

Question on Notice

No. 1259

Asked on 8 November 2022

MS A CAMM ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Government's response in 2018 to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse at 9.6 which the Queensland Government accepted in principle to address existing service gaps by 'increasing funding for adult and child sexual assault services in each jurisdiction, to provide advocacy and support and specialist therapeutic treatment for victims and survivors, particularly victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse'—

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) if this recommendation has been achieved and (b) if so, demonstrate the increase in funding by jurisdiction?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to preventing and responding to all forms of sexual violence in our communities. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General funds a range of non-government organisations to provide trauma-informed support to people with lived experience of child sexual abuse.

Sexual violence can have significant and lifelong impacts on people who experience it and the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring sexual violence services can adequately respond to the needs of victims and survivors, including providing long-term healing and recovery.

Work to address all forms of sexual violence in Queensland is guided by *Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence*. The first action plan 2021-2022 is nearing completion with a new action plan due to be released in 2023.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's *Report 2 – Hear Her Voice – Women's and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system* makes a large number of recommendations regarding supporting women and girls who have experienced sexual violence. These recommendations are being carefully considered by government.

In relation to Recommendation 9.6 of the Royal Commission, as you note the Queensland Government accepted this recommendation in principle and over the past several years has invested significant funding to enhance existing services and address funding gaps by implementing new services to address sexual assault experienced by children and adults.

Since 2015, the Queensland Government has increased funding to the specialist sexual assault service sector by over 95%. In 2022–2025, all existing funded sexual violence services will receive an uplift to their existing recurrent funding, with some service types and some locations receiving a greater uplift than others based on demand.

Sexual violence responses funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General operate across the service continuum and include prevention, early intervention, crisis and recovery responses.

In 2021–22, DJAG invested \$17.9 million to 39 organisations to deliver 46 sexual violence services, which included:

- \$9.991 million in counselling services;
- \$4.786 million in women's health and wellbeing support services; and
- \$3.132 million in community and system supports including capacity building, prevention and awareness raising.

In addition, in 2018 the Queensland Government committed \$12 million from 2018-19 to 2021-22 for priority youth sexual violence and abuse actions, which delivered holistic wrap-around responses to youth sexual violence and abuse in five priority locations (Gladstone, Rockhampton, South Burnett, Moreton Bay and Toowoomba), three place-based prevention projects in Toowoomba, Yarrabah and Bundaberg, and evaluations of outcomes to inform future service models.

In the 2022-23 budget, the Queensland Government provided increased funding of \$11 million over four years to support youth sexual violence and abuse place-based prevention trials and enhanced outsourced service delivery. Additionally, \$1.6 million over three years (to 2022-23) has been invested in youth sexual violence and abuse services in Cairns, as well as \$300,000 per annum for services in the Northern Peninsula Area.

The Queensland Government will continue to report on progress against Recommendation 9.6 as further work is undertaken to address sexual violence in Queensland.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General only has information of services in Queensland and cannot provide information on the funding in other jurisdictions.