to Thrive, which earlier this year was awarded a Kickstarter grant for their program using animal care, equine therapy and outdoor learning to teach emotional and behavioural regulation to at-risk youth. We also recognise that some community organisations have already demonstrated an outstanding track record of keeping young people out of crime, and that is exactly why we have our Proven Initiatives program.

I am pleased to update the committee that the first provider funded under Proven Initiatives is Everything Suarve, which is receiving almost $3 million to expand its successful Big Brother program across Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast. Esuarve provides intensive mentoring, hands-on learning, education and vocational training and employment pathways for young people aged 14 to 17 who are at risk of entering the youth justice system. Participants of the program spend 12 months building practical skills, strengthening their connection to family and community, and developing positive relationships before they become entrenched in the system. Esuarve has demonstrated it can divert young people away from crime, increase engagement with education and employment, and strengthen community connections. The Crisafulli government is proud to be backing it with our Proven Initiatives program. Strong laws must be paired with early intervention and rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime, and that is exactly what our government is investing in.

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the minister. Could you please outline the progress of the Woodford youth detention centre and explain how increasing detention capacity is ensuring dangerous repeat youth offenders are held to account whilst also supporting rehabilitation?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Moggill for the question. The Woodford detention centre is a critical part of the Crisafulli government's plan to restore safety where Queenslanders live, to ensure serious repeat offenders are held to account, and to deliver the youth detention centre capacity that Queensland needs. When we came to government, we inherited a youth detention system that had been operating above capacity since 2018. That pressure developed over a period of time under the previous Labor government because they failed to invest in the infrastructure needed and failed to deliver projects on time and on budget. It was the result of a decade of poor planning and inaction under the former Labor government.

The former Labor government failed to deliver the Wacol Youth Remand Centre, despite promising Queenslanders that the Wacol Youth Remand Centre would be operational in 2024. Despite promising that the Woodford youth detention centre would be completed in 2026, incoming government briefs revealed that the project had blown out by more than $350 million and would not be operational until the end of 2027. Just let that sink in for a minute. The former Labor government intentionally deceived Queenslanders. They stood up and told Queenslanders that the Woodford youth detention centre would be delivered in 2026, knowing that it would not be—knowing that it had blown out by more than $350 million and would not be operational until the end of 2027. They did the exact same thing with the Wacol Youth Remand Centre. They deceived Queenslanders. They said it would be operational in 2024 and they failed to do it. It took the Crisafulli government to get the Wacol Youth Remand Centre back on track. We got the Wacol Youth Remand Centre open and that injected a further 25 per cent capacity into the youth detention centre capacity.

As a result of Labor failing to deliver the infrastructure needed and continually deceiving Queenslanders in relation to timelines and delivery outcomes, do you know who suffered? Queensland's frontline youth detention centre staff because they were left to manage youth offenders in Labor's overcrowded system that simply was not built to meet demand. The consequences of Labor's failures were real and the Crisafulli government acted immediately. We acted to get the Wacol Youth Remand Centre operational, which as I said increased youth detention capacity by 25 per cent and provided immediate relief to the system.

We have always been very clear that addressing the capacity issues that were created over 10 years under Labor cannot be achieved overnight. That is why the 2026-27 budget continues our investment in expanding Queensland's youth detention centre system. We are investing $95.8 million over three years with $32.3 million ongoing to expand the Woodford youth detention centre by a further 32 beds, increasing its capacity from 80 to 112 beds. This expansion is backed by the Crisafulli government's broader $166.5 million investment over four years to strengthen frontline youth justice services and increase the detention centre capacity across Queensland. We are doing the work. We have also provided the funding required to complete the construction of the Woodford youth detention centre and ensure this critical project is delivered.

Importantly, Woodford is not the only way we are doing the work. Through Circuit Breaker Sentencing, the Crisafulli government is delivering an additional 80 places to provide intensive rehabilitation for young offenders while increasing capacity across Queensland's youth justice system.

Together these investments represent an expansion in our youth justice capacity. We all heard Labor's scare campaigns when Adult Crime, Adult Time was first announced—and that is clearly what they were. The Crisafulli government is delivering a youth detention centre system that is safer, stronger and better equipped to rehabilitate young people and help break the cycle of offending. Do you know why we are doing that? We are doing that because the previous Labor government let serious repeat offenders spiral out of control and victim numbers rose 193 per cent. Under Labor, serious repeat offenders went up 64 per cent. Under us, I am pleased to announce that in the first 18 months of Making Queensland Safer Laws, serious repeat offenders are down 24 per cent. I will let that sink in: a 64 per cent increase under Labor, while in the first 18 months of our strong laws serious repeat offenders have fallen 24 per cent.

Police data demonstrates that victim numbers are down 9.6 per cent over the last two years. Under Labor victim numbers rose 193 per cent. I have also announced that Adult Crime, Adult Time offences decreased 39 per cent in the last two financial years under our strong laws. Compare that record with the record left for us to clean up by the previous Labor government. That is why this budget delivers the investment needed—investment in early intervention, rehabilitation, more police and our detention centres.

Ms MARR: My question is to the minister. Could you outline the progress of the Crisafulli government's crime prevention schools and explain how they will help prevent vulnerable young people from entering the youth justice system?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Thuringowa is a huge advocate in her Townsville community. She stands up for families. I have stood alongside her while she has been advocating for victims of crime. She also ensures she is advocating for the early intervention and rehabilitation measures needed to turn young people away from crime. We know that our strong laws must be partnered with effective early intervention and rehabilitation, and that is exactly what we are delivering—in contrast to the previous Labor government that left us with a youth crime crisis where families were living in fear in their own communities.

Despite repeated warnings from police, victims, local leaders and frontline workers, Labor failed to put in place the early intervention needed to stop vulnerable young people becoming entrenched in offending. Too many young people became disengaged from school and drifted into antisocial behaviour and ultimately into the youth justice system while victims and communities were left to bear the consequences. Instead of confronting the problem, Labor weakened Queensland's youth crime laws. They defended a system that Queenslanders had already lost confidence in and they allowed another generation of serious repeat offenders to emerge.

The Crisafulli government is taking a fundamentally different approach. We have always been clear that restoring safety where Queenslanders live means not only holding youth offenders to account but also preventing vulnerable young people from entering the youth justice system in the first place. That is exactly why we are delivering four new or expanded crime prevention schools across Townsville, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Rockhampton. These schools are designed for young people in years 7 to 12 who have become disengaged from mainstream education and are at risk of falling into crime. We know that once a young person disconnects from education the risk of disengaging from their family, their community and positive influences only grows. Getting them back into education before they enter the youth justice system is one of the most effective crime prevention measures any government can invest in.

I am pleased to say that we are making strong progress. Our first crime prevention school—the Men of Business Academy at Southport—welcomed its first students in term 2 this year, and Y Schools Queensland has been selected to deliver the new crime prevention school in Ipswich. The procurement process for the Townsville and Rockhampton schools is now in its final stages, and I can see the member for Thuringowa smiling because I know it is a pleasing announcement for her. She has done much advocacy to ensure young people in her electorate get the pathways into education so they can turn away from a life of crime. Those schools are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

These schools provide much more than alternative classrooms. They provide structured education, practical life skills, mentoring, wellbeing support, family engagement and a pathway into further education, training and employment. Every young person is different, which is why support is tailored to their individual circumstances, helping them reconnect with learning, rebuilding confidence and seeing a future beyond offending.

Importantly, these schools help prevent youth crime, because when a young person is engaged with education, connected to positive role models and supported to build practical life skills for life they are far less likely to enter the youth justice system. The reason we are investing in these crime

prevention schools is that we know the value of that. We also know that for far too long under the previous Labor government too many youth fell through the cracks. Too many youth who perhaps did not fit into mainstream schooling did not have the pathway into education. These crime prevention schools provide them with that pathway. It means fewer young people becoming offenders, it means fewer victims of crime and it means safer Queensland communities.

Our crime prevention schools are just one part of the Crisafulli government's broader plan to restore safety where Queenslanders live. Alongside our stronger laws, meaningful consequences and targeted rehabilitation, they demonstrate our commitment to addressing the underlying causes of offending before a young person's path becomes far more difficult to change. Unlike those opposite, who continue to advocate for weaker laws, fewer consequences, raising the age of criminal responsibility—

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I take personal offence and ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has taken personal offence and has asked you to withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: I did not name the member personally. Maybe she has a guilty conscience.

Mr HUNT: I was going to say that; she did not refer to the member.

Mrs GERBER: I said 'those opposite'.

Mr HUNT: There was no personal reflection.

Mr SPEAKER: If you were not named you cannot take personal offence. Nobody was specifically named.

Mrs GERBER: The Labor Party has a policy to raise the age of criminal responsibility, which would see young offenders aged 10 to 14 not have any consequences for the crimes they commit. In stark contrast to that, our Crisafulli government is investing in strong laws, but we are also investing in the early intervention and rehabilitation needed to turn young people away from a life of crime. We are intervening earlier, we are reconnecting young people with education, we are creating pathways into productive lives instead of criminal rap sheets and we are delivering the early intervention Queensland communities have been calling for.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go back to the opposition members for some questions.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, I refer to the Regional Reset program granted to Yabun Panjoo. What is the department's policy in relation to contracted service providers' use of social media?

Mr Drane: That seeks some specific detail, so I will refer to my colleagues and hopefully they can provide that information for me. The member tabled a document earlier which had an attachment that included some of the contractual provisions for a different provider. It is the case that those providers have to adhere to a number of things and provide a range of assurances and indemnities to the department including professional indemnity insurance, registrations, Child Safe Standards, agreement to ensure they adhere to reportable conduct et cetera. As to the specifics around whether the department requires providers to adhere to a specific policy around their own use of social media, I will get that information to hand and perhaps give that by the end of the session.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, your department's website states that each youth must undertake a health assessment when they arrive at a youth detention centre. Can you confirm that the attendance of child development services' visiting medical officer at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has been reduced from five days a week to 1.5?

Mr Drane: It is not known to me that there has been a reduction in any of those services. In fact, as I understand it, the relevant hospital and health services through the Department of Health are required to staff the medical facilities, including 24/7 clinical nursing coverage, at each of our detention centres. That question might be better directed to the director-general for the Department of Health.

Mr SPEAKER: I was thinking that myself. That is probably for the next section in corrections.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, given what is on your website about young people undertaking a health assessment, is it correct that it is your job to ensure those health assessments can take place?

Mr Drane: That is correct. Under the Youth Justice Act, section 263 places obligations upon me as the director-general to ensure those services are available to all youth who enter youth detention. I can assure the member that is the case. As I said, the hospital and health services provide 24/7 clinical nursing coverage and a range of specialist clinics as well including visiting GPs, dentists if required, occupational therapists, physiotherapists—all assessments necessary for the identified individual

needs of every single young person. We have a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Health to deliver the provision of clinical health services in each of our youth detention centres and, in fact, with Children's Health Queensland, who also deliver mental health, drug, alcohol, tobacco and other drug services in all of our detention centres. I can assure the member that it is the case that every single young person who enters detention has a full, comprehensive medical screening.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, are you able to come back to us and assure us that there will be visiting medical officer attendance at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre five days a week?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: it is a repetitive question. It is seeking to relitigate an answer that the director-general has just given. I would ask that the question be ruled out of order or the member be asked to ask her next question.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the question was different. The director-general said that he did not believe that to be the case. This question is different and is seeking an assurance that the provision of those services is, in fact, five days. We ask him to provide that assurance or take that on notice if he cannot provide that information to the committee.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I think the director-general did assure us in his answer to the first question that those services are provided.

Mr SPEAKER: That was my understanding as well. Ask your next question.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, when staff walked out of detention centres last month having been spat on, bitten, attacked with weapons and their families threatened, the minister said, 'Unions employing tactics like this ahead of the EBA negotiations is not a new concept.' Were you advised by staff that this was the reason for their industrial action?

Mr Drane: Perhaps for clarification, I did not have any direct conversation with staff in relation to their action. Obviously, through the department's human resources and industrial relations team we have an ongoing and collaborative working relationship with all unions, including the Australian Workers' Union, whom I assume the member is referring to, who took industrial action on that particular date. It was the case that—I will get some specifics of that information to hand—workers were asserting that they had some concerns around workplace health and safety. The department sought an urgent hearing in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to address those concerns but also to seek a ruling from the commission to have staff return to work. The department has a number of established mechanisms for raising workplace health and safety issues, particularly under the relevant legislation—namely, the Work Health and Safety Act.

The issues that were raised to the department by the union on that particular date were not previously known to us nor had they been raised through any of those local workplace resolution initiatives. Accordingly, we sought the industrial relations ruling on that matter and it was the case that through negotiation resolution we managed to have members of the Australian Workers' Union—so not the entire workforce—return to work on that day and then the commission also provided a direction for some staff at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre to return to work.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, the *Cairns Post* reported that the member for Mulgrave confirmed that there would be a new detention centre built in Mareeba. Can you confirm if there is budget allocation for a detention centre in Far North Queensland?

Mr Drane: It is open to the member to see the department's budget in the Service Delivery Statements, which does not include provision. Really, any detention centre is a matter for government.

Mr BERKMAN: I have some questions for the director-general about lockdowns in youth detention centres. Obviously this is vital because children locked down cannot access rehabilitative services and education. The Deputy Premier said recently that he has no sympathy for children unable to shower or exercise or get education during lockdowns given that they occur 'because some juvenile grub' has caused them, and I will table that article before I am asked to verify or imputation is suggested. Director-General, is that statement accurate or is it routinely the case that children are locked down in their cells because of staff shortages?

Mr SPEAKER: Does the director-general have that document? If not, can we get that document to the director-general please?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that question contained an extremely long preamble with a number of statements and I would ask that you seek that the member restate his question with just the question and without the extremely long preamble.

Mr BERKMAN: Happy to restate the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay; thank you.

Mr BERKMAN: Director-General, is the Deputy Premier's statement that lockdowns occur 'because some juvenile grub' has caused them accurate, or is it often the case that children are locked down in their cells for long periods because of staff shortages?

Mr Drane: Separations in detention centres occur pursuant to the Youth Justice Regulation. I think it is section 21, from memory, of the regulation that authorises the use of separation. For those not familiar with the act, that is essentially a young person being locked in their room for a period of time. There are some very strict protocols relevant to exercising the separation of any young person in a detention centre and also very prescriptive time limits requiring escalation of approvals. It is the case that the department has a record number of staff working in youth detention centres by virtue of two things. We commissioned and opened the Wacol Youth Remand Centre in April 2025 and we have undertaken significant recruitment and induction of new staffing over the last 12 to 18 months such that there were 189 new staff inducted in the last 12 months. We actually have more staff than we do have budgeted positions in all of our detention centres to account for the fact that obviously some staff are off roster at any point in time with leave entitlements et cetera and also we are building a pathway and we anticipate some of those staff will move to the Woodford Youth Detention Centre. That is the context I want to provide to the member.

Specifically you were alluding to staff shortage related separations. It is well documented—it is a matter of public record—that post the pandemic the department did have some chronic staffing shortages. There were severe staffing shortages particularly at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre such that there were often protracted and extended periods of staff shortage related separation. Because of the factors that I mentioned earlier—the number of recruits that we have inducted and onboarded and the record number of staff we have—the frequency of staff shortage related separation has reduced exponentially such that 73 per cent of all separations now are for less than two hours. They are for a very short period of time and they are for risk related separations, so that means where a youth is a risk to themselves or others or is engaging in behaviour—that means they are attempting to assault a peer or a staff member—there is a requirement that staff place them in their rooms to protect against them causing harm to themselves, other young people or staff.

It is actually a fundamental pillar of the government's Detention with Purpose policy, and that is to ensure there are consequences for action and, equally, that there is a response and a risk mitigation for young people engaging in high-risk behaviours. Youth detention centres, as you can appreciate, detain young people who have poor impulse control and often exhibit very violent and frequently unacceptable behaviour, so separation is a necessary risk mitigation. Just to circle back to your particular question, the vast majority of separation in detention at this point in time is risk related separations, so that is in response to specific behaviours or harm, and overwhelmingly 73 per cent of that occurs for the shortest period of time necessary to mitigate that risk, and that is less than two hours.

Mr BERKMAN: Director-General, do the government's current data collection and reporting practices for separations, including the ICT system, allow the department to see what proportion of children subject to separations have cognitive impairment and what proportion of a child's sentence is spent locked in their cell?

Mr Drane: There are two parts to that question. Yes, the technology that we operate to record and track and monitor the use of separation does allow us to overlay the individual characteristics of the young person, so that is the first part of your question. The second part is—sorry, but could you just repeat the second part?

Mr BERKMAN: What proportion of a child's sentence is spent locked in their cell?

Mr Drane: Yes, we can manually extract that information, and we frequently do for court. As I alluded to earlier, post the pandemic—and it is well documented—there were periods of time where the detention centres were chronically short staffed. It became a practice where courts would frequently request that information through the department in tendering pre-sentence reports. So, yes, the department has the ability to determine periods of time or days that a particular young person might have been held in separation.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, former director-general Bob Gee told a committee last year that it takes approximately 3½ to four years to build a detention centre. Have you conducted any modelling on where young people will be held as a result of the minimum mandatory sentencing laws for breach of bail that are supposedly to be up by the end of this year?

Mr Drane: I do recall the former director-general's answer to that committee hearing. I think the former director-general also stated in his response, because it is the case, that the department routinely and regularly undertakes modelling to determine seasonal variations, demand fluctuations, peaks, troughs and surges in demand, particularly for our use of detention. In response to your question, the department is routinely undertaking demand modelling. As I mentioned earlier, in April 2025 we commissioned and commenced operating the Wacol Youth Remand Centre which brought online an additional 25 per cent capacity into the youth detention system. We are on track to deliver the Woodford Youth Detention Centre in 2027 which will bring a further 112 beds into the youth detention system. In addition to that, and whilst it is subject to the discretion of parliament, the Circuit Breaker Sentencing program will also bring another 60 beds. Whilst it is not detention, it is a genuine alternate to detention such that courts would have—

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Mr Speaker, on relevance. With respect to this information, the question was just on modelling around breach of bail.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I think that is what the director-general is talking to. I think he is being relevant.

Mr HUNT: Yes, that was my point of order, too.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the director-general.

Mr Drane: Thank you. I was just coming to the point that Circuit Breaker Sentencing adds an additional 60 beds, so combined Woodford and Circuit Breaker Sentencing is an additional 30 per cent increase in capacity in the youth justice system. I think those things are relevant to the question that was asked in relation to what the department says about its ongoing monitoring of future demand in the youth justice system.

Ms FARMER: Director-General, the providers for the Gold Coast crime prevention school were appointed directly as part of the government's election commitments. Can you advise the process for determining the providers for the Rockhampton and Townsville crime prevention schools?

Mr Drane: You are quite correct: the government announced a commitment in opposition to fund the Men of Business school. I understand they are currently operating with 42 young people engaged in service delivery. The tender process for the remaining three—I know that the member referred to two but there were three crime prevention schools, in Ipswich, Rockhampton and Townsville—was an open tender process that was conducted in late 2025. It was always intended to be a two-stage process. The department concluded the first stage of that open tender process and then went to a select negotiation with successful applicants from round 1.

The process—as I said earlier, it is a significant procurement process given the scale of the investment—was conducted in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy. An independent probity adviser was engaged. It was a rather extensive procurement process, as the department always anticipated. Crime prevention schools are not something we have previously delivered. They are a new initiative from the government. The department of youth justice has not commissioned crime prevention schools. They are quite novel in terms of their wraparound support services, in addition to their flexible delivery curriculum. Hence, we took a rather conservative approach and an extensive procurement process.

Mr SPEAKER: We might go to government members. We have a couple of questions to sort out at the end, too.

Mr DILLON: Could the minister update the committee on how the Crisafulli government is backing Queensland's frontline youth detention staff and delivering Detention with Purpose to improve safety, structure and discipline in our youth detention centres?

Mrs GERBER: At the outset, I want to acknowledge our hardworking frontline youth detention centre staff. They do an incredible job in our detention centres. All of them turn up because they want to see change. They want to rehabilitate young people. They turn up every single day to give those youth offenders hope so that they can turn their lives around. They are incredibly committed individuals and they are often unsung. Their accomplishments are often not recognised by the public because they are behind the walls of a detention centre, but they have incredible heart and they are incredibly committed to the work they do in our detention centres.

I want to thank every single one of our hardworking frontline youth detention centre staff. They work with some of the most challenging youth in Queensland—youth with complex cognitive impairments, youth who have perhaps the learning and education ability of grade 3 when they should

be in grade 10, youth who need significant behavioural reform. They do that so they can implement change, so they can see a safer Queensland. They do it because they care. They care about rehabilitation and they care about turning young lives around. It is work that makes an enormous contribution to keeping Queensland communities safe. Our hardworking youth detention centre staff deserve to know that the Crisafulli government backs them. We back them with the resources they need, we back them with the laws they need and we back them with the policies they need. Detention with Purpose is one of those policies.

I am pleased to advise that there have been significant recruitment and training activities that have continued to strengthen staffing levels and build a confident, capable and professional youth detention workforce. Right now, Queensland has more youth detention centre staff than ever before. In fact, across our youth detention centres there are now more than 1,136 full-time-equivalent staff. That is in stark contrast to the 900 staff in June 2024 under the former Labor government. Labor left our detention centres critically understaffed to the point where detention centres were in lockdown for months and months on end because of critical staff shortages. The Crisafulli government when we came to government turned that around. We now have more than 1,136 full-time-equivalent staff. When our frontline staff have the right staffing levels, they are better able to do what they came into the job to do. They can deliver education and rehabilitation, hold youth offenders to account and help change lives while making Queensland communities safer.

I spoke about our Detention with Purpose policy—one of those policies that is empowering our youth detention centre staff to not only restore safety to detention centres but also deliver discipline, accountability and rehabilitation in Queensland's youth detention centres after a decade of neglect under the previous Labor government. Detention with Purpose is built on three pillars: education, rehabilitation and consequences for actions. It ensures the time in detention is used to address offending behaviour and reduce reoffending. Under Detention with Purpose, education is now compulsory. Youth offenders can no longer simply opt out of school. Every young person in detention is expected to attend education, participate in rehabilitation programs and engage in a structured daily routine.

We are working closely with the Minister for Education to expand education delivery right across youth detention centres. At Cleveland Youth Detention Centre we have already upgraded our teaching facilities, including establishing a dedicated classroom for just the 10- to 13-year-olds, while introducing improved timetabling, movement arrangements and behaviour management policies to maximise classroom participation and minimise disruptions. I want to give you a practical example of this.

I went to Cleveland, after we had implemented Adult Crime, Adult Time, to see the effect of Detention with Purpose and to talk to the young offenders. I spoke with a group of young male offenders. When I sat down with them I just said to them, 'Do you know anything about government? Do you know what we have done?' They said, 'Are you the person who did Adult Crime, Adult Time?' and I said, 'Well, yes, I am, but I am also the person who did Detention with Purpose and the compulsory education.' They said, 'Are you the reason we are getting more education? Are you the reason I get to go to school?' and I said, 'Yes. Our government is the reason you get to go to school.'

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the minister told this story at the last estimates hearing. I am just wondering about repetition.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Minister, you have the call.

Mr HUNT: They do not like success stories.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any help from you, thank you, member for Nicklin.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wonder if their repetitive questions would be ruled out of order because there are a number of questions that have been asked at this estimates that were the same as the last estimates.

The second element of Detention with Purpose is that violence against staff will not be tolerated, and that is critical. The Crisafulli government will not tolerate violence against our youth detention centre staff. Any assault on a youth justice staff member is one assault too many. Our staff deserve to go to work knowing they will be safe and they will be supported. Under the Crisafulli government, we have made it clear that assaults on frontline staff will not be tolerated. The department undertook some consultation with our frontline staff and operational experts to determine a strong policy that prioritises the safety of our youth detention centre staff, and that is what our Detention with Purpose policy does. It now requires mandatory removal from victims and other youth offenders and a mandatory period of

separation as part of the response and a mandatory risk assessment after a serious incident to assess for further harm. This means that under Detention with Purpose there is now the ability for our youth detention centre staff to impose a mandatory separation period to restore safety to the detention centre.

We have also strengthened reporting to the Queensland police and improved investigations and information sharing to ensure every incident is properly reported so that appropriate consequences follow. That means that we are seeing youth offenders who might commit violence in detention centres being charged. There have been consequences for actions. Under the previous Labor government, that did not happen. Under the previous Labor government, youth detention centre staff were not empowered with the ability to do that; they could not enforce mandatory separations or ensure youth offenders who committed offences against them were charged under our Detention with Purpose policy. Now staff have greater confidence that incidents will be recorded, investigated and responded to appropriately. Unlike the former Labor government, who too often allowed frontline staff to feel unsupported, we are backing our workforce by ensuring assaults are taken seriously, youth offenders are held accountable and staff have confidence in the system designed to protect them.

As part of Detention with Purpose, accountability has been restored in detention centres, with structured behavioural management that rewards positive behaviour and participation while removing privileges where youth offenders refuse to comply. This stands in stark contrast to the former Labor government's decade of decline where youth detention centres became directionless, rehabilitation was neglected and frontline staff were too often left without the support they need. The Crisafulli government is backing our frontline workers, including our youth detention centre staff. We are restoring discipline in our detention centres and we are doing exactly what we said we would do.

Mr HUNT: Minister, could you update the committee on the Crisafulli government's new Youth Justice Schools and explain how they will help reduce re-offending and support young people to turn their lives around?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, there is five minutes left. I will give you a few minutes on this and then we will go to the outstanding questions before we finish.

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Nicklin for the question. I do want to acknowledge once again his longstanding commitment to Queensland communities and restoring safety where Queenslanders live. We have always been clear that restoring safety requires more than just strong laws, it requires early intervention and rehabilitation. Our Youth Justice Schools are two of those commitments. Different to our crime prevention schools that are early intervention and are under the special assistance model that target youth that might not fit into mainstream schooling, that might be showing signs of disengagement from education or antisocial behaviour, our Youth Justice Schools are targeted towards youth on youth justice orders—those youth who are on youth justice orders, who perhaps would be released straight back into communities without the ability to go to school.

We are delivering two new Youth Justice Schools for high-risk young offenders to break the cycle of repeat offending so there are fewer victims. Once a young person enters the youth justice system, simply expecting different outcomes without changing the circumstances that contribute to their offending is not enough. You have to do more. You have to ensure you give that young person the chance to turn their life around with a pathway into education. Ohana for Youth will deliver the new Youth Justice Schools, one in Logan and one in Cairns. We have chosen those locations intentionally because that is where Labor's youth crime crisis spiralled out of control. These schools provide highly specialised behavioural reform through individual case management, mentoring, family support and parental coaching to help young people reconnect with education and employment in their communities. Students participate in project-based curriculum delivered by specialist teachers—

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker. We have several outstanding answers.

Mr SPEAKER: I am watching the clock.

Mrs GERBER:—and supervision for up to 12 hours a day, five days a week. Importantly, these schools recognise that every young person's pathway into offending is different and that is why it is tailored to their individual needs. These schools expect to begin accepting referrals and commence enrolments in the second half of this year, subject to national accreditation approvals.

Ms SCANLON: Point of order, Speaker.

Mrs GERBER: We are delivering exactly what we promised. Unlike those opposite, who all too often accepted the revolving door of repeat offending, the Crisafulli government is determined to break that cycle of crime.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, you have a point of order?

Ms SCANLON: Yes. We have several questions outstanding.

Mr SPEAKER: I am aware of that. Minister, wrap it up and we will go to the director-general. I think there are four outstanding questions. Did you have anything to add?

Mrs GERBER: It is alright if I wind it up?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes.

Mrs GERBER: We are delivering these stronger laws alongside early intervention and rehabilitation so that we have fewer victims of crime in this state. That is in stark contrast to the previous Labor government that allowed victims of crime to increase 193 per cent.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Director-General, can you tidy up some of these questions? I think there are four.

Mr Drane: In response to the member for Bulimba's question about temporary FTEs, there were, in addition to the restorative justice, a total of a further 51 FTE that were pilot or limited-life funded initiatives, an example of which is the Woodford Youth Detention Centre project team which was always intended to be time limited. That was offset by an increase of 230 FTE, so a number of those initiatives were superseded in the budget allocation for this financial year.

Further, I sought to get some detail on the Yabun Panjoo contract amount. I think the member was correct. They were funded for $1.43 million in each service location over four years—two contracts.

The member for Maiwar's question in relation to question on notice 19, in the time available we have managed to produce the information as it concerns all detention centres. For youth in custody between 2024 and 2025 there was a 44 per cent reduction in the frequency of offending after they exited and a 21 per cent reduction in the severity of offences post exit from custody. In the time we did not manage to break that down by detention centre. The member also asked about First Nations. That is comparable. It was a 44 per cent reduction and a 20 per cent reduction for First Nations youth.

In response to the member for Bulimba's question about a policy around social media use for contracted service providers, the department has a supplier code of conduct that all suppliers must comply with that is not dissimilar to the Public Service code of conduct. In addition, providers must adhere to social media and media management. Funded providers must ensure all online and public communications protect the privacy and confidentiality of youth, comply with the Youth Justice Act 1992, the Information Privacy Act 2009 and other relevant legislation. Information about a youth involved in youth justice cannot be published.

Mr BERKMAN: Point of order, Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: We have reached the end of the time allocated—

Mr BERKMAN: Speaker, before the session runs out, is it possible that that information that could not be put together in time is taken on notice? It was put as a question on notice that was misunderstood so it seems reasonable that it might be taken on notice at the end of the session.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is not taking it.

Mr BERKMAN: Will the minister take it on notice?

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired. We have reached the end of the time allocated to examine the proposed expenditure for the youth justice and victim support portfolio area. The committee will now adjourn for a break. The hearing will resume at 7 pm with examination of estimates for the portfolio area of Corrective Services.

Proceedings suspended from 6.46 pm to 7.00 pm.

Mr SPEAKER: Welcome back, Minister and officials. We will resume proceedings. I note the following member substitution for this session is Glenn Butcher, the member for Gladstone, substituting for Melissa McMahon, the member for Macalister. I declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of corrective services open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish, you may make an opening statement of no more than five minutes for the portfolio area currently under examination.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Chair and members of the committee. To begin with, I acknowledge and thank Commissioner Paul Stewart, the deputy commissioners and their teams here tonight and the over 9,000 Queensland Corrective Services officers and staff who work every single day to keep Queensland safe. Whether you are supervising offenders in the community, supporting

victims through the parole process, providing intelligence, managing rehabilitation programs or keeping our QCS facilities operating safely and securely, thank you for kitting up, suiting up and showing up every single day. Your work is often unseen by the public but it is absolutely critical to keeping our communities safe. Our hardworking Queensland Corrective Services officers work in some of the most challenging environments in the public sector. They manage and supervise some of the most dangerous individuals in the state while helping to reduce offending, supporting rehabilitation and restoring safety where you live.

Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has seen more than 16,000 corrective services officers join the front line. I have had the great privilege of attending many QCS graduation ceremonies and I have seen firsthand their professionalism, resilience and commitment to Queensland Corrective Services. Queenslanders elected the Crisafulli government with a clear mandate to restore safety where they live and that commitment extends across every part of the criminal justice system, including corrective services.

When we came to government, we inherited a corrective services system under significant pressure as a result of a decade of inadequate planning and underinvestment by the previous Labor government. In fact, a recent report from the Auditor-General confirmed that Queensland's prisoner population grew by 54 per cent over the previous decade under Labor while infrastructure and long-term planning failed to keep pace. Under Labor we saw overcrowded correctional centres, failed rehabilitation and a lack of effective reintegration, but the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of cleaning up Labor's mess—and that is why we have backed QCS with two record consecutive budgets.

The 2026-27 budget provides a record $2.283 billion for QCS to strengthen security, expand capacity, support frontline officers and improve rehabilitation. A key priority has been addressing the previous Labor government's failure to build capacity over its decade of decline. The Crisafulli government has already fast-tracked the opening of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre in September last year, delivering Queensland's first new correctional centre in more than a decade and, of course, adding more than 1,600 beds into the correctional system. We have committed to delivering 1,400 more beds across the system, and that is more than 3,000 beds set to be delivered by the Crisafulli government from our first two budgets alone. We are strengthening security across the correctional system by delivering anti-climb razor wire fencing at low-custody correctional centres.

We have also increased funding for rehabilitation, reintegration and offender programs, from $26.3 million in 2024-25 to $36.9 million in 2026-27. Queensland Corrective Services is delivering evidence-based rehabilitation programs targeting domestic and family violence, substance misuse and sexual offending alongside education and vocational training in prison industries that help prisoners develop practical skills for life after custody. Importantly, rehabilitation does not end at the prison gate. Helping prisoners successfully transition back into community is just as important as the work undertaken while they are in custody. That is why Queensland Corrective Services is also investing in reintegration services that support prisoners before release and help them reconnect with employment, housing and other support services that reduce the risk of further offending.

The Crisafulli government is also implementing significant reforms to Queensland's parole system to put victims first, strengthen community safety and help prevent further offending. Under the previous Labor government, the Parole Board was severely mismanaged under two failed former Labor corrective services ministers, resulting in decisions that let killers walk free and a president being referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. We are strengthening the operation of the Parole Board and implementing critical reforms to prioritise the rights of victims and community safety. In particular, we are reforming restricted prisoner declarations to keep Queensland's worst criminals behind bars for longer. These changes mean the most dangerous violent offenders, like murderers, rapists and paedophiles, who commit the most heinous crimes could remain behind bars for up to 10 years longer.

Under Labor's broken parole system, the rights of prisoners and offenders were put ahead of the safety of victims and community, but we are turning the tables with important reforms. Labor failed to fix the parole system, oversaw a critical backlog of parole applications that put community safety at risk and left the board operating at half capacity. The Crisafulli government has already restored stability to the Parole Board by appointing a new president and a vice-president, increasing the number of board members and strengthening laws to safeguard the community. Now we are delivering further critical parole reforms—

Mr BUTCHER: Point of order, Speaker: five minutes is up. We have a few questions to ask tonight.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, this is coming off the government's question time at the moment.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will wind up. We are proud to support our QCS staff with a record investment, stronger security, expanded correctional capacity, a growing frontline workforce and reforms that will strengthen Queensland's corrective services system into the future. Just before I finish, the commissioner has passed me a note to say that, when I was talking about the staff that the Crisafulli government has been able to get to join the front line, I think I may have said 16,000; I meant 1,600.

Mr BUTCHER: There goes my first question.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go to non-government members.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, a recent question on notice states that the government has 'directed QCS to procure or develop an alternative domestic violence perpetrator program'. What date did you receive the reference direction?

Commissioner Stewart: I cannot recall the date that I received that, but I have received a request for our organisation to do work in relation to domestic and family violence perpetrator programs. We currently deliver the domestic and family violence Disrupting Family Violence Program in a number of centres. We are doing a jurisdictional scan and looking at what we can find across Australia, New Zealand and internationally to continue the work that we are doing in relation to domestic and family violence.

We have introduced a psycho educational program as a first step in relation to domestic and family violence for prisoners on remand and also prisoners who are sentenced. We have introduced an evaluated program in relation to that. Now we are looking at what is available throughout the country and throughout the world in relation to domestic and family violence, to continue to enhance the suite of products that we have in order to do everything we can to have fewer victims of crime. I note that domestic and family violence programs throughout the world are still being developed, evaluated and worked on over that period.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, when do you anticipate this newly developed program will commence and what will be the scoped capacity of that program?

Commissioner Stewart: At the moment, our people in Community Corrections and Specialist Operations are doing work across jurisdictions, as I said. Once we identify a program, we will look at how we can implement that, what we can do and what requirements we have. If it comes to a point in time where we would require to go back and seek government support, we would go back and seek government support as well.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, are we talking months, years—what timeframe?

Commissioner Stewart: Our timeframe would be by the end of this year when we will have a very clear pathway in relation to the pathway forward.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, has any new funding been provided by the government to procure, develop and commence this alternative program?

Commissioner Stewart: I note that we have received a record budget—$2.38 million—at this time in relation to Queensland Corrective Services, and we will endeavour to find a program and deliver it within our existing funds.

Mr BUTCHER: I table a de-identified email received by the opposition. I will give you time to get a copy of that. Commissioner, can you guarantee that no correctional officers have, at any stage since the commissioning, been paid to stay at home due to Lockyer Valley not being fully operational, as this email suggests?

Commissioner Stewart: I can categorically say that no member of Lockyer Valley would be staying at home unless there was a reason, whether that may be sick leave, recreation leave or something like that. Given that Lockyer Valley, with 1,624 beds, was brought forward to September last year to start filling and we have over 1,500 prisoners in there at the moment, there is no way that it would be acceptable or appropriate for any of our people who are at that centre to not be doing the work that they need to do—the critical work that they need to do—to keep that centre safe and secure. Unless an individual is on some form of appropriate and approved leave, that would not be the case; that people just are not coming to work because there is nothing to do, because there is very much to do and we need everyone who is available in order to do the work that we need to do to keep the centre safe and secure. As I said, we commissioned in September last year, and that was brought forward with government support in relation to the delivery of 1,624 beds into our system. Again, that was at a critical time for us and we really appreciate the fact that it is now open and operating.

I take the opportunity to thank the general manager, the deputy general managers and all the staff at Lockyer Valley who have commissioned and filled the centre so quickly and safely. It has been a remarkable effort from them and all our support people—sentence management, escort and security; a whole range of people—who have provided that level of support to our people in Lockyer Valley and the fact that we have filled that as safely and quickly as we have.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker. I did not want to interrupt the commissioner in his answer. The document tabled by the member is not only de-identified but also not dated. It does not have a date. It could possibly have been sent during the last government perhaps.

Mr SPEAKER: Noted. The commissioner has cleared it up any way. He has been very empathetic in his response.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, I refer to the 2025-26 BP3 which had $280 million allocated to Arthur Gorrie and Townsville. I note that this year's BP3 shows that only around $27 million was expended at Arthur Gorrie and $23 million was expended at Townsville. What is the reason for the $230 million underspend from the previous budget?

Commissioner Stewart: In relation to Lockyer Valley and Townsville, 400 additional—

Mr BUTCHER: Point of order: my question was Arthur Gorrie and Townsville.

Commissioner Stewart: My apologies. In relation to Arthur Gorrie and Townsville, there are an additional 400 beds in each centre. I acknowledge again the support of the government to provide us with the funding in order to deliver those centres.

In relation to the expenditure and the anticipated expenditure, we work very closely with the Department of Housing and Public Works. They provide the support to us around the procurement and the work that we do around infrastructure. Our infrastructure group work very closely with them. At the beginning when we were planning and looking at how the expenditure would be utilised over that period of time, the first year is an estimation in relation to what would be required. Subsequently, we have deferred some of the funding into the next year. Works have started. Anyone who goes to Townsville or Arthur Gorrie will be able to see that works have started and it is well underway. Housing and Public Works and our people have done a remarkable job to engage the two managing contractors to do the work for phase 1 of the delivery of the program. The expenditure that we deferred was in anticipation of how the work would progress. The work is on budget and on time. It was just a deferral from a cash flow perspective in relation to the first year of the program.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, as a follow-up, can you let us know when the completion dates of both those facilities will be finalised and actually get people moving into the 400 beds in each?

Commissioner Stewart: Of course, we are very keen to get infrastructure as quickly as we can, noting as well that the government also has supported us in an additional 600 beds, as well as the 800 beds in Arthur Gorrie and Townsville. At the moment we are in phase 1. The two managing contractors are doing initial works at the facility; they have started the process and the works. We are currently in commercial-in-confidence negotiation with them around a guaranteed construction sum, and then we will have further details in relation to the timeframes exactly, but it would be inappropriate for me to talk about that at the moment because we are currently in commercial-in-confidence in negotiations with the managing contractors.

Mr BUTCHER: I go back to the first budget we talked about with the $280 million in it. To the best of your knowledge, was that an estimation or was that actually a guaranteed figure as to what you had seen as part of the contracts?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order: the member is asking for an opinion of the commissioner. The figures are in the SDS. The commissioner should not have to provide an opinion in relation to those figures.

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker: the member is asking a factual question. Was it an estimation or was it an actual?

Mr SPEAKER: I think the commissioner can answer that.

Commissioner Stewart: It was not an estimation. We did a lot of work in relation to the determination around what the cost of the program would be. It was just the timeframes in relation to when we would bring on the managing contractor and everything that occurred from there. We are actually in front of that again. We engaged the managing contractor before schedule. It was work that was done specifically to identify the costings in relation to the program.

Mr BUTCHER: To follow up again on timeframes, obviously these are large projects; is there any indication of when these will be finished—five years, 10 years?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that is the same question that was asked previously. The commissioner has given an answer to that question. The member should not be able to relitigate his questions by continuing to rephrase them or badger.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the commissioner did answer that one before. Do you have another question, member for Gladstone?

Mr BUTCHER: This one is to the commissioner as well. The latest published prison numbers show that the prison population grew by over 791 from June last year, when 400 cells were announced in the budget. When will the first of these cells have prisoners in them?

Mr SPEAKER: Commissioner, are you clear on the question or would you like to hear it again?

Commissioner Stewart: I would just ask what 400 cells the member is referring to. Is that Townsville and Arthur Gorrie? I understood that I had answered the question in relation to construction and the timeframes in a previous question.

I will talk to the prisoner numbers and to the work that we have done. As I said before, the opening of the 1,624 beds in Lockyer Valley has provided significant support to us. I acknowledge the members of our organisation who have also reconfigured our system. As you can imagine, bringing an extra 1,624 prisoners into a new centre requires us to look at all of our existing centres and reconfigure the prisoners around that. Our people have done an extraordinary job in order to do that. Again, the 1,624 beds coming online has been extremely timely, and it was brought forward by the government.

Mr BUTCHER: Commissioner, page 2 of the SDS references $20 million over two years reprioritised for 600 beds. What exact programs or work functions within QCS's budget is this $20 million being reprioritised from?

Commissioner Stewart: Nothing would be cut in relation to that. We have a $2.38 billion program of work in relation to Arthur Gorrie and Townsville. We have reallocated funding from that program to bring forward the urgent need to look at beds within the system. We will be delivering 600 beds in addition to the 800 at Arthur Gorrie and Townsville as a part of that program of work. Nothing will be cut in relation to that. It is just sound financial management in relation to the program.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, do you have another question?

Mr BUTCHER: Can I follow up on Arthur Gorrie and Townsville again? You mentioned contractors. When will a contractor be brought on board for either of those projects?

Commissioner Stewart: The managing contractors for both of the centres—for Arthur Gorrie and for Townsville—have been engaged. They are currently doing work at the centres. Significant groundworks and preparation are being conducted in both of those centres at this time. Both managing contractors for those centres have been engaged through the Department of Housing and Public Works.

Mr BUTCHER: Going back again to Arthur Gorrie and Townsville, if that $20 million funding has been reprioritised, what new funding for those projects has been delivered in this budget?

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: he has given a very comprehensive answer around the funding for those two facilities—the repurposing of the $20 million. He has given very fulsome answers. The repetitive questioning is bordering on badgering the commissioner.

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, do you have a point of order?

Ms FARMER: The question was about new funding, just to clarify.

Mr SPEAKER: Commissioner, are you able to answer that question?

Commissioner Stewart: Sorry, I am having difficulty understanding exactly what I am being asked in relation to the $20 million because it has been reallocated from a significant budget to the works that we are doing.

Mr BUTCHER: I am interested in what that $20 million was reallocated to.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the commissioner has already answered that question. I think he said it was good financial management that has allowed them to repurpose this money. He has given a comprehensive answer. Now he is badgering the commissioner.

Mr SPEAKER: Commissioner, do you believe you have answered the question?

Commissioner Stewart: No. The $20 million has been reallocated to build an additional 600 beds throughout the state in our facilities throughout Queensland. My apologies, I did not understand what the question was about, but it is going to build the much needed 600 beds across the state.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Bulimba.

Ms FARMER: My question is to the commissioner. Commissioner, has QCS modelled the rollout of triple-up bunking? If so, when does QCS anticipate triple-up bunking will commence in Queensland prisons?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there is a clear inference and imputation in that question. The member might like to rephrase it.

Mr SPEAKER: Could you repeat the question?

Ms FARMER: Do you want me to repeat it as I asked it, Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. Repeat the question for me, please.

Ms FARMER: Has QCS modelled the rollout of triple-up bunking? If so, when does QCS anticipate triple-up bunking will commence in Queensland prisons?

Mr SPEAKER: There is no imputation. The commissioner can answer the question. I call the commissioner.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I have a different point of order. The second part of the question predisposes that the first part of the question has been done. As far as an inference and imputation goes, the second part of the question requires the first part of the question to be correct.

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker: I did say 'if so'.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to allow the question. I call the commissioner.

Commissioner Stewart: We forecast prisoner numbers at different times through the year. Our current forecast indicates that we have the capacity to meet the demand in relation to prisoners at this time and into the future and until our new infrastructure comes into place. We continue to work within the facilities, the infrastructure and the number of beds that we have in order to safely deliver capacity for prisoners within our system.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have another question, member for Bulimba?

Ms FARMER: Commissioner, can I just clarify that you have done some modelling? QCS has seen prisoner numbers crack 12,000 for the first time and is years away from delivering capacity expansions, but you have done the modelling on what is required?

Commissioner Stewart: On the forecasts that we have at this time, we have the capacity in order to meet the requirements of prisoners coming in to our system until we get new infrastructure and the 600 beds, for example, come online.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have one more question and then we will swap over. I call the member for Maiwar.

Mr BERKMAN: I want to put a couple of questions to the commissioner. I am sure you are well aware that 16 people died in Queensland prisons in the most recent reporting year. Equally, successive reviews have recommended that known hanging points in Arthur Gorrie and Townsville prisons be removed to prevent further deaths. When I have asked about this previously, the response was in some respect about reducing demand for cells with hanging points being part of the approach. My question is: have we moved beyond that? Is there an active program and a plan in place to remove known hanging points from Queensland's prisons?

Commissioner Stewart: The work that we will be doing in relation to Townsville and Arthur Gorrie with bringing on new cells—the additional 600 beds—continues to move us towards having fewer cells with hanging points in Queensland. In relation to deaths in custody, our people do an outstanding job in relation to observing and monitoring prisoners and providing support and welfare to prisoners along with psychological services. We do everything we can to minimise deaths in custody. In relation to the cells, we ensure we have robust psychological, risk and threat risk assessments in relation to individuals who are required to go into any cells that we have in that regard.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, do you have a follow-up before we go to government questions?

Mr BERKMAN: Yes. Do you have a figure for how many people are currently in cells in Queensland where there is a known hanging point?

Commissioner Stewart: I would not have those figures with me at the moment. However, the only cells that we have, as you mentioned before, were in Arthur Gorrie and Townsville. The vast majority of the cells that we have are safer, secure cells.

Mr BERKMAN: If you do not have the detail on you at the moment, is that a question that could be taken on notice?

Mr SPEAKER: It is up to the minister.

Mrs GERBER: The commissioner has just answered the question.

Mr BERKMAN: He answered it by saying he did not have the figures on him at the moment. If it is a question that could be taken on notice, it would be valuable information.

Mrs GERBER: His answer stands. No. We are not taking it on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is not taking it on notice. We will go to government questions.

Mr DILLON: My question is to the minister. Minister, could you please outline how the Crisafulli government is investing in additional correctional capacity to address the infrastructure pressures inherited after a decade under Labor and to restore safety where Queenslanders live, and are you aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Gregory for the question. It is a really important question because when we came to government we inherited a correctional system where some correctional centres were operating at 160 per cent capacity. That is the system we inherited. The Crisafulli government is doing the work to ensure there is capacity uplift in our system because a safe correctional system is fundamental to Queensland. Queenslanders expect dangerous offenders to be securely managed, for our frontline officers to have safe workplaces and for the correctional system to have the capacity needed to protect the community and see fewer victims of crime in this state. That is exactly what we are delivering with our capacity program. After a decade of decline under Labor and Labor failing to keep pace with the growing prisoner population and correctional infrastructure, the Crisafulli government is making the investments needed to expand capacity, strengthen the workforce and improve safety.

The former Labor government failed to properly plan for population growth and mounting pressure across Queensland's correctional system and they left behind overcrowded facilities, aging infrastructure and major projects that have been delayed for years. You do not have to take my word for it, member for Gregory. The Queensland Audit Office has confirmed that over the last decade Queensland's prisoner population grew by 54 per cent while correctional infrastructure failed to keep pace. In fact, while Queensland's prisoner population grew by over 54 per cent, the previous Labor government only increased correctional infrastructure by 15 per cent.

There were many more damning findings, and the committee can read about them in my response to question on notice 1. These findings describe the correctional system that we inherited from the former Labor government. The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for, and that is why we have made a record investment in Queensland Corrective Services across two consecutive budgets. Last year's budget laid the foundations with a $2.256 billion investment to begin rebuilding the correctional system and back our hardworking frontline officers with the vital resources and infrastructure they need. This year's budget builds on those foundations, delivering a record $2.283 billion for Queensland Corrective Services to strengthen security, expand correctional capacity, support rehabilitation, and reduce reoffending and restore safety where you live.

One of our first priorities was to address the infrastructure backlog that Labor left us with a decade of decline under them. That is why we fast-tracked the operational commissioning of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre in September last year. That was Queensland's first new prison in a decade. Just think about that for a minute. While the prison population rose by 54 per cent under Labor, not a single new prison was opened by Labor. We delivered more than 1,600 beds into the correctional system and increased QCS's capacity to safely manage the growing prisoner population. In fact, since coming to government the Crisafulli government has delivered more than 2,000 beds across the system.

Our work does not stop there. We are delivering a further 1,400 beds across the system. I will say that again: the Crisafulli government's investment means that in total we will deliver more than 3,400 beds right across the system. The Crisafulli government is doing the work now to ensure more capacity, and this investment is being complemented by broader reforms to strengthen security, support our frontline workforce and improve rehabilitation outcomes across the system—which I hope I get a chance to talk about later on in this hearing.

The member also asked if I am aware of any alternative approaches. I have spoken about how Labor did not open a single new prison. I have spoken about how—I hear the member for Gladstone laughing. He was the minister responsible for this. It is not a funny matter.

Mr BUTCHER: Point of order: I was not the minister for corrective services during the build of a Labor project that is being delivered now by the LNP.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, could you continue?

Mrs GERBER: I will continue. Let's talk about that project. The business case for this correctional centre was first funded by the former LNP government in 2014. The business case for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre was funded by the LNP government in 2014. It took the Labor government till 2019 to even do anything about it. Then when they did they failed to deliver it when they said they would and it blew out. It took the Crisafulli government to get the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre back on track and fast-track it so we could have those 1,600 beds in the system.

Their shocking record continues. At Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre a business case confirmed the need for more capacity back in 2016, but nothing was funded under Labor. No cells were built. Labor did not even announce a plan to do anything with the information they had before them. In Townsville a detailed business case identified the need for additional prisoner capacity back in January 2022. When we came to government, was there any funding in Labor's budget to do it? No, there was not. There was no timeline for construction and no plan to meet demand in North Queensland.

By contrast, our first budget delivered the capacity uplift for both Townsville and Arthur Gorrie, with $2.38 billion committed over six years to deliver the beds across Arthur Gorrie and Townsville correctional centres. This year's budget has allocated $20 million over two years to rapidly deliver a further 600 beds across the system. The Crisafulli government is building the infrastructure Labor failed to deliver, we are delivering the capacity Labor failed to fund, we are backing our officers who Labor failed to support and we are restoring safety where you live.

Ms MARR: My question is to the minister. Minister, could you update the committee on the government's investment in strengthening the security of Queensland correctional facilities including improvements to fencing and prison infrastructure?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. I want to acknowledge her strong commitment to community safety and her strong commitment to ensuring Queenslanders get safety where they live. The Crisafulli government is taking practical action to strengthen security across the correctional system, and this includes in the member's own area of Townsville. That commitment is reflected in our record $2.283 billion budget for Queensland Corrective Services including significant investment to strengthen correctional infrastructure, improve security and support for our frontline workforce.

One of the most significant security investments that we are delivering is the strengthening of Queensland's low-security correctional centres. For too long Queensland's low-security facilities lacked the physical security infrastructure that Queenslanders would reasonably expect. Incredibly, under the former Labor government, only one low-security correctional centre in Queensland had security fencing—just one. The Crisafulli government is changing that. This year's budget includes $50 million as part of a total $79.8 million investment to strengthen security across Queensland's low-security correctional centres. That investment includes 3.6-metre anti-climb razor wire fencing at Palen Creek, Lotus Glen, Numinbah and Townsville Men's Correctional Centre in the member's own area of Thuringowa.

These are practical measures that will make a real difference. The fencing provides an additional layer of protection by deterring absconds, reducing opportunities for contraband to enter correctional centres and creating safer working environments for our corrective services officers. Importantly, this investment complements the dynamic security measures already underway at our correctional facilities.

Our investment is starting to make a difference. Absconds from low custody have continued to decrease under the Crisafulli government. In fact, absconds have halved over the past 12 months, demonstrating that stronger security settings, better prisoner management and targeted investment in infrastructure are improving safety right across Queensland's correctional system.

Today I can announce a major update to our low-security correctional centre fences. The fencing at Lotus Glen and Palen Creek has reached practical completion. Numinbah is expected to be completed later this month. In the member's own electorate of Townsville, the men's correctional centre is on track to be completed later this year.

That means safer workplaces for our corrective services officers, greater security for surrounding communities and stronger safeguards to restore safety where you live. The reason these investments matter is that Queensland simply should not have been in this position in the first place. The former Labor government had 10 years to strengthen security across Queensland's correctional centres. They knew prison numbers were growing. They knew pressure on the system was increasing. They knew our hardworking correctional services officers were being asked to manage more prisoners without the investment needed to keep Queenslanders safe, yet after a decade in government only one low-security correctional centre in Queensland had security fencing. It was not fair on our frontline officers, it was not fair on the communities near these facilities and it was not good enough for Queensland. The Crisafulli government is taking a different approach. We are strengthening security and backing our corrective services officers with the infrastructure they need to do their job safely. We are giving Queenslanders confidence that offenders will be securely managed in correctional centres that are safer, stronger and better equipped to ensure fewer victims of crime.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, you are doing an outstanding job. Can you update the committee on the Crisafulli government's reforms to keep Queensland's worst criminals behind bars longer, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: This really is such an important issue and it goes to the heart of what Queenslanders expect from our state's correctional system and from our government, quite frankly, to keep them safe from the worst of the worst criminals in Queensland. We are doing the work to strengthen Queensland's parole laws and keep Queensland's worst criminals behind bars longer. That is highlighted in the corrective services Service Delivery Statements for 2026-27.

The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to put victims' rights before the rights of offenders. This is in stark contrast to what happened for over a decade under the previous Labor government. We were elected to restore safety where you live and ensure there are fewer victims of crime. We are delivering on that commitment, with new police data showing a 9.6 per cent decrease in victim numbers when compared with Labor's last financial year. We know there is more work to be done, and we will not take our foot off the pedal until Queenslanders feel safe in their homes again. That is why we are making the critical reforms the member for Moggill has asked about.

That is why we are expanding Queensland's restricted prisoner laws to keep some of the worst criminals in Queensland behind bars for longer. It means that all prisoners serving a life sentence are now restricted prisoners and could potentially be held behind bars for up to 10 years longer. Labor's restricted prisoner laws only applied to child killers and multiple murderers. You had to murder more than two people to be declared a restricted prisoner. Our reforms will significantly expand that framework, including more of Queensland's most dangerous and violent offenders, including domestic violence murderers, rapists, sex offenders and sadistic killers. Offenders serving life sentences can remain behind bars for up to 10 years longer.

These are significant reforms and they will apply to more than 300 prisoners serving a life sentence, including DV killers Gerard Baden-Clay and Brian Earl Johnston and prolific child sex offender Ashley Paul Griffith. These reforms will give the independent Parole Board the strong laws it needs to make restricted prisoner declarations against some of Queensland's worst criminals and keep them behind bars for longer. Queenslanders rightly expect that the people who commit the most heinous crimes, who are sentenced by a court to life imprisonment, should not simply become eligible for release and treated like any other prisoner. They expect the justice system to recognise there are some offenders whose crimes are so horrific and whose ongoing risk to the community is so significant that they should stay behind bars to keep the community, their victims and families safe. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government is doing with these reforms.

We recognise that victims continue to serve the life sentence that was perpetrated on them long after the offender might become eligible for parole. We know that for the families of murder victims and the loved ones of women killed through domestic violence, like Allison Baden-Clay and Kelly Wilkinson, and the survivors of horrific sexual violence, the impact of these crimes does not end just because the offender is sentenced. The victims get a life sentence themselves; so should the perpetrators. That is why these reforms are so important for victims and their families.

Under Labor's narrow framework, restricted prisoner laws only applied to child killers and multiple murderers. This meant that DV killers, attempted murderers, rapists, paedophiles, arsonists and many other dangerous and violent criminals sentenced to life imprisonment could never be considered restricted prisoners under Labor's weak laws. That does not reflect community expectations and it does not put victims first. Quite frankly, it fails to recognise the ongoing trauma experienced by victims and

their families. The Crisafulli government has taken a fundamentally different approach. We are strengthening the law, backing the independent Parole Board with stronger legislative powers and ensuring Queensland's worst offenders can remain behind bars for longer, putting victims and community safety at the centre of our justice system.

Mr HUNT: Excellent work, Minister. Could you outline the government's investment in Queensland Corrective Services' frontline workforce and explain how these investments are improving safety for officers and the community?

Mrs GERBER: This gives me an opportunity to recognise one of the most dedicated and hardworking workforces anywhere in Australia. Every day thousands of Queensland Corrective Services officers put on the uniform and walk into some of the most difficult, demanding and important public safety roles in our state—into environments most Queenslanders would never want to walk into or experience. Our hardworking QCS officers suit up, kit up and turn up every single day to ensure our correctional centres are managed safely while also ensuring there is rehabilitation. They manage some of the state's most dangerous offenders in custody and they supervise complex offenders in the community. They respond to incidents and they play a critical role in breaking the cycle of offending. Every single day they are out there working to keep Queensland safe and they rarely seek recognition. I want to acknowledge some of them tonight, so thank you very much for the question, member.

First is Rebecca from Numinbah Correctional Centre, whose leadership in finding the intersect between rehabilitating women and environmental stewardship won her the inaugural Minister's Award for Excellence at this year's National Corrections Day. Then there are Odin, Craig and Allen, the team from Townsville Correctional Complex and Julia Creek work camps who helped remote communities make the 2026 Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival and Boulia camel races a success. That is pretty cool stuff. They have been hard at work preparing for the up-and-coming Cloncurry Merry Muster festival—or 'The Curry', as locals like to call it. Then there are incredible officers like Gordon from Brisbane, who this year retired after 47 years of dedicated service to Queensland Corrective Services. Rebecca, Odin, Craig, Allen, Gordon and the over 9,000 officers across Queensland deserve our support, and that is exactly why the Crisafulli government is giving it to them.

Queenslanders rely on these men and women to keep dangerous offenders securely managed and safely supervised and to help break the cycle of offending to ensure there are fewer victims of crime. It is demanding work, it is complex work and at times it is dangerous work. That is why we are backing our corrective services officers like never before. Unfortunately, for too long these officers were forced to carry the consequence of a correctional system that was starved of resources and left forgotten by the previous Labor government. Prisoner numbers continued to increase, correctional centres became critically overcrowded and infrastructure was not built. It was our frontline officers who carried that pressure every day. If we ask our officers to protect Queensland then we have a responsibility to back them.

The commitment is reflected in our record $2.28 billion in Queensland Corrective Services in the 2026-27 budget. Since coming to office more than 1,600 new corrective services officers have joined the Queensland Corrective Services front line. These officers are managing prisoners, supervising offenders, responding to incidents and supporting rehabilitation, all to reduce the risk of reoffending and to ensure we have fewer victims of crime. These psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists and specialist staff are working alongside custodial officers to deliver safer correctional centres and better rehabilitation outcomes. A great example of that investment is the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Not only is it delivering more than 1,600 additional prisoner places to help relieve pressure across the correctional system; it is also creating employment opportunities for more than 900 custodial officers and community corrections officers and specialist staff. This means that hundreds of Queenslanders will choose a career in corrective services, strengthening our frontline workforce for many years to come.

Importantly, investing in our workforce is not just about recruitment; it is about ensuring our officers have the training, professional development and operational support they need throughout their careers because better trained and better supported officers are better equipped to safely manage offenders, maintain secure correctional centres and deliver the rehabilitation that helps reduce future offending. The member asked how these investments are improving safety for officers and the community. The answer is simple. Every time we strengthen our workforce, we strengthen our correctional system. Every time there is a stronger correctional centre, this helps keep dangerous offenders securely managed. Every offender who is successfully managed is one fewer potential victim in the future. Every correctional service officer who is properly supported is better equipped to protect Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: We will go back to non-government members for some questions.

Ms FARMER: Commissioner, I want to go back to that line of questioning from before. You said capacity is taken care of for the future. Does that capacity include triple bunking?

Mrs GERBER: Point of order: the first part of that question is putting words in the commissioner's mouth. Perhaps the question could be asked without the preamble.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to allow the question at this hour of the day, although I think you have answered it. I call the commissioner.

Commissioner Stewart: I thank the member for the question. The forecasting and planning that we are doing within corrective services within our current infrastructure is sufficient in order to meet the requirements of prisoner numbers until we bring on new infrastructure.

Ms FARMER: With the greatest respect, Commissioner, in answer to that specific question, will you be triple bunking? Are you planning on triple bunking?

Commissioner Stewart: Our planning does not include three people in a cell. We plan at the moment for two people in a cell and the way that we are operating at the moment.

Mr BUTCHER: My question is of the commissioner. Was there any incident, such as flooding or a facility malfunction, that occurred on the first day that the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre was onboarding prisoners last year?

Commissioner Stewart: I thank the member for the question. I am aware that there was an incident in relation to one of the fire systems, from recollection. I would need to seek advice from our custodial operations area in relation to that just to confirm it one way or the other. As you would appreciate, a new 1,624-bed centre is a significant piece of infrastructure with secure cells, residential cells and a whole range of program areas, like the health centre. When you first go into a new centre like that and we are commissioning, obviously at times there are things from a construction point of view where we have defects. It may well have been that there was a defect. I do recall there was something in relation to that but, again, it was managed extremely quickly, safely and securely by the staff at Lockyer Valley who were trained to respond. I would need to get further information in relation to that by the end of the session, if I can, through our custodial operations people.

Mrs GERBER: Sure, happy to.

Mr BUTCHER: Thank you. I have a follow-up question. Obviously, you said you heard that there was an issue. Is it correct that prisoners who were being onboarded into that facility at that time were left in a bus outside the facility waiting for the problem to be resolved?

Commissioner Stewart: I am not aware of that. What I would be aware of is that from time to time maintenance issues happen in centres. We obviously do everything we can in order to maintain the safety and security of the centre. I acknowledge, as the minister acknowledged, the professionalism of our people doing everything they can in order to ensure the safety and security of our staff, prisoners and visitors. I would not have information in relation to whether that specific matter occurred from an operational perspective on-the-ground on the day without seeking some sort of advice from our custodial corrections area.

Mr BUTCHER: Just confirming: will the minister take that on notice?

Mrs GERBER: No.

Mr BUTCHER: I have a question of the minister. Minister, at the LNP state conference on 2 July, did you or your staff meet with Serco Asia Pacific?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for the question. As minister, I meet with many different interested stakeholders. I meet with stakeholders right across the QCS sector. I also have a ministerial diary that is public, and the member can look that up and have a look at that.

In relation to Serco, I note that it is interesting that when we came to government I discovered that Serco Australia operated the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre until 1 July 2021 under the previous Labor government—meaning a privately operated correctional centre continued for more than six years under Labor. I completely refute any inference that Serco is not a stakeholder that the minister could or might meet with. The Crisafulli government are focused on strengthening the public correctional system and supporting the workforce responsible for keeping Queenslanders safe—

Mr BUTCHER: Point of order: the question was about whether she met with Serco. She has answered that question and I am happy to ask another one.

Mr HUNT: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I think there is an inference in the question and I think the minister was providing important context around that meeting. I would like to hear the rest of the answer.

Ms FARMER: Point of order, Speaker: the question was specifically about meetings.

Mrs GERBER: I am happy to get another question if the member has another question for me.

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the commissioner. Commissioner, do you or any of your staff drive briefing notes or materials to the minister's house on the Gold Coast?

Commissioner Stewart: I thank the member for the question. Our department has an excellent working relationship with the minister and the minister's office, but our people do not drive files or briefing notes to the minister on the Gold Coast, no.

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the commissioner. Budget Paper 3 outlines a new $20 million property, plant and equipment capital works line item for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre that commenced its spend last financial year, with over $5 million already expended. Given this is a brand new facility, what is this program of works for, and can you give us a breakdown of what the reason for the expenditure is and what $20 million buys in a new facility?

Mr SPEAKER: Commissioner, you have about two minutes to do that.

Commissioner Stewart: I thank the member for the question. My apologies, but can I get a clarification: we are going to the $20 million?

Mr BUTCHER: Yes. The allocated line item of the spend at the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre.

Commissioner Stewart: The $20 million will be utilised to deliver an additional 600 beds throughout the state in relation to our correctional centres. It has been funding that we have reallocated from a significant amount of funding for Townsville and Arthur Gorrie. Nothing will be cut in relation to it.

Mr BUTCHER: So there are no issues at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre that needed to be fixed as part of the budget that was just passed by the LNP government?

Commissioner Stewart: We have an ongoing maintenance budget in relation to Lockyer Valley—a very good maintenance budget—to ensure that facility is kept as a state-of-the-art facility for the 1,624 prisoners we have in it. That is in the interests of the safety and security of our people, prisoners and visitors. In answer to your question, we have certainly sufficient maintenance funding in relation to Lockyer Valley in order to do what we need to do. I note of course that it is a new facility and we have worked our way through everything. The facility has been handed over from the managing contractor and we have over 1,550 prisoners in that centre.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Commissioner, we had one question that you were going to try to come back to. Did you get that or did you not? It was to do with the Lockyer Valley flooding.

Mr BUTCHER: The minister refused to take something.

Mr SPEAKER: No, she took something. Did you manage to get that or not?

Commissioner Stewart: There was a question from Mr Berkman—

Mr SPEAKER: No, it was the flooding.

Commissioner Stewart: On 9 January, not on day one, there was an issue with the fire deluge system that required some prisoners to be relocated within the centre. As I said, our people did an outstanding job from a safety and security point of view. Unfortunately, with the new centre and with any new construction and build, from time to time things happen. It did happen. It was immediately rectified and made safe and secure, and that was on 9 January.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, do you want to say a quick word?

Mrs GERBER: I very quickly want to thank Commissioner Paul Stewart as well as all of the deputies behind me. I also thank the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and all of the staff across both departments who have helped in relation to estimates. It is a huge undertaking. I know the countless hours they put into it. We are very well supported in the Crisafulli government with a phenomenal QCS team and a phenomenal Youth Justice and Victim Support team. I really do want to thank them. I also want to thank my ministerial staff for all of the hard work. They work incredibly hard and are incredibly committed to a safer Queensland. I want to thank the committee for the questions and thank you, Mr Speaker, for your wonderful adjudication of this hearing.

Mr SPEAKER: We have now reached the end of the time allocated to examine the proposed expenditure of the corrective services portfolio area. That concludes this hearing of estimates for the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for 2026. I would like to thank the committee members and the visiting members who participated in the hearing. Thank you also to Hansard and the parliamentary broadcast staff, together with all of the other parliamentary staff who have assisted here today. I declare the hearing closed.

The committee adjourned at 8.01 pm.