

**Question on Notice
No. 1016
Asked on 12 October 2022**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to young people aged 10-17 detained in police watch houses in Queensland—

Will the Minister advise from 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022 (reported separately by age, gender and Indigenous status) (a) how many distinct young persons were detained in police watch houses for (i) less than six hours, (ii) one night (six to 48 hours), (iii) two to six nights and (iv) more than one week, (b) the average daily number of young people held in watch houses, (c) the longest period of time a young person was detained in a police watch house and (d) how many distinct young persons were detained in each different watch house facility each month?

ANSWER:

This Government remains committed to ensuring community safety and holding young offenders to account.

It is standard operational policing practice for a young offender who has been arrested and who is not suitable for release, to be detained in a police watchhouse before their first appearance in court and whilst awaiting placement and transportation to a youth detention centre.

Where bail is not granted and the young offender is remanded in custody or the child has been sentenced to a period of detention, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) aims to hold the child for the shortest possible time before admission to a youth detention centre.

It is important to note that from 1 September 2021 to 30 June 2022, 81.8% of watchhouse stays for a young offender was 48 hours or less.

I am advised by the QPS that the response to your question is detailed in the tables below:

(a) (i) Number of unique young offenders detained in police watchhouses for less than 6 hours by age, gender and indigenous status, Queensland, 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Age	Unique Persons					
	Male			Female		
	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated
10	4	-	-	1	-	-
11	9	2	-	13	1	-
12	58	9	1	28	1	-
13	112	21	3	66	16	1
14	189	59	1	98	32	3
15	234	93	3	100	34	-
16	207	109	3	97	35	2
17	218	122	8	106	35	1

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. Less than 6 hours refers to persons who were in a watchhouse for up to 5 hours.
5. Unique persons refer to a unique count of persons in the breakdown. A person with multiple custody reports in the period will be counted once per category.
6. Not stated refers to persons whose indigenous status was not recorded.

(a) (ii) Number of unique young offenders detained in police watchhouses for one night by age, gender and indigenous status, Queensland, 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Age	Unique Persons					
	Male			Female		
	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated
10	2	-	-	-	-	-
11	7	-	-	3	-	-
12	38	4	-	18	-	-
13	97	8	1	56	8	-
14	162	36	1	82	6	1
15	200	59	1	98	22	-
16	218	66	1	68	21	-
17	182	85	5	59	18	3

Notes:

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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. One night refers to persons who were in a watchhouse for between 6 and 48 hours.
5. Unique persons refer to a unique count of persons in the breakdown. A person with multiple custody reports in the period will be counted once per category.
6. Not stated refers to persons whose indigenous status was not recorded.

(a) (iii) Number of unique young offenders detained in police watchhouses for 2 to 6 nights by age, gender and indigenous status, Queensland, 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Age	Unique Persons					
	Male			Female		
	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated
10	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	1	-	-	-	-	-
12	13	-	-	5	-	-
13	44	2	-	7	-	-
14	88	13	-	27	-	-
15	138	27	1	24	6	-
16	152	37	1	22	2	1
17	110	44	3	27	2	1

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. Two to six nights refers to persons who were in a watchhouse for between 49 and 168 hours.
5. Unique persons refer to a unique count of persons in the breakdown. A person with multiple custody reports in the period will be counted once per category.
6. Not stated refers to persons whose indigenous status was not recorded.

(a) (iv) Number of unique young offenders detained in police watchhouses for more than a week by age, gender and indigenous status, Queensland, 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Age	Unique Persons					
	Male			Female		
	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Not stated
10	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	1	-	-
13	5	-	-	2	-	-
14	18	2	-	4	-	-
15	33	14	-	11	-	-
16	49	9	-	6	1	-
17	45	13	1	8	-	-

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. More than one week refers to persons who were in a watchhouse for 169 hours and above.
5. Unique persons refer to a unique count of persons in the breakdown. A person with multiple custody reports in the period will be counted once per category.
6. Not stated refers to persons whose indigenous status was not recorded.

(b) Between 1 September 2021 and 30 September 2022, the average daily number of young offenders held in watchhouses was 40.

(c) Between 1 September 2021 and 30 September 2022, the longest period of time a young offender was detained in a police watchhouse was 14.8 days, however over the same period, 81.8% of watchhouse stays for a young offender was 48 hours or less.

(d) Number of young persons in police watchhouse by watchhouse and month, Queensland, 1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022:

Watchhouse	Unique Persons												
	2021				2022								
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Brisbane Watchhouse	55	53	47	43	56	70	83	62	46	54	81	71	57
Bundaberg Watchhouse	2	1	3	3	4	-	2	1	5	6	1	3	5
Caboolture Watchhouse	9	7	11	14	13	14	28	14	16	9	6	15	13
Cairns Watchhouse	56	57	61	71	70	71	79	60	69	74	48	56	72
Charleville Watchhouse	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	-	1
Cleveland Watchhouse	5	4	4	8	9	11	8	6	5	11	6	4	15
Cunnamulla Watchhouse	1	2	1	-	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	-
Dalby Watchhouse	4	6	2	2	2	-	5	2	3	4	4	2	2
Doomadgee Watchhouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	1
Emerald Watchhouse	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Gladstone Watchhouse	4	6	2	2	3	10	8	3	6	4	4	6	1
Gympie Watchhouse	1	3	1	5	1	2	1	9	3	4	-	9	3
Hervey Bay Watchhouse	18	14	16	8	13	8	13	12	9	11	6	16	12
Innisfail Watchhouse	4	3	10	4	5	10	5	2	3	11	4	3	5
Ipswich District Watchhouse	34	41	37	43	35	28	28	30	45	28	35	39	31
Kingaroy Watchhouse	2	6	5	6	4	-	1	3	2	1	2	5	2
Logan District Watchhouse	12	13	7	17	14	8	11	12	8	8	5	9	14
Mackay Watchhouse	7	8	7	4	2	4	3	6	4	7	3	11	5
Mareeba Watchhouse	9	6	11	17	9	9	4	8	7	9	4	9	6
Maroochydore Watchhouse	14	9	11	9	16	17	10	7	7	22	14	7	13
Maryborough Watchhouse	-	2	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	5	3	3	3
Mornington Island Watchhouse	3	6	1	1	1	1	3	2	-	1	-	-	3
Mount Isa Watchhouse	21	32	22	30	24	20	19	23	20	20	25	25	14
Murgon Watchhouse	2	5	9	8	10	7	9	9	7	4	3	8	3
Noosa Heads Watchhouse	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Rivers Watchhouse	11	11	11	6	11	3	1	2	10	17	12	8	13
Redcliffe Watchhouse	18	15	17	14	21	8	5	10	12	1	6	5	7
Richlands Watchhouse	27	29	27	21	11	19	24	4	16	12	20	5	17
Rockhampton Watchhouse	27	24	16	15	19	21	21	23	23	17	28	20	22
Roma Watchhouse	1	2	3	-	2	3	8	1	3	5	1	8	-
Saint George Watchhouse	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Sandgate Watchhouse	3	-	1	2	-	1	-	5	-	1	-	1	-
Southport Watchhouse	48	52	54	45	36	42	38	38	40	40	32	29	27
Toowoomba Watchhouse	31	48	36	28	37	36	33	27	37	31	39	46	29
Townsville Watchhouse	61	49	46	49	51	37	51	39	53	57	54	47	77
Warwick Watchhouse	-	-	5	1	1	7	1	1	1	4	1	-	5
Whitsunday Watchhouse	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Wynnum Watchhouse	-	1	-	3	2	4	8	-	4	2	4	3	1

Notes:

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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. A person who was in custody spanning two different months is reported against the month the custody was started. However, if the same person was in custody in a separate event, that person will be reported against the second period.