

Question on Notice

No.1266

Asked on 16 August 2016

MR WATTS ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH)

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise what is the total government spend on youth diversion programs and Aboriginal-led youth diversion programs for 2016-17 and how this compares to 2015-16?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for his question.

Youth Justice Services (Youth Justice) within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General provides and manages the provision of high quality diversion programs for young people in the youth justice system.

While most clients are young people who are already in the youth justice system, Youth Justice also provide services for young people, and their families, who are at risk of ongoing involvement within the youth justice system. A key strategic objective is to act early to reconnect young people to a life without crime and support change to new behaviours and a positive future.

Youth Justice services and programs aim to divert young people before their offending behaviour comes entrenched as this is more effective in reducing crime and is more cost effective for Government.

All diversionary programs include support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and are delivered by significant proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who are either employed by non-government organisations or by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Youth Justice staff are trained in engaging and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and in applying trauma-informed practices that specifically take into account their unique historical and current experiences of trauma.

Diversionary programs include the Youth and Family Support Service located in Brisbane, restorative justice initiatives, bail support, Conditional Bail Programs and 'Transition 2 Success' programs across the State and a specialist counselling service for young people and their families in South East Queensland.

The total Government spend on these programs in 2015-16 was \$5.7 million and for 2016-17 is budgeted to be \$8.94 million.