



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Review of Youth Detention Centres, Report**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.25 am): The independent review of youth detention centres in Queensland was initiated in 2016 by the government in response to the allegations of potential abuse of youth while at either the Cleveland or the Brisbane youth detention centres. The reviewers, Kathryn McMillan QC and Professor Megan Davis, had full access to the youth detention centres, the staff, the young offenders and all the material and documentation relating to the alleged incidents going back a number of years. The report provided to government in mid December 2016 was a comprehensive report into not only the alleged incidents referred to in the terms of reference but also the context in which youth justice has evolved in Queensland and also nationally and internationally.

In January Crown Law were instructed to consider the report in the context of any impediment to releasing the report in full as provided by the reviewers. Crown Law advised that the document would require redactions before it could be released and that this work would need to occur in consultation with multiple agencies. Although Youth Justice were consulted in relation to the report and operational issues, Crown Law were the decision-makers in relation to the final version for release. This was important to ensure that Youth Justice, which was the subject of the review, were not also the decision-makers in relation to the release of the report.

Crown Law provided me with the redacted report in mid April. The government believed that it was important to get this report released to the public as soon as possible, which is why the report was released on Wednesday, 26 April after cabinet's consideration on Monday, 24 April. It is fair to say that Crown Law's approach to the redacting of this report has been very cautious. Crown Law's advice relied on various statutes as well as advice on the safety and security of the centre, staff and young offenders. Following public queries around the need for specific redactions, particularly around operational elements of the report, I formed the view that it is in the public interest to have the report further examined by an independent officer from Youth Justice. I have asked the Chief Inspector of Corrective Services, Mr Samay Zhouand, who undertook the investigation into the November 2016 riot at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, to identify whether any further information that appears in the report can be released. It is particularly important to have someone who has the knowledge and expertise in relation to the safety and security of centres around detention and correctional service centres to undertake this task. The chief inspector will have access to further legal advice, including a QC if needed, in considering that report. If, on the advice of the chief inspector, there is additional information that can be appropriately released it will be released. I have asked that this work be completed as a matter of priority.

This government follows through with its commitment to ensure that we release the information from reviews that we initiate. This government initiated the investigation into these important allegations and we want to ensure that as much information as we possibly can release will be released to the public.