

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 133

Asked on Tuesday, 5 March 2024

MR D JANETZKI ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Youth Justice Strategy (2020-2024) and its application in Toowoomba – Will the Minister advise (reported separately by financial year) (a) what detailed actions have been implemented to date in Toowoomba, (b) what funding has been allocated for these actions in Toowoomba and (c) what results have been achieved by these measures specifically in Toowoomba?

ANSWER:

Since 2015, the government has invested more than \$1.2 billion to support actions resulting from the 2019 - 2023 Youth Justice Strategy, and continues to invest in quality diversionary, early intervention and prevention initiatives, and services that are effective in reducing offending and reoffending.

The Department of Youth Justice (DYJ) works collaboratively with non-government agencies and other key departments, such as Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health and the Department of Education, to address the complex factors that can lead to youth offending behaviour.

(a) what detailed actions have been implemented to date in Toowoomba

Core funding is allocated to Youth Justice Service Centres with dedicated DYJ staff to case manage young people who are subject to supervised youth justice orders, deliver programs, services and supervision to young people, along with non-government funded services.

The following DYJ programs and initiatives are provided in the Toowoomba region:

- Transition 2 Success;
- Conditional Bail Program;
- Intensive Case Management;
- Youth Co-responder Team;
- Bail Support Services;
- Family-Led Decision Making;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services;
- Specialist Counselling Services; and
- Restorative Justice Conferencing.

Multi-Agency Collaborative Panels with other key government and non-government stakeholders have focused on case management of repeat offenders.

(b) what funding has been allocated for these actions in Toowoomba

In **2020-21**, \$2,262, 745 was provided to the core Youth Justice Service Centre responses, \$806,504 on the transition of 17 year olds to the Youth Justice system, and \$227,439 for Transition 2 Success. Further funding included core service centre responses in Charleville (\$366,294) and Roma (\$491,107).

Outsourced service delivery included:

- \$315,770 on bail support and Intensive Bail Support delivered by Toowoomba CatholicCare Social Services; and
- \$2,215,901 on the Goolburri Youth Justice Family-Led Decision-Making Program.

In **2021-22**, \$3,102,418 was provided for funding of core Youth Justice Service Centre responses, \$219,557 for Transition 2 Success, and core funding for Charleville (\$188,903) and Roma (\$464,812).

Outsourced service delivery included:

- \$320,507 on bail support and Intensive Bail Support delivered by Toowoomba CatholicCare Social Services; and
- \$219,140 on the Goolburri Youth Justice Family-Led Decision-Making Program.

In **2022-23**, \$3,278,364 was provided for core Youth Justice Service Centre responses, \$227,101 Transition 2 Success and \$186,851 for Intensive Case Management. Further funding included core service centre responses in Charleville (\$218,173) and Roma (\$479,169).

Outsourced service delivery included:

- \$411,758 on bail support and Intensive Bail Support delivered by Toowoomba CatholicCare Social Services; and
- \$244,635 on the Goolburri Youth Justice Family-Led Decision-Making Program.

In **2023-24**, \$3,423,295 is allocated for core Youth Justice Service Centre responses, \$243,739 for Transition 2 Success, \$785,562 for Intensive Case Management and \$1,577,378 for Youth Co-Responder. Further funding included core service centre responses in Charleville (\$236,567) and Roma (\$507,889).

Outsourced service delivery included:

- \$1,342,607 on bail support and Intensive Bail Support delivered by Toowoomba CatholicCare Social Services;
- \$295,551 on the Goolburri Youth Justice Family-Led Decision-Making Program;
- \$246,000 on the CHANGE program, delivered by CatholicCare; and
- \$100,000 on the CIVIC Assist youth outreach service.

(c) what results have been achieved by these measures specifically in Toowoomba

Since 2019 there has been a reduction in the number of young people with a proven offence of 4.2%, from 210 to 201. During the same period the number of offences has risen due to a small cohort of 20% of offenders who are responsible for the majority of youth crime.

The latest data shows for the twelve months ending 31 December 2023, there has been a 5% decrease (2,068 to 1,965) in the number of proven offences committed by 10–17-year-olds.

To date, the Goolburri Youth Justice Family-Led Decision-Making Program has assisted 25 young people and their families to address the behaviours leading them to the justice system through a culturally safe approach. Thirty percent of young people accessing this service report positive changes in behaviour, reduced substance use, increased leisure and recreational engagement, and more positive family circumstances and parenting.

The Youth Co-Responder Team has also been operating in Toowoomba since May 2023. DYJ and QPS staff work closely to engage with young people at risk offending or on bail, and link them and their families to crucial government and community services, such as health, education and housing. The Youth Co- Responder Team operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and since commencement has had 2,461 engagements as at 29 February 2024.

The Transition 2 Success program commenced in Toowoomba in May 2021 and since commencement has engaged with 22 young people. Five young people gained employment/traineeship/apprenticeship prior to completion.

This financial year, 19 families have accessed support through Intensive Bail Support, resulting in 44% of young people reporting positive changes in family relationships and increased connection to community.

Civic Assist provides a youth outreach service for young people that focuses on relationship building and providing support to access to health services. 667 young people have engaged with Civic Assist since it's commencement in January 2024.

On an average day in 2023, there were 48 young people from Toowoomba LGA supervised by Youth Justice in the community.

In 2023, there were 28 young people from Toowoomba LGA who had breach action initiated against them in relation to a sentenced community-based order - a 12% increase from 2022 (25) and no change from 2019 (28).

In 2023, there were 62 referrals to a restorative justice conference in the Toowoomba LGA.