



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
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Our Ref: 19/871006

Your Ref:

28 May 2019

Mr Kim Wood
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Productivity Commission
PO Box 12112
Brisbane QLD 4003

Dear Principal Commissioner,

I refer to the Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) summary report for the *Inquiry into Imprisonment and Recidivism*, released 1 February 2019.

As you would be aware, information on the services and functions of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) was provided in the Queensland Government response to the QPC issues paper.

Any reforms suggested by the QPC will be a matter of Government policy, however there will likely be consequential operational impacts on the services provided by the QPS. For this reason, the QPS takes this opportunity to respond to specific information requests raised in the summary report to inform the development of the QPC's final report.

Reduce the use of remand - draft recommendation 8

The QPS is exploring ways to enhance police decision making through increased training and awareness for prescribed officers in assessing watch house bail applications and determining appropriate options for responding to low risk breaches of bail with a view to avoiding the progression of low-risk matters to court.

The QPS is currently exploring a risk-based approach for police to exercise greater discretion in actioning contraventions of court-ordered bail. This approach aims to reduce punitive responses to technical and low-risk breaches of bail while ensuring the integrity of arrangements for managing defendants in the community. Through increased police knowledge and understanding of risk profiles in exercising police discretion to enforce court

orders, this may positively impact the proportion of matters appearing before the court for minor technical contraventions of bail conditions.

The QPS supports any enhancements to improve support services for bailees such as court notifications and reminders to alert defendants of pending court dates, to help inform defendants of their obligations and subsequently reduce the amount of bail contravention matters dealt with by the courts for failure to appear.

Overall, a holistic approach that addresses health, housing, justice and support services is integral in the effective case management of defendants, often dealing with multiple complex needs. A focus on early intervention and treatment of root causes of offending behaviour may positively steer towards pro-social pathways and subsequently reduce strain on resource capabilities of the QPS.

Expand diversionary options – draft recommendation 16

The QPS is currently considering options to enhance the diversion of low level and victimless offences from formal prosecution through the courts, for example the use of adult cautioning.

The QPS is committed to increasing awareness amongst frontline police of existing diversionary options, such as restorative justice processes, available to adult and juvenile offenders, as well as referrals to support services to address the causes of offending behaviour with the aim to reduce the number of low-level offences being processed by the courts.

In addition, the QPS has implemented the following initiatives over the last six months as a proof of concept to provide an evidence base for broader rollout and operationalisation:

- The effectiveness and feasibility of ticketing as an alternative to the prosecution of minor offences through court is currently being trialled in Loganholme for shop stealing offences and on a state-wide basis for the offence of failing to complete a drug diversion program;
- A trial of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult cautioning in Rockhampton and a state-wide survey of police awareness of, and attitudes towards, adult cautioning were conducted to identify and resolve barriers to the appropriate cautioning of Queenslanders for minor offences;
- Place-based trials were conducted across Queensland to identify opportunities to increase the use of notices to appear in place of arresting alleged offenders, in appropriate cases;

- A trial to increase police understanding of offender risk profiles was undertaken in Caboolture to decrease remand arising from technical bail breaches; and
- A review of the QPS court brief (QP9) has been conducted with improvements recommended to better align criminal justice stakeholder requirements.

In the prosecution of offences, the QPS is a signatory to the *Case Conferencing Protocol for Summary Offences* which supports the efficient and timely disposition of criminal matters to be dealt with summarily through case conferencing.

Should you have any enquiries, [REDACTED] Branch, will be able to assist you. [REDACTED] can be contacted via telephone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



IAN STEWART
COMMISSIONER