

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 856**

**Asked on 16 June 2023**

**MR T NICHOLLS** ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

**QUESTION:** Will the Attorney-General provide the current number of outstanding investigations before the Coroner which are (a) 12-23 months old, (b) 24-35 months old, (c) 36 months or older and (d) the oldest case currently under investigation by the Coroner?

### **ANSWER:**

The Government recently announced \$18.9 million over 4 years and \$5.8 million per annum ongoing to meet community expectations of comprehensive and timely coronial investigations. This includes funding for three new Coroners.

This funding will help clear outstanding investigations before the Coroners Court of Queensland. There are many factors outside the court's control which influence the court's ability to finalise coronial investigations. Coroners rely on other agencies to provide reports, including autopsy, toxicology, and police investigation reports; coroners await outcomes of other investigative processes (e.g. workplace health and safety investigations); and coroners are required to await outcomes of criminal proceedings before proceeding to inquest.

As at 12 July 2023, the number of outstanding investigations are as follows:

- (a) 644 cases between 12-24 months old;
- (b) 269 cases between 24-36 months old; and
- (c) 218 cases greater than 36 months old.

The oldest case currently under investigation by the Coroners Court of Queensland is an Attorney-General directed investigation referred to the State Coroner in December 2016 into a death occurring in 1972.