




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Corrective Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): Today I am pleased to advise the House that we have our first cohort of the year of custodial officers graduating from the academy. These 40 men and women graduates will walk out of the Queensland Corrective Services Academy gate and embark on one of the most challenging yet rewarding roles in keeping Queenslanders safe. Those officers graduating today will be joining their Corrections colleagues at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, the Escort and Security Branch and Maryborough and Wolston correctional centres.

Under the Palaszczuk government, we have delivered more than 1,000 new custodial officers, and they join the ranks of custodial officers right across Queensland in all Queensland correctional centres. Our correctional officers play a vital role in ensuring community safety across the state through the humane containment and rehabilitation of offenders. Every day they work with Queenslanders who have the most complex and challenging behaviours. It is not an easy job, but our community is a safer place for their hard work. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them, whether they are a custodial officer or in Probation and Parole, for the very important front-line work that they do to help keep us all safe.

Our government is committed to recognising and supporting our hardworking custodial officers by continually improving staff safety and strengthening our front-line services. That is why we are increasing capacity at the Capricornia Correctional Centre with a \$200 million expansion which will deliver over 200 beds and also additional beds at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. This is in addition to our 1,000 extra bunk bed program which is now in full rollout. We also continue to progress the business cases for expansions at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland correctional precinct. This is in stark contrast to those opposite who, when they were in government, sacked 180 Corrections staff as a cost-saving exercise. They closed correctional facilities. They cut—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the minister to continue, but I remind all members that ministerial statements are a time for statements and if there is provocation it makes for the House being more unruly.

Mr RYAN: Our efforts to build a safer Queensland are under threat from the LNP and our efforts—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition! Minister, continue.

Mr RYAN: Our efforts are under threat to build a safer Queensland, and if the LNP government in Canberra gets its way to cut GST funding to Queensland it will make it harder for us to deliver the rehabilitation programs and the safer community programs that all Queenslanders expect from us. It is time for those opposite to step up and tell their mates in Canberra that they need to do more.