

Question on Notice
No. 984
Asked on 1 September 2021

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to juveniles detained in police watch houses in Queensland— Will the Minister advise (a) how many distinct young persons were detained in police watch houses (reported separately by age and Indigenous status) from November 2020 to date for (i) less than 6 hours, (ii) one night (6-48 hours), (iii) 2-6 nights and (iv) more than 1 week, (b) (reported separately by age) how many instances of seclusion were used in watch houses from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and for how many days and (c) (reported separately by age) how many distinct young persons were detained in watch houses from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 for (i) serious indictable offences, (ii) indictable only offences and (iii) summary offences?

ANSWER:

(a)

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has provided the following table in response:

Number of juveniles detained in police watchhouses by indigenous status and number of nights, Queensland, 1 November 2020 to 31 August 2021

Age	Number of Persons							
	Indigenous				Non-indigenous			
	Less than 6 hours	6 to 48 hours	Two to six nights	More than one week	Less than 6 hours	6 to 48 hours	Two to six nights	More than one week
10	5	2		-	1	-	-	-
11	21	14	3	-	2	1	-	-
12	71	54	15	-	13	6	-	-
13	153	103	27	-	44	22	1	-
14	208	183	53	2	97	64	5	-
15	296	239	72	3	157	90	7	-
16	267	218	69	2	160	99	10	-
17	268	221	63	3	164	98	11	2

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relates to persons in custody in police watchhouses for any reason aged between 10 and 17 at the custody start time.
3. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in.
4. Number of persons refers to a unique count of persons in the breakdown and is based on the time the person started custody.
A person with multiple custody reports during the period will be counted once in the breakdown.
6. Only persons whose age have been identified has been shown.
7. The calculations are based on the number of hours between the custody start date and custody end date:
Less than 6 hours: 0 to 5 hours;
Two to six nights: 49 to 168 hours;
More than one week: greater than 169 hours.
8. A person in custody for different durations will only be counted once in each of the time periods.

(b)

I am advised by the QPS that seclusion is not a term used by the QPS. The QPS has advised that, from time to time, some youth offenders may need extra care and support while in custody. In these instances, the QPS has advised that a youth offender may be placed under observation to allow for the provision of that extra care and support. Due to the way that data is recorded, the QPS has advised that to identify all of the instances where this extra care and support has been provided would require a manual examination of all relevant data records. The QPS advises that this manual examination is considered an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

(c)

The QPS has provided the following information regarding the number of juveniles detained in a watchhouse for indictable offences only or indictable and non-indictable offences. Again, due to the way that data is recorded, the QPS advises that to separate the data for serious indictable offences from the data for indictable offences would require a manual examination of all of the charges for every juvenile detained in a police watchhouse. The QPS advises that this manual examination is considered an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

Number of juveniles in police watchhouse for indictable only and both indictable and non-indictable offences, Queensland, 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Age	Number of Persons	
	Indictable Only	Both indictable and non-indictable
10	3	1
11	18	10
12	54	34
13	113	83
14	215	136
15	253	187
16	225	188
17	188	168
Total	934	725

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relates to persons in custody in police watchhouses for any reason aged between 10 and 17 at the custody start time.
3. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in.
4. Number of persons refers to a unique count of persons in the breakdown and is based on the time the person started custody. A person with multiple custody reports during the period may be counted multiple times in the breakdown but will be counted once in the total for the person's age.
5. Only persons whose age have been identified has been shown.
6. Indictable only refers to charges linked to the arrest/custody report where all of the charges have been flagged as indictable.
7. Both indictable and non-indictable refers to charges linked where some of the charges have been flagged as indictable.
8. To determine if a charge was for a serious indictable offence would require manually verifying each record, requiring significant police resources.