




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.09 am): Before talking about other matters, I would like to take a moment to reflect on a very sad and tragic event last week. Last week Queensland lost one of its devoted servants. We lost firefighter Izabella Nash. Izzy, as everyone called her, was simply doing her job, supporting her fellow Queenslanders, fighting a fire, when she suffered injuries that would claim her life. We all wish to send our condolences to Izzy's partner Bec, her parents Philip and Maggie, and all of those who worked so closely with her. We also send our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to firefighter Lia Drew. Lia was with Izzy in that fateful fire and suffered significant burns and is now in the burns unit undergoing treatment. To Izzy's family, friends and colleagues, we promise you we will never forget Izzy. She is a hero, a firefighter and forever always ready.

Supporting our frontline staff is critical. That is why the Palaszczuk government is making the biggest investment in policing in more than three decades. That investment will fund more than 2,000 extra police personnel positions. For the commissioner it will mean funding for a minimum of 150 extra police officers for every police region across the state. It also means the police academies are very busy. Right now, there are more than 300 police recruits in training across both police academies in Townsville and Brisbane. Next week, nearly 100 more recruits will begin their training at the Brisbane academy. After that, the Queensland Police Service has scheduled another six recruit intakes for the remainder of this year at both the Oxley and Townsville academies, with capacity for nearly 500 new recruits. Nearly 100 recruits are due to graduate next week, with further graduations in June, August and October. There are currently nearly 1,000 new applicants in the recruitment pipeline. Police continue to ramp up their efforts to boost even further their recruit numbers.

As the Premier has announced in parliament today, the Queensland Police Service will now offer \$20,000 towards the relocation costs for a number of interstate and overseas applicants who are currently serving or recently served police officers for them to join the Queensland Police Service. In addition, the Queensland Police Service will contribute \$20,000 towards the HECS debt of a number of eligible tertiary graduate applicants who join the Queensland Police Service. Recruits at our police academies will also receive a cost-of-living training allowance which will significantly boost their pay while at the academy. This is in addition to the Queensland Police Service subsidising the application costs for cognitive and physical testing.

I can also tell the parliament that the Police Commissioner is introducing a scheme where existing non-sworn current members of the Queensland Police Service who are successful in gaining entry to the sworn officer recruit training will continue to be paid at their existing pay scale or the first year constable rate, whichever is the lesser, while in training. This supports those unsworn members having a career change and becoming sworn members of the Queensland Police Service.

Furthermore, the Queensland Police Union, under the leadership of president Ian Leavers, has formed a recruitment partnership with the Queensland Police Service that has resulted in the development of a series of innovative television advertisements to attract even more recruits. Beyond that, the campaign to attract serving officers from across the globe is also generating significant interest. Thanks to a new federal labour agreement, the Queensland Police Service can recruit up to 500 international applicants each year for five years. Since the public launch on 1 February this year, more than 11,000 email inquiries have been received from serving and recently serving international police officers. Following successful initial testing, so far more than 200 formal applications have been received, and it is anticipated that the first recruits to join under this agreement will commence training at the Oxley academy in October.

New and upgraded police facilities in the Far North and the rest of Queensland and more police in the Far North and the rest of Queensland—that is what the Palaszczuk government does. We deliver jobs and infrastructure to make Queensland a better, more prosperous and safer place.