

Question on Notice
No. 1581
Asked on Wednesday, 29 October 2008

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE) —

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing at correctional centres across the State, and a report conducted by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service into response times and the training and wearing of breathing apparatus by correctional staff in the containment of fires—

- (1) Is this report publicly available?
- (2) Is Lotus Glen Correctional Centre the only centre to retain breathing apparatus, sufficient staff trained to wear it and contain fires; if not, why not?
- (3) Why are staffing numbers being reduced at the main centre at Lotus Glen?

ANSWER:

(1) Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) requested that an assessment be conducted by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) with a view to establishing the requirement for the Agency to maintain breathing apparatus for emergency situations. The QFRS conducted a full assessment at selected sites across the state. The report was commissioned by QCS to assist with the decision making process regarding breathing apparatus and has not currently been made publicly available.

(2) The location of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre and its older infrastructure were key determinates in relation to the QFRS recommending breathing apparatus be retained at the centre. No other correctional facility has the same determining factors.

There are currently breathing apparatus trained staff at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre and a QFRS breathing apparatus training program commenced on 12 November 2008. This training program is a continuous qualifying and re-qualifying package which will ensure that the centre maintains sufficient qualified staff.

(3) Centre management at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre have, over the past 12 months introduced a number of reforms to the operations of the centre and the centre's staff establishment. The centre's staff establishment in fact has increased through this process in both custodial and non-custodial positions by a total of 7.9 full time establishment positions commencing on 16 June 2008.