




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Resources

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.02 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to backing our police and increasing police numbers. This has begun. We are supporting our police and giving them the laws and the resources they need.

Throughout the last term of government, we were repeatedly advised of the pressure our police were under in attracting recruits. At the same time, we were warned that, due to burnout and Labor's lack of support to our police, the attrition rate was at record highs, imposing significant burdens to maintain police numbers. The impact of 10 years of neglect is obvious.

This government is embarking on a program to retain existing police and recruit new officers so that the police can continue to serve and protect their communities. I am pleased to advise that a further 53 police recruits are being inducted later today, including 37 former police officers from overseas, including from New Zealand, UK, USA, Germany, South Korea, Iran, China, Columbia and South Africa. Ten recruits are from policing families. One has a military background. All up, these recruits bring a total of 558 years of policing experience to the Queensland Police. These new officers will be sent to the four corners of the state to bolster existing numbers to ensure the restoration and maintenance of community safety.

I have had the privilege of attending a number of police graduation ceremonies since assuming this role, most recently in Townsville where 55 recruits graduated. Another in Brisbane was the largest graduation ceremony in 33 years, with 155 graduates. I met a lot of these recruits before they graduated as they assisted in disaster response work in both North Queensland and in South-East Queensland. I could not have been more impressed by their professionalism and enthusiasm as they combatted trying conditions to help Queenslanders in need. These recruits are the start of a pipeline that will see hundreds more reinforce the police front line and help deliver on our commitment to make the community safe.

As at the end of February, there were 2,139 applicants seeking entry to the police. This includes 1,704 standard applicants, 221 international applicants and 214 applicants with previous policing experience from Australia and New Zealand.

I can reassure these applicants and all our current police that we will support our officers. We will provide them with the resources they need to do their job and we will back that up with the laws they require.