

Question on Notice

No. 1737

Asked on 11 October 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General provide details of the increase in funding provided to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Palaszczuk Government, and how this funding will be used to fight crime in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lytton for her question.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the significant role that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), plays in tackling organised and other crime in Queensland.

In this year's budget, the ODPP was allocated funding for an additional 26 permanent positions. This represents an allocation of \$12.1 million in base funding over four years commencing 1 July 2016.

The majority of positions are allocated to the ODPP's regional locations (17 out of 26), and the remainder in Brisbane.

Of those additional 26 permanent positions, nine are allocated to Crown Prosecutor and Practice Manager roles as follows:

- 3 positions of Senior Crown Prosecutor in Cairns, Townsville and Southport;
- 3 positions of Crown Prosecutor in Brisbane, Ipswich and Rockhampton; and
- 3 positions of Practice Manager in Rockhampton, Beenleigh and Southport.

The remaining 17 additional positions are allocated to legal and legal support roles directly involved in the preparation of matters referred for prosecution as follows:

- One position of Senior Legal Officer (Appeals and Research) in Brisbane;
- 5 positions of Senior Legal Officer in Cairns, Ipswich, Beenleigh and 2 positions in Brisbane;
- One position of Legal Officer in Townsville;
- 6 positions of Legal Support Officer in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Southport and Brisbane; and
- 4 Transcriber positions based in Brisbane.

The additional positions represent approximately a 7.5% increase in FTEs.

The additional funding will target earlier preparation of the increasing number of matters referred to the ODPP in an effort to reduce costs across the criminal justice system.

The additional funding will also contribute towards achieving Government strategies of targeting organised crime, improving access to justice, better managing service demand on the justice system and improving service delivery models across Queensland.