



May 2022

Corrections NEWS



New dog squad facility opens

First Delta Unit squad graduates from unit



Officers recognised for service



Independent review brings change



Women showcase skills to *Break the Bias*

Front cover:

The official opening of the Dog Squad Training Facility at Wacol.

Corrections News is published by the Media and Communications Unit, Queensland Corrective Services.

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Contents

Message from the Minister	3	New tool to manage COVID-19	9	In the media - <i>Back Roads</i> gets history on work camps	15
Message from the Commissioner	3	Independent review brings transformational change	10	Officer shaves head in solidarity	16
Messages from the Deputy Commissioners	4	Maximum security unit recommissioned.....	10	Long Service Good Conduct medals awarded.....	17
Messages from the Deputy Commissioners (cont.) ...	5	New prison takes shape.....	11	Keeping communities safe	18
Message from Assistant Commissioner Philip Barrett	5	Policy and handbook launched.....	12	In memoriam.....	21
New dog training facility opened	6	Officers connect domestic and family violence victims	13		
Officers show resilience in flood recovery	8	In the media - Women showcase skills to <i>Break the Bias</i>	14		



**Message from
the Minister
for Corrective Services**

The role of Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) in keeping Queenslanders safe is a serious business - clearly on show when I attended the graduation of the elite correction dogs and their specialist handlers.

Certainly, anyone on the wrong side of Corrective Services (CS) Dog Ace, as shown in the demonstration, would quickly realise the seriousness of their actions.

Seeing our highly-trained CS dogs in action is always an eye-opener, both the general purpose canines such as Ace and passive alert drug detection dogs such as Luka.

My congratulations to:

- CS Dog Jack and handler Christopher, posted to Borallon Training and Correctional Centre,
- CS Dog Ace and handler Nathan, posted to Southern Queensland Correctional Centre,
- CS Dog Bruiser and handler Scott, posted to Wolston Correctional Centre,
- CS Dog Luka and handler Nicole, posted to Wolston Correctional Centre and
- CS Dog River and handler Shaun, posted to Maryborough Correctional Centre.

The dogs and their dedicated handlers play a crucial role at our facilities and now they are able to train at a new purpose-built facility, allowing on-site schooling to produce dogs of the highest calibre.

The dogs and handlers' deployment across the state further enhances QCS' capacity to protect the community.

I also had the pleasure on the same day of presenting a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for 30 years of front line service to Dog Squad Manager Alan Swann. As I said on the day, the award is recognition not only of length service but of the quality of service provided by Alan and all QCS officers.

I also acknowledge that dedication will be recognised by a new certified agreement. That more than 90 per cent of those who voted were in favour of the proposed agreement reflects the work done on your behalf by the Together Union and QCS.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to congratulate you all on a 'job well-done'.

This Government has invested more than \$1 billion in corrective services – an increase of 55 per cent – since coming to office. It is funding well spent and well-deserved.

What you do each and every day is appreciated by all Queenslanders.



**Message from
the Commissioner
Queensland
Corrective Services**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be the defining issue for 2022, not only for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), but for corrections agencies across Australia. I recently attended the Corrective Services Administrators Council in Tasmania, and it is clear that every jurisdiction is grappling with what COVID-19 normal means in correctional environments.

All QCS officers play an important role in keeping their workplace and colleagues safe, and they have done a remarkable job during this pandemic. I want to thank our officers for their continued commitment to safety.

I am pleased to advise that the proposed *Queensland Corrective Services – Correctional Employees' Certified Agreement 2021* (Agreement) has progressed to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for certification after receiving a positive response from our officers.

Thank you to all custodial officers who had their say on the proposed Agreement. I look forward to providing officers with updates on its certification as it progresses and continuing to work together to keep Queensland communities safe.

The Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 early construction work is advancing, with buildings starting to take shape as the walls go up, despite the extreme weather experienced across South East Queensland. This large-scale project is an important one for QCS as the 1000-bed men's prison will significantly expand capacity and increase safety for officers and prisoners. Once commissioned, it will use a therapeutic model to prisoner management, incorporating mental health and rehabilitation services, throughcare and end-to-end case management.

The weather has also affected our operations, with groups of officers at Southern Queensland and Woodford correctional centres isolated at the centres for several days recently. I'd like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of these officers to maintaining the safety and security of the centres in challenging circumstances. The flooding also affected a number of Community Corrections offices, and I'd like to acknowledge the flexibility of our officers to maintain business as usual while the facilities team made remarkable progress in repairing the damage and getting the offices back online.

I was proud to hear of our officers going above and beyond the call of duty to help members of the public stranded by local road closures and assisting the SES at that time.

As we continue to see widespread heavy rain fall across the state, I urge you all to stay safe, be careful on the roads and if it's flooded, forget it.



James Koulouris

Deputy Commissioner
Organisational Capability

I congratulate our officers who began 2022 with a continued commitment to community safety and resilience, enabling us to maintain operations during the severe weather event experienced across Queensland.

Despite this significant challenge, officers in the Organisational Capability Division continued to deliver key initiatives to enhance our internal and external operations.

This month I was pleased to release the Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Occupational Violence and Trauma Support (OVTS) policy and handbook. While we all strongly condemn violence in our workplace, we recognise that our officers may be exposed to distressing and traumatic events in the course of their duties.

The OVTS policy highlights our commitment to officer safety and outlines how we all play a part in supporting one another. I encourage officers to familiarise themselves with the OVTS policy and handbook, as these resources provide practical information to our colleagues to help them recover and cope long term when impacted by a distressing and traumatic workplace experience.

In February 2022, the QCS Academy launched the secure standalone Learning Management System (Academy Online). The uptake has been outstanding, with more than 2000 officers across QCS already completing 7500 course sessions in the first month of operation.

I also acknowledge the efforts of officers within the Strategic Futures Command in leading the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) with colleagues across QCS. This new MOU will enhance our access to real-time intelligence information that will support our officers to manage a challenging prisoner and offender population.

Work is also well underway on the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct – Stage 2, with the construction of the first external walls and cells, which is an exciting milestone in QCS' largest-ever capital infrastructure project.

These achievements highlight the complex and important work undertaken throughout QCS. I thank all our officers for their ongoing hard work and dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe.



Gary McCahon

Deputy Commissioner
Custodial Operations

With further easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic and its impact on our centres. Protecting your safety and the Queensland communities we serve remains our absolute priority. Having COVID-19 safe workplaces, guidelines and a vaccine mandate, our officers are provided an appropriate layer of protection while helping to minimise the need for restrictive population-wide mandates.

2022 has already seen severe weather events across South East Queensland, resulting in record levels of rainfall, above those experienced in tropical cyclones Oswald in 2013 and Debbie in 2017. Despite these major events, we continue to move forward and work towards operational and cultural reform within Custodial Operations.

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) recently received the independent report into Capricornia Correctional Centre which will support our ongoing reform agenda and the new infrastructure at the facility, which effectively doubled the size of the prison.

On 18 February 2022, Premier and Minister for the Olympics, the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP announced a review into culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. The review is being undertaken by Emeritus Professor Peter Coaldrake AO with an aim to ensure the Queensland Government has an appropriate culture and accountability framework. QCS supports the commencement of the review and will welcome the report when finalised.

On 11 April 2022, the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Maximum Security Unit was recommissioned after an extensive program of maintenance and new infrastructure works. The project team worked hard to recruit and train the maximum security unit staff, and to develop the localised processes to support positive prisoner outcomes and enhance the safety of our officers.

Other operational reform will see the introduction of Safety and Compliance Advisors at all correctional centres state-wide. The Safety and Compliance Advisors will form a critical part of the centre's leadership team and enhance officer safety through effective governance.

While we continue to navigate the rapidly changing environment, it is important for us to approach our duties with a safety-first mindset. Please consider your safety and that of your colleagues with every decision you make.

Again, I thank you for your continued great work and for providing a crucial service protecting the community and keeping Queensland safe.



Samantha Newman

Acting Deputy
Commissioner Community
Corrections and Specialist
Operations

In the last two years, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) has faced unprecedented challenges which have had significant impacts on our people and our operations. The start of 2022 brought additional challenges as we faced the effects of widespread transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and ingress into our workplaces, as well as devastating floods in South East Queensland. Despite these significant challenges, our workforce has again continued to demonstrate resilience, professionalism and a strong commitment to ensure continued service delivery with an ongoing focus on enhancing community safety.

I would like to acknowledge the impacts of the floods on a number of Community Corrections locations, which saw several offices impacted and many of our officers being personally affected by flood damage. The floods resulted in the prolonged closure of the Ipswich and Inala district offices due to the extent of the damage rendering these locations unserviceable. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism and agility of Southern Region Community Corrections, coupled with service support provided by the Infrastructure, Asset Services and Major Capital Works Command, and Digital Services and Information Technology Branch. The collaboration resulted in identification of alternative reporting sites and arrangements being quickly implemented to reduce service delivery impacts at these locations.

Despite the challenges, exceptional work among Community Corrections and Specialist Operations has continued, which will remain in focus through the year ahead, with some key highlights including:

- continuing to enhance our response to domestic and family violence through increasing delivery of domestic and family violence perpetrator programs, including re-commencing the Disrupting Family Violence Program, and the provision of real-time access to Domestic Violence Order information from the Queensland Courts
- operationalising the Restricted Prisoner Framework and the *No Body, No Parole* legislative amendments
- undertaking the final phase of work to support implementation of enhanced Biometric Offender Reporting Information System (BORIS) technology for Community Corrections
- completing Phase One of the SMART Project with the finalisation of workload modelling activities, review of Community Corrections roles, functions and structures, and the design of a contemporary resource model.

I would like to again thank all QCS officers for your dedication, resilience and commitment to your roles and to community safety, particularly during such challenging times. I look forward to continuing to work with you all throughout the year.



Philip Barrett

Assistant Commissioner
Strategic Futures
and Commander
QCS COVID-19 State
Corrections Operations
Centre

Over the past two years, Strategic Futures Command has led the operation of the COVID-19 State Corrections Operations Centre (SCOC), maintaining a strategic approach to managing the pandemic in our correctional facilities and offices.

We have faced many challenges during this time – from coordinating the officer and prisoner vaccination rollout in partnership with Queensland Health, to navigating fit-testing and personal protective equipment requirements in the correctional environment. Most recently, the SCOC led Queensland Corrective Services' (QCS) multifaceted response to the Omicron variant and its widespread impacts on our operations.

The SCOC cells have performed critical functions across logistics, governance, strategic communications, planning, situational reporting, stakeholder liaison and information management, with a key focus on managing COVID-19 strategic issues for QCS.

As part of the response to the recent Omicron outbreak in the community, the QCS Incident Coordination Centre (QCS-ICC) stood up to respond to requests for assistance from the front line. The QCS-ICC has already significantly enhanced our preparedness by establishing a Deployment Reserve with more than 150 officers willing to be deployed to support the front line.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Unit (DEMU) has led the refinement of our COVID-19 policies and planning tools in response to the continually evolving nature of the pandemic. The planning tools are now more flexible, giving more autonomy to individual centres to determine the most appropriate restrictions based on local needs.

As SCOC operations are now at 'Alert' status and many of the officers involved return to business-as-usual, the DEMU will continue to lead ongoing planning and capability building to maintain preparedness for future emergency situations. Over the coming months this will involve the finalisation of Disaster and Emergency Management Doctrine specific to QCS purposes, the roll out of a capability development package, an exercise and testing program and supporting resources and training.

Thank you to everyone who has worked as part of the SCOC over the past two years. Your contributions are recognised and greatly appreciated.



New dog training facility opened

A new dedicated and purpose-built Dog Squad Training Facility was officially opened in May, the first of its kind for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

The new building opened by Minister for Corrective Services Mark Ryan MP and QCS Deputy Commissioner James Koulouris allows for Dog Squad instructors and participants to train in suitable facilities onsite instead of travelling offsite, saving valuable time.

The new building has been designed for training exercises which simulate conditions in a correctional centre and the unit's other facilities, including:

- a fenced outside area for criminal and retrieve-type exercises
- a place to evaluate the suitability of dogs for courses and conduct continuation and remedial training
- a location for activities with other agencies, such as Queensland Police Service and Border Force; and
- existing kennels.

The first participants to use the facility also graduated from their General Purpose and Passive Alert Drug Detection courses the same day the facility opened.

Minister Ryan and Deputy Commissioner Koulouris congratulated the five officers and their canine counterparts who successfully completed their courses.

“The QCS Dog Squad is highly skilled and ranks amongst the best in the world, and is an integral part of keeping our prisons safe and secure,” Deputy Commissioner Koulouris said.

“The new facility brings training together on one site,

ensuring we can continue to produce dogs of the highest calibre.

“The three-month training course is second-to-none and covers core practical competencies in obedience, agility, searching and bite work, as well as theory such as legislation, first aid, tracking and the principles of dog training.

“This means our graduates are prepared for any challenges they may face.”



The graduating dogs and their handlers will be posted to a number of correctional centres including:

- CS Dog Jack and handler Christopher to Borallon Training and Correctional Centre
- CS Dog Ace and handler Nathan to Southern Queensland Correctional Centre
- CS Dog Bruiser and handler Scott to Wolston Correctional Centre
- CS Dog Luka and handler Nicole to Wolston Correctional Centre and
- CS Dog River and handler Shaun to Maryborough Correctional Centre.

Did you know?

General Purpose dogs are deployed to de-escalate emergency situations and provide the highest security and response capability in prisons (pictured right).

Passive Alert Drug Detection dogs detect and prevent the entry of contraband and identify drug use (pictured below).



Minister Ryan and Deputy Commissioner Koulouris presented Dog Squad Manager Alan Swann with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for his 30 years of service with the front line public safety agency.

Congratulations Alan!





Officers show resilience in flood recovery

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) officers led recovery operations at the Inala and Ipswich Community Corrections district offices following the extreme weather event experienced in South East Queensland in March.

The event caused road closures, infrastructure damage, flooding to about 20,000 homes and loss of power.

Inala District Office sustained significant damage after flood waters reached 2.9 metres inside the office. Ipswich was also severely impacted with flood waters reaching 30 centimetres deep throughout the office.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Samantha Newman said the effect

on district offices, particularly in Southern Region, was unprecedented.

“The closure of Ipswich, Toowoomba, Dalby and Inala offices, in addition to the flooding that occurred in many other locations, had a significant impact on many officers and their families, both professionally and personally,” A/g Deputy Commissioner Newman said.

“It is in these challenging times that the inherent characteristics of Community Corrections officers come to the fore.

“The work undertaken behind the scenes to date by the Southern Region officer cohort and the support received by their colleagues across regions is commendable.

“The facilities team took control of the clean-up, engaging local contractors and QBuild, with the aim of getting the offices operational as soon as possible.

“While service delivery was severely impacted, the Digital Service Delivery team worked with Southern Region to ensure alternative IT devices were available for officers to provide service continuity.”



Photo: Inala Community Corrections

A/g Deputy Commissioner Newman commended Southern Region Community Corrections for their pre-emptive work to minimise the damages of the flood and for salvaging computers and other assets, with support from Facilities, Operational Support Services and Infrastructure.

“I would also like to acknowledge the support provided from Offender Information Systems, Secure Facilities and Asset Group, Strategic Assets, Technology and Asset Services for assisting in the coordinated and collaborative response effort,” A/g Deputy Commissioner Newman said.

“All officers involved in responding to this event have well and truly gone above and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unwavering dedication to the work you do and your ongoing support of each other.”



Photo: Ipswich Community Corrections

New tool to manage COVID-19

A new pandemic response tool has been introduced for custodial operations as Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) continues to manage the impacts and challenges presented by COVID-19 in correctional centres.

The new tool replaces the previous four-staged response tool, which was introduced to assist QCS with responding to COVID-19 outbreaks quickly and appropriately, and now features three levels – Baseline, Standard Pandemic Response and Elevated Pandemic Response.

The Baseline level acknowledges the ongoing need for basic infection prevention controls for as long as there is a declared public health emergency for COVID-19 in effect. These control measures include hand and respiratory hygiene, physical distancing, screening and testing, and the use of personal protective equipment.

Standard and Elevated pandemic response levels introduce a number of extra control measures based on the level of community or correctional centre transmission.

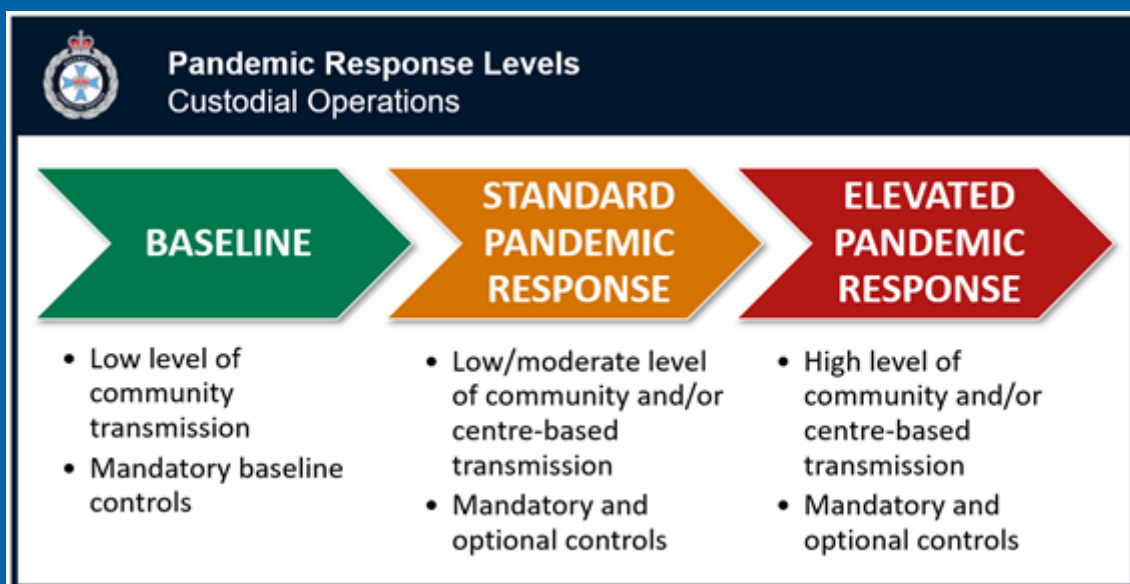
State Corrections Operations Centre Commander Phil Barrett said the new pandemic response tool was introduced in an effort to make QCS' COVID-19 management more sustainable.

“This new tool provides more flexibility for Chief Superintendents in our correctional centres,” Commander Barrett said.

“Our Chief Superintendents will be able to apply and remove controls based on the nature of the outbreak at the time.

“The control measures introduced at each level means correctional centres can suppress the spread of COVID-19 or support the safe and secure management of the centre.

“This new tool is another way we are committed to safety, not just in the community, but also to our colleagues and those in our care in our correctional centres.”



Independent review brings transformational change

A summary report was released in late April after an independent review into the workplace culture at Capricornia Correctional Centre was commissioned in October last year.

The independent review was commissioned as the expansion of the centre effectively doubled the staffing group.

Deputy Commissioner McCahon said the review provided a unique opportunity to engage officers on an operational level and give them a forum which they could raise their concerns and provide feedback confidentially.

“I want to thank the more than 100 officers who took the time to speak to the independent consultant about a wide range of issues – their insights were useful and enlightening,” Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

“Rest assured; your input has been heard.”

Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon and Acting Assistant Commissioner Central and Northern Region Command Eloise Hamlett travelled to Capricornia Correctional Centre to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the report with officers.

Deputy Commissioner McCahon said it was important to talk to officers face-to-face as the agency planned a way forward in the new operating environment.

“General Manager of Capricornia Correctional Centre, Chief Superintendent Richard Butcher has done a remarkable job of beginning to address some of the issues raised in the report,” Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

“We are committed to providing Chief Superintendent Butcher and officers at all levels the support they need to make real and lasting change.

“Officers will receive regular updates about the successes and achievements of the changes to continue to encourage focus and positive action.”



Maximum security unit recommissioned

The maximum security unit (MSU) at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) was recently recommissioned, adding another level of safety and security at the prison and boosting statewide MSU beds.

MSUs house prisoners who pose an extreme risk to the good order and security of the prison, are an escape risk or a risk of harm to themselves and others.

To mitigate the risk, these prisoners are placed in MSU to rehabilitate and return to the general prison population.

AGCC MSU Manager Patrick, with more than 10 years of experience within Queensland Corrective Services, has



put together a team to help manage and rehabilitate prisoners within the MSU.

“We provide a cohesive team effort towards effectively managing prisoners in MSU to ensure the safety and security of prisoners, officers and the community,” AGCC MSU Manager Patrick said.

“Better security outcomes are often achieved through reintegrating MSU prisoners into the general prisoner population with an effective management plan in place.”

After being out of commission for nearly 10 years, the AGCC MSU was refitted and received its first prisoner in early April.



New prison takes shape

The new prison near Gatton is starting to take shape as early construction works continue at the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 site.

Concrete slabs have been poured, columns are in and walls are going up on buildings that will make up the 1000 bed prison.



Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon said the new modern prison would take a therapeutic approach to rehabilitation.

“While it may look like just concrete slabs and walls at the moment, once completed the new prison will be a purpose-built facility to not only reduce recidivism but to also boost capacity statewide,” Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

“Our officers are agents of change, positively affecting prisoners with every interaction, and the infrastructure and design at the new prison will support specialist drug and alcohol services, and health and rehabilitation services onsite.

“By focusing on the end-to-end management of prisoners, we can address the causes of offending behaviour to help

them reintegrate back into the community and become more productive members of society.”

Deputy Commissioner McCahon praised the work of custodial officers and encouraged the community to take a look inside to see if they were up to the challenge of a career in corrective services.

“Once operational in 2024, the prison will create about 500 permanent full-time jobs,” Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

“I encourage anyone from across the state to consider a career in corrective services. We are looking for passionate people from all walks of life who are dedicated to preventing crime and keeping the community safe.”

Construction on Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 is due to be completed late 2023.

All Queensland Government positions are advertised on [smartjobs.qld.gov.au](https://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)

To find out more information about career options in some of the world’s most modern and technologically advanced prisons, visit [corrections.qld.gov.au/careers](https://www.corrections.qld.gov.au/careers)



Photo: Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 worksite





Officers connect domestic and family violence victims

Rockhampton's Community Corrections team is connecting victims of domestic and family violence with critical communication equipment – safe mobile phones.

As part of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May, the team initiated and coordinated a whole-of-government building drop-off and collection point for the Safe Phone Project, which recycles and distributes mobile phones to victims of domestic and family violence.

Rockhampton Community Corrections District Manager, Warren Williams said a mobile phone was something that many people took for granted, but it could be a lifesaver for domestic and family violence victims.



“It can potentially save a life by giving victims a direct line to emergency responders and support services,” Mr Williams said.

“We work closely with victims or perpetrators of domestic and family violence, or at times provide services to those who have been affected.

“Old, damaged and unused mobile phones, cables and chargers are donated to the collection point, sent to the DV Safe Phone Team where they are erased, recycled and tested before being forwarded to victims in need of a mobile phone.”

Mr Williams said Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month was an important time to reflect, raise community awareness and support victims.

“Queensland Corrective Services is on the front line of public safety and we have the opportunity to work with our communities and each other to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence wherever it arises,” he said.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic and family violence, support services are available:

- DVConnect Womensline - 1800 811 811
- DVConnect Mensline - 1800 600 636
- Sexual Assault Helpline - 1800 010 120
- Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800
- 1800 RESPECT - 1800 737 732
- Lifeline - 13 11 14



In the media

Women showcase skills to *Break the Bias*

Women from Queensland Corrective Services' (QCS) Tactical Response Team showcased their skills on International Women's Day on 8 March, proving they are up to the challenge of working behind the wire in one of the most challenging workplaces – high security prisons.

The theme for International Women's Day this year is *Break the Bias* and these women are doing just that.



The women officers not only work with their male counterparts to manage and rehabilitate some of the most dangerous and challenging individuals in Queensland, but when things go wrong inside a prison, these women are there as part of the Emergency Response Group.

The rare insight smashed stereotypes, with their demonstration showing what it takes to deal with critical incidents inside a high security prison while donning 15kg of equipment.

While working inside a Queensland high security prison may seem traditionally like a male job, women make up 45 per cent of the QCS' workforce, with women representing just under 50 per cent of senior officers.

Many women are taking up senior roles in Custodial Operations, from Deputy Commissioner through to Deputy General Manager across Queensland, while also being strongly represented in Community Corrections and specialist areas.

In equally-important roles, women Community Corrections officers are working collaboratively with stakeholders to supervise and support offenders in the community once they are released from prison. They are working to prevent further harm and turn lives around.

We want to acknowledge and celebrate the work of all QCS officers and their efforts to *Break the Bias*, making Queensland safer for everyone.

Did you know?

The 15kg equipment includes:

- Argus riot helmet 1.5kg
- Damascus riot suit 6.5kg (approx.)
- Armadillo riot shield 6kg
- Monadnoc baton 1kg



Back Roads gets history on work camps

The Queensland Corrective Services' (QCS) work camp program has been changing lives for more than 30 years and the ABC's Back Roads program recently went searching for where it all began.

Journalist Kristy O'Brien and her television crew headed to Charleville and found the answer in the town's much-loved Warrego River.



In early 1990, after months of heavy rain, a final deluge swamped South West Queensland and rising floodwaters hit Charleville hard.

Almost 3000 people were evacuated, including 600 airlifted to safety from the roof of the local pub. More than 1000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

The clean-up task was overwhelming and Charleville desperately needed help.

As emergency workers and volunteers arrived to assist, a Brisbane-based prisoner asked if prisoners could go and help with the clean-up.

The then Department of Corrections agreed and 40 prisoners headed to Charleville to lend a hand.

So began Queensland's first work camp – a program that's going strong 32 years on, with 13 work camps now operating across the state.



Low-risk offenders complete their sentence within the community and gain valuable new skills to prepare them for a pro-social life.



Back Roads featured interviews with then Acting Deputy General Manager, Palen Creek Correctional Centre, Superintendent Mark Evans and Charleville Probation Services Officer Judith Humphrey who said work camps benefited the entire town.

"The work camp participants are hard workers, they're respectful and do so much good for the community," Judith told the program.

"Coming out of corrections can be hard for people so to have that normalisation before they go into the community, builds a lot of self-esteem."

Back Roads also interviewed a former work camp prisoner whose life changed for the better after being part of the work camp program in Charleville.



Thank you to ABC's Back Roads for shining a light on QCS' work camp program, which makes a difference to the lives of Queenslanders every day.

Officer shaves head in solidarity

Escort and Security Branch's Custodial Correctional Officer (CCO) Tiffany recently had her head shaved to raise funds for charity.

Tiffany took part in this year's World's Greatest Shave to raise funds for Australian families dealing with blood cancer, with Assistant Commissioner Southern Region Command Ursula Roeder wielding the clippers.

People often lose hair when receiving treatment for blood cancer and shaving hair off is a way others can show they support them.



CCO Tiffany said shaving her head and the money raised was a small way she could give back to those in need

"My goal was to reach \$700. I was so happy and thankful to raise a total of \$885, because I know every little bit counts for those families affected by blood cancer," CCO Tiffany said.

"I want to thank everyone for their donations and support."



Assistant Commissioner Roeder said Queensland Corrective Services officers often went above and beyond the call of duty to help those who need it most, not just in prisons, but also in the community.

"I am proud of Tiffany's effort to shave off her long hair and raise money to help families who are facing blood cancer," AC Roeder said.

"All our officers are passionate about helping to positively change lives. This is another way Tiffany is helping do that."



We are proud to recognise the many Queensland Corrective Services officers who have served to protect our country and those who continue to serve as reservists.

We commemorate your sacrifice and ongoing commitment to keep the Queensland community safe.

They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.

Lest we forget.



Long Service Good Conduct medals awarded

A diverse group of Queensland Corrective Services officers from across the state were recently recognised for their long service and commitment to their roles.

These officers are remarkable and resilient people, who are dedicated to public safety. They have positively impacted many prisoners and offenders throughout their careers, giving them a brighter future thanks to their ongoing commitment.

Congratulations to all recipients.

The long and meritorious service of five dedicated Community Corrections officers was recognised in March with the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct medal at the Southport Community Corrections office.

Three of the five officers received the medal for 20-years of service and the remaining two officers received the medal for 30-years of service.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Samantha Newman and Acting Assistant Commissioner Community Corrections Nicole Duke were in attendance to mark the occasion at the Southport office.

Regional Manager South Coast Region Community Corrections, Superintendent Nadia Tschirpig said the officers had contributed to a collective 120-years of service to Queensland Corrective Services, which was an incredible amount of wisdom in the region.

“We celebrated officers across the administration stream, including our administration and front counter reception, probation services officers and surveillance officers,” Regional Manager Tschirpig said.

“We are extremely proud of these officers for their years of service and congratulate and thank them for their dedication and commitment to helping keep Queensland safe.”



Photo: Linda receiving her medal

20-years medal recipients:

Linda – Administration Officer, Southport Community Corrections

Steven – Surveillance Officer, South Coast Region

Lorelle – Administrative Officer, Burleigh Heads Community Corrections.

30-years medal recipients:

Administration Officer, Southport Community Corrections

Annette – Probation Services Officer, Logan City Community Corrections.



Photo: Annette receiving her medal



Keeping communities safe

Custodial Correctional Officers

Welcome to all new officers who were recently sworn into their vital role on the front line of public safety in Queensland at ceremonies across the state.

The officers completed the Custodial Officer Entry Program (COEP) before being deployed to centres across Queensland. The COEP is extensive and ensures officers are ready to take on the many challenges of working within a correctional environment each day.

Practitioner Development Program

Congratulations to the Community Corrections officers from across the state after graduating from the Practitioner Development Program (PDP) at the Queensland Corrective Services Academy.

Community Corrections officers undertake evidence-based and best-practice training to assist them with rehabilitating those under our supervision to prevent further reoffending. The PDP expands on the fundamental skills required of participating officers across a range of areas, including risk management, pro-social modelling, cultural awareness, effective decision making and working with the victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence.



Escort and Security Branch - 16 March



Woodford Correctional Centre - 16 March



Townsville Correctional Centre - 18 March



Maryborough Correctional Centre - 24 March

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre - 13 April



Southern Queensland Correctional Centre - 13 April

Capricornia Correctional Centre - 14 April



Lotus Glen Correctional Centre - 22 April



Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre - 27 April



Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre - 27 April



Escort and Security Branch - 27 April



Southern Queensland Correctional Centre - 27 April



Wolston Correctional Centre - 27 April



Practitioner Development Program - 13 May

For more information about career options within Queensland Corrective Services, visit corrections.qld.gov.au/careers

In memoriam

It is with sincere regret that we advise of the passing of the following Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) officers. We recognise their dedication to upholding and ensuring community safety and their honourable service for Queensland.

Our deepest condolences go out to families, friends, loved ones and work colleagues. They will be sadly missed.

Mr Kerry Haussman, Custodial Correctional Officer from Woodford Correctional Centre (WCC), was a longstanding officer with 45 years of service with QCS. He started as a 17-year-old cadet prison officer before embarking on a long and varied career at various correctional centres across the state. He formed part of the emergency response capability to multiple riots and major incidents, before being appointed as a Dog Handler at the newly commissioned Lotus Glen Correctional Centre in 1990. He then played a key role in the development of the Dog Squad for the newly commissioned centre at Woodford and spent most of his career as a Dog Handler. His passing will be deeply felt by officers throughout the state, especially at WCC where he worked since 1997. Outside of work, Mr Haussman was a volunteer firefighter and had assisted other emergency services agencies in search and rescue operations.

Mr John West, Custodial Correctional Officer and Acting Correctional Supervisor from Brisbane Correctional Centre (BCC). Mr West dedicated the past 20 years to Queensland Corrective Services and was regarded as an exemplary officer in all aspects of his work. He was a valued and much-loved team member at BCC and will be remembered by his colleagues for his generosity with his time mentoring new officers, especially in the Reception Store, where his experience, friendship and support will be missed.

Ms Marjana Winslow, Custodial Correctional Officer from Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre. Ms Winslow joined QCS in 2014 and was renowned for her ability to hold positive working relationships with colleagues and her ability to get along with everyone, including the prisoners in her care who regarded her with great respect. She had an infectious smile and always put others before herself, regardless of circumstances. Ms Winslow will be remembered by her colleagues as a very caring person who was the 'heart and soul' of the centre.

Mr Scott McGinnis, Custodial Correctional Officer (CCO), from Capricornia Correctional Centre. Mr McGinnis was a highly respected officer with more than 20 years of service within QCS. He spent most of his career as a CCO but also had the opportunity to undertake roles in Community Corrections and Sentence Management. He was well regarded as an officer who was dedicated in all aspects of his work and his passing will be deeply felt by his colleagues.

Grief is a natural reaction when we lose those closest to us, but you need not go through it alone. If you are experiencing distress with the loss of a friend, family member or colleague, or if you are experiencing any other personal or work-related concerns, confidential counselling and support services are available to all QCS officers and their immediate family members through SMG Heath/LifeWorks. The hotline is available to book appointments 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling **1800 273 865** or via email at areuok@smghealth.com.au



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