

Question on Notice

No. 1505

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

MRS MENKENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

How many youth offenders were charged with sexual offences in 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10 (to date) (listed by region and including for each region the number of (a) subsequent youth conferences held for these offences, (b) offenders punished by detention and (c) offenders who had no further action taken)?

ANSWER:

Adolescent sexual offenders represented approximately 2.8 per cent of all young people subject to supervised orders in Queensland in 2007–08.

The data requested is unable to be provided by regional breakdown. However, the number of distinct young people sentenced for sexual offences were 71 in 2007–08, 69 in 2008–09 and 20 in 2009–10 (to 30 September 2009).

It should be noted sexual offences constituted less than one per cent of offences dealt with by the courts in 2007–08. International research and practice literature shows that around 90 per cent of young people convicted of a sexual offence are not reconvicted of any further sexual offending.

Recidivism rates are lowest for young people who have received appropriate specialist treatment.

The Government acknowledges the serious nature of these types of offences and the need to provide staff with specialised skills for working with these offenders.

The Department of Communities has developed new initiatives to support evidence-based service delivery to young people who commit sexual offences, including:

- Case Management Framework For Working With Sexual Offenders on Youth Justice Orders
- Training Framework For Working With Young People Who Sexually Offend.