

Question on Notice

No. 1652

Asked on Thursday 29 October 2009

MR DOWLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)–

How many assaults by youths have been reported against (a) staff and (b) youths, in youth detention centres in 2006–07, 2007–08 and 2008–09 (reported by year and detention centre)?

ANSWER:

There has been an overall drop in the number of assaults in youth detention centres. However, the Department of Communities takes very seriously incidences of assaults on staff working in youth detention centres. The department supports staff to report such matters to police. Young people can and have been charged through this action.

Youth detention staff are provided with a range of support, including access to the department's Employee Assistance Service, access to a dedicated Workplace Health and Safety Officer and Rehabilitation Officer and staff debriefing processes.

- At the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in 2006 there were four reported assaults on staff by young people; in 2007 there were 18; in 2008 there were six and from 1 January 2009 to 31 October 2009 there were seven.

In relation to the number of assaults on a young person by another young person there were 19 reported assaults in 2006; 14 in 2007; six in 2008 and from 1 January 2009 to 31 October 2009 there were three.

- At the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre in 2006 there were 11 reported assaults on staff by young people; in 2007 there were 22; in 2008 there were eight and from 1 January 2009 to 31 October 2009 there were three.

In relation to the number of assaults on a young person by another young person there were 32 reported assaults in 2006; 14 in 2007; nine in 2008; and seven from 1 January 2009 to 31 October 2009.