

Question on Notice

No. 878

Asked on 20 August 2024

MR M CRANDON ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Court data, in 2023-24 1,186 strangulation offences were lodged, with 423 defendants convicted —

Will the Attorney-General provide a breakdown of the outcome of the remaining 763 offences?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised that the count of 1,186 strangulation offences lodged in a Magistrates Court in 2023-24 does not directly relate to the count of 423 defendants convicted of a strangulation offence during that year. A single defendant can be finalised for one or more charges in a single appearance, and defendants (and their associated charges) are not necessarily finalised in the same year, or court level, in which they were originally lodged. The 423 defendants convicted in 2023-24 relate to defendants (and charges) originally lodged across multiple years.

As there is no direct relationship between the 1,186 charges lodged and the 423 defendants convicted, I am unable to answer the question.

In May 2024, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (QSAC) published their *Sentencing Spotlight* on choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting. The data found that, since 5 May 2016, when the strangulation offence began operating in Queensland, almost 99% of people sentenced receive a custodial sentence. The data also found that, generally, only 0.8% of defendants enter a plea of not guilty across all offences sentenced in Queensland.

The QSAC *Sentencing Spotlight* can be accessed at

https://www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/797833/sentencing-spotlight-on-choking-suffocating-or-strangulation-in-a-domestic-setting-2024.pdf