

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 601

Asked on Tuesday, 21 May 2024

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to the government response to Youth Justice Reform Recommendations—

Will the Minister advise as to when a review will be completed on the impact of serious repeat offender declarations in order to consider Recommendation 53 for expanding the scope of declarations through lowering the threshold?

ANSWER:

The Government has accepted, in principle, recommendation 53 of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee report.

As part of the \$446.4 million investment in youth justice reforms through the 2023-24 State Budget, \$10 million was allocated to undertake a comprehensive independent evaluation of the youth justice package including individual initiatives and the holistic government response.

To review the Serious Repeat Offender declarations, sufficient time is needed for the effect of the declarations on reoffending and sentencing to be measured. In addition, time is needed to assess the effect of the programs that are in place that work with Serious Repeat Offenders. There are many variables to be considered, such as the quality and capability of the prosecution process, the time taken for serious matters to be dealt with, and the supports provided to the court (e.g. pre-sentencing reports).

Any review of this nature would need to be coordinated and completed as part of a holistic approach to youth crime. There is no silver bullet to solving youth crime, and the unintended consequences of change can be costly if a systems view is not taken.

The Queensland Government is considering the timing of the evaluation of the Strengthening Community Safety Act reforms (including Serious Repeat Offender declarations) as part of this work, as well as through the Department of Youth Justice's existing evaluation program.