

Question on Notice
No. 797
Asked on 25 June 2025

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON L GERBER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to ligature points in Queensland prisons where hanging deaths have occurred, including due to exposed bars: (a) in louvre windows at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, (b) in louvre windows at the Townsville Correctional Centre, and (c) above cell doors at Borallon Correctional Centre, and subsequent recommendations made for their removal to prevent further deaths—

Will the Minister advise (a) if each of (a)-(c) were removed and, if so, when and (b) if not, what plans the government has to remove and rectify them?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) plays a vital role in rehabilitating prisoners, reducing reoffending, and restoring community safety. The Crisafulli Government backed our hardworking QCS officers in the 2025-2026 Budget, with funding to build the infrastructure needed to keep staff, prisoners, and the community safe, reduce overcrowding and ease pressure across the system, including \$2.387 billion to rapidly increase capacity at the Arthur Gorrie and Townsville correctional centres by a minimum of 800 beds which will consist entirely of safe cells.

Works to Borallon Training and Correctional Centre have been completed.

It is anticipated that once the Crisafulli Government delivers the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, demand for the use of cells with ligature points will be limited. I am advised a prisoner's suitability to be accommodated in an older style cell will continue to be carefully considered by QCS prior to and during placement. Both Arthur Gorrie and Townsville Correctional Centres have secure cells that are of a safe cell design, suitable to accommodate prisoners of concern, at-risk of self-harm or suicide, or who have an elevated baseline risk.