

Question on Notice

Nb. 442

Asked on Thursday, 11 March 2010

Mr Springborg asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) -

QUESTION

In relation to case loads and charges for DPP chambers -

- (1) What is the average case load for each ODPP chamber as at 1 March 2010 (reported by Chamber)?
- (2) How many charges were received per chamber in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date (reported by chamber and for each year)?

ANSWER

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) currently has 8,345 active files. An 'active' file includes an active prosecutions file, a file on which a bench warrant has been issued, an active Mental Health Court file, an upcoming Mental Health Review Tribunal appearance, an appeal awaiting a listing date and an appeal awaiting judgement.

As at 15 March 2010, the active case load for each ODPP chamber was:

- Brisbane has 4481 active files;
- Beenleigh has 509 active files;
- Cairns has 578 active files;
- Ipswich has 492 active files;
- Maroochydore has 300 active files;
- Rockhampton has 310 active files;
- Southport has 756 active files;
- Toowoomba has 188 active files; and
- Townsville (including Mackay) has 731 active files.

With respect to the number of charges received per chamber, standardised data collection across the ODPP commenced in July 2008. Therefore, the figures for charges received for the 2007-08 reporting period are not available.

The number of charges received per chamber in 2008-09 is reported in the ODPP Annual Report. I would direct the Honourable Member to that publicly available report.

In relation to the current financial year, these figures will be reported in the Annual Report. As at 31 January 2010, 25,514 charges had been received by the ODPP and were allocated across ODPP chambers as follows: Brisbane 16,009; Beenleigh 1,439; Cairns 1,160; Ipswich 1,471; Maroochydore 961; Rockhampton 817; Southport 1,035; Toowoomba 881; and, Townsville (incl. Mackay) 1,741.