




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correctional Facilities

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): This is an historic day for Queensland Corrective Services. After careful consideration the government has decided that Queensland's two privately run prisons should transition back to public operation. It will mean Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre will come under public control. This is good policy and it is the right thing to do.

This change will lead to increased staff levels at both prisons, aiding staff safety. It is our government's view that community safety is too important to be contracted out. We do not contract out police services. We do not contract out our emergency service agencies. Nor should we contract out the management of the most complex, dangerous and challenging individuals within our society.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, I do not believe the member on his feet is being controversial. I believe it is a factual statement. I ask you to hear the statement.

Mr RYAN: Last year the tender process for the two privately run prisons was put on hold as a consequence of the Taskforce Flaxton inquiry which was investigating the corrective services system. At the completion of its investigations the task force observed that Queensland's hybrid system, with a mix of private and public operations of prisons, was not best practice. Prisons in public hands will strengthen Queensland's corrective services corruption resistance and improve overall integrity.

The government has taken that into account along with other considerations about the nature of privately run prisons. Having all prisons under public control will enable greater operational consistency in the interests of staff safety. It will also lead to better and more consistent delivery of rehabilitation programs to prisoners. Rehabilitation is critical to promoting community safety as it reduces the likelihood of offenders committing further crimes.

Under the public operated model there will be more staff in those prisons. This will lead to greater safety for those staff members. It will cost more—an extra \$111 million over four years. This government believes the investment is worthwhile. It is a better outcome for our staff and it is a better outcome for the community.