

Question on Notice
No. 742
Asked on Wednesday 23 May 2007

MS STUCKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government's delay in releasing the Carter Report from Cabinet and the likelihood that adults with intellectual disabilities who exhibit severely challenging and threatening behaviour may well be over-represented in the Queensland prison system—

- (1) How many current male and female prisoners have been recognised as having both an intellectual disability and severely challenging and threatening behaviour?
- (2) How many of the prisoners had already been diagnosed with a behavioural problem linked to an intellectual disability at the point of entry to the Queensland prison system?
- (3) What support services are provided to these individuals whilst they are in prison and once they leave prison?

ANSWER:

A screening assessment is conducted with all prisoners at the point of reception to identify those who may require further assessment and support for a variety of reasons including offenders who may have an intellectual disability. This assessment process informs the safe placement of the prisoner within a correctional centre.

The Offender Risk Needs Inventory - Revised (ORNI-R) assessment conducted on prisoners serving greater than 12 month sentences also allows an offender to be flagged as requiring further assessment for an intellectual disability. The outcome of further assessment to confirm disability status is typically contained in medical or psychological files.

Queensland Corrective Services estimates the prevalence of intellectual disability in the Queensland prisoner population at 9.8%, equating to approximately 550 prisoners.

The information regarding behavioural incidents resulting from challenging and threatening behaviour is not linked to an offenders intellectual disability status in the IOM System.

Queensland Corrective Services has an "Offenders with specific needs policy". Offenders with intellectual disability or cognitive impairment are covered under this policy.

Based on an assessment of needs, offenders with an intellectual disability are assisted to progress safely through their sentence. Professional staff including psychologists, counsellors, registered nurses and doctors are available to provide intervention and support services as required.

Health and medical services are provided that are consistent with services available in the community. In 2006 - 2007, \$2.379m recurrent funding was provided to Queensland

Health for the provision of specialised Prison Mental Health Services in response to the identification of the growing need to manage prison mental health issues.

Offenders with an intellectual disability are able to access education and vocational education where-ever possible. Curriculum and teaching styles are adapted to meet the needs of these prisoners, including extending teaching hours where required.

Guidelines have been developed for the effective delivery of the Making Choices Program to offenders with lower levels of intellectual functioning, and the Inclusion Sexual Offending Program has been developed for sexual offenders with an intellectual disability, to be piloted in June 2007.

The Transitions Release Preparation Program and Transitions Support Service provide relevant information and practical assistance to prisoners preparing to resettle in the community. The specific needs of offenders with an intellectual disability have been incorporated to ensure that their resettlement needs are identified and appropriate linkages to community agencies made prior to release.