

Question On Notice
No. 1831
Asked on 26 November 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what the government is doing to minimise the frequency and seriousness of assaults on prison guards?

ANSWER:

This government has zero tolerance for violence in Queensland's correctional facilities.

Custodial Officers manage the State's most challenging and complex people and are the front line of public safety in Queensland.

This government will continue to support hard-working Queensland Corrective Services officers by ensuring they have the equipment, support and resources they need to maintain safety.

I acknowledge the unique and highly specialised work that correctional officers perform at every centre, each and every day.

The correctional environment is challenging, and this government commends all Custodial Officers for their role in preserving the security and safety of these centres.

Corrective Services Officers are trained in de-escalation techniques, control and restraint, weapons, and first aid, and are supported by an array of safety and security equipment, including body worn cameras and tactical equipment.

Corrective Services Officers undergo thorough testing of contingency responses with other agencies, including the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The Queensland Corrective Services' Violence Prevention Strategy outlines initiatives to enhance the safety of staff, visitors and prisoners.

The employee assistance program, SMG Health, also provides free and confidential counselling services to support staff and their families, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.