



August 2023

Corrections NEWS



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**Front cover:
Corrective Services Administrators' Council meets in Townsville**

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

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Message from the Minister for Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Police Service

Hard to believe we are already half-way through another incredibly busy year!

I know how hard you all work on the frontline of public safety and I am deeply appreciative of your dedication and relentless efforts on behalf of your fellow Queenslanders.

The recent state budget recognised your dedication with a significant uplift in funding for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

The state government allocated a record \$1.408 billion 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operating budget.

The state budget will support completion of major construction at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre with \$341 million allocated.

With more than 1,500 beds, this will be a modern, purpose-built centre focusing on health and rehabilitation to reduce re-offending, and supporting hundreds of good, secure jobs giving the local Lockyer Valley economy a boost.

A \$10 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for a new Wacol Precinct Enhanced Primary Health Care facility at the Brisbane Correctional Centre.

The management of serious sex offenders will also be enhanced with an additional \$2.2 million over the next two years towards staffing and programs to keep the community safe.

Some significant milestones have been achieved across the Community Corrections and Specialist Operations division with implementation of the End-to-End operating model for women in custody and under the supervision of Community Corrections. This will enable QCS to realise the full extent of End-to-End Case Management for women across all correctional environments in Queensland.

A further milestone worthy of recognition is the implementation of a centralised recruitment strategy and roll-out of the newly designed front-end Foundations training program that will equip officers with the requisite skills and knowledge to effectively supervise offenders in the community.

It's all about providing all of you, our incredibly valuable officers, with the infrastructure, facilities and resources you need.

Because ultimately, it is all about you.

It's the people within Queensland Corrective Services that make it the modern, leading public safety agency that it is today.



Message from Commissioner Paul Stewart APM Queensland Corrective Services

The Queensland Budget 2023-24 handed down in June included a record \$1.408 billion operating budget for QCS.

This record funding – about \$23 million more than last year – reflects the government's confidence in the excellent work you do each day transforming the individuals in our custody and supervision to make Queensland safer for everyone.

Increasing capacity is a key theme in our funding allocation this year, helping us carry out our responsibilities to safely manage a growing prison population. We have also secured funding to maintain a work environment that supports your wellbeing.

The budget includes \$341 million towards completion of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre which will add vital capacity to the correctional system. The site is really taking shape and I am pleased to see the progress being made by all involved. Our attention is now turning towards recruitment with an 800-strong workforce needed to operate the new facility.

With the help of another \$1 million boost, more bunk beds will be installed in high security units throughout the state as well as \$20 million to carry out site investigations for a possible expansion at the Townsville Correctional Precinct.

More infrastructure maintenance and replacements will be undertaken over the coming year, with funding for \$75 million of works. This will also see new plant and other equipment acquired as needed and \$4 million towards the upgrade of Woodford Correctional Centre's intercom system.

A new Enhanced Primary Health Care facility will be established at the Wacol Precinct with \$10 million investment that will reduce the need to access community-based hospital and health facilities. In addition, over the next four years \$46.3 million will be invested in enhancing health care and psychological and disability support services around the state.

Addressing mental health and drug and alcohol dependency for those most in need will increasingly play a pivotal role in the way we manage prisoners and reduce re-offending.

I thank the financial team for their dedication to getting this year's budget over the line to secure the funding to further protect our officers and colleagues and safely manage the prison population.

I am proud of the record figure we have received this year, and I look forward to continuing our work to build on our priorities and deliver the best frontline public safety service we can.



Adam Black

Acting Deputy
Commissioner
Organisations Capability



Gary McCahon

Deputy Commissioner
Custodial Operations



Ursula Roeder ACM

Deputy Commissioner
Community Corrections
and Specialist Operations



Wendy Ah Chin

Chief Superintendent
First Nations and
Cultural Capability

It is with great pleasure that I write my first post for Corrections News as the Acting Deputy Commissioner – Organisations Capability. It is a great opportunity to acknowledge the excellent contributions to community safety made by our valued and dedicated colleagues throughout Queensland.

Since my commencement in the Deputy Commissioner role the *Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* has delivered a range of amendments to maintain the security of corrective services facilities and address emerging threats and opportunities. New offences prohibit the use of drones over corrective services facilities and prisoner entry onto rooftops. The amendments also include clear authority to use x-ray body scanners, CCTV, body worn cameras and amendments to modernise emergency powers, enhance information sharing and update the prisoner classification framework.

The \$861 million Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is taking shape, with over 1 million hours of construction delivered by a workforce of over 1600, this new facility will provide some welcome relief to system capacity in 2024, with a focus on maximising health and rehabilitation opportunities and meaningful activity to provide safer communities.

We have now commenced a recruitment campaign to attract both experienced officers and new recruits.

I am also delighted to announce that the First Nations Reference Committee (FNRC) is now re-convening, with meetings held in April and June 2023. Importantly, it has also been added to the QCS Corporate Governance framework and is now a formal advisory body to the Board of Management (BoM). I look forward to this exciting improvement to the governance of QCS and in more effectively integrating First Nations' perspectives and feedback into the strategic governance of the department.

To support our leaders in encouraging values aligned behaviours and creating a safe and professional workplace, we have also engaged with the Queensland Human Rights Commission to facilitate recognising and responding to sexual harassment training for QCS senior leaders and managers.

The purpose of this training is to help leaders recognise, prevent, and respond to sexual harassment in the workplace. The training will explore the prevalence of sexual harassment in workplaces, what the underlying drivers of this behaviour are and what laws prohibit this behaviour. The primary learning is for organisations to gain an understanding of what their legal responsibilities are and what actions to take to prevent and respond to sexually harassing behaviour in their workplace.

As the year progresses, we continue reforming Custodial Operations with an aim to improve practices which enhance the safe and humane management of prisoners in our care. In March, we commenced the Emergency Management Capability Discussion Paper, lead by Superintendent Chris Davis, which is examining our centres' current emergency capability and operational readiness levels. Superintendent Davis has undertaken widespread consultation throughout the state as well as inter-jurisdictional research, and I look forward to his continued updates to the Officer Safety Committee.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Custodial Operations' newest Superintendent, Deputy General Managers, Ms Evie Georgas ACM and Mr Mark Evans. Both Ms Georgas and Mr Evans are exemplary leaders who bring diverse backgrounds and experiences to the roles. Mr Evans has commenced his placement at Woodford Correctional Centre, while Ms Georgas has accepted her position at Palen Creek Correctional Centre, which she will take up following the finalisation of her handover for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre project.

I would like to take the opportunity to discuss the importance of safety in everything we do in Custodial Operations. As one of the five principles of *Corrections 2030*, everyone has a critical role to play in promoting safer correctional environments, whether in a secure centre, low security facility, work camp, escort vehicle, courts, or importantly, community areas such as a hospital or health clinic.

It is essential that when undertaking our duties, we ensure safety and security are at the forefront of our minds and remain alert and attentive, drawing from the resources available to us. Compliance with Custodial Operations Practice Directive (COPD) is essential, and where you are unsure of a procedural requirement, your direct line supervisor is available to provide you with assistance and advice. Thank you for the work that you do and your commitment to maintaining public trust in QCS.

Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure of visiting a number of our community corrections locations and regional forums across the state.

What was consistent during these visits was the commitment and resilience of our frontline officers. Despite the daily challenges and at times confronting material/interactions our officers face, I am always left with a sense of pride by their adaptability and unwavering focus to deliver the best possible outcomes for those individuals under supervision and for the broader community.

The importance of this work, and the work we all do as QCS employees and public servants, is made particularly evident during the month of May which marks Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month. As you are aware, DFV prevention month is an annual initiative to raise community awareness of DFV and coercive control, and the support services available.

DFV is a harrowing reality faced by millions of individuals worldwide. I would like to recognise the collective commitment, initiatives and actions undertaken across QCS to help eradicate DFV including (but certainly not limited to) rigorous case management by our officers, our participation in high risk teams, engagement of victim advocacy services and the provision of evidence-informed programs.

DFV takes many different forms and can occur in many different relationships. As a White Ribbon accredited workplace and as the QCS Executive Sponsor for DFV, I look forward to continuing to work with you all and our agency partners towards our collective commitment to ending DFV.

The past few months in my new role as Chief Superintendent First Nations and Cultural Capability have been dynamic and I have appreciated the warm welcome by all the officers and the Executive Leadership Team. I am looking forward to working with you all to reduce imprisonment rates for First Nations men and women.

It's important that we strive for excellence in the important work we do and the reforms we lead across the state. As a key member of the senior leadership team, I am focused on increasing the importance of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system.

I am excited to grow the team at Murridhagun Cultural Centre so we can work collaboratively with our officers, partners and stakeholders to provide culturally safe strategic leadership at a whole of system level on shaping and influencing Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice agenda to increase the visibility and importance of reducing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult incarceration rates.

Murridhagun Cultural Centre plays a critical role in being a culturally capable, best practice leader in advocating for and coordinating improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes across the Department and across the criminal justice system and government more broadly. Through a culture of collaboration, innovation, and ethical conduct, the Murridhagun Cultural Centre will develop standardised frameworks, policies and practices for Correctional Centres and Community Corrections district offices.

This will not be without its challenges, but it will also provide for some important and strategic opportunities. QCS will be focusing over the coming months and years on a number of important reforms we will lead including our Path to Treaty and Truth Telling journey as part of QCS commitment to the Re-framing the Relationship plan, our First Nations Strategy and our Reconciliation Action Plan.

I look forward to the coming weeks and months as we continue to work collaboratively to lead the development and delivery of innovative, culturally safe, and evidence-based strategies and initiatives designed to reduce the high rates of adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration in Queensland.

New Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

It is now official, the new men's correctional centre being built near Gatton will be called the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) has launched an advertising campaign encouraging Queenslanders to 'unlock their potential' and join the frontline of public safety when it opens in 2024.

Assistant Commissioner Southern Region Command Joel Smith said the advertising campaign had been launched to help fill more than 800 positions at the new centre and could be seen in towns and regions across southeast Queensland.

"Opening a facility of this size will need a substantial workforce and there are hundreds of job opportunities for local people," AC Smith said.

"We are calling on job seekers, new graduates and anyone looking for a career change to unlock their job and lifestyle potential under a correctional service model focused on prisoner rehabilitation."

Jobs available at the new centre include leadership and supervisor roles, custodial correctional officers, trade instructors, psychologists, allied health workers, administration officers, case managers and more.

The campaign features QCS officers from across the state in newspaper, social media, outdoor and retail advertisements, as well as a 15-second online video, dedicated internet site and supporting brochures, flyers and banners.

The new centre is located next to the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre for women and is the second stage of works in developing QCS' Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct.

"We have been a part of the Lockyer Valley and surrounding communities for more than 10 years now, since the women's correctional centre opened in 2012," AC Smith said.

"Our commitment to the community will continue to grow as we build our presence within the Lockyer Valley and support the local community economy through employment and supply chain opportunities."

The centre is about 12 kilometres from Gatton and just over a 30-minute drive from Toowoomba, 45 minutes from Ipswich or a little over one hour from Brisbane. Its location in the Lockyer Valley offers country living with city convenience and is fast becoming an attractive option for people looking for a much sought-after work-life balance.

Officers can find out more about the project and jobs at the new centre on the project microsite, which can be accessed from a link on the QCS intranet homepage.

The project team will be seeking formal expressions of interest from officers to transfer into roles at the centre in the coming weeks, with more information to be sent via email.

More information is also available on the campaign internet site [Click here](#)



Above: Olivia Mason, Jess Read, Trish Jeffers, Hayden McComb (Qld Health), Justine Flood

Below: Annette Allan (Qld Health), Amelia Mackay, Maddie Stegeman (2023 Gatton Showgirl runner-up), Kristin Furber, Sharon Atuatika.



Corrective Services Administrators' Council meets in Townsville

Representatives from across Australia tour Townsville Correctional Centre

The heads of corrective service agencies from across Australia and New Zealand met for the first time in Townsville for the Corrective Services Administrators' Council in May.

Hosted by QCS, the forum focused on discussing strategic national and trans-national issues and successes to improve the management and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said collaborating with government partners across Australia and New Zealand meant QCS could provide a safer and more sustainable correctional system for our officers, prisoners and offenders.

"Having the heads of corrective services come together to address key issues and share best practice is invaluable," Commissioner Stewart said.

"Guided by our roadmap, Corrections 2030, and through collaboration with government and non-government stakeholders, we will continue to establish our agency as a leader in corrective services."

QCS is proud to be an employer of choice for more than 7000 Queenslanders and is proudly working to keep Queensland communities safe.

Commissioner Stewart said officers worked hard to improve public safety every day, striving to ensure prisoners and offenders are less likely to return to crime.

"Our work transforms lives and communities. It is great to welcome agencies from across Australia and New Zealand to Townsville to share their experiences and successes," Commissioner Stewart said.

"This is how we continue to make a real positive difference to the safety of all communities."

To see if you have what it takes or for more information on how to apply, visit corrections.qld.gov.au/careers



Above: Simeon Duffy, Cultural Liaison Officer, Townsville Correctional Centre; and Dr Gracelyn Smallwood AM.

Front row: Rod Wise, Deputy Secretary, Corrective Services, Tasmania Department of Justice; Luke Brown, Assistant Secretary, International Cooperation Unit, Commonwealth Attorney-General; Paul Stewart APM, Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services; Katie Morrow, Assistant Director, Commonwealth Parole Office, Commonwealth Attorney-General; Anne Marie Martin, Deputy Commissioner, Security and Custody, Corrective Services New South Wales; Melissa Westin, Deputy Commissioner, Custodial Operations, Corrections Victoria.

Back row: David Brown, Chief Executive, Department of Correctional Services South Australia; Ray Johnson APM, Commissioner, Australian Capital Territory Corrective Services; Matthew Varley, Commissioner, Northern Territory Correctional Services; Jeremy Lightfoot, Chief Executive, New Zealand Department of Corrections.





Record budget for QCS

The 2023-24 Queensland Corrective Services operating budget was announced by Government on Tuesday, June 13, with a record \$1.408 billion secured.

Unveiling the funding, Corrective Services Minister Mark Ryan MP said the work QCS officers undertook on a daily basis was critical to community safety.

The budget allocation will support the safe management of Queensland's prison population with infrastructure to protect officers and programs to reduce recidivism. It will also deliver significant uplifts in capacity for QCS.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre was allocated \$341 million towards completion of main construction. The modern, purpose-built centre will focus on health and rehabilitation to reduce re-offending and support more than 800 good, secure jobs.

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said completion of the new facility near Gatton would be a defining point for QCS.

"The new, modern prison will be pivotal in reducing re-offending, with facilities to drive behaviour change through mental health, alcohol and drug rehabilitation services within the precinct," Commissioner Stewart said.

"The addition of 1536 beds will also take pressure off other centres across the state."

A \$20 million allocation will enable pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the future Townsville Correctional Precinct expansion to manage the demands of a growing prison population.

Installation of bunk beds in high security correctional centres across the state will also continue, with \$1 million of a \$8 million program committed in the 2023-24 budget.

Other highlights of the 2023-24 budget include:

- \$10 million for pre-commencement design works, site investigations and other preliminary works for the establishment of a new Wacol Precinct Enhanced Primary Health care facility to reduce the need to access community-based hospital and health facilities
- \$46.3 million over the next four years to support essential healthcare, including installing information technology infrastructure to enhance health care and psychological and disability support services around the state
- \$1 million to continue the refurbishment at Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit
- \$23.5 million over the next two years to support Parole Board Queensland's operations and ensure timely and community-safety focused consideration of parole matters
- \$2.2 million over the next two years towards officers and programs for the management of serious sex offenders to keep the community safe
- \$4.1 million towards upgrades to Woodford Correctional Centre's intercom system
- \$63 million towards infrastructure works and maintenance and replacement programs, and
- \$14.7 million towards other property, plant, and equipment.

"This budget will progress key priorities to protect the community, rehabilitate prisoners and reduce recidivism," Commissioner Stewart said.

"It will allow us to build on our ongoing program of infrastructure and innovation that protects frontline officers and keeps prisoners, visitors and our communities safe."



QCS in the news

On top of responding to media inquiries, the QCS Media team works to identify opportunities to highlight the great work our officers do day in and day out to keep Queensland communities safe.

A particular focus in May was on our custodial correctional officers, from new recruits through to experienced hands, peeling back the curtains to show the broad range of skills and experience of our professional and hardworking officers.

The Commissioner was on **Triple M Townsville** at the start of May, welcoming corrective services agencies from Australia and New Zealand to the bi-annual conference that was held in Townsville for the first time.

Some of our newly graduated General Purpose dogs were put through their skills for **Nine News** Brisbane who came along to a Custodial Officer Entry Officer (COEP) graduation at the QCS Academy, and Maryborough's 20th anniversary was covered in a fantastic package on **Seven Wide Bay**.

We were the top news story on the **Courier Mail** for more than a day after the **Sunshine Coast Daily** visited Woodford Correctional Centre to see and understand what happens behind the gates. We also secured a double-page spread in the **Mareeba Express** describing what happens on the 10-week COEP course at Lotus Glen.

Trials of the Custodial Correctional Officer mentoring program at Lotus Glen and Capricornia featured on

7 News Cairns and on **WIN's evening broadcast** across the state. Capricornia Correctional Centre was also featured statewide on **WIN**, and **10 News** Queensland attended a COEP graduation ceremony at the QCS Academy at the end of May.

Some of the successful contraband finds made their way to the TV news, with major finds at Townsville and Borallon getting the acknowledgement they deserve and receiving statewide coverage.

The quick, successful actions of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre officers who detained a trespasser after trying to introduce contraband into the facility was covered in **The Cairns Post** and **Seven Cairns**.

And finally, on the last day of May, **ABC Radio Brisbane** aired their story of the work done to help women at the Helana Jones Centre on both their Breakfast and Drive programs.

We'd like to thank everyone who agreed to participate in these media opportunities, either by talking to media or by being interviewed by the team for media packages for various media outlets. We appreciate it is challenging, but you were great ambassadors for the agency.

We have many more stories to tell, and are always on the look out for new, interesting ways to promote QCS in the media. If you have a story that promotes the hard work you do, get in touch!

TRIPLE M TOWNSVILLE



Triple M Townsville 102.3

TRANSCRIPT: The heads of the Australian and New Zealand Corrective Services Agencies will meet in Townsville for the first time ever, hosted by Queensland Corrective Services. The forum will discuss strategic national and transnational issues and success to improve the management and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders. Not only will this be the first bi-annual conference in Townsville, but it will also be the first held in Queensland since 2018. Commissioner Paul Stewart says it's important to ensure our correctional systems across Australia and New Zealand are effective, efficient and achieving a common goal.



ABC North Queensland, Win Townsville and Triple M Townsville

Four North Qld Police have charged 37 people over the smuggling of drugs and contraband into a Townsville prison. Qld Corrective Services says officers foiled several complex plans to bring drugs...

ABC North Queensland - AM Radio - 11 May 2023

News Good morning, I'm Lily Nothing with ABC News for North Queensland. Police have charged 37 people over the smuggling of drugs and contraband into a Townsville prison. Mia Knight re...

Stream

More than a dozen prisoners have been charged after allegedly attempting to smuggle drugs and contraband into a North Qld facility. A four-month investigation by Qld Corrective Services led to th...

WIN Townsville - Jared Constable - TV - 11 May 2023

News More than a dozen prisoners have been charged after allegedly attempting to smuggle drugs and contraband into a north Queensland facility. A four month investigation by Queensla...

Stream



RADIO BRISBANE

Community, Services and Service mentioned on Breakfast at 06:42

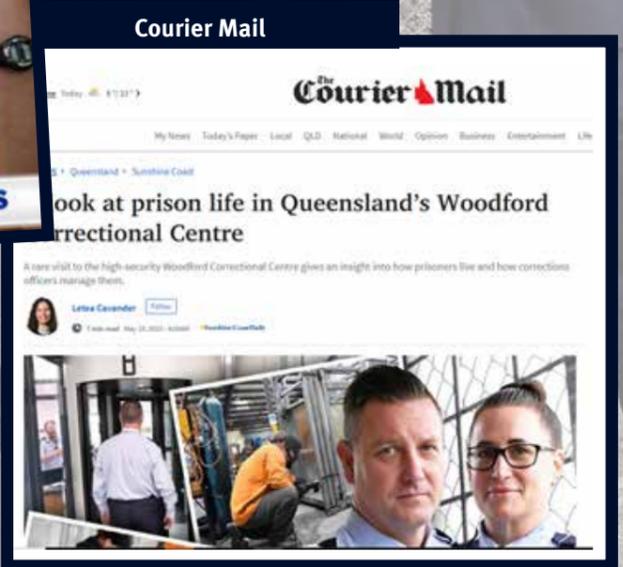
Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan at ABC Radio Brisbane, Brisbane, Breakfast on 31 May 2023 6:42 AM.

Community (7) Services (2) Service (1)

ASR: 6,575 AUD Audience: 36,000 (16,000 female 16+ / 18,000 male 16+) Duration: 7mins 27secs

Automated Transcript:

... Jones. You know, our role is to help women on their journey through identifying needs and risks and making sure that where possible, that we can have those met for when they go back to the community. Sitting in the office here at the Helena Jones Centre at Albion and Darrel Fleming is the Chief Superintendent of the Women's Correctional Centre and the Helena Jones Centre here. ...



Prison launches **Disrupting Family Violence Program**

Capricornia Correctional Centre launched the Disrupting Family Violence Program (DFVP) to tackle domestic and family violence and increase safety.

The DFVP, which was initially trialled across three correctional centres – Woodford, Maryborough and Wolston between 2018 and 2019 – has now been extended to Capricornia Correctional Centre.

The program, offered to perpetrators of domestic and family violence, promotes change by increasing accountability.

More than 30 QCS officers across the state have been trained to deliver the program, which aims to reduce violent and abusive behaviours in intimate partner relationships with a strong focus on victim safety.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said family violence intervention was particularly challenging and complex, and commended QCS officers for taking on this body of work to increase safety and offer hope to those impacted by family violence through the incredible program.

Capricornia Correctional Centre General Manager, Chief Superintendent, Richard Butcher said he was proud to offer the program to selected prisoners to change their behaviours and promote family wellbeing in their community as a part of our ongoing commitment to keep the public safe.

“This program involves officers from Custodial Operations, Community Corrections and violence specialists from the Offender Intervention Unit working with case managers to supervise the participants as they complete the course and transition back into the community,” Ch. Supt. Butcher said.

“The program also assists participants in learning how family violence affects children.”

The program began at Capricornia in 2022, with the most recent course starting in May.



“By raising community awareness about domestic and family violence and equipping those who use violence with strategies to address their offending, we aim to bring about meaningful change to tackle domestic violence at its CORE,” Commissioner Stewart

Partnership highlights **mental health awareness**

Townsville Correctional Complex (TCC) recently partnered with the Goanna Academy to discuss mental health support and services with QCS officers.



The Goanna Academy is the first accredited and Indigenous-owned mental health education provider in Australia. Their mission is to end the stigma around mental health and improve social capacity to identify, talk about and manage mental health for Australians. Their particular focus is on at-risk groups such as males and youth in regional areas and First Nations communities.

The Goanna Academy attended TCC, highlighting the importance of seeking help when needed, reducing the stigma surrounding mental health and increasing visibility around support services available to officers. NRL Mental Health Advocate Greg Inglis was guest speaker and inspired attendees with his very real and inspiring story around his own mental health struggles while in the spotlight as a high profiled sportsman, including his strategies since. Townsville Correctional Complex General Manager, Chief Superintendent, Louise Kneeshaw said safety was one of the agency’s priorities and guiding principles from *Corrections 2030*.

“Safety includes more than equipment and facilities. The mental health of our officers who are our greatest asset is just as, if not more, important,” Ch. Supt. Kneeshaw said.

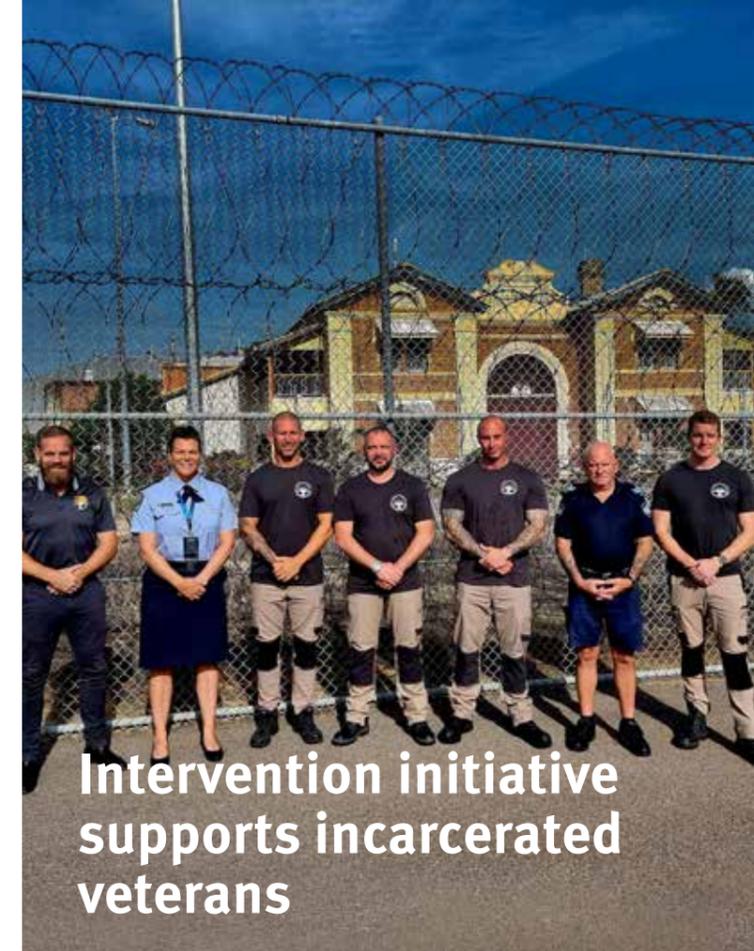
“We are committed to providing support, resources and help to all officers. We also want to assist them to stay connected to their support systems and build resilience through daily investment in their own self-care.”

QCS continues to roll out Healthy Minds training to all officers, which focuses on psychological first aid and self-care.

Culture, Safety and Wellbeing Senior Advisor Nigel said the agency continued to work on several projects to support the wellbeing of officers.

“Some of the projects include identifying and controlling psychosocial risk in our workplaces, working on policies that focus on unacceptable workplace behaviours, ongoing training on psychological first aid to custodial and non-custodial officers, developing various wellbeing resources, and proactive promotion of our EAP provider, Converge,” Nigel said.

Several wellbeing resources and support services are accessible to officers on the QCS Intranet, as well as through QCS’s EAP provider, Converge. Converge provides a multitude of support to officers including counselling and rapid response to critical incidents.



Intervention initiative **supports incarcerated veterans**

QCS RSL Queensland and The Eighth Mile Consulting recently joined together to develop and host a five-day intervention initiative to support incarcerated veterans at Townsville Correctional Centre.

The training, named Ad Meliora – Onwards to better things, attracted a dozen participants and aimed to help veterans transition successfully back into society.

Townsville Correctional Complex General Manager, Chief Superintendent, Louise Kneeshaw said the agency was committed to the successful rehabilitation of all prisoners.

“Every interaction between our officers and prisoners is an opportunity to promote positive change and build a stronger community,” Ch. Supt. Kneeshaw said.

“Increasing access to rehabilitation, education and training like Ad Meliora is an effective way we can not only create a more safe and secure environment, but also help to achieve positive outcomes.”

Work Health, Safety and Environment Coordinator Dean said Ad Meliora aimed to motivate participants towards behavioural change during their incarceration.

“The training highlighted an opportunity for veterans to re-engage in a lifestyle that creates positive social and economic contributions in their community,” Dean said.

Ad Meliora guides and educates participants through the following stages (ARSCA) – acceptance, resistance, self-awareness, choice and action.



QCS addresses domestic and family violence

QCS is committed to addressing domestic and family violence by raising community awareness of the vital role officers play in disrupting this type of violence.

Following a successful trial of the Disrupting Family Violence Program (DFVP) at Woodford, Maryborough and Wolston correctional centres between 2018 and 2019, Capricornia Correctional Centre launched the DFVP for the second time during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM commended officers for addressing offending behaviour to tackle domestic violence at its core.

“Family violence intervention is particularly challenging and complex, and I want to commend our officers for taking on this body of work to increase safety and offer hope to those impacted by family violence through this incredible program,” Commissioner Stewart said.

Other activity during DFV month included announcing the QCS Domestic and Family Violence Policy Statement outlining QCS’ commitment to strengthen polices, practices and operations to ensure victim-survivors are supported and perpetrators are held to account.

The Policy Statement, one of three key milestones, will contribute to the *QCS DFV Strategy 2023-2028*, currently being developed by the Enterprise Strategy Group.

This five-year, live strategy is a first for QCS to address the alarming rate of DFV, with a focus on both victim-survivors and perpetrators among people in our custody and care.

The *DFV Strategy* will assist QCS to achieve its priorities under *Corrections 2030*, aligning with the *QCS Business Plan 2022-23* and *QCS Strategic Plan 2022-26*, for safer communities; while a Discussion Paper is being finalised in preparation for consultation, which will provide the foundation for the *DFV Strategy*.

On May 25, a Victim Support Services meeting was convened by QCS to provide an opportunity to inform government agencies about victim experiences, seek support and receive information from relevant criminal justice system government agencies.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police Service and Parole Board Queensland also attended.

Assistant Commissioner, Specialist Operations, Sarah Hyde said QCS was committed to providing valuable information service to victims in collaboration with partner agencies.

“The Victim Support Services meeting provided the opportunity to explore enhancements to current systems and ways we can improve how we engage with victims across Queensland,” AC Hyde said.



Bron Pike from Victim Assist Queensland said it was a powerful meeting and they were glad to be a part of it.

On May 31, QCS officers took part in the Darkness to Daylight event for the first time since COVID.

The event celebrated its 10th anniversary of people coming together to raise awareness and fundraise to help bring those affected by DFV out of the darkness and into the daylight.

About 70 officers from QCS participated by walking or running in and around Brisbane CBD, while others opted to record their steps online. More than \$2700 was raised for the cause.

Congratulations to all who participated in Darkness to Daylight, and everyone involved in raising awareness and doing what they can to address the issue of domestic and family violence.

QCS honours Domestic and Family Violence victims at candlelight ceremony



Kingaroy Community Corrections joined the Cherbourg community at a candlelight ceremony during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month to reflect on the lives lost as a result of domestic and family violence (DFV).

Family members of victims attended and shared their stories to spread awareness and highlight the ongoing and long-lasting impact DFV has on families.

Representing Kingaroy Community Corrections, Senior Case Manager Kamie attended the candlelight ceremony at the Lena Buck Centre.

“Seeing the names on candles and hearing the voices of families directly impacted, and the ongoing trauma, was a stark reminder of the ripple effect of domestic and family violence on not only victims, but their loved ones for generations,” Kamie said.

“It was lovely to see the community come together for such an important event.”

Kingaroy Community Corrections District Manager Ann-Maree Giles said QCS was committed to change the ending regarding domestic and family violence.

“We are taking a lot of positive steps towards contributing to the reduction of domestic and family violence, including building and strengthening relationships that improve information sharing to better support immediate safety planning with victims of domestic and family violence, and accountability for persons using violence”.



Supporting victims of homicide

QCS supported victims of homicide by taking part in the Queensland Homicide Victims Support Groups (QHVSG) awareness day event on the Gold Coast in May.

Attending officers from many parts of the agency took part in a walk, candle lighting vigil and the release of doves to honour and remember loved ones lost to homicide.

Assistant Commissioner, Specialist Operations, Sarah Hyde said victim safety was embedded in the agency's day-to-day work.

"We are committed to working with offenders to influence positive behavioural change and supporting victims of crime every day," AC Hyde said.

Victims Register State-wide Manager Janeve Colliss thanked officers for their support at the event and around the state.



"It was a privilege to be present on QHVSG Awareness Day, and to support the victims who attended and remember loved ones who are no longer here," Ms Colliss said.

QHVSG provides education, advocacy and help to organisations and individuals affected by loss due to homicide.

For more information about QHVSG, visit qhvsg.org.au

The Redlands District Office recently transformed one of their workspaces to a trauma-informed space, tailored to vulnerable women who attend the centre.

The room came about after senior case managers attended the Red Rose Foundation High Risk High Harm Training, designed for domestic, family and sexual violence workers, high-risk teams, police and justice employees.

Redlands Community Corrections Acting District Manager Melissa Hansen said QCS recognised the significant impact domestic violence had on the Queensland community.

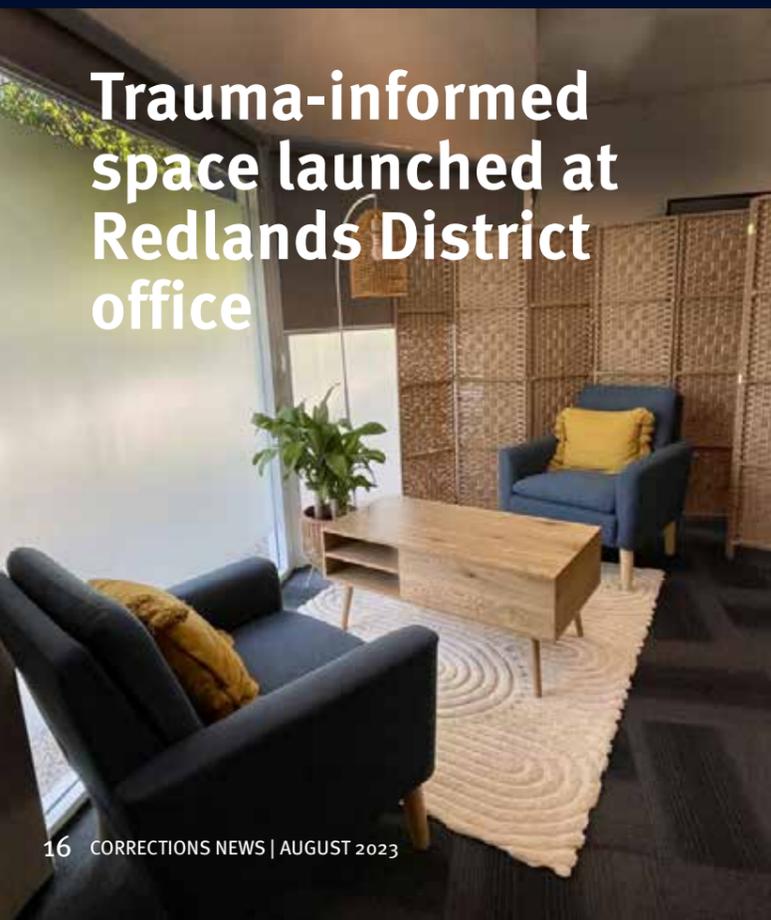
"Our officers are committed to playing a vital role in the community to end this type of violence and help victims and this is one more way we are doing that," A/DM Hansen said.

"Some of the key learnings from the training about trauma informed workplaces was around setting up a welcoming and suitable space for women and their children.

"This space has already had positive feedback from some of our vulnerable women in crisis and we hope it provides a safe and welcoming environment for these women moving forward."

Left: Redlands District Office welcoming trauma-informed workspace

Trauma-informed space launched at Redlands District office



Driving cultural change to keep Queenslanders safe

QCS is driving cultural change by supporting First Nations women in custody to rehabilitate and break the cycle of re-offending through the *QCS Interim Women's Strategy 2023-25* and the *Women's Policy Statement*.

The Interim Strategy and the Women's Policy Statement, delivered following the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and as part of QCS' Women's System reforms, provides a framework for the management of women in QCS' custody and care.

Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Deputy Commissioner Ursula Roeder ACM said it was important to address the over representation of First Nations women in the criminal justice system with a renewed focus.

"We are aiming to reduce the negative impacts of imprisonment for women and their families by embedding gender-responsive, person-centred, culturally safe, trauma and evidence-informed programs and services," DC Roeder said.



"The Interim Strategy captures initiatives funded or planned as part of the implementation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reforms.

"The outcomes expected from the women's system reform include enhancing our operational practice through training and updating our policies and procedures so that they are trauma informed, gender responsive and culturally safe.

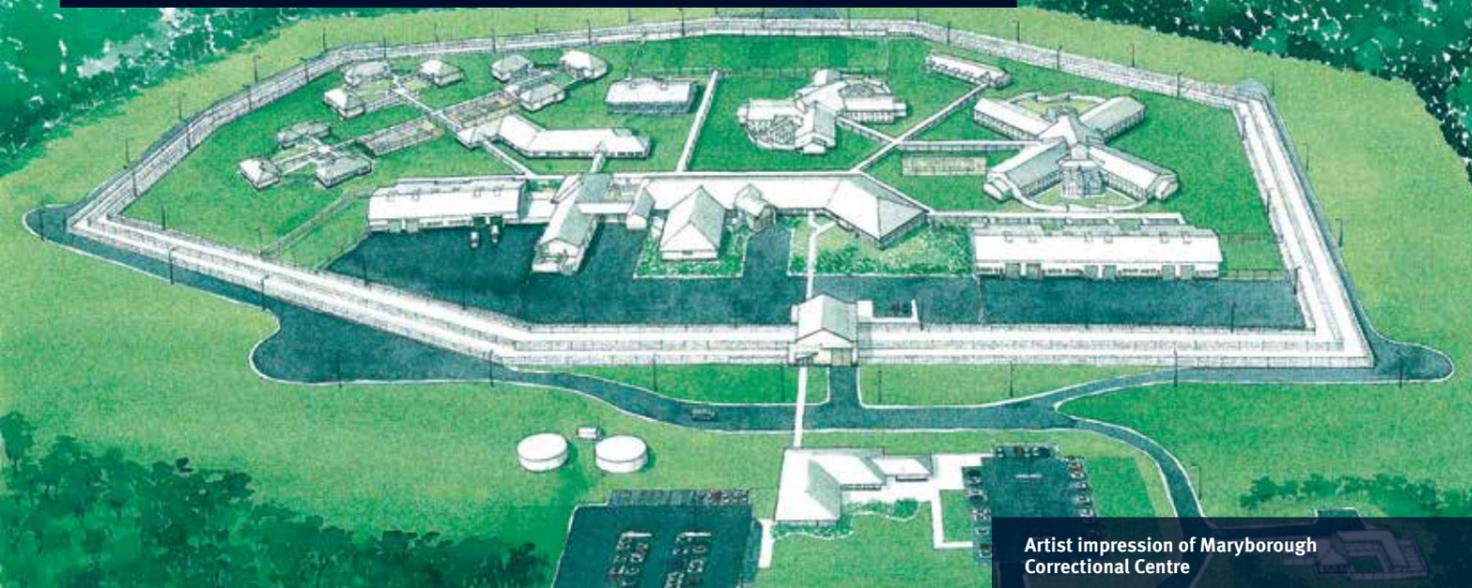
"We'll also seek to engage First Nations women in the design and development of evidence-based programs to provide culturally safe responses as well as improve case management outcomes through integrated service delivery and increased access."

DC Roeder said once the current reforms had been developed and embedded across the organisation, a more detailed and long term *QCS Women's Strategy 2026-2031* will be launched.

"I would like to thank those frontline officers across Community Corrections and Specialist Operations and Custodial Operations who work tirelessly on a daily basis to support the women in our custody, care and supervision to break the cycle of re-offending".

Maryborough
Correctional Centre

20 Years
ANNIVERSARY



Artist impression of Maryborough Correctional Centre

Maryborough Correctional Centre celebrated its 20th Anniversary in April with an event that also recognised several current and past serving officers and their service to the centre and Queenslanders.

Since its commissioning on 16 April 2003, about 300 officers have worked at the prison, helping offenders and keeping the community safe.

Representing Minister for Corrective Services Mark Ryan MP, Member for Maryborough Bruce Saunders MP congratulated the centre on reaching its significant milestone.

“Officers from Queensland Correctives Services are often-unsung heroes of public safety and the work they do, to ensure prisoners and offenders are less likely to return to crime, is highly regarded by the community,” Mr Saunders said.

“The correctional centre has played an important role in not only rehabilitating prisoners but also supporting the community and emergency services particularly during the storm season.

“I want to thank the facility and its officers for all their efforts in keeping Maryborough and its surrounds safe.”

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM thanked all current and past officers for their commitment and service to QCS and the community.

“Working in corrections is tough but it’s also a rewarding career. Each day our officers do a tremendous job working with prisoners, who are some of the most complex and challenging people, to reduce crime,” Commissioner Stewart said.

“All of our officers play a critical role in addressing offending behaviour and to improve the vocational and life skills of prisoners, assisting in their rehabilitation and reintegration back to the community.”

Maryborough Correctional Centre General Manager, Chief Superintendent, Kris Winter said the centre had played a significant role in the community for a number of years.

“Over the past five years, our centre has helped the Wide Bay region to get ready for natural disasters with prisoners filling up sandbags, which have been used by Fraser Coast Regional Council to protect the Maryborough CBD during two significant flood events,” Ch. Supt. Winter said.

From left: Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations, Gary McCahon and Chief Superintendent, Kristine Winter



From left: 20 Years of Service Medal recipient Gavin Earl, Meritorious & Ethical Service Medal Recipients, Jasmine Burrows, Colin Kurtz and Kevin Stevens.

“By supporting our emergency services like this, the prisoners are learning valuable work and life skills to help them avoid further offending when they’re back in the community.”

More than 6000 sandbags have been filled and provided to local council to support SES activities when responding to major weather events.

During the ceremony several officers were recognised with National Medals, Meritorious and Ethical Service Medals, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. It was a great opportunity to recognise the important contribution these officers have made to the centre and community.

Below: mini officer shirts made for the occasion by our 15 Year National Medal recipient Antonio D’Assumpcao



QCS Maryborough virtual experience

As part of the celebration, members of the general public were able to see what life is like behind the wire at Maryborough Correctional Centre for the first time with an interactive virtual experience – the first centre to offer a digital walk-through.

Ch. Supt. Winter said it was important to acknowledge the work of officers working on the frontline of public safety.

“This virtual experience is about showing the different kinds of work officers do every day to address offending behaviour and improve the vocational and life skills of prisoners to assist in their rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community,” Ch. Supt. Winter said.

“The walk-through allows the public digital access into the Secure Unit, to listen about the role of a Cultural Liaison Officer and what happens inside the Gatehouse, as well as get a sneak peek inside a prison kitchen – amplified by ambient sounds.

And for those who are considering a career in corrections, they will get to hear from officers about what it is like working in a high-pressure environment to ensure the Queensland community is safe.

Working in a correctional centre is undoubtedly challenging but it is also a very rewarding career, and I am incredibly proud of our officers for the safer they do.”

View the full interactive experience at

corrections.qld.gov.au/mccvirtual



AROUND THE STATE

QCS had an extremely busy few months around the state. There have been a number of career expos with officers helping share all the positives that come with working for QCS.

We had the great honour of having the Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles visit our stand at the Ipswich Show. Three Queensland corrective service officers were recognised in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours list receiving the Australian Corrections Medal. Then the Capricornia Correctional Centre launched the Disrupting Family Violence Program to tackle domestic and family violence and increase safety.

Read on to learn about what fellow officers are doing throughout Queensland to make the state safer.

It was a busy couple of days for officers on the QCS stand at the Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo in May.



Over the two-day event at the Brisbane and Convention and Exhibition Centre, hundreds of people stopped by to chat with the team about the many and varied career options available across QCS.

Officers informed those whose stopped by about the range of career options at QCS, with many officers going on to have long and successful careers, learning new skills with opportunities to progress and develop.

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Pine Rivers Community Corrections hosted its first Drug and Alcohol Expo in June to bring everyone together and highlight the serious impact substance abuse can have in the community.

Representatives from support services in the Moreton Bay Region were involved in the event and presented a 15-minute talk.

The QCS dog squad put on a Passive Alert Drug Detection (PADD) dog demonstration of how they operate in a correctional facility.

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Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles was among those who dropped by the QCS stand at the Ipswich Show.

The three-day show was a great opportunity to raise awareness about QCS and the important work our officers do every day to keep the community safe. Many people learnt about the exciting careers available across the agency.

Participating in events like the Ipswich Show lets us showcase all that we do best!

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Officers from Hervey Bay District Office and Maryborough Correctional Centre joined forces to engage with the community at the Fraser Coast Industry and Career Showcase, held at the Maryborough Showgrounds in June.

About 1200 students from across the Fraser Coast attended the morning session and the stall received a visit from Member for Maryborough, Bruce Saunders MP.

It was a great opportunity to showcase the career opportunities QCS has to offer, with a great deal of interest received.

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Community Corrections officers from the Emerald District Office proudly represented QCS at the Central Highlands and Western Queensland Careers Expo, which saw nearly 800 high school students and members of the public from across the region attend.

It was great to see so much interest in corrections and have the ability to share the many rewarding career opportunities that are available.

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QCS' prison intelligence thwarted plans to introduce a significant amount of drugs and other prohibited items into Borallon Training and Correctional Centre on two separate occasions.

The first contraband seizures occurred in April where officers located several

items, including Buprenorphine, mobile phones, chargers, multiple tools among many other prohibited items, during a search in the residential area of the correctional centre.

The second contraband intercept happened in May, where officers and the elite QCS Dog Squad located more than 600 Suboxone strips valued at more than \$200,000.

QCS Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon praised officers for their vigilance and hard work.

"This intercept is an example of our officers' commitment and capability in protecting the safety of officers working on the frontline, the community and prisoners," DC McCahon said.

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New graduates at Lotus Glen and Capricornia correctional centres have been taking part in a mentoring program to support their development as custodial correctional officers.

The First Year Mentoring Program gives new officers greater support, training and oversight during their initial operational placement.

It aims to minimise early exposure to higher-risk environments during the first few months in the role and enhance workplace safety and security.

The mentoring program was developed by the QCS Academy. Feedback from the trials at both centres will guide a broader rollout across the remaining correctional centres in Queensland.

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Female low-security prisoners in Townsville are providing labour and care for animals at the local council's dog and cat adoption centre.



The program benefits animals in need and equips the women with workplace skills and confidence for successful integration into community at the end of their sentence.

Under the collaborative initiative, the women engage in activities such as exercising and training, cleaning enclosures, creating bedding and generally caring for the rescued animals.

Townsville City Council said it was proud of the collaborative program and commended QCS for its dedication to transforming lives and promoting positive change.

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In memoriam

Our deepest condolences go out to families, friends, loved ones and work colleagues of the following Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) officers. We recognise their dedication to upholding and ensuring community safety, and their honourable service to Queensland. They are and will be sadly missed.

Michael Geraghty, Trade Instructor at Woodford Correctional Centre. Mr Geraghty relocated to Queensland from New South Wales in 2011 and commenced with QCS Industries as a Trade Instructor at Woodford Correctional Centre. Mr Geraghty's dedication to his work and his trade was evident throughout his 26 years in the building industry and he carried that same level of commitment to his role in corrections. Mr Geraghty's passion for teaching and mentoring others was appreciated by both his colleagues and prisoners. He was a valued member of the community and touched the lives of many through his work and his character. He will be remembered as a kind, hardworking and respected individual and his passing is a great loss to all those who knew him.

Daniel (Dan) Brady, Senior Case Manager. Mr Brady joined QCS in 2007 as an Administrative Officer with Parole Board Queensland. In 2010, he moved to Brisbane North Community Corrections, where he held various positions, including PPO Reporting, Case Manager and Senior Case Manager. Mr Brady later transferred to Brisbane Central Community Corrections before moving to Redcliffe. He will be remembered as a much-loved colleague who demonstrated a genuine passion for rehabilitation and working with offenders to create a safer community. His kindness and compassion was appreciated by both colleagues and those whom he managed. Mr Brady will be sadly missed by all that had the privilege to know and work with him.

Darryl Jenkins retired Custodial Correctional Officer Dog Handler from Townsville Correctional Centre. Mr Jenkins joined QCS in 1988 and after completion of initial training, he was posted in what was then known as Division 1, High Security. Mr Jenkin's passion for training was evident, and he quickly took up an instructor's role, regularly assisting many of the new and experienced officers in the centre. In November 1992, Mr Jenkins was appointed as a Dog Handler, where he remained until he retired in 1999. He will be remembered as a much-loved colleague who exhibited reassuring confidence that was balanced by great humility, was quick to lend a hand, and committed to achieving a safer community through his passion for rehabilitation.

Mark Cornwell, QBuild Maintenance Manager for Capricornia Correctional Centre. Mr Cornwell was a highly skilled professional and valued member of the correctional community for the past 20 years. His amiable nature, compassionate spirit and unwavering commitment to his work earned him the admiration and respect of all who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr Cornwell's tireless efforts played a pivotal role in restoring the correctional centre to full operation capacity following the tumultuous incident in 2021. He extended his support to his colleagues, offering guidance, encouragement and lending a helping hand whenever needed. His commitment to the wellbeing of officers and prisoners was unparalleled, making a lasting impact.

Grief is a natural reaction when we lose those closest to us, but you need not go through this 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 household family members through Converge International. The hotline is available to book appointments 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1300 687 327.



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