

Question on Notice

No. 752

Asked on 15 September 2015

MR MADDEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON J MILLER) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the cost effectiveness and benefits of video conference facilities in the criminal justice system?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Integrated Criminal Justice Videoconferencing Program was established in 2014 to expand the use of videoconferencing in the criminal justice system.

Videoconferencing for prisoner court matters is having a significant, positive impact upon the operation of Queensland's justice system by reducing the associated costs and risks of prisoner transport.

The videoconferencing network operates across 70 court locations. There are 14 facilities in Queensland with videoconferencing.

The implementation and continuing expansion of videoconferencing facilities is delivering more cost effective justice.

Each videoconference held in a correctional centre saves centre staff approximately 30 minutes in time, allowing officers to devote more time to frontline duties.

Greater cost and time savings may be realised depending on the category and risk profile of the prisoner.

The use of videoconferencing in correctional centres also eliminates the need to transport defendants to court.

Since July 2013, videoconferencing has eliminated the need to transport approximately 28,000 in-custody defendants to court, saving more than 15,000 vehicle trips and decreasing the risk of external escorts.

Continued investment in videoconferencing will enable further opportunities to be explored including the ability of a court to operate from any location in the State when needed, including to complement circuit court sittings.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring Queensland Corrective Service is benefiting from the latest technology available. This is just one way we are delivering on that commitment.