

Question on Notice
No. 701
Asked on 23 May 2024

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by year, for the last five years) (a) the number of adult offenders dealt with by way of caution for a criminal offence and (b) the number of criminal offences committed by adults dealt with by way of caution?

ANSWER:

The Member should note that it is at the discretion of the officer at the time as to whether to action the matter by way of caution. The Miles Government will always back the professionalism of police officers to make those decisions. To criticise an officer's decision is an insult to their professionalism.

I am advised that police cautioning has been examined during the public briefings of the bi-partisan Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, where the Member for Ninderry said "*I do know it is successful, as 80 per cent or more never reoffend*"ⁱ in relation to cautioning of young offenders. Further, the Member for Lockyer said, "*The diversionary processes that you do in the police see about 91 per cent of cautioned offenders never offend again.*"ⁱⁱ

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that:

(a) The number of unique adult offenders cautioned by police for the 2018/19 financial year was 788, for the 2019/20 financial year was 1,227, for the 2020/21 financial year was 2,375, for the 2021/22 financial year was 3,422, and for the 2022/23 financial year was 3,927.

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relates to persons actioned by a caution over the ages of 17 years old.
3. Unique offenders refer to the number of persons aged over 17 years old actioned by caution for person, property or other offence.
4. Only persons whose age are identified have been included.
5. An offender with more than one offence is counted only once for the offence type, and once in the total.

(b) The number of offences committed by adults and dealt with by caution for the 2018/19 financial year was 1,009, for the 2019/20 financial year was 1,605, for the 2020/21 financial year was 2,888, for the 2021/22 financial year was 4,352, and for the 2022/23 financial year was 4,666.

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Adult offenders are those persons aged over 17 years old.
3. Only offences from offenders whose age are identified have been included.
4. These figures do not represent an offender count but represents a count of reported offences that have been actioned during the reporting period.
5. Actions against adults include cautions only.

ⁱ Source: Youth Justice Selection Committee, Public Briefing on Wednesday 21 February 2024 transcript, page 15 (<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/YJRSC-6004/YJRSC-54D8/Transcript%20-%2021%20February%202024%20-%20YJRC%20-%20Briefing%20-%20Inquiry%20to%20examine%20ongoing%20reforms%20to%20the%20youth%20justice%20system%20and%20support%20for%20victims%20of%20crime.pdf>)

ⁱⁱ Source: Youth Justice Selection Committee, Public Briefing on Wednesday 21 February 2024 transcript, page 16 (<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/YJRSC-6004/YJRSC-54D8/Transcript%20-%2021%20February%202024%20-%20YJRC%20-%20Briefing%20-%20Inquiry%20to%20examine%20ongoing%20reforms%20to%20the%20youth%20justice%20system%20and%20support%20for%20victims%20of%20crime.pdf>)