

Question on Notice
No. 640
Asked on 23 May 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Corrections recently issuing an updated Custodial Operations Practice Directive for transgender inmates stating ‘a prisoner who self identifies as transgender will be accepted as such and treated as their acquired gender, to the extent practicable’—

Will the Minister advise whether (a) under this directive, biologically male offenders can be housed in female prisons and (b) if so, as at 23 May 2023, how many biological males were being housed in female prisons and how many biological females were being housed in male prisons across Queensland?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is committed to equality, diversity, inclusion, and respect for human rights. Prisoners who identify as transgender, gender diverse or intersex are treated with the same respect and dignity afforded to any other prisoner, and are not discriminated against on the grounds of their gender identity or related issues.

I am advised by QCS that the Custodial Operations Practice Directive requires transgender prisoners to be individually case managed by a multidisciplinary team to accommodate the needs of the prisoner to the extent reasonably practicable. A transgender prisoner will, for example, be referred to using their preferred name and pronoun consistent with their acquired gender, and may be provided with specific clothing or other items for functional purposes.

I am further advised that the directive does not permit consideration of accommodating prisoners of the male sex in women’s correctional centres, or prisoners of the female sex in men’s correctional centres.