

Question on Notice

No. 1706

Asked on 15 September 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail for the 2015-16 financial year (a) the total number of prisoners incarcerated in Queensland youth detention centres eligible to undertake education courses and (b) the total number of prisoners incarcerated in Queensland youth detention centres eligible to undertake education courses who were not offered a course?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Everton for his question.

Young people in Queensland detention centres are not referred to as prisoners.

Queensland youth detention centres have dedicated Youth Education and Training Centres operated by the Department of Education and Training and all young people in youth detention are offered, and engaged in, educational and vocational learning. This occurs as part of the structured day programming within the youth detention centres. This includes core curriculum such as numeracy and literacy, along with extra curricula activities such as drama, music, choir, interschool sporting activities, cultural programs and personal development programs. Accordingly, in 2015-16, all young people admitted to youth detention were engaged in educational and vocational learning.

Each Youth Education and Training Centre publishes an annual report on performance outcomes for the year which are publicly available on the schools' websites. Of particular note in these reports is the fact that 100% of parents/caregivers surveyed at both centres indicated that they felt their child was getting a good education at their respective school.

Each Youth Education and Training Centre reports very high attendance rates for their respective schools. As with attendance at any school, attendance at school in youth detention is subject to various personal and operational needs such as illness, requirement to attend court, scheduled medical appointments and attending visits with legal representatives.

These findings demonstrate the great work our education partners are doing in re-engaging young people in youth detention in educational and vocational studies. This is important to ensure that these young people are provided with every opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills, and reach their potential when they reintegrate back into the community.