

Question on Notice
No. 1136
Asked on 14 September 2023

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to data demonstrating that between 2016 and 2021 mental health callouts by police had increased by 138 percent and from 2012 to 2021 Domestic and Family Violence call-outs by 128 percent— Will the Minister advise what analysis was undertaken in response to these increases and what changes were made in relation to policing numbers per 100,000 population as a result?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), that the percentages quoted by the member in the question are not able to be verified, and I am therefore unable to respond directly to the member's question as asked.

However, I appreciate the member's interest in the question and I am advised by the QPS that both calls for service and QPrime occurrences are continually monitored by both the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command and Divisions, with a view to identify demands, trends, patterns and repeat calls for service information. This in turn informs service delivery requirements and development of improvements and initiatives to enhance QPS service delivery.

As the member would be aware, in response to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence, the Palaszczuk Government committed to delivering, among other things:

- the appointment of a Special Coordinator to lead implementation of the QPS aspects of these reforms and the appointment of an Independent Implementation Supervisor to oversee the implementation of the recommendations (recommendation 76).
- elevating the Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Group (recommendation 5).
- introducing a requirement for officers attending domestic and family violence occurrences to receive feedback on a sample of their body-worn camera footage (recommendation 15).
- introducing a requirement for members in designated roles to undertake specialist five-day domestic and family violence training (recommendation 17).
- introducing a pocket-sized checklist for use by officers responding to domestic and family violence (recommendation 19).
- engaging an external expert to advise the QPS on the development and implementation of best practice procedures around awareness, identification, and reporting of sexual harassment (recommendation 24).
- establishing an awards scheme to acknowledge distinction in the police response to domestic and family violence (recommendation 40) and an awards scheme to ensure that distinction in policing responses to First Nations peoples and communities is also acknowledged (recommendation 64); and

- establishing an additional complaint code to explicitly capture complaints involving allegations of racism against QPS members (recommendation 44).

In relation to the rate of police per 100,000 persons in Queensland, I am further advised that the rate has increased from 230 police per 100,000 persons in 2012 to 233 police per 100,000 persons in 2021.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The record \$3 billion plus police budget supports the rollout of 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 police officers, over five years.