



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2020

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Coronavirus, Police and Corrective Services**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.21 pm): In tough times our police will always step up to support and serve the community. In these unprecedented times in the face of a global pandemic, they are stepping up and serving our community again. They are enforcing the directions of the Chief Health Officer and protecting Queenslanders from the spread of COVID-19. Everything that the government and the police are doing has one simple but very important objective, which is to protect and save human life. That is why police are patrolling our borders, our beaches, remote communities, our domestic and regional airports and the 33,000 kilometres of the state's road network from Cooktown to Coolangatta and everywhere in between. They are on the front line in these unprecedented times. This government appreciates the challenges that they face in communicating clear messages during this public health emergency.

I commend our police for their efforts to educate the community about the Chief Health Officer's directives. Police are not only communicating and showing compassion where necessary but also ensuring compliance. To date, police have issued a total of 1,258 notices for breaches of the Chief Health Officer's directives. Police have also conducted 4,327 quarantine compliance checks. They have intercepted over 100,000 vehicles at state borders and they have turned around more than 1,700 of those vehicles at the border. I have been assured that careful contingency planning and the extra police delivered under our government have ensured that our police can continue to do what they do best, which is to keep the community safe.

Through this global pandemic we are seeing the human face of the Queensland Police Service. It has always been there, but in this pandemic we have seen a spotlight shone on the human interactions of the officers of our world-class Police Service. We have seen police officers pull up and mow the lawn of an elderly gentleman. We have seen police officers replace groceries stolen from an elderly woman. We have seen police officers change a tyre for an elderly woman who had to cross the border to make a medical appointment. Those are selfless and unsung simple acts of kindness. Police do those things all the time, but at times like this we notice their humanity even more. Police are the steady hand in our community, ever reliable for our safety. They are relentless in their determination to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to keep Queenslanders safe.

Our Queensland Corrective Services custodial officers and community corrections officers are also relentless in their efforts to keep the community safe. The welfare and safety of QCS staff and prisoners is of paramount importance. As Commissioner Peter Martin has said, the QCS has ensured that months ago rigorous preparation began for the impact of COVID-19. Correctional centres across the state have taken the appropriate steps to prevent the virus from entering our prisons. No visitors are allowed. Staff are checked for their temperatures at the beginning of every shift. Significant other precautions are also being taken, including the preventive isolation of prisoners entering the correctional system. The ultimate goal is to keep staff and prisoners safe.

One of the awful consequences of this pandemic has been the personal impact on people's lives. People have lost their jobs. I ask those who are looking for work to consider a job with Queensland Corrective Services. Currently Queensland Corrective Services is looking to offer more than 400 full-time jobs. Those jobs come with a range of career opportunities, right across the state. Our recruitment campaign encourages Queenslanders to take a look inside, to see if they have what it takes to help keep our communities safe. Advertised jobs include the nearly 100 new positions at the Capricornia Correctional Centre, which is undergoing a major expansion. With the transition of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Brisbane to public operation from 1 July, more than 150 jobs in the centre need to be filled. Our Emergency Services, our police and our QCS staff are doing everything that they can to keep Queenslanders safe.