

Question on Notice

No. 1736

Asked on Wednesday, 12 November 2008

Mr HORAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Court Innovations Project –

- (1) What is the total budget and expenditure in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately by year and court project, for example murri court, drug court and special circumstance)?
- (2) How many staff are employed in the project as at 28 October 2008 (reported by court project)?
- (3) How many offenders have been administered through the project in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported by court and year)?

ANSWER:

Murri Court total budget and expenditure since commencement of the program on 1 January 2007 is:

2006-07 - \$0.376M budget and expenditure of \$0.413M

2007-08 - \$1.735M budget and expenditure of \$1.664M

2008-09 - \$1.677M budget and expenditure of \$0.456M as at 31 October 2008.

Drug Court total budget and expenditure is:

2006-07 - \$ 1.476M budget and expenditure of \$1.403M

2007-08 - \$1.662M budget (inclusive of \$0.140M of funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing via Queensland Health) and expenditure of \$1.571M

2008-09 - \$1.721M budget (inclusive of \$0.151M of funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing via Queensland Health) and expenditure of \$0.484M as at 31 October 2008.

Funding for **Courts Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative**, incorporating **QMERIT** is provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing directly to Queensland Health. A portion of this budget is distributed to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to fund its Court Diversion and QMERIT activities. The budget amounts shown have been supplied to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for court related costs.

2006-07 - \$0.286M budget and expenditure of \$0.298M

2007-08 - \$0.370M budget and expenditure of \$0.366M

2008-09 - \$0.310M budget and expenditure of \$0.141M, as at 31 October 2008.

Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program commenced on 1 July 2007, the total budget and expenditure for this program is:

2006-07 - \$ 0.110M budget and expenditure of \$0.098M

2007-08 - \$ 0.892M budget and expenditure of \$0.632M

2008-09 - \$ 0.892M budget and expenditure of \$0.168M as at 31 October 2008.

Homeless Persons Court Diversion Pilot Program total budget and expenditure is:

2006-07 - \$0.180M budget and expenditure of \$0.170M

2007-08 - \$0.122M budget and expenditure of \$0.173M

2008-09 - Pilot funding for the program ceased in June 2008. However, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has committed to funding the program at the current level of resources for a further 12 months, as a minimum, pending evaluation of the whole-of-Government Responding to Homelessness initiatives towards the end of 2008. Total program expenditure as at 31 October 2008 is \$32,928.

Murri Court operates with 7.2 full time equivalent positions and employs eight staff members. Of these, three are permanent employees and five are temporary.

Drug Court operates with 10 full time equivalent positions and employs 10 staff members, consisting of eight permanent employees and two temporary.

Courts Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative, incorporating QMERIT operates with 4.6 full time equivalent positions and employs six staff members, one on a permanent basis and five temporary.

Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program operates with four full time equivalent positions and employs one permanent and three temporary.

Homeless Persons Court Diversion Program operates with two full time equivalent positions and employs two temporary.

Statistics for the number of offenders administered through **Murri Court** are only available for the five funded evaluation Murri Courts (Brisbane, Caboolture, Mt Isa, Townsville and Rockhampton);

ITEM	1/1/07-30/6/07	07/08	08/09 (as at 31/10/08)
Offenders referred to Adult Murri Courts	258	483	134
Offenders referred to Youth Murri Courts	106	469	145

Drug Court has administered the following number of offenders through the project;

ITEM	06/07	07/08	08/09 (as at 31/10/08)
Offenders referred to Drug Court	231	232	74
Intensive Drug Court Orders granted	150	146	46

Courts Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative has administered the following number of offenders through the project;

ITEM	06/07	07/08	08/09 (as at 31/10/08)
Offenders assessed for suitability	4369	4330	4076
Diverted to attend a court diversion & education session	3860	3819	3596

Queensland Magistrates Referral in to Treatment has administered the following number of offenders through the project;

ITEM	06/07	07/08	08/09 (as at 31/10/08)
Offenders assessed for suitability	71	264	294

Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program has administered the following number of offenders through the project since it's commencement on 1 July 2007:

ITEM	07/08	08/09 (as at 17/11/08)
Referrals to the Program	223	205
Bailed onto the Program	70	84

Homeless Persons Court Diversion Program has administered the following number of offenders through the project:

ITEM	06/07	07/08	08/09 (as at 18/11/08)
Referrals to the Program	239	549	784
Offenders assessed for suitability	218	506	659
Offenders deemed eligible	121	309	429