

Question on Notice

No. 840

Asked on 14 June 2024

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how many samples have now been sent either interstate or overseas for forensic testing since the commencement of the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland?

ANSWER

The Sofronoff Inquiry Final Report made 123 recommendations to reform forensic DNA services in Queensland. This included that key aspects of forensic services be established in legislation and that forensic services be administered under the Justice portfolio to better reflect its critical role in the criminal justice system.

The *Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2024. This is the first legislated organisational framework for a forensic service entity to ensure high-quality, reliable, independent and impartial forensic service delivery.

Alongside the commencement of the Act on 1 July 2024, the *Departmental Arrangements Notice (No. 4) 2024* transferring the Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) business unit and associated staff from Queensland Health to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) also took effect.

Queensland Health and DJAG continue to work closely together to ensure that FSQ's integration into the Justice portfolio does not interrupt the delivery of important forensic science services for Queensland.

This question should be directed to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, who has responsibility for FSQ and forensic DNA testing in Queensland from 1 July 2024.