




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women, Queensland Corrective Services

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.03 am): Quite often it is our custodial officers and community corrections officers who are the unsung heroes when it comes to keeping our community safe. From dealing with dangerous prisoners to helping deliver programs that help reduce reoffending rates, QCS employees undertake very important work each and every day. During Queensland Women's Week, it is timely to reflect upon the achievements of women in keeping Queenslanders safe. As a new minister, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of Queensland Corrective Services facilities within both custodial and community corrections, and I have been so impressed with the number of women and the calibre of women working at all levels.

I am advised that within Queensland Corrective Services women make up 47 per cent of the workforce. Within Community Corrections and Specialist Operations branch, this soars to 80 per cent of the workforce. Fifty per cent of leadership roles are filled by women in QCS, including the majority of the executive leadership team. More than a third of all frontline custodial officers are women. In the past 12 months, 176 women have graduated as custodial correctional officers.

We have our fair share of trailblazers. Deputy Commissioner Ursula Roeder ACM led and managed the delivery of psychological and correctional services in custody for many years, as well as the delivery of probation and parole services in the North Coast region of Queensland. She began her career 29 years ago with Queensland Corrective Services in 1994. Her commitment to protecting the community and using innovation to ensure safety for women and children should be commended. Assistant Commissioner Eloise Hamlett is another trailblazing female leader who leads with pioneering, strategic and caring leadership. She began her career in 2000 as a psychologist in what is now called the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. Over her 24 years of distinguished service, she has worked in a variety of positions.

The opportunities for women in a department like Queensland Corrective Services are endless, and they strive to inspire inclusion and to support women in a lifelong career path. I look forward to celebrating their achievements with them this International Women's Day.