

Question On Notice
No. 1478
Asked on 19 September 2019

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister report on the availability and effectiveness of literacy and numeracy programs available to prisoners prior to release on parole?

ANSWER:

I am advised that literacy and numeracy courses are offered across all correctional centres in Queensland. Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) utilises assessment tools to determine a prisoner's level of literacy and numeracy skills. Prisoners with low level literacy and numeracy skills can participate in QCS' vocational training and literacy courses, or through the state government offered Certificate 3 Guarantee foundational skills (literacy and numeracy) course (C3G).

QCS informs me that available literacy and numeracy services also include access to secondary education in partnership with the Charters Towers School of Distance Education, and supported in correctional centres by Education Officers.

I am further advised that literacy and numeracy courses available to prisoners are nationally recognised and accredited. As such to complete the courses, participating prisoners must achieve the required competency level.

Literacy and numeracy are fundamental life skills. Research shows that many adult offenders have low levels of education and that education programs provide offenders with an opportunity to receive basic education. Research findings also show that education programs in custodial settings may improve an offender's job prospects, which in turn, reduces their chances of re-offending.