

Question on Notice

No. 1020

Asked on Thursday, 23 August 2018

MR S BENNETT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

With reference to persons currently in youth detention—

Will the Minister advise (a) How many youths had a history of notifications to the department and (b) What was done to work with these youths prior to their being placed in detention?

ANSWER

- (a) The number of young people held in youth detention centres in Queensland changes on a daily basis. On 23 August 2018, there were a total of 39 young people subject to child protection orders being held in custody across the state (19 in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, 15 in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and five in watchhouses).
- (b) The young people involved with both Youth Justice and Child Safety tend to be the most vulnerable and have the highest needs due to the significant trauma experienced during their childhood. To address the effects of this trauma and the consequential behaviours exhibited by these young people, a collaborative approach is crucial to ensure they are held accountable, while the factors that led to their offending are addressed.

Youth Justice and Child Safety develop a case plan for each young person subject to an order. If the young person becomes involved with both services, staff work collaboratively to ensure that case plans are cohesive, evidence based and individualised to the young person. This collective approach ensures the emotional, education and health needs of the young person are identified and addressed, and that the young person is held accountable for their offending behaviour in a way that supports their child protection needs.

Both services exchange information to inform their assessments, and conduct joint reviews of young people's case plans to ensure interventions are effective and that case plans are being achieved. Examples of interventions can include mental health support, drug and alcohol counselling and engaging young people in education and employment-related activities and programs. As factors contributing to offending can often be interrelated with young people's protection needs, close collaboration between Youth Justice and Child Safety ensures a more efficient and tailored response to these young people's needs.