

Question on Notice
No. 674
Asked on 24 May 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the age of each individual fitted with a GPS monitoring device (reported separately by location) as outlined in answer to Question on Notice No. 461 asked on 20 April 2023?

ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, the Palaszczuk Government has consistently worked to ensure the safety of Queenslanders and it remains a top priority for government. The use of electronic monitoring devices is merely one tool in an arsenal of options available under the criminal law when dealing with youth offenders.

One of the key amendments made by the Palaszczuk Government was the introduction of the presumption against bail for youth offenders charged with a serious indictable offence. This presumption has resulted in more youth offenders being remanded in custody and off our streets.

In March 2023 the Parliament, with the support of both Government and the Opposition, passed the *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* which provides for, among other things:

- increased penalties for UUMV offences and expanded circumstances of aggravation;
- an offence to breach a condition of bail for youth offenders in the *Bail Act 1980* for the first time in Queensland history;
- a scheme for the declaration of a youth offender as a ‘Serious Repeat Offender’, the result of which will alter the application of sentencing principles to youth offenders subject to a declaration so that community safety is the primary consideration;
- Multi Agency Collaborative Panels (MACPs) in a statutory framework which will enable greater information sharing and delivery of youth justice interventions across Queensland.

The *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* is supported by an additional investment package of more than \$332 million, building on the \$800 million already invested in Youth Justice to ensure that the programs that work at diverting young people away from crime will be continued and expanded. In addition to this, the QPS has collaborated with the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs to progress the delivery of Youth Co-Responder Teams and will continue with the use Extreme High Visibility Patrols which have proven effective in deterring crime.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that between April 2021 and 30 April 2023: Three devices had been fitted in the Townsville Region trial area on three 17 year old young people. Four devices had been fitted in the North Brisbane/Moreton Region trial area on four 16 year old young people; and seven devices had been fitted in the

Logan/Gold Coast Region trial area on one 18 year old (who was being dealt with for offences committed as a child), one 17 year old and five 16 year old young people.

I note the member's interest in this issue, and confirm that the QPS have further advised that on 30 May 2023, six young people were subject to a bail condition requiring them to be fitted with an electronic monitoring device. In the North Brisbane/Moreton Region trial area there was one 18 year old (who was being dealt with for offences committed as a child). In the Logan/Gold Coast Region trial area, there were two 16 year old young people, two 17 year old young people and one 18 year old (who was being dealt with for offences committed as a child).