

Question on Notice

No. 400

Asked on 24 March 2011

Mr KNUTH asked the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State (MR LUCAS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the special circumstances court-

- (1) How many offenders were referred to the special circumstances court in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (reported for each month over the 2 year period)?
- (2) How many offenders referred to in (1) have subsequently appeared on new charges before that court?
- (3) What is the total cost per offender to finalise a matter through the special circumstances court?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for his question.

The Special Circumstances Court, which commenced operation on 1 April 2009, deals with offenders who have an identified intellectual impairment, acquired brain injury or mental illness, as well as those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- (1) The number of offenders referred to the Special Circumstances Court, reported for each month is as follows:

2008-09:

April 2009	16
May 2009	19
June 2009	24

2009-10:

July 2009	31
August 2009	28
September 2009	16
October 2009	29
November 2009	19
December 2009	24
January 2010	20
February 2010	25
March 2010	34
April 2010	27
May 2010	25
June 2010	31

- (2) To date, 80% of offenders dealt with by the Special Circumstances Court have not reappeared before the court on new charges. The number of offenders referred to in part 1, who, after

having had their first set of charges finalised in the Special Circumstances Court, have returned to the Special Circumstances Court for new charges is 77. This figure covers reappearances up to and including 28 February 2011.

- (3) Commencing 1 January 2009, the Queensland Government provided \$3.72 million over four financial years to fund the operations of the Special Circumstances Court. From commencement up to 30 June 2010, \$1.873 million of this allocation had been spent by the Magistracy, the Magistrates Courts Service, the Queensland Police Service, Legal Aid Queensland, the Department of Community Safety and Queensland Health in conducting this court.