

Question on Notice

No.1275

Asked on 16 August 2016

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Budget Paper 4 from 2015-16 -

Will the Attorney-General advise how much of the budget allocation for the Sentencing Advisory Council was spent in 2015-16 and how much has been allocated across the forward estimates, broken down by year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mansfield for his question.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's election commitments, \$5.5 million of additional funding over three years from 2015-16 has been provided to reinstate the Sentencing Advisory Council (the Council). The Council has an important role in educating the community about the justice system and sentencing, collating statistical information about sentencing and researching the effectiveness of sentencing practices in reducing crime. The following table represents the yearly funding allocation.

	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000
Reinstate Sentencing Advisory Council	1,800	1,820	1,840

The delivery of this commitment involves two stages. *The Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016*, was submitted for the Parliamentary Committee's consideration, and was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 24 May 2016.

Recruitment of the Council and Secretariat has commenced, and expressions of interest for the Council closed on 11 June 2016. A wide range of applicants with extensive experience submitted EOI's which are currently shortlisted.

For the 2015-16 financial year, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council reported an expenditure of \$0.343 million.