

Question on Notice
No. 1039
Asked on 4 September 2018

MR CRANDON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to reports that Queensland did not accept the Federal Government's offer of three years' funding to implement a Custody Notification Service, based on the New South Wales model because it would duplicate 'reliable and robust current measures' that the Queensland Police Service has in place —

Will the Minister advise

- (a) what these 'reliable and robust measures' are and
- (b) how many Indigenous persons have accessed these measures (as a percentage of the number of Indigenous persons in custody)?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that police are required by law and police policy to notify the Aboriginal and Torres Strait (ATSI) Legal Service Queensland when an indigenous person is in custody at a Police Station or Watchhouse.

In addition to notifying the ATSI Legal Service, QPS has notification arrangements with Murri Watch, as well as local arrangements for ATSI services that provide legal, welfare and family support to those in custody.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the QPS Operational Procedures Manual, which form the procedures for the custody notification scheme in Queensland, were constructed to comply with the safeguards and vulnerable persons recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

I am advised that when these policies were formed, police sought feedback from the ATSI Legal Service and ensured compliance with the safeguards and vulnerable persons recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

The ATSI Legal Service have advised they are satisfied with the current legislation around custody notifications in Queensland.

While the Government appreciates the Federal Government's offer to assist, Queensland already has a reliable and robust custody notification system in place and it would make no sense to duplicate something that is already in place and working.

The Palaszczuk Government would welcome any offer of Federal funding for other much-needed Indigenous programs and community safety programs in Queensland such as Project Booyah.

I am advised that the percentage data requested by the Member is held in individual records and not captured as a statistic. The QPS has advised that extracting and collating this information would be considered an unjustifiable use of police resources.