

**Question on Notice
No. 168
Asked on Wednesday, 9 March 2011**

MR FOLEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR ROBERTS)—

With reference to prisoners at the Maryborough Correctional Centre who are waiting up to a year for assistance in trying to quit an addiction to drugs—

Will additional assistance be provided to help the programs already in place to speed the process up therefore allowing these addictions to be overcome sooner?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services' substance abuse programs are made available to all eligible sentenced prisoners identified with a substance abuse problem. These prisoners are referred to participate in a program at a point in their sentence when it is most appropriate for them to attend.

In line with internationally recognised best practice, program referral is towards the end of a sentence and is followed by a transitional support program which links those with substance abuse problems to avenues of support after release, including community-based substance abuse treatment. This maximises the potential for a prisoner to implement the skills learned in programs during the critical period of reintegration into the community.

A small number of those identified prisoners have insufficient time to complete a program while in custody. This is a result of refusal to participate, being returned to custody for a short period following a breach of parole, or having served lengthy periods of remand during which time they were ineligible for Queensland Corrective Services' substance abuse programs.

This financial year as at 28 February 2011, the Maryborough Correctional Centre has delivered three substance abuse programs. Twenty-eight prisoners have completed a program in this period. A further 30 prisoners are currently participating in a substance abuse program at the Centre.

Recruitment against two current vacancies is due to be finalised in the near future, allowing the Centre to increase program delivery.