

## Question on Notice

No. 1270

Asked on 8 November 2022

**MR T NICHOLLS** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise the reoffender rate (reported separately by year) for the last three years (or since opening in the case of West Moreton Youth Detention Centre), for juvenile offenders who have been incarcerated in (a) Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, (b) West Moreton Youth Detention Centre and (c) Cleveland Youth Detention Centre?

### ANSWER

Across Queensland, the number of young people who offend has been decreasing over time. The number of young people with a proven offence decreased 13 per cent in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21, and 28 per cent compared to 2018-19.

While fewer young people are offending, and many are successfully diverted after a first offence, there continues to be a small group of serious repeat offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of harm in the community and who make up a substantial proportion of young people who are remanded in custody.

In 2021-22, serious repeat offenders were responsible for 63 per cent of youth detention centre bed nights. As serious repeat offenders make up a disproportionate number of the youth detention centre population, they also contribute disproportionately to the reoffender rate for young people who exit from a youth detention centre.

#### (a) Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC)

In the 12-month period ending 30 June 2019, there were 497 distinct young people who completed a custody stay. Of those young people, 92 per cent were alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

For the 12-month period ending 30 June 2020, there were 578 distinct young people who completed a custody stay, with 91 per cent alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

For 12-month period ending 30 June 2021, there were 585 distinct young people who completed a custody stay, with 92 per cent alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

#### (b) West Moreton Youth Detention Centre (WMYDC)

In the 12-month period ending 30 June 2021, there were 19 distinct young people who completed a custody stay. Of those young people, 84 per cent were alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

This 12-month period only reflects six and a half months of operation, with WMYDC becoming operational in December 2020.

#### (c) Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC)

In the 12-month period ending 30 June 2019, there were 327 distinct young people who completed a custody stay. Of those young people, 91 per cent were alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

For 12-month period ending 30 June 2020, there were 329 distinct young people who completed a custody stay, with 92 per cent alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

For 12-month period ending 30 June 2021, there were 310 distinct young people who completed a custody stay, with 96 per cent alleged to have committed another offence in the 12 months following their release.

Re-offending post-release-from-detention rates are not dissimilar to the rates recorded between 2012 and 2015 under the leadership of the Liberal National Party. However, our government has created tools to accurately identify the cohort of serious repeat offenders and is delivering targeted initiatives and intensified the response.

One example of this includes the 72-hour transition plans targeted at young people exiting custody. These plans are a state-wide initiative designed to provide enhanced supervision, program engagement and support as a young person exits detention to reduce reoffending post release.

Ongoing evaluation of services and programs will underpin decision-making about future investment and re-investment with an intensified focus on programs that are targeted towards serious repeat offenders.