

Question on Notice
No. 393
Asked on 22 April 2026

HON G BUTCHER ASKED MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON L GERBER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of Queensland Corrective Services prisoners serving for a domestic violence offence who were discharged in the most recent 12-month period, (b) the number of prisoners identified in (a) who completed a domestic and family violence program while incarcerated for that offence and (c) the number of prisoners identified in (a) and (b) listed separately, who were incarcerated for the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting (s315A of the Criminal Code)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question regarding domestic and family violence offenders in custody and the Disrupting Family Violence Program.

A substantial number of prisoners have a domestic and family violence-related offending history. QCS advises that the distinct number of prisoners discharged from custody who were sentenced for at least one domestic violence offence has increased over the past three years, from 5,670 prisoners in the period April 2023 to March 2024, to 6,058 prisoners in April 2024 to March 2025, and 6,599 prisoners in April 2025 to March 2026.

Of these prisoners, the number who had a sentenced offence under section 315A of the Criminal Code relating to choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting also increased over the same period, from 488 prisoners in April 2023 to March 2024, to 534 prisoners in April 2024 to March 2025, and 603 prisoners in April 2025 to March 2026.

QCS further advises that the number of prisoners discharged from custody who had completed a domestic and family violence program prior to discharge was 46 prisoners in April 2023 to March 2024, 48 prisoners in April 2024 to March 2025, and 55 prisoners in April 2025 to March 2026. Of these prisoners, three in April 2023 to March 2024, four in April 2024 to March 2025, and three in April 2025 to March 2026 had a sentenced offence under section 315A of the Criminal Code.

Given the prevalence and seriousness of domestic and family violence offending within Queensland's correctional population, it is critical that interventions targeting perpetrators are evidence-based, prioritise victim safety and contribute to reducing reoffending.

However, a 2020 Process Evaluation of the Disrupting Family Violence Program Trial identified significant shortcomings in the design and implementation of the program operating under the former Labor Government. The evaluation found that the "processes and structures to ensure the safety of victims ... were not fully designed or in place prior to the start of the program", that victim support providers were able to contact less than one-third of victims associated with prisoners participating in the program because the information relied upon was dependent on details provided by

perpetrators and was often inaccurate or incomplete, and that the evaluation did not demonstrate whether the program reduced reoffending, reduced breaches of domestic violence orders or improved victim safety outcomes following release.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to restoring safety where you live and delivering correctional services that reduce reoffending, rehabilitate offenders and prevent crime, and has directed QCS to procure or develop an alternative program that delivers for Queenslanders.