

2016 – 17 Budget Estimates

Report No. 34, 55th Parliament
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
August 2016

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Chair	Mr Mark Furner MP, Member for Ferny Grove
Deputy Chair	Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera
Members	Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Member for Currumbin
Staff	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director Mrs Kelli Longworth, Principal Research Officer Ms Lynda Pretty, Principal Research Officer Mr Greg Thomson, Principal Research Officer Ms Lorraine Bowden, Committee Support Officer
Contact details	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone	+61 7 3553 6641
Fax	+61 7 3553 6699
Email	lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc

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Abbreviations

ADCQ	Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
CCC	Crime and Corruption Commission
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
ECQ	Electoral Commission of Queensland
IGEM	Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
PLA	Prostitution Licensing Authority
PSBA	Public Safety Business Agency
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
SES	State Emergency Service
VET	Vocational educational and training

Chair's Foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2016-2017 financial year.

Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible Ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. This was undertaken through the questions on notice and public hearing process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2016 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and their departmental officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates process, and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process.



Mr Mark Furner MP
Chair
August 2016

Recommendation

Under Standing Order 187(1) the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2016 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

1. Introduction

1.1 *The committee*

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament with the following areas of responsibility:

- Justice and the Attorney-General
- Training and Skills
- Police, Fire and Emergency Services
- Corrective Services.

The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner, the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor and the Electoral Commissioner.¹

On 17 June 2016, the Appropriation Bill 2016 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.²

The committee held a public hearing on 21 July 2016 and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, as well as other witnesses. A copy of the hearing transcript can be accessed on the Parliament's website.

1.2 *Committee's process*

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues examined. The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- additional information given in relation to answers.

Prior to the hearing, the committee provided questions on notice to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. Included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report are answers to the committee's questions on notice, documents tabled during the hearing, answers and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing, and minutes of the committee's meetings.

The committee gave leave for the following other Members to participate in the hearing.

- Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
- Mr Robert Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa
- Mr Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba
- Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Member for Clayfield
- Mr Jeff Seeney MP, Member for Callide
- Mr Ian Walker MP, Member for Mansfield.

¹ Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6.

² Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

2. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills

2.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

The Honorable Yvette D'ath MP, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Attorney-General), has primary responsibility for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). DJAG has five service areas:

- Justice Services
- Legal and Prosecutions
- Youth Justice
- Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading
- Corrective Services.³

In addition, the Attorney-General is responsible for eight statutory authorities:

- Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
- Crime and Corruption Commission
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Office of the Information Commissioner
- Prostitution Licensing Authority
- Electoral Commission of Queensland
- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
- The Public Trustee of Queensland.

The following table compares the appropriations for DJAG for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Appropriations	Budget 2015-16 \$'000	Budget 2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,291,889	1,380,136
equity adjustment	(114,575)	(93,894)
<i>Administered Items</i>	312,542	363,352
Vote	1,489,856	1,649,594

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 9.

Budgeted capital expenditure for DJAG for 2016-17 is \$121.3 million.⁴ The major capital measures for 2016-17 include providing:⁵

- \$40.9 million of \$126.9 million budget to complete the recommissioning of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, incorporating the remediation of hanging points from all secure cells without air-conditioning
- \$21 million of the \$76.6 million perimeter security upgrade program to upgrade the perimeter security at various correctional centres over seven years, due for completion in 2019-20

³ The Minister responsible for corrective services is the Honourable Bill Byrne MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services.

⁴ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 28.

⁵ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 4.

- \$7.8 million in correctional centre enhancements including Woodford Correctional Centre, Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre
- \$13.2 million of the \$18.7 million project to upgrade the security management system and other accommodation at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, due for completion in 2017-18
- \$17.8 million for the ongoing programmed renewal, maintenance and minor works of courthouses and youth justice facilities, including \$2 million to upgrade Kingaroy courthouse and \$2 million to upgrade Rockhampton courthouse.

The department's key priorities and initiatives are:

- delivering effective laws and other responses that strategically target criminal behaviour, including responding to the recommendations arising from the reports of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, and the Review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*
- implementing key initiatives under the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence policy
- continuing to contribute to the child safety reform agenda initiated by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report
- continuing to implement justice system initiatives in response to the Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce *Not Now, Not Ever* report
- developing and implementing a comprehensive youth justice policy to support an effective youth justice system which reflects contemporary best practice in the management of juvenile offenders and their families, with a focus on prevention and rehabilitation
- continuing to manage prisoners in custody and those offenders in the community safely, and ensuring Queensland's record of preventing escapes from secure prisons is maintained
- addressing recidivism by providing offenders with the opportunity to reduce reoffending through education and work programs
- developing an integrated whole of criminal justice strategy that identifies innovation in service delivery and a model to better manage demand across the justice system.⁶

2016-17 budget highlights for DJAG are:

Justice Services

- providing funding of \$157.5 million over four years with funding of \$40.6 million per annum ongoing to provide sustainable, long term funding for legal assistance, legal profession regulation and law library services, providing triennial funding certainty to legal entities. Interest revenue of \$27.5 million from the Legal Practitioners Interest on Trust Account Fund will be transferred to the consolidated fund to partially offset the increased expenditure.
- providing funding of \$32.4 million over four years to boost Legal Aid Queensland funding to a level that is equal to the national average per capita over time and funding of \$13 million per annum ongoing to sustain expected increases in demand and provide access to justice for financially disadvantaged Queenslanders
- providing funding of \$54.6 million over four years (including \$5.6 million capital) across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives. This forms part of the Government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years (\$192.9 million new funding and \$5.3 million in reprioritised funding) since the 2015-16 Budget to continue to respond to the *Not Now, Not Ever* report into domestic and family violence in Queensland. Funding within the Justice Services service area will be used to:
 - support delivery of specialist domestic and family violence courts

⁶ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 4.

- enhance the capability of community justice groups located within 18 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland to develop culturally appropriate domestic and family violence responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- support the Women's Legal Services Helpline for victims of domestic violence and establish a Queensland Sexual Assault Counselling Privilege legal assistance service
- establish an implementation team to drive the delivery of justice related recommendations
- ensure Queensland Magistrates receive ongoing, contemporary professional development on domestic and family violence issues, including impacts on adult victims and children
- support participation in High Risk Teams to provide an integrated response across Government and the community to domestic and family violence
- providing an additional \$20 million over two years to meet increased demand for services across the Justice Services and Legal and Prosecutions service areas. Funding across the Justice Services service area will be used to respond to increased land, criminal and domestic and family violence matters in Queensland Courts
- providing ongoing funding to permanently establish Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Justice of the Peace services following a successful trial aimed at reducing the time taken to finalise minor civil disputes
- providing funding of \$800,000 over four years to the Office of the Public Guardian to participate in a whole-of-government education strategy to encourage long term financial planning and proactive independent planning in relation to future decision making, including improved update of enduring powers of attorney, advanced health care directives and will making
- continuing the reinstatement and roll out of specialist courts and court diversion programs including the Murri Court, Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program (as Queensland Integrated Court Referrals) and the Drug Court to provide people coming into contact with the criminal justice system the opportunity to address issues associated with their offending. Referrals are made to service providers that provide programs designed to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour and to promote the delivery of culturally appropriate court responses
- completing an independent evaluation of the specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court trial in Southport to inform future work in developing a state-wide and place-based specialist approach to domestic and family violence matters. The purpose of the trial is to provide a coordinated, consistent and timely response to domestic and family violence matters, enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, make perpetrators accountable for their violence and build stronger collaboration across the service system that supports the court.⁷

Legal and Prosecutions

- providing an additional \$20 million over two years to meet increased demand for services across the Justice Services and Legal and Prosecutions service areas. Funding across the Legal and Prosecutions service area will be used to respond to increased dangerous sexual offender matters and other justice system initiatives
- providing funding of \$12.1 million over four years to the ODPP to address workload pressures and backlogs in indictment presentation and to boost the response to serious organised crime
- providing funding of \$5.3 million over three years in addition to the \$3.1 million allocated to establish an independent Crime Statistical Body, bringing the total funding to \$8.4 million over three years to collect data and monitor organised crime
- providing funding of \$54.6 million over four years (including \$5.6 million capital) across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives. This forms part of the

⁷ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 5.

Government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years (\$192.9 million new funding and \$5.3 million in reprioritised funding) to respond to the *Not Now, Not Ever* report since the 2015-16 Budget. Funding within the Legal and Prosecutions service area will be used to maintain a core implementation team to deliver domestic and family violence related policy and legislative reforms relevant to the justice portfolio

- establishing the operations of the Office of the Director Child Protection Litigation
- implementing actions arising out of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation and the review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*
- amending the Criminal Code to remove the ability for a person charged with murder to rely on the partial defence of provocation based on a homosexual advance and progressing amendments to provide for an equal age of consent
- implementing the Queensland Law Reform Commission recommendations about expunging historical gay sex convictions
- responding to justice issues arising from the interim report of the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse including Working with Children Checks
- developing a response to the parliamentary committee review of a possible Human Rights Act for Queensland
- developing Bills to implement other Government legislative priorities in the areas of civil law, criminal law and justice services
- progressing the statutory reviews of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, *Information Privacy Act 2009* and *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009*
- responding to justice issues regarding the National Injury Insurance Scheme
- developing the response to the upcoming report of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's review of the Crime and Corruption Commission
- reviewing on an ongoing basis the court related child protection reforms
- implementing the outcomes of the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*.⁸

Youth Justice

- providing an additional \$5 million over two years to expand and enhance the Transition to Success (T2S) program. T2S is a partnership across government agencies, registered training organisations, non-government agencies and local business which provides alternative education and vocational training to young people aged 14-18 in the youth justice system. The program has demonstrated successful education, training and employment outcomes and early indications of a reduction in offending behaviour
- providing funding of \$54.6 million over four years (including \$5.6 million capital) across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives. This forms part of the Government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years (\$192.9 million new funding and \$5.3 million in reprioritised funding) to respond to the *Not Now, Not Ever* report since the 2015-16 Budget. Funding within the Youth Justice service area will be used to support participation in High Risk Teams to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence
- implementing amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* resulting from both the 2015 and 2016 Youth Justice and Other Legislative Amendment Bills, reinstating court referred youth justice conferencing and repealed amendments made in 2014 to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* so that:

- repeat offenders' identifying information cannot be published, other than in exceptional circumstances and at the court's discretion
- breach of bail is no longer an offence
- all children's law matters are held in a closed court
- childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded are inadmissible in relation to adult offences
- the principle of detention as a last resort is reinstated
- 17-year-olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention are not automatically transferred from detention to an adult corrective service facility
- undertaking public consultation on a comprehensive juvenile justice policy which will guide collaborative efforts across government, aimed at reducing children's and young people's offending and involvement with the youth justice system, with a final Youth Justice Policy and implementation plan expected to be released by the end of 2016
- developing an evidence based system, supported by the Youth Justice Policy, that will provide for better youth justice practice and programs. This will use Australian and international research as well as evaluation of current Queensland practice and programs to better target responses and improve programs designed to reduce youth offending.
- continuing to upgrade the security management system at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.⁹

Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading

- providing \$1 million over two years for the 2016-17 Queensland Housing Gambling Survey to provide information about gambling activities and gambling related issues. This information is necessary to assess any changes to gambling policy and legislation aimed at minimising gambling-related harm
- participating in the national review of the Australian Consumer Law, aimed at identifying opportunities for improvement in Australia's national consumer protection legislation
- implementing the key legislative components of the Government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence policy including:
 - new statewide liquor service hours of 2am, or 3am with a 1am lock out, in approved safe night precincts
 - banning rapid intoxication drinks post-midnight
 - prohibiting new approvals to extend late night takeaway hours post-10pm.
- continuing increased inspections in safe night precincts by liquor licensing officers, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights
- continuing to support safe night precinct local boards to implement place based management solutions to minimise alcohol and drug related harm
- progressing the not-for-profit legislation review to identify ways to make legislation governing the sector contemporary and responsive, as well as reducing regulatory burden
- enhancing service delivery for Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant applicants through the introduction of a new online application and management system
- assessing potential improvements to body corporate governance arrangements under the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997*, including in relation to the termination of community titles schemes, that are identified by the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) as part of its review of Queensland property laws for the Queensland Government

⁹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 14.

- continuing analysis and assessment of QUT's findings and recommendations about body corporate lot entitlements arising from its review of Queensland property laws for the Queensland Government.¹⁰

2.2 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) is an independent statutory body established by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. It contributes to the Government's objectives by managing complaints received under that act, delivering training to business, government and the community, assisting communities to develop the capacity to protect human rights, and promoting public discussion on human rights.¹¹

The budget comparison for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the ADCQ is shown below.¹²

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland	5,424	5,478

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General page 49.

The strategic direction of the ADCQ focuses on '*its vision of a fair and inclusive Queensland where the benefits of social cohesion and diversity flourish*'.¹³ During 2016-17, the ADCQ will focus on:

- community assistance - establishing a Sunshine Coast interfaith group and trialling the use of social cohesion impact measurement tools to gauge changes in community connectedness; continue to work with State agencies and local councils to address issues around unfair treatment of seasonal farmworkers identified through the Lockyer Valley project
- human rights promotion - expanding Human Rights month to private and community organisations, in partnership with Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland, with a focus on mental health issues in the workplace; 25th Anniversary of the Act partnership with State Library of Queensland to publish a timeline of key decisions and impacts of the Act including the recording of individual stories and systemic changes resulting from complaints under the Act
- relationship building - partner with Multicultural Affairs Queensland to improve social cohesion and implement actions stemming from the new Multicultural Recognition Act and the Multicultural Queensland Charter; partner with Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland to improve management of mental health issues in the workplace
- evaluation - develop strategic partnerships with government and non-government agencies to measure the effectiveness of its strategies in building social cohesion.¹⁴

2.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is an independent agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* with the key objective of reducing the incidence of major crime and corruption.

¹⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 16.

¹¹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

¹² The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

¹³ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

¹⁴ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

The budget comparison for the CCC for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is shown below.¹⁵

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Crime and Corruption Commission	54,523	56,196

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 55.

The CCC focus in 2016-2017 will be to:

- target the criminal networks and/or illicit commodity markets that are of the highest threat to Queenslanders
- increase its focus on criminal paedophilia investigations in the peer-to-peer environment
- continue to investigate, and develop strategies to combat, cold call investment frauds, commonly referred to as 'boiler rooms'
- pursue the recovery of proceeds of crime
- pursue police corruption involving excessive use of force and the improper release of confidential information
- collaborate with key stakeholders to reform the police complaints and discipline system
- implement a new corruption prevention strategy including engagement with agencies and the undertaking of corruption audits
- progress strategic initiatives to improve organisational performance, including the implementation of a people and culture strategy
- respond to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's statutory review of the CCC and the Queensland Government's response to the 2015 Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and the report of the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation.¹⁶

2.4 Legal Aid Queensland

Legal Aid Queensland provides frontline legal services to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders. These services include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, court and tribunal representation and dispute resolution.¹⁷

The budget comparison for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for Legal Aid Queensland is shown below.¹⁸

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Legal Aid Queensland	131,063	143,184

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 65.

During 2016-2017, Legal Aid Queensland expects to:

- continue to provide quality front-line legal services
- improve its Southport office through relocation and the Brisbane offices through refurbishments

¹⁵ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

¹⁶ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 51.

¹⁷ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 61.

¹⁸ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

- align its services with child protection and mental health reforms
- establish a Civil law Rural Outreach Program which will improve services to Rural and Remote areas
- expand the community legal education webinar program to broaden its reach into regional and rural communities
- implement a Complex Criminal Case Barrister Panel for the selection and appointment of Barristers to undertake serious crime and expensive case matters
- support the Government in its efforts to respond to domestic and family violence through continuing services such as the state-wide domestic and family violence duty lawyer service in 14 courts.¹⁹

2.5 Office of the Information Commissioner

The Office of the Information Commissioner has a statutory role to assist in the achievement of more open, accountable and transparent government by:

- providing independent, timely and fair review of decisions made under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (external review)
- providing an independent, timely and fair privacy complaint mediation service
- improving agency practices in right to information and information privacy
- promoting greater awareness of right to information and information privacy in the community and within government
- assisting agencies to achieve compliance with the privacy principles.²⁰

The budget comparison for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the Office of the Information Commissioner is shown below.²¹

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Office of the Information Commissioner	6,779	6,384

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney – General, page 75.

Aims of the Office of the Information Commissioner for 2016-17 include:

- reporting on the third self-assessed electronic audit of approximately 200 agencies' compliance with right to information (RTI) and information privacy (IP) obligations since 2010, and considering actions to improve compliance and adopt better practices
- auditing compliance by Hospital and Health Services with RTI and IP obligations, including requirements for online information through desktop reviews, and a comprehensive review of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service
- continuing to engage with Queensland Government agency leaders to improve awareness and support critical changes to practices for strong cultures of openness and transparency
- identifying opportunities to address myths and misunderstandings, and provide expert advice about emerging issues and perceived barriers to adoption of the push model of proactive release of information and appropriate privacy practices to safeguard personal information

¹⁹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 61.

²⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 71.

²¹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

- promoting awareness of the push model in action by sharing good practices, particularly during Right to Information Week 2016
- continuing to focus on timely finalisation of external review applications and privacy complaints
- engaging with stakeholders to promote greater awareness and improve effectiveness of our services
- recommending and commenting on changes to improve the administration of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*, including to ensure the legislative framework supports the future requirements of good practices for RTI, privacy, government administration, service delivery and use of emerging technology.²²

2.6 Prostitution Licensing Authority

The Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) was established under the *Prostitution Act 1999* and commenced operation on 1 July 2000. The objective of the PLA is to ensure that licensed brothels and prostitution advertising are regulated in accordance with statutory requirements and in the community interest.²³

The PLA's established statutory functions include deciding applications for brothel licences and for approved manager's certificates, and monitoring the provision of prostitution through licensed brothels. The PLA's activities contribute to the Government's objectives for the community by:

- ensuring an effective and efficient brothel licensing framework that operates in accordance with community expectations and statutory requirements
- promoting the health and safety of sex workers and clients
- limiting the impact of prostitution on the community
- impeding the infiltration of organised crime and official corruption in licensed brothels.²⁴

During 2016-17 the PLA will:

- continue to rigorously scrutinise the operations of licensed brothels by way of audits and inspections
- continue to engage with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills on proposed refinements and enhancements to the *Prostitution Act 1999*
- continue to work with the Queensland police Service and other agencies to keep licensed brothels free of the influence of organised crime
- monitor and review its recruitment processes and promote ethical standards of behaviour to minimise corruption risks.²⁵

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Prostitution Licensing Authority for 2015-16 and 2016-17.²⁶

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Prostitution Licensing Authority	1,740	1,698

²² State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 71.

²³ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 80.

²⁴ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 80.

²⁵ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 80.

²⁶ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 83.

2.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 1992*. Its functions include conducting State elections and by-elections, undertaking reviews of the number of electoral districts, promoting public awareness of electoral matters, encouraging persons to enrol as electors and maintain the integrity of electoral rolls.²⁷

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the Electoral Commission of Queensland for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Electoral Commission of Queensland	39,640	24,727

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, page 96.

Major activities of the ECQ in 2016-17 will include:

- preparation for the conduct of the election for Queensland's 56th Parliament
- continuation of the Strategic Elections Management System replacement project
- continued delivery of the Commission's community and awareness program to increase electors' awareness of their responsibilities towards enrolment and voting
- conduct of industrial elections, as well as protected action ballots as required under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*
- continued administration of political party registration and financial disclosure requirements
- continued delivery of voting systems and processes to enable vision impaired electors as well as remote electors to cast their vote in secret.²⁸

The budget comparison for the ECQ for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is shown below.²⁹

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled items</i>		
Departmental services	39,440	24,697
Equity adjustment	1322	6,269
<i>Administered items</i>	..	..
Vote	40,762	30,966

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 12.

An amount of \$6.3 million has been allocated in 2016-17 to replace the Commission's Strategic Elections Management System (SEMS). This includes a deferral of \$1.4 million from 2015-16 to 2016-17. A further \$79,000 has been allocated for the ongoing replacement of plant and equipment.³⁰

²⁷ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 90.

²⁸ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 91.

²⁹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

³⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 97.

2.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The Office of the Queensland Ombudsman is established under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*. The purpose of the Office is to fairly and independently review public sector administrative actions and work with agencies to improve their decision-making. The vision of the Office is for a fair and accountable public administration in Queensland.

The objectives of the Office are to:

- conduct independent review and investigation of complaints
- empower individuals to resolve complaints with public sector agencies
- assist public sector agencies improve their decision-making and complaints management
- be an accountable organisation with a capable workforce.³¹

The following table compares the appropriations for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	8,322	8,216
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	8,322	8,216

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 12.

The key priorities for 2016-17 are:

- continuing to provide timely assessment and investigation of complaints
- engaging more with agencies and the wider community to increase awareness about the Office's investigative role and ensure equitable access to its services
- building greater knowledge in the community about how to make an effective complaint about public agency action and when to contact the Office
- supporting individuals to make effective complaints by providing greater access to complaint management information and services
- redirecting premature complaints to agencies' complaint management systems
- working with public agencies to rectify unfair and unjust decisions and poor administration
- identifying systemic weaknesses in public agency decision-making and recommending improvements to practice
- improving the knowledge and skills of public sector agency officers in decision-making and complaints-handling
- completing a legislative review of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*
- improving systems and processes focused on client needs and consistency of services.³²

The budget comparison for the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 is shown below.³³

³¹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 108.

³² State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 109.

³³ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2016-2017 is an adjusted budget figure.

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	8,719	8,650

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General; Electoral Commission of Queensland; Office of the Ombudsman; and The Public Trustee of Queensland, p 110.

The Ombudsman's capital expenditure in 2016-17 will be \$330,000 for plant and equipment and for completion of the upgrade of the complaints management system.³⁴

2.9 Public Trustee of Queensland

The Public Trustee of Queensland (Public Trustee) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Trustee Act 1978*. The Public Trustee provides financial, trustee and legal services to the people of Queensland, through a network of 16 regional offices and is supported by the Queensland Government Agent Program. The Public Trustee's services aim to:

- ensure prudent management of the financial assets of members of the community
- ensure an orderly succession of property between generations
- assist the Queensland community by making wills free of charge and enduring powers of attorney at an affordable cost.³⁵

The key priorities for 2016-2017 include:

- providing ongoing financial management for Queenslanders with impaired financial decision-making capacity
- continued provision of a range of Community Service Obligations at no cost to Government
- investment in the enhancement of technology and continual review of service delivery models and locations
- investment in upgrading facilities at regional offices to better service clients
- enhancement of frontline service delivery in response to client survey outcomes
- implementing the recommendations of the end to end review of deceased estate management
- undertaking an end to end review of financial management activities to identify opportunities for improvement
- providing services to the philanthropic sector.³⁶

The budget comparison for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the Public Trustee of Queensland is shown below.³⁷

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Public Trustee of Queensland		
• controlled	84,723	87,255
• administered	3,613	3,925

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney General, p 126.

³⁴ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 112.

³⁵ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 122.

³⁶ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 122.

³⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

The total capital budget for the Public Trustee in 2016-17 includes:

- \$12.2 million for building improvements and refurbishment in existing offices
- \$4.9 million for plant and equipment including computer hardware
- \$1.7 million on software.³⁸

2.10 Issues raised at the public hearing – Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

The committee raised the following issues with the Attorney-General:

- actions to remove offensive slogans from vehicles on Queensland roads
- disclosure of political donations
- youth justice conferencing, including resourcing and sufficiency of funding
- the re-establishment of the Murri Court
- funding for and impacts of measures to reduce alcohol-related violence, including reduced trading hours, earlier lockouts, and banning of the service of 'shots' after midnight
- the ability for clubs to apply for a gaming permit for poker machines, but not for Keno, for two hours after being required to cease service of alcohol
- impacts of the location of a Federal Court judge in the state's Rockhampton Court building
- concerns expressed regarding backlogs and rates of clearance of court cases
- actions taken to address domestic and family violence, including a specialist domestic and family violence court
- fee structures and service standard targets for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- the role of the Sentencing Advisory Council
- levels of consultation regarding the protocol on appointment of judicial officers.

Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)

- the impact of optional and preferential voting systems on levels of informal voting, including in light of figures for the recent Toowoomba South by-election
- internal and external reviews of the conduct of the March 2016 referendum and local authority elections and the Toowoomba South by-election.

Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)

- staffing levels within the CCC, including those for fighting crime and those in anti-corruption
- responses to the Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation.

³⁸ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements - Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 127.

3. Training and Skills

The Attorney-General is also the Minister responsible for training and skills in Queensland.

Training and Skills is a service area of the Department of Education and Training. The Minister for Training and Skills is also responsible for TAFE Queensland and Jobs Queensland.

Training and skilling services are key contributors to achieving the Government's objective of creating jobs and a diverse economy by skilling Queenslanders to participate effectively in the workforce. Providing all Queenslanders with access to affordable and high quality training and skilling opportunities is a key focus. The Government is strengthening the vocational educational and training (VET) sector with improvements that will build a better future for Queensland students, workers, industry and employers through high quality training and skilling services.³⁹

Key initiatives for 2016-17 include:

- investing \$60 million, of \$240 million over four years, to deliver the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 8,000 Queenslanders (up to 32,000 over four years) to get back into work
- continuing to implement the Queensland Government's Rescuing TAFE policy, a part of the \$34 million investment over three years to restore TAFE Queensland's status as Queensland's premier provider of VET
- continuing to implement Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory entity, to provide advice to the Government on skills demand and long-term workforce planning, with the formal appointment of the Board in progress
- continuing to implement the Training Ombudsman role to enhance the quality of State-funded VET, including supporting Queenslanders in navigating the VET sector to achieve positive outcomes
- undertaking a condition and utilisation assessment of assets in over 40 training campuses of varying condition, age and size across the state as part of the development of the Strategic Training Asset Management Plan
- continuing to allocate 10 per cent of total labour hours on eligible government-funded infrastructure projects to apprentices and trainees, and for projects in Indigenous communities an additional amount equivalent to a further 10 per cent of total labour hours to provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islanders and the local economy, and extend this commitment to projects funded by government-owned corporations and Public Private Partnerships.⁴⁰

3.1 TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland was established as a statutory body under the *TAFE Queensland Act 2013* on 1 July 2013. Over the coming year, TAFE Queensland will focus on strengthening its efforts and working alongside the Government to improve the quality of, access to and affordability of VET for all Queenslanders. It will continue to work closely with Government on policy priorities, including Rescuing TAFE and the development of a 10 year Strategic Asset Management Plan. It will also drive growth strategies in target markets to support ongoing financial sustainability, and strengthen its investments in key differentiators, such as product and teaching quality, to enhance its competitiveness. The focus on improving business processes for TAFE Queensland will remain a priority. This will include continuing to drive improvements in TAFE Queensland's key ICT systems, including the Student Management System.⁴¹

³⁹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 4.

⁴⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 11.

⁴¹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 43.

TAFE Queensland's objectives for 2016-17 are to continue to:

- sharpen its industry, employer and student focus to deliver real solutions and benefits for customers
- build capability and focus on outcomes to deliver against customer and stakeholder expectations
- innovate its products and services to produce graduates who can 'make great happen'
- embed sustainability through an enterprising approach to business development and economies of scale.⁴²

The following table provides a comparison of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets for TAFE Queensland.⁴³

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
TAFE Queensland	642,428	673,842

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, page 46.

3.2 Issues raised at the public hearing relating to Training and Skills

The committee raised the following issues with the Attorney-General in relation to her role as Minister for Training and Skills:

- the purpose and establishment of Jobs Queensland, including the timing of appointments to the board, and the timing of, and selection process for, appointment of the chair
- TAFE Queensland and the Back to Work regional employment program package
- TAFE Queensland courses in motorcycle technology, bicycle maintenance, and for training of volunteers for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games
- activities of the Training Ombudsman, including issues considered by it and steps taken to resolve those issues or complaints.
- the Rescuing TAFE fund and other TAFE funding
- declining TAFE student numbers.

⁴² State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Education and Training, p 43.

⁴³ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-2016 is an adjusted budget figure.

4. Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

The Honourable Bill Byrne MP, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, has Ministerial responsibility for a public safety portfolio that comprises the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA), and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM). Each of these areas is discussed below. Mr Byrne MP also has responsibility for corrective services.

4.1 Queensland Police Service

The Queensland Police Service is the primary law enforcement agency for Queensland. The QPS supports the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, particularly delivering quality frontline services and building safe, caring and connected communities. In support of these, the department's objectives are:

- delivering services with fairness and integrity
- reducing and preventing the incidence of crime, public disorder and road trauma by problem solving, consulting and collaborating with government agencies and community groups
- using technology and innovative strategies to be more mobile, flexible and capable of working across boundaries to deliver services the community needs
- focusing resources to identify and deliver effective and efficient services that maximise public safety
- taking a lead role to prepare the community for managing major events, emergencies and disasters
- implementing an environment of continuous improvement based on learning, development and empowered leadership
- building healthy and safe workplaces that support inclusion and diversity
- strengthening relationships with vulnerable persons and delivering appropriate victim support.⁴⁴

The key priorities for the department during 2016-17 include:

- continuing to provide a safe and secure community by responding to threats including terrorism, disasters, and risks associated with major events
- creating better workplaces and improving workforce capability
- targeting crime hotspots throughout the State, and issues such as organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice
- undertaking intelligence-led policing in late night entertainment precincts
- providing improved safety equipment for police, including body-worn cameras
- supporting the development and implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and implementing the Government's response to the Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce *Not Now, Not Ever* report
- continuing to plan the police response for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games
- continuing to contribute to the child safety reform agenda initiated by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry final report
- working with the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to consider and respond to the recommendations arising from the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and the Queensland Taskforce into Organised Crime

⁴⁴ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, p 5.

- continuing to review the police complaints system and implement a new disciplinary system
- continuing to make improvements to ensure the promotions system is truly merit-based
- continuing to implement an integrated service delivery model
- developing an improved performance management framework to improve customer service.⁴⁵

The following table compares the appropriations for the QPS for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,710,729	1,783,627
equity adjustment	17,289	19,903
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	1,728,018	1,803,530

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, p 15.

In consultation with the QPS, the PSBA has responsibility for delivering most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support the operational capability of the QPS. In 2016-17, the department will invest \$35.4 million in capital purchases. Program highlights include:

- \$788,000 for operational equipment and vehicles to improve counter-terrorism capability and capacity
- \$4.9 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment
- \$29.6 million for other property, plant and equipment which will include the replacement of operational assets.⁴⁶

The following table provides a comparison of the budgets for the QPS for 2015-16 and 2016-17.⁴⁷

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Queensland Police Service		
- controlled	2,084,895	2,149,166
- administered	9,588	13,205

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 13.

4.2 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services provides fire and emergency services in partnership with the community. The department is committed to enabling Queenslanders to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. This commitment underpins the department's vision of safe and resilient communities.

The department's focus on community safety supports the Government's objectives for the community of building safe, caring and connected communities and delivering quality frontline

⁴⁵ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, page 5.

⁴⁶ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, page 16.

⁴⁷ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-16 is an adjusted budget figure.

services. The agency achieves this by minimising the impact and consequences of emergencies on the people, property, environment and economy of Queensland.

The State Emergency Service (SES) and Rural Fire Service Queensland are the primary volunteer streams of the organisation. The Rural Fire Service Queensland operates in those areas where there is no urban fire service and covers rural, semi-rural and some urban fringe areas. The SES is a collaboration between the Queensland Government, local governments, SES members and the community who provide an around the clock volunteer response to emergencies and disasters across the State.⁴⁸

Key objectives of the department include:

- delivering operational excellence by continuing to provide contemporary fire and emergency services
- ensuring the department is a great place to work and is ethical, inclusive, values diversity and is respectful
- empowering volunteerism by recognising, respecting and valuing volunteers
- working with external and internal partners to further integrate and co-deliver services
- being a capable organisation that encourages innovation and new ideas, learns from past experiences and adapts to changing conditions
- continuing to provide Queensland communities with service delivery excellence that they can trust.⁴⁹

The following table identifies appropriations for QFES for 2016-17.

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	78,709	80,272
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	78,709	80,272

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 14.

Key priorities for QFES during 2016-17 include:

- continuing work to transform the department into an inclusive, respectful and diverse organisation for staff and volunteers
- implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Public Safety Business Agency and developing a future operating model to support service delivery and the needs of the Queensland community
- increasing the focus on prevention, mitigation, preparation and recovery activities
- implementing the recommendations of the independent QFES Financial Sustainability Review.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

⁴⁹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

⁵⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 29.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets for QFES.⁵¹

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	647,682	675,256

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 34.

Most new and ongoing capital initiatives to support QFES operational capability are delivered by the PSBA. In 2016-17, QFES will invest \$8.1 million in capital purchases and provide \$900,000 in capital grants. Program highlights include:

- \$4.5 million for operational equipment, which may include protective clothing such as fully encapsulated gas and chemical suits, specialist and field portable scientific analysis and detection equipment, portable decontamination facilities, compressors for self-contained breathing apparatus, special purpose operational trailers and first response all-terrain vehicles
- \$1.4 million for specialised operational equipment to support public safety at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games
- \$2.2 million for additions and upgrades to operational information systems
- \$712,000 for the State Emergency Service and \$185,000 for rural fire brigade capital grants.⁵²

4.3 Public Safety Business Agency

The Public Safety Business Agency helps fulfil the Government's objectives of delivering quality frontline services and building safe, caring and connected communities by providing professional ICT, financial, procurement, asset management and human resources services to the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, managing QGAir Wing services, and providing ICT services to the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Corrective Services.⁵³

In 2016-17, the department will deliver on its priorities through a number of initiatives including:

- implementing the recommendations of the review of the Public Safety Business Agency
- QGAir's work to obtain the Air Operator's Certificate
- developing a unified whole of public safety portfolio strategic ICT investment plan
- implementing the ongoing capital improvement program for frontline services.⁵⁴

The following table compares the appropriations for the PSBA for 2015-2016 and 2016-17.

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	416,951	409,014
equity adjustment	9,716	3994
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	426,667	413,008

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 13.

⁵¹ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-16 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁵² State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, p 37.

⁵³ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 49.

⁵⁴ State Budget 2015-16, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 49.

In 2016-17 the department's capital program provides an investment of \$189.5 million in capital purchases to support the delivery of essential frontline public safety services to Queensland's communities. This investment will fund capital works, information technology and other essential equipment for the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management. Program highlights include the delivery of the following initiatives:

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

In 2016-17, \$74 million is provided for fire and emergency services facilities, urban and rural fire appliances and communications equipment including:

- \$5.6 million to commence replacement auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Gordonvale, Oakey, Rainbow Beach and Tara, and to extend the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Thursday Island
- \$2.3 million to continue the replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Charleville and commence the specialist response and training facility upgrade at North Rockhampton
- \$9.8 million to complete the replacement permanent fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facilities at Bundaberg and Petrie and the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla
- \$8 million to complete the upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue station at Bundamba, the replacement auxiliary fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility at Roma, and upgrade the south western region headquarters at Charlton
- \$2.9 million to upgrade the Horn Island collocated Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility, the permanent fire and rescue and auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mount Isa and the Richmond auxiliary fire and rescue station
- \$4 million for strategic land acquisitions and rural land purchases
- \$34.5 million for replacement and new urban and rural fire appliances
- \$3.9 million for minor capital works across the State including upgrades of fire and rescue station amenities
- \$3.1 million for operational and communications equipment.

Queensland Police Service

In 2016-17 \$98.9 million is provided for Queensland Police Service facilities, information and communication technology and other essential equipment including:

- \$6.1 million to commence the replacement police station at Gordonvale, replacement police station and watch-house project at Caboolture and upgrade the police station at Bowen
- \$3 million to commence the construction of the new collocated Road Policing Unit and Special Emergency Response Team facility at Cairns
- \$8.6 million to complete the replacement police station and watch-house at Kingaroy, the replacement police station at Maleny, replacement police station and residence upgrade at Nanango and the Forensic Service facility upgrade at Police Headquarters
- \$9.7 million to continue the Police Headquarters renewal project, and deliver the upgrade of holding cells at Yarrabah, Bamaga residential accommodation, replacement residence at Halifax and upgraded CCTV across the State
- \$32 million for new and replacement police service vehicles
- \$21.6 million for major plant and equipment including for Mobile Services and the Public Safety Network
- \$12 million for a range of information and communication technology initiatives
- \$5.9 million for minor capital works across the State.

Public Safety Business Agency – Other Departmental Capital

In 2016-17, \$16.6 million is provided to fund information systems development and other plant and equipment including information technology asset replacements across the Public Safety portfolio and to support the Queensland Ambulance Service information and communication technology.⁵⁵

The following table outlines a comparison of the Public Safety Business Agency budgets for 2015-2016 and 2016-17.

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
Public Safety Business Agency - controlled	680,760	683,111

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 53.

4.4 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) was established on 1 July 2014 to enable confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements. The strategic objectives for the Office of the IGEM are to:

- ensure Government, stakeholders and the community receive independent assurance and advice about Queensland's emergency management arrangements
- ensure authoritative reporting enhances accountability and improved community confidence and outcomes in emergency management
- drive a culture of excellence and innovation across the emergency management sector by connecting stakeholders, creating partnerships and marshalling expertise
- ensure a high performing, agile, engaged and connected workforce that consistently delivers quality services.⁵⁶

The Office of the IGEM will progress a range of strategies in 2016-17, including:

- embedding and validating the Emergency Management Assurance Framework, in collaboration with stakeholders
- providing diligent oversight to ensure that accountabilities and responsibilities are known, understood and met across emergency management
- designing and applying assurance activities, tools and processes that are valued by our stakeholders and enable performance improvements, evaluation and reporting
- undertaking targeted reviews and system analysis that identify risks, gaps and prioritise improvements on the basis of community outcomes
- encouraging and harnessing trusted partnerships, enabled by transparent systems and processes, that promote innovation, interoperability, consultation and knowledge transfer across the emergency management sector
- connecting and engaging with stakeholders through key platforms that enable timely and open communication and help us to understand their needs
- integrating lessons identified, research, analysis and good practice into the provision of evidence-based policy and advice

⁵⁵ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Public Safety Business Agency, p 56.

⁵⁶ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 67.

- providing timely, clear and helpful information and advice that enhances links between emergency management and interdependent policy and programs
- promoting a coordinated strategic direction for emergency management in Queensland.⁵⁷

The following table identifies the appropriations for the Office of the IGEM for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Appropriations	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	3,886	3,911
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	3,886	3,911

Source: Appropriation Bill 2016, Schedule 2, page 13.

The following table provides a comparison of the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets for the Office of the IGEM expenses.⁵⁸

Agency	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000
The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management - controlled	4,607	4,653

Source: State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, and Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management, page 70.

4.5 Corrective Services

Corrective Services is the ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. DJAG is the responsible administrative unit.

Corrective Services contributes to a fair, safe and just Queensland by managing Government and privately operated custodial facilities and supporting the rehabilitation of offenders within and outside its facilities. It assists crime prevention through the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of offenders within and outside its facilities and in the community.⁵⁹

In 2016-17, the department will continue to contribute to the Government's priorities of safely managing prisoners in custody and offenders in the community and ensure Queensland's record of preventing escapes from secure prisons is maintained by:

- providing additional funding of \$77.4 million over four years (including \$66.4 million capital) and funding of \$3.4 million ongoing to upgrade infrastructure and implement other measures to reduce the risk of suicide at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. A further \$4.5 million (including \$4 million capital) was provided in 2015-16, bringing the total additional funding since the 2015-16 State Budget to \$81.9 million. Funding of \$1.5 million has also been reprioritised by the department internally to fund this measure, bringing the total project funding to \$83.4 million

⁵⁷ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 67.

⁵⁸ The table indicates the agency budget. It may not represent the actual appropriation. The figure for 2015-16 is an adjusted budget figure.

⁵⁹ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.

- providing \$1 million to develop a business case for the expansion of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in addition to reviewing and updating the business cases for two further infrastructure projects, Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct (Stage 2) and Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion to meet current and future capacity demands as the number of prisoners increases
- providing additional funding of \$20.5 million over two years to contribute to addressing increased demand for services provided by the Probation and Parole Service and Queensland Parole Boards
- providing additional funding of \$5.1 million over four years and funding of \$1.3 million per annum ongoing to modernise the technology used to electronically monitor high risk sex offenders in the community and implement a Geographic Information System
- providing additional funding of \$10.3 million over four years and funding of \$2.6 million per annum ongoing to continue, expand and specialise the state-wide delivery of the evidence based sexual offender treatment programs
- providing additional funding of \$15 million over four years for priority non-custodial infrastructure to provide adequate facilities to accommodate additional support and ancillary staff required to service the growing prisoner population, including \$2 million for additional contingency accommodation for offenders subject to the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*
- providing funding of \$54.6 million over four years (including \$5.6 million capital) across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives. This forms part of the Government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years (\$192.9 million new funding and \$5.3 million in reprioritised funding) to respond to the *Not Now, Not Ever* report since the 2015-16 Budget. Funding within the Corrective Services service area will be used to:
 - support delivery of specialist domestic and family violence Courts
 - support participation in High Risk Teams to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence
- continuing to upgrade perimeter security at correctional centres across Queensland to maintain community safety
- managing the implementation of the co-designed specialised women's re-entry service in South East Queensland
- continuing the use of videoconferencing to reduce the risk and cost associated with prisoner transports
- supporting local initiatives to deliver safe workplaces for staff, with zero tolerance for violence, in both custodial and probation and parole environments
- continuing to explore opportunities to increase reparation to the community through supervised community service and work camps for low risk prisoners.⁶⁰

4.6 Issues raised at the public hearing – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

Issues discussed by the committee with the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services included:

Corrective Services

- the recommissioning of Borallon prison
- additional funding for probation and parole services

⁶⁰ State Budget 2016-17, Service Delivery Statements –Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 18.

- new appointments to parole boards
- operations of work camps
- reasons for and steps taken to manage increased/overcrowded prisoner numbers
- prioritisation of resources
- meetings with union representatives
- assaults by prisoners on officers and other prisoners
- sexual offender treatment programs.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

- whether there had been any discussion between the minister and unions, or any departmental modelling undertaken, regarding expansion of the role of professional firefighters into the roles of rural fire services volunteers
- whether there were any planned mergers or closures of fire and rescue stations and how to maintain expected service levels in areas of declining population.
- Budget allocation and staffing numbers in fire communication centre including whether there had been any staffing reductions in, or will be any closures of, such centres
- the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Allison review of the QFES to ensure that women in the sector are valued and respected
- Preparedness for the upcoming storm and cyclone season
- Emergency management training initiatives, including the Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island
- Funding for, and assessing the effectiveness of, the 'If its flooded, forget it' awareness campaign
- Salary levels for firefighters, and the overtime budget for permanent firefighters, and measures taken to reduce it
- Any plans to increase the mandatory retirement age for firefighters
- Reasons for the discontinuance of certain performance measures for the agency
- Any policies for recouping costs incurred in rescue operations.

Queensland Police Service

- processes for applications by primary producers for weapons licences, including advice being provided to applicants by the Weapons Licensing branch
- the rollout of body worn cameras to help police and their benefits
- Conditions of licences for firearms dealers and the forthcoming weapons consultation forum
- the initiatives being undertaken or planned to enhance capacities to combat organised crime
- initiatives to combat terrorism, including the proposed counterterrorism and community safety training centre and counterterrorism awareness training workshops
- hours spent on investigation of allegations against particular government and other members of Parliament
- whether there are sufficient numbers of police motor vehicles
- the impact of the 2013 anti-association legislation on the disruption of organised crime, particularly criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast and the impact of stop, search and detain powers, and any future legislative changes
- steps to promote safe driving and deal with traffic offences
- actions by the QPS to address domestic and family violence
- increases in certain crime rates.

STATEMENT OF RESERVATION

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's second budget is best characterised as a budget of raids, write-downs and rip-offs with no long-term cohesive economic plan to create jobs and grow the Queensland economy.

This committee reviewed the budget for the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Bill Byrne MP.

Skills and Training

With apprentice numbers falling over the last twelve months (both in terms of commencements and completions), traineeships are down, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships are down and unemployment rising, the LNP Opposition has significant concerns over the Minister's ability to support the vocational education and training sector. It is clear that the Minister has dropped the ball in terms of this important policy area. Having a vibrant skills and training sector is vitally important to creating jobs and opportunities, particularly for young Queenslanders as well as upskilling the Queensland workforce and identifying skill shortages that need addressing. The Minister seems to be good at reviewing not doing and undoing positive and workable LNP policies, but when it comes to implementing Labor policies, the Minister seems to be asleep at the wheel and incapable of making a decision.

Jobs Queensland, a centrepiece of last year's budget still has no permanent Board in place, despite the establishment legislation passing in the Parliament in October 2015 and the bureaucracy recently being established in the Icon Building, Ipswich. In fact, the Government only advertised for the permanent Board positions on 2 July 2016, with applications due by 18 July 2016. The appointment of the Board of any statutory body or entity is important because the Board sets the strategic direction of the organisation and is responsible for spending taxpayer dollars to successfully implement that strategic direction. Without a Board, there is no strategic direction, it is rudderless.

In an extraordinary disclosure, it was revealed that the Chair and only appointee of the Board at this stage, Rachel Hunter, did not go through a meritorious selection process, it was completed as a 'direct appointment process' – despite repeated promises by the Premier and her Ministers that the Palaszczuk Labor Government would always follow merit-based appointment processes. Despite being allocated \$10 million in the 2015/16 budget, Jobs Queensland spent less than 10% - \$850,000. In less than a year, Jobs Queensland has gone from a policy that the Minister is keen to spruik and promote, to one that is almost an embarrassment for the Government. It is a complete flop, a bungle the Minister should be ashamed of.

We also learnt that it seems Tafe didn't need 'rescuing' after all – as was the Palaszczuk Labor Government's policy at the last election. Of the \$34M allocated to this policy over 3 years, there is again a significant underspend, with only around \$4.5M being spent in 2015/16. Student enrolment numbers at Tafe campuses in a number of regions continues to decline and the committee was advised by the CEO that Tafe currently has a statutory surplus of \$75M. They are only occupying 80% of the current campus asset base and yet the CEO wants to expand that asset base. The evidence that the committee provided certainly did not paint a picture of an organisation that needed 'rescuing' in fact it indicated that it was an organisation that was assessing its course offerings and adapting to meet the needs of a changing vocational training sector, both in terms of skills needs and training delivery. The evidence confirmed the view of the LNP Opposition that Labor's 2015 election policy was nothing more than a scare campaign, replicated from the 2014 Victorian state election campaign and did not focus on the needs of the vocation education sector in Queensland now and into the future. It can be argued that despite declining numbers and the scaremongering by the government TAFE is sitting on over \$100,000,000 with no real explanation where and when this money was going to be expended.

Statutory Authorities

The committee was provided evidence by the Electoral Commissioner that confirmed that the Palaszczuk Labor Government's sneaky changes to the voting system in April this year were based on political expediency rather than actually trying to improve the informal voting rate, as was the justification of the Attorney-General at the time. The Commissioner confirmed that the target set in the 2016/17 SDS for by-election informal voting rates was 'reasonably generous' and the 'beginning of the unknown'. He also confirmed that he was not consulted by the Government, prior to the decision being made to change the voting system, with only 18 minutes notice to the Parliament and no consultation with Queenslanders. This was explained by the Attorney-General as of the 'very short timeframes'. It is still extraordinary that such a reform, which was borne out of the Fitzgerald era, was not even referred to a Parliamentary committee for consideration.

The committee heard evidence that the first test case for the Government's new voting system resulted in the highest informal voting rate in the past 30 years. That was confirmed by evidence supplied by ABC election analyst Antony Green's election blog.

In relation to media stories of that day about the Government introducing legislative changes to deal with sexually explicit or offensive outdoor advertising, such as that displayed by Wicked Campers, the Attorney-General confirmed that her solution, which is essentially to ban the vehicles from Queensland roads, would not guarantee that all Wicked Campers and similar vehicles with such slogans in breach of the Advertising Standards Bureau Code of Conduct will be banned from Queensland roads. This is because many of the vehicles have interstate number plates, meaning that Labor's solution would be completely ineffective.

The Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission provided evidence to the committee that the CCC's submission to the Taskforce on Organised Crime, from December 2015, stating that -

"It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs— meaning outlaw motorcycle gangs— (including three of the major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against OMCG activity."

... was still currently their belief. The LNP Opposition has significant concerns that the Government's response to the Taskforce on Organised Crime will support recommendations to scrap the VLAD laws, water down strong penalties and remove the ability of police to prevent and disturb organised crime. This puts the safety of the Queensland community at risk and is a significant change to the 2013 laws, which have been widely acclaimed and are being adopted by Labor Governments in other states.

We were heartened to hear the comments from the Chairperson that:

"If there is ultimately a difficulty in controlling any part of organised crime, including the outlaw motorcycle gangs, with those powers or lack of them if that is the perception or the reality, we would be the first to make that known to the Attorney and more generally to our oversight committee. It is not as though we are going to be stuck with something, as it were, that does not work. If there is ultimately a concern based on evidence that there is a gap in the legislation that constrains our powers to properly deal with those groups or any group in the organised crime space, we would be able to and very ready to express that view so that it can be addressed in whatever way the government considers appropriate."

Justice and Attorney-General

Fair Trading Red Tape

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has no red tape reduction target and the LNP has significant concerns that this lack of focus on regulatory reform will lead to an increase in red tape for business and the community once again. The committee heard evidence that a review of government forms

that formed part of the splitting of the former Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act (PAMDA) undertaken by the former LNP Government has started to be undone already and that there had already been an increase in regulation in the last year. Left unchecked, this will only continue and the Queensland economy will suffer as a result.

Fair Trading Alcohol Fuelled Violence

The committee also heard evidence that the Attorney-General 'stands by what she has introduced in legislation' in relation to the Palaszczuk Labor Government's 1am lockout, which commences in February 2017. As part of those changes, it was revealed that it 'was not a deliberate exclusion to leave Keno out' rather it seems that it was just the Attorney-General's spectacular bungle. This was in relation to the de-coupling of liquor and gaming hours which enables community clubs and hotels to apply for up to an additional two hours of gaming beyond the time when they are required to cease service of alcohol.

Of further concern is that while the Attorney-General states that the Government is implementing a policy to 'tackle alcohol-fuelled violence' it is reducing the budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation over the next two financial years – the regulatory body with oversight of the Government's new laws. The LNP Opposition have raised continual concerns that the Government's plan seems to be more of a media solution than a policy solution and will not work. Those concerns were only heightened following the testimony and information that was provided to the committee.

Justice and Attorney General Courthouse Clearance

The LNP Opposition also raised concerns about a decline in courthouse clearance rates, in certain jurisdictions, both from the figures contained in the Budget and also recent media comments from two sitting judges.

The lack of consultation of the recently anointed judicial protocol was also prosecuted and it remains a concern that the process was rushed in the end, despite taking almost 18 months to get to a point where the protocol was adopted.

Organised Crime

Finally, there was a series of questions about the membership of the Taskforce on Organised Crime. The LNP has concerns that victims of crime advocates and the Crime and Corruption Commission were not represented on the actual taskforce. We would have thought these were two significantly important stakeholders that needed to be considered as part of this debate. We also remain unconvinced that the Government's new laws will guarantee that criminal motorcycle gang clubhouses will remain closed, as is the case with the 2013 laws, and the evidence provided by the Attorney-General did nothing to provide us with any confidence that Labor's laws will achieve that important goal in disrupting and preventing organised crime and the manufacture and distribution of drugs in communities across the State.

Corrective Services

The committee heard evidence that over the past 12 months, under Labor's watch, the utilisation rate of our correctional centres has increased by almost 8 per cent across all facilities and almost 9 per cent in high-security facilities. Even though the LNP had a plan to address overcrowding, \$61M of funding in the 2014/15 state budget, the Minister continues to try and blame everyone but himself when the reality is that he has been asleep at the wheel while our prisons have turned into fight clubs. As a result, there has been a 265 per cent increase on prisoner-on-officer assaults, 78 per cent increase on serious prisoner-on-prisoner assaults and 51 per cent increase on prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, in the past 12 months. Those statistics are a damning indictment on Labor's inability and inaction in managing Queensland's correctional centres.

The Minister also confirmed that he heard it on the 'grapevine' about the LNP request to meet with the Together Union about important issues facing corrective services staff. Despite a meeting request

being made to the Union, which the Minister knew about within 24 hours, the LNP is still keen to hear about the concerns from Queensland Corrective Services Staff and is yet to hear back from union officials.

Fire and Emergency Services

The Minister was rather evasive and non-responsive to concerns raised in the media that day that rural volunteer firefighters in Queensland would suffer the same fate as their Victorian CFA counterparts had done in recent months.

The LNP Opposition will continue to monitor auxiliary station resourcing and fire and communication centre services to ensure that all of Queensland are adequately resourced. It was a concern that the Minister seemed unaware of the suggestion raised by auxiliary firefighters to increase the current mandatory retirement age, particularly when the committee heard evidence that some regional areas are struggling to fill auxiliary vacancies. This has been raised with the LNP on a number of occasions and the Minister would do well to consult more widely than it appears he does.

The Queensland community is protected by a mix of permanent, auxiliary and rural volunteer firefighters all of which are as important as each other.

Police

The LNP raised concerns about advice issued by officers of the Weapons Licensing Branch that primary producers wanting to renew their Category H weapons licences appear to have been threatened with a 'mark' against their name if they continue to pursue their renewal application. There are significant concerns amongst primary producers who have held a Category H weapons licence for many years being denied their licence renewal because of a CSIRO report into the humane destruction of animals which has suddenly surfaced, despite being almost 25 years old.

While the Minister has no credibility when it comes to weapons licensing issues and his renowned cavalier approach to the issue, law abiding firearm users, many of whom have been suffering through a severe enduring drought do not need the added stress that has seemingly become apparent in the licence renewal process through the Weapons Licensing Branch.

The LNP Opposition also raised concerns about the waste of police resources in the number of police investigations into current or former members of the Palaszczuk Labor Government, including the Minister himself.

We also have concerns about the Palaszczuk Labor Government's response to the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation report, which will significantly reduce the ability of the Queensland Police Service to prevent and disrupt organised crime – putting the safety of officers' at risk as well as the broader Queensland community. Those concerns are a matter of public record that we will continually raise because when it comes to dealing with organised crime, the LNP prioritises the advice of our law enforcement agencies, namely the Queensland Police Service and Crime and Corruption Commission, who protect the community on a daily basis.

The LNP also raised concerns about the lack of police resources – namely police vehicles - and the Minister's ignorance to concerns raised by the Queensland Police Union.



Michael Crandon MP

Deputy Chair, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

