

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 895

Asked on Tuesday, 20 August 2024

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on progress to ensure that every young person released from detention is provided a monitored 12-month transition plan as per recommendation 36 of the Youth Justice Reform Inquiry, including those who finish their sentence in an adult corrections facility?

ANSWER:

The Government is continuing work to improve community safety when young people exit youth detention, including service models that focus on reducing recidivism. This includes identifying options with respect to recommendation 36 of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee Inquiry. This work is being led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, together with the Department of Youth Justice (DYJ), Queensland Police Service and key human service agencies.

DYJ presently applies a Youth Justice Case Management Framework across the entire youth justice system, including for young offenders transitioning from detention into the community or moving to an adult correctional centre to complete their sentence.

This approach supports intervention which is planned, integrated and accountable while ensuring each young person receives appropriate services.

Service Response Plans are developed for all young people in detention to support ongoing responses that address criminogenic risk factors. Other tools, such as 72-hour transition plans which are focused on information sharing and practical activities post-release, are designed to complement the response plans.

DYJ supports effective transition by:

- Convening Multi-agency Collaborative Panels in 20 locations to share information, identify and address issues and challenges for young people and their families, and agree on recommendations for each agency to implement. Queensland Corrective Services are a core member of the panels, which is vital for young people moving to adult custody.
- Employing Child Safety Officers in Youth Detention Centres to ensure continuity of support for young people while in custody.
- Working with government and non-government organisations to engage or re-engage young people with education, training, or employment.
- Referring young people to services to address needs such as substance misuse or mental health services.
- Connecting young people with cultural programs, such as working with community and family to identify Elders who may be available to play a role with supporting the young persons understanding of and connection to their culture.

- Supporting young people to join and participate in sporting clubs and activities where appropriate and safe to do so; and identify any barriers, including providing transport support and assisting with essential uniform, where needed.
- Ensuring caseworkers engage and collaborate with Queensland Corrective Service staff, both pre and post transfer of young people moving to an adult facility. This includes sharing essential information to: promote safety; support case planning, including assessments, reports and program engagement; contact with family; and details about an individual's needs or risks.

Young people transferred from a youth detention centre to an adult prison to complete their detention order are then subject to the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.