



March 2024

Corrections NEWS

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National Corrections Day**
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50-year career milestone**
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Front cover:
Townsville Country Bank Stadium lights up for National Corrections Day.

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Message from Minister Nikki Boyd MP
Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

On 18 December 2023, I was sworn in as the Minister for Corrective Services.

It is a great honour, and I look forward to working closely with Queensland Corrective Services to address challenges and seek opportunities to support officers and our communities.

Since becoming the Corrective Services Minister, I have had the privilege of attending the prestigious National Corrections Day event. It was an incredible night recognising the many inspired, determined and committed officers working tirelessly to keep our communities safe.

I also had the opportunity to visit Maryborough Correctional Centre and Pine Rivers Community Corrections in my electorate to learn about the work being done by officers to help to break the cycle of reoffending.

It's a challenging role and at a time when the demands continue to grow within corrections, it is important to prioritise officer safety.

So, I am pleased to advise that on the first Parliamentary day of 2024 (Tuesday 13 February), I introduced the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which will see powers enhanced to protect the safety of officers working on the front line.

It will provide clear authority for front line officers to use body worn cameras outside of prisons for the protection of officers and safety of the community.

The bill will also increase the penalty for any person entering or attempting to enter corrective services or community corrections land while in possession of a restricted item, including a gel blaster, which presents unique risks to correctional centres.

Thank you to all QCS officers for managing and rehabilitating prisoners, behind the wire and beyond, to keep Queensland communities safe.

Earlier this month, I visited Brisbane Correctional Centre to present Mr John Clarke with his 50-year medal. It is a remarkable achievement, and John's outstanding accomplishments and work ethic will be reverberated throughout corrective services for years to come.

Also, a special shoutout to QCS work camps for helping flood impacted communities following ex-Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily. I know communities in regional Queensland are thankful for the additional support.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to all officers and your front line efforts in community safety.



Message from Commissioner Paul Stewart APM
Queensland Corrective Services

As the year begins, safely managing the increasing prisoner cohort is at the forefront of our efforts. In March, prisoner numbers increased to their highest level with a little over 10,800 prisoners. As we carefully monitor the numbers each day, a lot of work is underway, including the stand up of the State Corrections Operations Centre, which aims to boost efficiency in managing and planning for increased prisoner numbers.

A key focus is on maximising the use of available infrastructure and planning is also underway to support centres with increased prisoners, including boosting officer levels to safely manage those in custody. We are doing everything we can to alleviate the pressure and support officers. I thank you all for your efforts and commitment to community safety.

Minister Nikki Boyd MP recently announced that Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC) was expected to be handed to the commissioning team towards the end of this year. The recruitment effort is underway for the centre with newly trained officers assigned to other centres to gain valuable experience before starting at LVCC. They will also assist centres with managing the increase in prisoner numbers until LVCC is commissioned.

Congratulations to all officers recognised in this year's National Corrections Day for their efforts towards maintaining and improving public safety in Queensland. This year's theme was Well-being, an important topic that also aligns with our commitment to supporting the well-being and safety of all officers. It was wonderful to see support again from councils, lighting up about 50 landmarks in blue across the state, recognising the vital role of our officers. I thank each and every one of you for the work you do for the people of Queensland.

I want to acknowledge the efforts from our officers in response to the extreme weather events recently experienced – tropical cyclones Jasper and Kirrily. The excellent preparation and planning enabled operations to continue safely during these events. I also want to thank the Disruptive Events Management Unit for supporting the activation of the Incident Coordination Centre (ICC), officers from within the ICC for supporting our officers on the front line and management for conducting welfare checks and managing fatigue during these events. This was another exceptional example of our officers going above and beyond the call of duty.

This year is shaping up to be another busy and challenging year, but I am confident in our successes with your passion and dedication.



Gary McCahon

Deputy Commissioner
Custodial Operations

We were welcomed into the summer season with another bout of wild weather across the state, providing challenges to our service delivery from our most northern correctional centre right down to our most southern correctional centre. I continue to be impressed by the way in which our officers respond with agility and flexibility, continuing to provide the highest level of service to the community and the persons in our care.

I would like to thank all officers who approached the obstacles presented by these weather conditions with a positive attitude and a commitment to maintaining centre operations, and I particularly thank the officers who volunteered to deploy to regional centres to assist in staffing – not only have you provided critical relief for these centres, but you have embraced the opportunity to learn new approaches and skills from a different centre and staffing group.

In 2023, Custodial Delivery Command collaborated with Procurement and Contract Management Group to deliver new ballistic vests for Custodial Operations officers. Extensive consultation took place to ensure the products were of the highest possible quality, ensuring our centres received value for money. I am pleased to announce these vests are now available for officers. Developed by Australian Defence Apparel in consultation with the Bond University Tactical Research Unit, these vests are light, flexible, temperature controlled and easy to fit, making them ideal for donning in a response to an external threat to a correctional centre.

QCS continues to experience significant growth in prisoner numbers, resulting in a system operating above its capacity for a prolonged period. It has been identified that the increasing system complexity requires dedicated resources, and as such, the State Corrections Operations Centre was stood up to coordinate, support and enable all of the work underway across the agency to meet contemporary demands and future proof custodial operations.



Ursula Roeder ACM

Deputy Commissioner
Community Corrections
and Specialist Operations

I want to start by commending the outstanding efforts put forth in celebrating National Corrections Day. Congratulations to all the winners, finalists and nominees, and a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated officers who organised the event. It was a fantastic celebration, providing an opportunity for colleagues to nominate their peers and celebrate the unwavering commitment to our work.

This year brings exciting opportunities, accompanied by the energy of a new minister, an election year and significant milestones for projects within Community Corrections and Specialist Operations (CCSO), and QCS at large. The collaborative spirit is already evident, as mother nature unites us from the outset. Witnessing colleagues come together to minimise disruption to services and support one another during challenging times is truly inspiring. I'm consistently heartened by the front line services' dedication to well-being.

In 2024, we're witnessing the realisation of the CCSO Project Management Office (PMO) and its project delivery. QCS has initiated numerous projects and programs to enhance operations and performance due to the rapid increase in offender and prisoner numbers. A mid-2023 review of non-business as usual (BAU) services in CCSO highlighted a substantial uptick in project activity, with 75 per cent of critical projects slated for delivery within the next 24 months. The CCSO PMO is poised to facilitate the delivery of critical projects while upholding BAU services, focusing on programs and projects within CCSO and collaborating with the QCS portfolio management office.

As we set our sights on the future, I am inspired by the steadfast dedication exhibited by our CCSO teams. Their remarkable impact on both our communities and organisation is truly deserving of our recognition. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all front line officers who work tirelessly to uphold community safety while prioritising their own well-being and that of their colleagues.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to QCS.



Adam Black

Acting Deputy Commissioner
Organisational Capability

As we commence 2024, I continue to be impressed by our delivery against key organisational initiatives. I greatly appreciate the excellent and hard work undertaken by all within Organisational Capability and across QCS. It is a testament to your ongoing professionalism and commitment to community safety.

National Corrections Day is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the great work undertaken by officers throughout QCS. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the nominees and award winners for 2024. In the spirit of celebrating our people, I was delighted to join Commissioner Stewart and Deputy Commissioner McCahon to recognise and celebrate the vital role our ICT officers play in supporting our front line services at their recent staff awards and celebration.

Summer has been busy for the Disruptive Events Management Unit (DEMU) within Strategic Futures Command. DEMU performs a specialised function in developing QCS' broader approach to disruptive events, including natural disasters, that not only affect our correctional centres and Community Corrections offices, but also the wider community.

Tropical Cyclones Jasper (Cairns) and Kirrily (Townsville) saw the activation of the QCS Incident Coordination Centre (QICC) in Brisbane to support the affected regions. The QICC coordinated the strategic response for both events, drawing on personnel, experience and knowledge from across QCS.

The construction of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC) is nearing completion, with the commissioning phase expected to start towards the end of this year. This is a major milestone for QCS, as we prepare to transition the first cohort of prisoners to this modern and innovative facility. The dedicated role of Assistant Commissioner and Program Director (SQCP-S2) will lead the important and intricate work of planning for the commissioning of this 1536 bed high-security centre, including recruitment and training of more than 800 permanent, full time jobs. The LVCC will provide opportunities for offenders to engage in education, training and rehabilitation programs, as well as contribute to the local economy through employment and procurement.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, my office will be leading the strategic planning day for the Organisational Capability division, planned for late March, where we will seek to better align the efforts of the division with QCS's current priorities.



Erica Gallagher

Acting Deputy Commissioner
Workforce Culture, Integrity
and Capability

'Our Culture' is at the forefront of our work. Aligned to QCS' Corrections 2030 and the *QCS Strategic Plan 2023-2027*, we are finalising our *QCS Culture Framework 2024-2029*, which will be instrumental at influencing values-based behaviours across the organisation, encouraging us to work together and deliver services in a safe and respectful workplace.

Our Culture Framework has five focus areas:

- Safe and Respectful Workplaces,
- People-Centred Leadership,
- Diverse and Inclusive Workplaces,
- One-QCS united by its People and Purpose, and
- Governing with Ethics and Integrity.

These focus areas concentrate on ensuring that we treat each other with dignity and respect and be mindful of individual human rights; bullying and sexual harassment is unacceptable and will be promptly addressed; our leaders are authentic and model behaviour which display QCS values; our workplace is culturally capable, aware and safe; collaboration, partnering and consultation deliver better outcomes as One QCS; and our values shape our behaviours with a strong emphasis on ethical conduct and good corporate governance.

Another piece of the foundational work relating to Working for Queensland (WfQ) is the Positive Workforce Response work recently completed. This resulted in understanding and identifying key issues within our frontline operations. This work was guided by responses to the WfQ surveys over the past few years and validated against the 2023 response and feedback. It identified seven themes consisting of leadership capability development, welfare and wellbeing, respect, communication, performance development, management and recognition, ethical standards and corporate support and value. There are 33 work bundles from these themes which will be rolled out together with the Culture Framework and the existing WfQ action plans resulting from the survey feedback.

We look forward to working together as One QCS to create a workplace that helps us all deliver our services in an environment that is values based and supportive of each other.



Tim Thomson

Acting Assistant Commissioner
Infrastructure, Asset Services, Major Capital Works Command

In August 2022, I was given the opportunity and responsibility to lead the Infrastructure, Asset Services, Major Capital Works Command, as the Acting Assistant Commissioner. It has been a privilege to oversee the operational infrastructure service delivery and planning to support the agency's expansive and ever changing, property, fleet and asset portfolio requirements.

What I love about the role is being able to see the tangible changes we can provide to address the gap between capacity and demand, and ultimately better align our facility design and technology to front line service delivery needs. We have delivered 951 cells and over 4000 beds since 2012.

Within my teams, we deliver multiple minor and major construction, maintenance, security, and property projects across the state. As a whole, the Command is

actively enhancing our strategic planning processes, engagement and consultation, and how we assess new initiatives such as electronic vehicles.

I recently oversaw the completion of a key agency project, the submission of the QCS Detailed Business Case, processes and outcomes. This crucial business case addressed the three key infrastructure areas of overcrowding with limited special purpose accommodation for complex behavioural management, over representation with record high prisoner numbers and inadequate access to health and rehabilitation services. This was a significant achievement for the Command.

Additionally, my continuing focus on LVCC construction remains pivotal. Witnessing this site transform into a corrections flagship centre is incredibly satisfying.

I am proud of the Command teams and what they achieve each day, which makes my job easier. I observe conscious efforts to cultivate a productive and healthy culture while successfully navigating planned and unexpected work challenges. Our Working for Queensland result is a testament to our collective progress, which is headed in the right direction.

Infrastructure, Asset Services, Major Capital Works Command has a busy future ahead and I look forward to continuing to lead these diverse and complex functions for QCS and ultimately the people of Queensland.

A year in review

It has been another busy, yet outstanding year for QCS. It's important to reflect on the milestones achieved as an agency, all of which are the result of the collective hard work and commitment of officers across the state.

So much of the work undertaken and what the agency achieves is out of public sight, which is why it is important to celebrate growth and achievements. This also reinforces the dedication and competency within our agency and affirms QCS as a top tier public safety agency.

The work QCS officers undertake every day strengthens our commitment to making Queensland safer for everybody by reducing crime through the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of those who offend against the community.

January

- National Corrections Day celebrated the tireless work of our officers on the front line of public safety. About 50 landmarks across the state lit up in blue, raising awareness of the vital role our officers play in keeping communities safe.



- Assistant Commissioner Eloise Hamlett, Superintendent Rhiannon Porter and Custodial Supervisor Shane Allwood were awarded the Australian Corrections Medal in the Australia Day Honours List.

February

- The Commissioner's Unit Citations were presented to officers at Capricornia Correctional Centre for their

involvement in quelling riotous behaviour that broke out at the centre in October 2021. This was only the second time the citation had been awarded.



- QCS hosted the New Zealand Minister for Corrections, the Honourable Kelvin Davis and the Acting National Commissioner of New Zealand Corrections, Leigh Marsh. They toured Brisbane Correctional Centre and the QCS Academy during their visit.

- In light of significant changes within and around QCS' operating environment in recent years, the agency initiated a review and redesign of its funding, business and operational models to position itself to deliver into the future.

March

- 33 new custodial correctional officers joined QCS at the first graduation for 2023. They were joined by seven custodial correctional officers, receiving the prestigious National Medal, and a community representative who was presented with a Commissioner's Challenge Coin after his six-year service as part of QCS' Official Visitors Scheme.

- QCS hosted the Public Safety and Integrity Agencies International Women's Day event on 8 March, recognising the hard work and contributions of women around the world, which also included the International Women's Day awards. Commissioner Paul

Stewart APM and Deputy Commissioner and QCS Executive Sponsor for Women, Gary McCahon congratulated award recipients and commended them for their outstanding achievements and positive difference they make to corrective services.

- Establishment of the Women's Program Management Office to support implementation of the Women's System Reform, encompassing recommendations from the Women's Safety Justice Taskforce which aims to improve how QCS partners with stakeholders to deliver effective, trauma-informed and gender-responsive services for women in its custody and care.



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From left: Officers celebrate Maryborough Correctional Centre's 20th anniversary, the heads of corrections from different jurisdictions gather for the biannual Corrective Services Administrators Council conference in Townsville, and a major advertising campaign is launched for Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre.



Right: Officers and PADD dogs represent QCS at EKKA 2023 and QCS Connect kiosks are rolled out at Community Corrections offices.

April

- Maryborough Correctional Centre celebrated 20 years of operation – marking the milestone with a celebratory event for officers and their families at the centre. Several current and past serving officers were recognised for their dedication and service to MCC and the wider Queensland community since 2003.

- The First Nations Reference Committee (FNRC) re-convened, with meetings held in April and June. The FNRC is a formal advisory body to the Board of Management to further strengthen the governance of QCS, with the aim of more effectively integrating First Nations' perspectives and feedback into the strategic governance of the department.

May

- QCS hosted the heads of corrective services agencies from across Australia and New Zealand in Townsville for the biannual Corrective Services Administrators Council conference – the first time being held in Townsville and in Queensland since 2018.

It addressed strategic national and trans-national issues and successes to improve the management and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders.

June

- A record operational budget of \$1.408 billion was allocated to QCS to continue safe management of Queensland's prison population, to protect the community and officers, and deliver programs to reduce recidivism.

- Capricornia Correctional Centre launched the Disrupting Family Violence Program (DFVP) to tackle domestic and family violence (DFV) and increase safety. The program is offered to perpetrators of DFV and aims to reduce violent and abusive behaviours in intimate partnerships by focusing on victim safety, promoting behaviour change and increasing accountability.

- Chief Superintendent Kris Winter, Correctional Manager Cornelius Smith and Regional Supervisor Vanessa Aland were awarded the Australian Corrections Medal for their

distinguished service to community safety in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List.

July

- The Commissioner's Awards for Excellence celebrated exceptional performance and service delivery in corrections across five categories – safety, collaboration, empowerment, respect and accountability. The awards recognised close to 60 individuals, teams and projects which have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to keep Queensland communities safe.

- With rapid growth in prisoner numbers, QCS undertook a reprioritisation and resequencing of its transformation agenda, ensuring the agency has capacity, resourcing and capability to deliver its strategic objectives while effectively supporting business-as-usual activities and the ongoing well-being of its workforce.

- A major advertising campaign kicked off in July to recruit more than 800 jobs for the new men's correctional centre under construction near Gatton in the Lockyer Valley. The advertising campaign

prompted people to consider a career with QCS by highlighting the extensive work/life balance options and varied career opportunities on offer.

August

- The new men's correctional centre near Gatton was formally named the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC), reflecting its connection to the region and community. Once operational, the new 1536-bed centre will geographically be the largest in Queensland with a commitment to the health and rehabilitation of prisoners in a safe and secure environment.

- QCS attended the Ekka to exhibit the vital role the agency plays in keeping Queenslanders safe and to encourage people to take a look inside. A second display stand was focused on LVCC and its recruitment. More than 55,500 people from all walks of life passed through the gates, giving officers an opportunity to discuss the consideration of a rewarding career with QCS.

- An additional 500 body-worn cameras were deployed to custodial correctional officers working in high

security correctional centres across the state after securing additional funding for the safety devices in the 2022-23 State Budget. There are now a total of 720 cameras available throughout QCS facilities.

September

- The QCS Business Plan 2023-24 was published, detailing the operational priorities that will be progressed during the 2023-24 financial year in support of the government and QCS' objectives and strategies.

- The LVCC senior leadership team was announced with the appointment of Superintendents Evie Georgas ACM, Megan Crossley and Colin Poole as Deputy General Managers. All three DGMs joined Chief Superintendent Bernie Kruhse ACM, General Manager, on the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 (SQCP-S2) Program team to support delivery of the centre. Commissioning of LVCC will commence late 2024.

October

- The QCS Uniform Committee announced the availability of a new First Nations pin, which features the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island

flags, as well as the QCS crest. The pin serves as a significant symbol of QCS' commitment to reconciliation and support of First Nations peoples.

- Mobile polling stations were set up at all 11 correctional centres and six low custody facilities for eligible prisoners to vote in person in the Voice referendum. They were managed by qualified AEC staff in the lead up to the referendum to process and collect ballots.

- Two QCS nominees were recognised in the QBank Everyday Heroes Awards for their outstanding achievements. Margaret Langdon, a dedicated volunteer at Brisbane North Community Corrections, won in the Excellence category for her exceptional work with the 'Quest for Quilts' community service project and Russell Stanford was recognised in the Dedication category for his unwavering dedication in his role as a Custodial Correctional Officer at Palen Creek Correctional Centre.

November

- Organisational structural changes were announced to provide better support for officers and increase the senior executive support to critical programs and

areas. Organisational Capability Division will continue to focus on the program delivery of LVCC, with support from across the agency. A new division, Workforce Culture, Integrity and Capability was created to focus on People Capability, Legal and Professional Standards, including continued work on enhancing culture and making workplaces as safe and supported as they can be for QCS officers.

- The youngest QCS recruit, 13-week old German Shepherd Axel, joined the Delta Unit and learnt the ropes from handler Aaron from Brisbane Correctional Centre. Once officially a General-Purpose dog, his newly-acquired skills will be invaluable in de-escalating emergency situations and keeping officers, prisoners and the community safe.

December

- QCS Connect, a new digital solution to enhance the way individuals subject to parole and other community-based orders are supervised was rolled out. It's a significant uplift in digitisation and self-service capabilities through the installation of new digital kiosks in Community Corrections offices and reporting locations

around the state, and compliments face-to-face supervision, improving the focus on reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

- Low-risk prisoners at Innisfail Work Camp played an important role in helping the town prepare for Cyclone Jasper, assisting the SES and Cassowary Coast Regional Council. The prisoners worked in the community to prepare for storm season, clearing drains and gutters, cutting trees to prevent major damage, filled sandbags for the SES and were available to Council to assist further as required. Other correctional centres also assisted in preparations, with prisoners at Maryborough Correctional Centre filling sandbags for the SES.

- A major milestone was reached for the LVCC as the first group of custodial correctional officers graduated after completing their 10-week Custodial Officer Entry Program course in Gatton. The new officers have been deployed to correctional centres across south-east Queensland to further develop their skills until commissioning of LVCC.

2024 → key priorities

The year 2023 was a big year for QCS but as we look towards our priorities for 2024, the agency is well-prepared to work as one QCS to continue to make the community a safer place, guided by our principles of Corrections 2030 – safety, excellence, empowerment, accountability and respect.

Our greatest asset – our officers – put the agency in a good position to meet the challenges ahead and continue operating as a top tier public safety agency.

Capacity management

While QCS is not responsible for deciding who comes into the corrective system, it is committed to providing the safe and humane rehabilitation of prisoners received. While the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is expected to be commissioned later this year, a lot of work is underway to implement strategies to manage the prisoner population, including:

- maximising the use of existing infrastructure, including the continuing rollout of the bunk bed program
- streamlining the transition of suitable prisoners from secure to low security in a timely manner
- supporting suitable remand prisoners to apply for bail
- working with the Parole Board Queensland to ensure eligible prisoners are supported to apply for parole; and
- increasing officer numbers in line with the prison population using an as-needs approach.

High prisoner numbers impact every part of our system, including our officers. As well as the above, QCS is also focused on every officer's safety, well-being and fatigue as the agency works towards alleviating the pressure.

Reducing recidivism

Everything QCS does is with the aim of reducing recidivism – improving prisoner rehabilitation with vocational and life skills, and delivering programs to address offending behaviours, such as anger management, substance abuse and domestic violence. The Report on Government Services 2023 noted the positive impacts officers' work is having on reducing the rate.

The percentage of prisoners in Queensland who return to custody with a new sanction within two years has steadily declined in the past five years and is below the national average.

QCS is delivering the highest rate of complete reparation orders in Australia and has one of the highest completion rates of all Community Corrections orders, above the national average – a result of effective case management and ongoing assessment and monitoring.

While these positive outcomes reinforce the agency's commitment and efforts to reducing recidivism, there is still much work to be done, including continuing to explore opportunities to boost community service across the state.

Commissioning Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

The SQCP-S2 Program's key priorities for 2024 are to:

- recruit and train more than 800 custodial and non-custodial officers
- prepare for commissioning of LVCC from late 2024
- plan to receive prisoners in late 2024 or early 2025.

Recruitment

While recruitment for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is a key focus – recruiting to more than 800 jobs, QCS is also focused on boosting its ranks across other correctional facilities and Community Corrections state-wide. This year, it is estimated about 1000 new custodial correctional officers will be trained across the state – a welcome addition to the QCS family.

Other areas of focus are psychological services and cultural liaison officers, with an aim to increase recruitment and retention of psychologists within the correctional system to support reception processes and the centre. The recruitment of cultural liaison officers is a key focus to better support First Nations adults in custody to address their over representation in an effort to Close the Gap.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM is the Queensland Government champion for the 18 remote and discrete Indigenous communities, with a focus on safely and successfully reintegrating people released from custody back into their community.

Celebrating our officers on National Corrections Day 2024

National Corrections Day, held on the third Friday of January, is a day to recognise the vital work of all corrective services officers and the role they play in protecting communities on the front line of public safety not just in Queensland, but across Australia.

This year's theme was *Well-being*, aligning with QCS' commitment to supporting the well-being and safety of its officers, those in its care and the broader community.

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said National Corrections Day provided an opportunity to celebrate the often-unsung work of officers on the front line of public safety, in Queensland and across Australia.

"It's also a time to recognise that as the demands on our officers continue to grow, particularly in addressing the over-representation of First Nations people in custody and under supervision in the community, it's crucial we prioritise the well-being of our officers, who work tirelessly each day to keep communities safe," Commissioner Stewart said.

"By keeping officer well-being at the forefront of everything we do in our workplaces and the projects we undertake, it will give them the opportunity to better support individuals in custody as well as those living in the community.

"One such project is the new Lockyer Valley Men's Correctional Centre near Gatton. With a focus on mental health and rehabilitation at its core, the facility will include mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in modern and fit-for-purpose spaces to uphold public safety and reduce reoffending.

"I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our officers for the difference they make in our community; and this year's theme is fitting as it aligns with our vision – Corrections 2030, which not only focuses on prisoners and offenders and their rehabilitation journey, but also our dedicated officers – the lifeblood of our agency."

On Friday, 19 January 2024, an event was held in Brisbane and streamed online to not only recognise officers' work, but to celebrate how they made a difference to public safety with a number of award presentations.

Queensland Mental Health Commissioner and the event's key speaker, Ivan Frkovic, joined the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services Nikki Boyd MP and QCS Commissioner Stewart to speak at the event on the importance of well-being.

The awards ceremony began with awarding nine officers with the Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal for their exceptional service with meritorious conduct, followed by the Commissioner's Awards for National Corrections Day.

BCC Stores Officer John Clarke, who was a week away from receiving his 50-years clasp towards his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, was one of the recipients of a Commissioner's Award for Meritorious and Ethical Service.

The Commissioner's Awards for National Corrections Day are aligned to the agency's Corrections 2030 principles of safety, excellence, empowerment, respect and accountability. They also include an Overall Award, which is awarded to those who embrace all five of the principles.

Commissioner Stewart congratulated all officers awarded in this year's National Corrections Day event.

"These incredible officers have gone above and beyond in their service to the community and these awards are a testament to their dedication and unwavering commitment to QCS," Commissioner Stewart said.

"I am proud of all our officers, and I want to thank each and every one of them for the difference they make in the community."

As in previous years, the event' concluded with a live cross to Brisbane's Story Bridge lit up in blue and silver.

The National Corrections Day media strategy nearly doubled last year's audience and increased the ASR by more than

66%
up from last year

The strategy reached a cumulative potential audience of **515,094**. **368,804** of this was reached by mainstream media with an ASR of AUD **\$55,565**.



QCS social media posts and posts and shares from local councils and state representatives reached an audience of nearly **150,000**.

A social media post encouraging the public to light up blue garnered **8000** plays, **3000** reach, **3300** impressions, **134** interactions and **11** shares.



The Facebook livestream reached over **2000** people and had **110** interactions.



Congratulations to our National Corrections Day award recipients

The Commissioner's National Corrections Day Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of QCS officers for upholding the values of a top tier, public safety agency in alignment with *Corrections 2030*.

Congratulations to this year's winners.



OVERALL AWARD WINNER

Anna Casey – Health, Safety and Well-being

Anna is recognised for her incredible work in the Health, Safety and Well-being team, and has been responsible for the implementation of a range of initiative, which has contributed to many successes within QCS.

Men's Health Forum Program – Northern Region Community Corrections

This program is an annual event focused on providing a judgement-free platform for men to discuss and take action on key men's health and well-being topics.



Safety - Winner

Maximum Security Unit – Woodford Correctional Centre

Officers within this unit uphold a disciplined and respectful approach towards all, exhibiting a high standard of pro-social role modelling. These actions resulted in the successful reintegration of dangerous prisoners back into the general prison population.

Highly Commended:

Stephanie Marr – Logan City Community Corrections

Andrew Ramage – Weipa Community Corrections



Excellence - Winner

Specialised Clinical Services – Sentence Management

The team has demonstrated exceptional job performance, contributing to the well-being of officers by offering ongoing support through professional supervision, specialist training and re-deployment to centres facing shortages, while also enhancing community awareness of the agency's role in protecting the community.

Highly Commended:

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre
Industries Team – Wolston Correctional Centre



Empowerment - Winner

Queensland Corrective Services Academy Leadership Team

The team is recognised for their outstanding achievements, including the implementation of the FOCUS suite of training for Community Corrections and the release of specialised online products to support multiple areas of QCS.

Highly Commended:

Emily-Rose Smiley – Ipswich Community Corrections

Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal recipients



Respect - Winner

Burleigh Heads, Beenleigh and Logan Community Corrections

Officers from these Community Corrections offices joined forces to take part in an annual touch football competition in honour of a victim of domestic violence. They promoted well-being while supporting a shared cause and connection with the broader community.

Highly Commended:

Samantha Hart and Michael Fowles – Escort and Security Branch
Maia Bramley and Elizabeth Lubke – Brisbane North Community Corrections



Accountability - Winner

Townsville Self-Medication Pilot – Townsville Women’s Correctional Centre

This program is tailored to establish and sustain a productive and secure environment, offering prisoners meaningful opportunities aimed at supporting their rehabilitation and development.

Highly Commended:

Angela Lewis – Caboolture Community Corrections
Katie Wiggins – Brisbane North Community Corrections



John Clarke
Brisbane Correctional Centre



Mitchell Meyers
Capricornia Correctional Centre



John Alves
Wolston Correctional Centre



Karen Bailey
Pine Rivers Community Corrections



Tygh Field
Community Corrections Operations



Sharon Gibb
Sentence Management



Mark Copson
Palen Creek Correctional Centre



Ross Dobbs
Capricornia Correctional Centre



Acting Assistant Commissioner Tom Humphreys
Strategic Futures Command

Lighting up blue in honour of our officers

ANZAC PARK

One day each year, Queensland changes its colour to blue in support of recognising corrective services officers and the role they play in keeping communities safe – National Corrections Day.

QCS collaborates with city, regional and shire councils to light up their landmarks in blue, with almost 50 landmarks lit up for this year's National Corrections Day. This year, QCS was proud to also collaborate with Australia Zoo, lighting up the Crocodile Hunter lodge in blue.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said he was heartened to receive the overwhelming support from councils and organisations in raising the profile of work of QCS officers.

"My sincere appreciation and thanks go out to all councils and organisations for your support in recognising the vital work of corrective services officers this National Corrections Day," Commissioner Stewart said.

A LIST OF LANDMARKS

Far North Queensland

Cairns Regional Council

Cairns Court House Gallery

Carpentaria Shire Council

Town centre signs
Krys the Croc

Mareeba Shire Council

Anzac Park

North and North-West Queensland

Hinchinbrook Shire Council (Ingham)

Rotary Park fountain

Mount Isa City Council

Blue lights around town
Message post on electronic billboard

Townsville City Council

Townsville city sign
Victoria Bridge
Wharton Reef Lighthouse
George Roberts Bridge
Old Magistrates Court House
Flinders Square
Little Fletcher Bridge
Central Park Boardwalk

Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday

Issac Regional Council (Moranbah)

Park lights in Moranbah

Mackay Regional Council

Sir Albert Abbott administration building

Central Queensland

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

Blackall Memorial Park

Barcaldine Regional Council

Tree of Knowledge memorial

Gladstone Regional Council

101 Goondoon Street Building

Livingstone Shire Council (north and east of Rockhampton)

Singing Ship at Emu Park
Yeppoon Beachfront stage area
Wreck Point
Lookout, Cooee Bay
Keppel Sands foreshore

Longreach Regional Council

Longreach water tower

Rockhampton Regional Council

Rockhampton Heritage Façade

Darling Downs South-West Queensland

Balonne Shire Council

Murray the Cod sculpture

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Gatton Administration Building and Town Clock

Maranoa Regional Council

McDowall St and Big Rig

Southern Downs Regional Council

Warwick Townhall
Stanthorpe Administration and Centre
Weeroona Park, Stanthorpe

Wide Bay-Burnett (includes Bundaberg, Burnett, Fraser Coast and Gympie regions)

Fraser Coast Regional Council (Maryborough)

Maryborough City Hall
The fig trees on the Hervey Bay Esplanade

Bundaberg Regional Council

Bundaberg's historic fig trees on Walker Street

South Burnett Regional Council

Kingaroy CBD lighting

South East Queensland

Brisbane City Council

Story Bridge
Victoria Bridge
The Reddacliff and Tropical Dome sculptures

Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

Kurilpa Bridge

City of Moreton Bay

MBRC Caboolture Administration Building
Redcliffe Administration Building
Humpybong Fountain

Redland City Council

Cleveland Lighthouse

Gold Coast City Council

Isle of Capri Bridge
Surfers Paradise Sign (Cavill Mall)
Garden lighting on Surfers Paradise foreshore,
Broadbeach sign (Victoria Park)
Lighting in Victoria Park

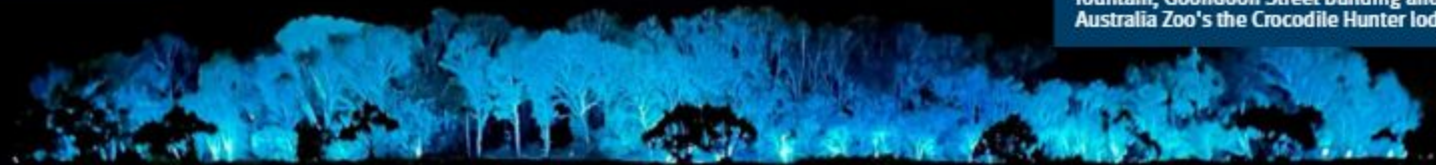
Australia Zoo

The Crocodile Hunter Lodge



Top down: Murray the Cod sculpture, Karumba welcome sign, Krys the Crocodile sculpture, Townsville city sign, Rotary Park fountain, Goondoon Street building and Australia Zoo's the Crocodile Hunter lodge.

Below: Gladstone ports



John Clarke recognised for 50-year career milestone



QCS celebrated a significant milestone in February as long-service officer John Clarke marked an incredible 50 years of service within corrections – a career dedicated to community safety.

Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services Nikki Boyd MP and QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM presented John with his 50-year medal.

Officers also presented John with a one-of-a-kind epaulette with 10 stripes sewn on it to reflect his 50 years of dedicated service to the safety of the community.

John started in corrections in January 1974 and was posted to Boggo Road Gaol in the records department, keeping manual track of the paperwork for prisoners entering and leaving custody.

“I vividly remember managing the records for Arthur ‘Slim’ Halliday, that’s how long I’ve been working in corrections,” John said.

Slim Halliday and his escape attempts from Boggo Road Gaol are featured in the Netflix hit series *Boy Swallows Universe*.

“Everything was manual and done with ledgers, the Dewey card system and big compactus.

“We had manual typewriters and a typing tool back then, and a telephone exchange that would connect to various extensions; it was very different.

“I am very proud of the time I’ve spent working in corrections, with the magnificent support we receive and friends I’ve made. I look forward to hopefully working for a few more years.”

Throughout his 50 years of service in Queensland, John has had several roles and seen corrections modernise. He is now based at Brisbane Correctional Centre where he supervises male prisoners working the Bulk Stores to process the weekly ‘buy-ups’ of hygiene and food products for the prisoner population.



Minister Boyd congratulated John on achieving his 50-year career milestone and for his dedication to working in an environment that puts community safety first.

“It is a great reflection of the job satisfaction our hard-working and often unseen corrections officers get from their roles,” Minister Boyd said.

“While it is sometimes not an easy job, I have heard from many how rewarding it is to be on the front line of public safety and help some of our state’s most challenging and complex people to change their lives around.”

Commissioner Stewart was immensely proud of the contribution John had made to corrective services in Queensland for an incredible half-century.

“While the way we operate today is vastly different to the 1970s and 80s, at the core we remain committed to keeping Queensland communities safe through our efforts to manage and rehabilitate people who come into the corrections system,” Commissioner Stewart said.

“On behalf of QCS, I thank John for his long and successful career.”

Officers receive the Australian Corrections Medal

Three QCS officers were recognised in the Australia Day 2024 Honours list, receiving the Australian Corrections Medal.

Superintendent Stephen Wright, Acting Deputy General Manager; Renee Reison, Correctional Supervisor; and Geoffrey Robins, District Manager Community Corrections were named for distinguished services by an operational member of an Australian state or territory corrections service for adults.

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM congratulated the officers for their service and dedication to the top tier public safety agency.

“I am incredibly proud of the impact our officers make in our community and the commitment to the people of Queensland,” Commissioner Stewart said.

“Corrections is challenging work but our officers, through their unwavering leadership, work tirelessly every day to improve the lives of those in their care to ensure communities are safe.

“On behalf of all QCS officers, congratulations to Stephen, Renee and Geoff for their outstanding commitment in creating stronger and safer communities.”



Superintendent Stephen Wright is a dedicated and respected corrections professional with a career spanning more than three decades. He has showcased exemplary leadership skills and has been instrumental in driving cultural change within the correctional system, prioritising safety, and fostering a supportive environment, along with his genuine concern for rehabilitation and well-being of prisoners.

As acting Deputy General Manager at Wolston Correctional Centre, he has contributed to highly regarded bespoke service delivery models which have significantly lowered incident rates within the centre. During COVID-19, he played a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of both officers and prisoners. Mr Wright is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment, and is motivated by the goal of treating prisoners humanely



Renee Reison commenced with QCS in 2007. She has served in a range of front line roles at Capricornia Correctional Centre and was involved in commissioning new infrastructure during its expansion. As a senior training officer with the QCS Academy, Ms Reison has trained 259 recruits and helped develop the Aspiring Supervisors Development Program which focuses on leadership skills and prepares custodial correctional officers who aspire to the rank of correctional supervisor.

Ms Reison has served with distinction and made a significant contribution to the safety and well-being of Central Queensland communities throughout her 15-year career. Her leadership and decision making ensures the safety, security and good order of the prison and her support and development of front line officers has provided an enduring benefit to QCS.



Mr Geoffrey Robins commenced with QCS in November 2008 in Far Northern Region Community Corrections as a reporting officer, rural and remote case manager, assessment officer and probation and parole supervisor at the Cairns Community Corrections district office before moving to Weipa Community Corrections as District Manager.

Mr Robins has extensive experience working in remote communities and is currently responsible for overseeing the supervision of offenders living across a disperse geographic region. He is recognised as an authentic leader and for his strong support for safer community service delivery in remote communities and promoting a culturally safe environment.



Women's System Reform Program microsite launches



QCS is proud to launch the Women's System Reform Program microsite which provides useful information on the suite of reforms.

The reforms aim to improve the range of trauma and evidence-informed rehabilitative programs and gender-responsive services to address women's offending behaviour, keep families together and help women successfully reintegrate back into communities.

QCS is working to deliver 34 of the 188 recommendations made by the Women's Safety Justice Taskforce between 2022-23 and 2026-27.

Deputy Commissioner Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Ursula Roeder ACM highlighted the newly launched microsite which encompasses detailed information regarding the specific areas of reforms aimed at improving the experience and outcomes for women in our custody and care.

"QCS is changing how our women's system operates to reduce the negative impacts of imprisonment for women and their families," DC Roeder said.

"The reform program will enhance operational practice and ensure that learning and development in women's correctional centres includes gender-centred, culturally-safe and trauma-informed practices.

"Officers can source a full breakdown of the reform program and the most up-to-date information by visiting the microsite.

"We acknowledge the trauma experienced by mothers and children when families are separated during imprisonment and all victim-survivors of gender-based, sexual and domestic violence. This is an extremely important body of work and we will continue collaborating closely with government and non-government stakeholders across the state to reform the women's correctional system and improve the experiences and outcomes for women," DC Roeder said.

The QCS Women's System Reform Program Management Office is spearheading these reforms and can be reached at womensPMO@corrections.qld.gov.au

Emergency response medal with COVID-19 clasp



Wearing the COVID-19 medal

RIGHT CHEST - STATE AWARDS



A new Emergency Response Medal has been introduced under the QCS Honours and Awards program to acknowledge the dedication and resilience of officers who respond to emergency situations during a significant event in Queensland.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said the COVID-19 pandemic was the impetus for the new medal as it was an unprecedented time for QCS and officers rose to the challenges the pandemic presented.

"I am incredibly grateful for everyone's efforts over the past few years to ensure the safety of our officers, prisoners, offenders and visitors to our workplaces, and in acknowledgement of your dedication and resilience, I am proud to introduce the new Emergency Response Medal," Commissioner Stewart said.

"This recognition extends to every member of the agency who contributed to successfully navigating the challenges as we adapted to a new normal during the pandemic."

The COVID-19 clasp will be the first recognised event noting the significant work across the agency to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our people, workplaces and communities.

The medal will be a round medallion in brushed copper ensigned with a central roundel of the Stage Badge of Queensland, which comprises the Crown of Saint Edward atop a Maltese Cross, topped with the words 'Emergency Response Medal'.

The ribbon will be maroon in colour with red representing the health of the community, white representing hope for the future after the emergency and navy representing QCS.

Officers will be awarded the Emergency Response Medal with COVID-19 clasp if they completed at least 30 days of service between 22 March 2020 and 24 May 2022. Days of service do not need to be continuous and recognised duties include direct response, maintaining core business or a combination of both during the pandemic.

Commissioner Stewart said the awarding of the medal was a significant undertaking and presentations to eligible officers would take place over a number of months, starting early 2024.

"As one QCS, it is important that we formally recognise and award those who significantly exceed expectations in their performance of duty, who selflessly ensure the safety and security of their colleagues and demonstrate sustained commitment, excellence and innovation in the delivery of a safer Queensland," Commissioner Stewart said.

"I sincerely thank everyone for their efforts and look forward to celebrating and honouring the tremendous work you do to keep Queenslanders safe."

More information about the Emergency Response Medal will be available soon on the Honours and Awards

Join the deployment reserve

Have you ever wanted to help with preparation for, responding to, or recovery from a major disruptive event, such as a tropical cyclone? Registration remains open for all officers to join the Disruptive Events Management Unit (DEMU) deployment reserve.

“It was an amazing experience to be able to help out another centre in need again. The team that was sent up to assist was an amazing group.” – QCS officer

The DEMU performs a specialised function in developing QCS’ broader disruptive event management in relation to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for major emergencies and natural disasters that impact the agency.

DEMU Director Chris Lavin encouraged all officers to consider joining the reserve to assist their colleagues and the community.

“In the event the Incident Coordination Centre is activated, reserve officers can be deployed to help with any number of activities. There is something for everyone and the level of skills, qualifications and experience varies,” Chris said.

Activation of the QCS Incident Coordination Centre (QICC) is a consultative process which considers several factors, including the nature or scale of an event and

threat posed, where a wider coordinated agency response is required, or if there is significant impact on critical business functions and service delivery.

“Reserve officers don’t necessarily have to travel as part of their deployment – there is an opportunity to be involved in the QICC in QCS Headquarters.

“In December last year, tropical cyclone Jasper crossed the coast north of Cairns followed by tropical cyclone Kirrily in Townsville in January. These types of events aren’t going away. Having QCS officers join the reserve means we are better placed to manage major disruptive events of all types at any time.”

The DEMU maintains a microsite for officers to visit to get more information about the unit, current alerts and warnings (Bureau of Meteorology, local council information), business continuity management and other key resource information.

Officers are encouraged to get in touch with the DEMU if they have any questions by emailing Disaster Management@corrections.qld.gov.au

“I had an amazing time in Townsville and met and worked with some wonderful people. I have made a couple of friends for life.” – QCS officer

The Operational Support Unit (formerly Statewide Operations) is responsible for deploying officers when they are required to assist.

Previously, deployments have occurred during COVID-19 (assisting with officer shortages) and natural disasters (cyclone and flooding) where officers couldn’t attend their appointed correctional centre.

When officers from the deployment reserve are contacted, the Operational Support Unit provides an overview of the deployment activity and if the officer is interested, further discussions occur with management for release from usual duties and travel and accommodation is arranged, if necessary. Remuneration and meal allowance information is also provided.

Below: Disruptive Events Management Unit



Join a place
that
UNLOCKS
potential

New Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Now Hiring.

Non-custodial roles

Centre Leadership
Allied Health Clinicians
Education Officers
Sentence and Case Management Services
Cultural Liaison Officers

Custodial roles

Custodial Correctional Officers
Trade Instructors
Dog Handlers

Benefits of a career with us

Range of career opportunities
Job security
Flexible working arrangements
Meals and uniforms provided
Paid training and onboarding based on the role
Relocation support for eligible applicants



For more information

(07) 3565 7696

SQCPS2recruitment@corrections.qld.gov.au
www.corrections.qld.gov.au/lockyervalley



Around the State

Townsville

Officers from Townsville Correctional Complex (TCC) worked with prisoners to assist with the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Kirrily clean up. Prisoners from Townsville Men's Low Security Farm and Winton, Boulia and Julia Creek work camps were deployed to the Billabong Sanctuary, which suffered significant damage when TC Kirrily made landfall. The prisoners from the low security farm already have strong ties to the sanctuary as they previously assisted in the growing and harvesting of eucalyptus trees for the sanctuary's resident koalas.



Brisbane

Brisbane Correctional Centre (BCC) welcomed its youngest recruit to the Delta Unit late last year, 13-week old German Shepherd Axel. Handler Aaron and Axel will work closely together to ensure Axel masters the ropes of becoming a General-Purpose dog. Once qualified, his newly acquired skills will be highly valuable in de-escalating emergency situations and keeping officers, prisoners and the community safe. Good luck Axel!



Charleville

Christmas trees handcrafted by Charleville Work Camp prisoners lined the streets of town, bringing joy to local residents. The trees were made from wooden pallets collected by Remote Employment Services Queensland and provided to the work camp for the prisoners to construct. Around 20 trees were built and distributed, and decorated by local businesses. What a fantastic initiative!



Palen Creek

Palen Creek Correctional Centre supported the Rathdowney community with building its new disaster hub. Officers worked with prisoners from the centre to prepare for the opening of the new building, which provides a safe haven for locals during natural disasters. Superintendent David Henderson and Work Camp Coordinator Kayleen had the honour of opening the new building in October and received an award on behalf of the PCCC prisoner work crew for their contribution towards the building being finished on time and within budget.



Brisbane Central

Brisbane Central Community Corrections teamed up with Queensland Police Service's Brisbane North Vulnerable Persons and Domestic Violence Unit and Queensland Rail to raise awareness of Domestic and Family Violence. The teams visited Brisbane Central and Fortitude Valley train stations where they spoke to the public and handed out white ribbons and resources in preparation for White Ribbon Day in November. Officers also received positive feedback from local business owners who willingly took resources to share in their workplaces.



Burleigh Heads/Logan City/Beenleigh

Community Corrections officers from Burleigh Heads, Beenleigh and Logan City pulled teams together for the annual Tara Brown Foundation 'Touch of Love' touch football tournament. Nineteen officers formed two teams in the competition on the Gold Coast to raise funds to help women and their children escape domestic and family violence. Well done to all involved!



Gatton

The first COEP graduates for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre completed their 10-week course, but their first stop was lending a helping hand at the Colonial Café, located inside the Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre where the training took place. The new officers served meals, whipped up milkshakes and cleaned tables (under the watchful eye of café supervisor) during a particularly busy lunch shift. Following their training as custodial correctional officers, they were deployed to centres across South-East

Queensland until commissioning of the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which will commence late 2024. Great job team!



Toowoomba

Donating a weekly coin has paid off for officers at Toowoomba Community Corrections. Every Friday the team dress down and wear jeans and donate a gold coin for charity. At the end of last year, they pooled some of the money together and purchased groceries, which they took to the industrial kitchen at local not-for-profit Momentum Mental Health. Officers cooked almost 60 healthy meals which were then provided to people experiencing homelessness in the Toowoomba region.



Ipswich

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre's Tactical Response Group and Delta Unit teams joined forces for Movember— with the challenge of who can grow the most impressive moustache. Their goal of raising \$3000 was exceeded, raising a total of \$3976. The team are all fit-test compliant for masks when on shift and ensured their facial hair did not get in the way when duty called. Great job raising awareness of men's health issues and funds for a very worthy cause.

Redcliffe

Officers from Redcliffe Community Corrections joined the community for the Moreton Bay Says No to Violence walk along the Redcliffe waterfront. Last year was the sixth year QCS has sponsored the event, which aspires to engage the community to help end violence against women and children, and to promote gender equality. QCS continues to have a representative on the steering committee that helps plan the event, which has been moved to take place during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May 2024.



Northern Region

Northern Region Community Corrections hosted The Men's Health Forum in October. This is an annual event, which brings together public safety agencies, including the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the community to explore men's health and wellness, with a focus on suicide prevention. This year, guest presenters included former Australian professional rugby league footballers Johnathan Thurston and Gavin Cooper. The program received the Overall Award at the National Corrections Day Commissioner's awards in January for its role in providing a judgement-free platform for men to discuss and take action on key men's health and wellbeing topics. Congratulations team!



In the media



We continue to shine a media spotlight on the great work QCS officers do every day to keep Queensland communities safe.

Media coverage heavily focuses on our people – officers who are dedicated to safely managing the individuals in custody or under supervision to rehabilitate and go on to live crime-free lives.

National Corrections Day 2024

The Media and Communications Unit developed and implemented a strategy which resulted in national media coverage and statewide coverage in print, radio and television.

The strategy reached a cumulative potential audience of 515,095, with 368,804 of this reached by mainstream media.

By comparison, last year's campaign reached a potential mainstream media audience of 194,110.



Time to recognise our Corrections workers

Commissioner Paul Stewart



Friday January 19 is National Corrections Day. It's a day to shine a spotlight on the work done across the State by Queensland Corrective Services' officers on the front line of public safety, and I thank the many communities statewide who mark the occasion by lighting up their landmarks in blue for the occasion.

From the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast, and West to the Northern Territory border, our 7000 officers strive to make Queensland a safer place for all of us, and I personally thank them for their commitment.

Queensland Corrective Services operates 11 high security and six low custody correctional centres from Far North Queensland to the Gold Coast hinterland and west to Gatton. We also have 35 Community Corrections district offices and more than 140 reporting locations across the State.

Together, our officers, address criminal behaviour and boost community safety.

Whether they are custodial correctional officers, community corrections specialists, trade and

educational instructors, dog squad officers, psychologists, counsellors, cultural liaison officers, or administrative officers, they all share

the common mission of reducing crime through the effective rehabilitation of offenders.

And while they are focusing on community safety, it is only right that QCS is focusing on their wellbeing.

This is why Corrections Commissioners Australia-wide decided that the theme for National Corrections Day this year should be Wellbeing.

We know our officers love their work. We also know that at times their work exposes them to incidents that are confronting and sometimes even dangerous while managing some of the state's most complex and challenging people. We thank them for their commitment to a hard job that many people simply could not do. In return, we are committed to supporting and protecting them to the best of our ability.

We do this by ensuring our officers are the best trained and equipped in Australia, that they are supported through strong legislation and have access to the best available employee support services specifically designed to respond to the unique challenges faced by those at the front line of public safety and those who support

our frontline officers.

Our officers are the lifeblood of our agency. We value their commitment and dedication to keeping Queensland communities safe. This National Corrections Day, I hope you take a moment to recognise the contribution that corrective services officers make to community safety in Queensland and across the country.



06:00 News at 06:05 a.m.

[Download](#)

Triple M Central Queensland, 19 Jan 2024 06:05, R00105470896

And Queensland landmarks will illuminate in blue for National Corrections Day today our officers' tireless efforts to maintain public safety, the 200-year-old heritage listed Tree of Knowledge Memorial in Barcardine is one of the landmarks participating. Commissioner Paul Stewart says correction officers play a crucial role in making our communities safer and we must look after their wellbeing.

06:30 News at 06:33 a.m.

[Download](#)

ABC Wide Bay, 19 Jan 2024 06:33, R00105480285

A Queensland correctional services manager says the profession is largely overlooked despite providing a valuable service to the community. Many well-known landmarks, including the Bundaberg fig trees, will be lit up in blue lights today to coincide with National Corrections Day. Chief Superintendent Chris Winter says correctional officers work in challenging environments to help keep the community safe.

It is a job that is in the background, in our community, you know, we all work really hard to keep the community safe, but we're not at the forefront of people's minds. In many ways, which is a good thing. But it is incredibly important that we do acknowledge the absolutely tireless and amazing work that our officers do every day.



Breakfast at 07:03 a.m.

[Download](#)

4RO, 19 Jan 2024 07.03, R00105481484

Today it's National Corrections Day, where we recognise the state's corrective services workers and the challenging role they're faced with. QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart says this year's focus is well-being, and the message also recognises the difficulties and the complexity of the work that our people do.

And it is all about making sure that as an organisation and that as, as corrective services organisations, that we focus on the well-being of our people.

John MacKenzie at 09:02 a.m.

[Download](#)

4CA AM. 19 January 2024 R00105486729

Landmarks Queensland will light up blue for National Corrections Day. The day the of correctional Officers across the state in keeping the community safe. Minister for Corrective Services Nikki Boyd says it can be a challenging and confronting job.

It's a day to focus on our fantastic frontline and also to celebrate the work that you do correctional officers do right across our community in keeping Queenslanders safe. Well-being is a focus that we have to make sure that you're looking out for yourself and looking out for one another as well.

Drive at 03:33 p.m.

[Download](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, 19 Jan 2024 15:33, R00105501242

ABC Radio Brisbane You're listening to Kelly Higgins Devine.

Well, you might see some Brisbane landmarks lit up blue tonight marking National Corrections Day Paul Stewart the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner.

Paul good afternoon

Kelly. How are you this afternoon?

Very well. Is this year marked on this day is this day sorry marked every year on this day that Ned Kelly sense whatsoever? What a cracking start that was. My apologies.

You're right. Yes. The 19th of January every year is National Corrections Day and in Queensland we celebrate that by engaging with local councils and landmarks across the state to light up blue, and silver or blue for National Corrections Day. And it's putting a spotlight on our people and saying thank you for the incredible work that our corrective services people do every day. Keeping Queensland safe.

The theme this year is well-being. Why did you choose that theme?

Yes well-being, the well-being of our officers is first and foremost. it's not an easy job working in Queensland corrections and whether people are working in corrective services facilities or our staff working and supervising offenders in the community including all of our support staff throughout the state, it isn't easy work. And so, we really wanted this year, not only in Queensland but across Australia. The theme is well-being to focus on the well-being of our people, to support them in the complex and difficult work that they do.

Breakfast at 07:46 a.m.

[Download](#)

ABC Southern Queensland, 19 Jan 2024 07.46, R00105483737

Who you are. Leave it to George Ezra. ABC Southern Queensland and Budapest Quarter Dwight David Idef with you. Today is National Corrections Day. It's a day all about raising awareness of the many different people involved in the field of corrections and the vital work that they do in terms of keeping communities safe, but also in the field of rehabilitating prisoners and making sure that prisoners emerge from correctional facilities, having turned a corner, having turned their lives around and Superintendent Meagan Crossley is currently one of the deputy general managers at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. And she joins me now to talk more about, I guess, the job, her job and the careers on offer down there at the moment. With the new prison opening in the not-too-distant future. Megan Crossley good morning. Good to talk to you this morning.

Good morning, David Thank you.

Can I ask you, firstly, what does Corrections Day mean to you as someone who works in the field? David, I think it's a great opportunity to raise awareness about the critical work of correctional officers on the front line of public safety. For me personally, I'm extremely proud to be a corrective services employee, and really proud of each and every one-off our for the difference that they make in our community and their dedication to the commitment to the safety of people in Queensland.

How did first start off in this field?

So, I commenced with Queensland Corrective Services in 2008, working in community corrections throughout that journey. Since then, I've worked across quite a number of our correctional centres and certainly in headquarters. Working my way up, I had a background in non-custodial non shift roles, actually working in the intelligence area and then went into some managerial roles managing prisoners and offenders within our care to where I am today being a deputy general of a correctional Centre.

So, for you, it sounds like it was a more logical choice career wise than it is perhaps for some people who, I reckon it would be fair to say, hadn't considered it until they were perhaps persuaded to apply or made aware of what was on offer by a friend. Do you hear that a lot?

We do. Corrective Services is often an unseen frontline but it's absolutely a wonderful and unique area to work in. I have absolutely loved my progression within this agency, but also what I get to see is the reward that provide back to the community in terms of reducing recidivism, releasing better neighbours who are more prepared to have job opportunities provided to them, generally, reintegrate back into the community as a better neighbour. As a mum of five, I'm a very proud corrective services officer with a really strong sense of community, and I think that the roles that we have on offer the agency and certainly at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre at the moment provide opportunities for people from all walks of life.

Council buildings turn blue for a worthy cause

Corrections officers recognised for work

● CABOOLTURE

by Liam Hauser

THE City of Moreton Bay administration building in Caboolture lit up blue last Friday night, as part of National Corrections Day.

It was amongst more than 50 Queensland landmarks to light up blue on this night, to recognise the contributions of corrective services officers in Queensland and across the country.

Now, in its eighth year, the event is held on the third Friday of each

and boost community safety," he said.

"Whether they are custodial correctional officers, community corrections specialists, trade and educational instructors, dog squad officers, psychologists, counsellors, cultural liaison officers, or administrative officers, they all share the common mission of reducing

that are confronting and sometimes even dangerous, while managing some of the state's most complex and challenging people," he said.

"We thank them for their commitment to a hard job that many people simply could not do."

North Coast Community Corrections Regional Manager, Fiona Southey, said the staging of the event in January provided the chance to "reflect on the past year" and "acknowledge unsung heroes".



WIN News Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay at 05:44 p.m.



Seven Local News at 06:06 p.m.

Queensland landmarks will glow blue for National Corrections Day tomorrow night, celebrating the efforts of thousands of officers across the state. The 2023 theme focuses on safety and looking out for each other's wellbeing.

They carry out some of the most demanding work in our community: the rehabilitation of individuals whom the courts have deemed unfit for our streets.

The work can be really confronting at times. One of the ways we approach our work with a lot of empathy, even for people who've done us some really awful things.

So you often hear people talk about the work of Corrections being both challenging and rewarding.

I came into Queensland Corrections because I had such an interest in social justice issues. I wanted a career that was going to be meaningful and helped to help people.

Tomorrow, January 19th, is a day for people across the country to acknowledge and appreciate the vital work they do.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

The Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC) has featured in a range of news stories to raise awareness of the centre and generate recruitment applications.

The first cohort of custodial correctional officers for LVCC completed their training and graduated in December, with coverage on Ten News, Seven News and Nine News, as well as the Toowoomba Chronicle, Gatton Star and Lockyer Independent.



National Nine News (Saturday) at 06:30 p.m.



Seven Local News at 06:13 p.m.



Seven Local News at 06:12 p.m.



10 News First at 05:41 p.m.



Seven Local News at 06:12 p.m.



Seven Local News at 06:12 p.m.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre welcomes the first of many correctional officers

The first of hundreds who will rehabilitate offenders behind the walls of the state-of-the-art Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre have been welcomed into Queensland Corrective Services. See the reality of working at the prison here.

Jessica Klein Reporter [Follow](#)

2 min read December 22, 2023 - 6:00AM Gatton, Lockyer & Brisbane Valley



17 JAN. 2024
First Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre recruits graduate

The Lockyer and Somerset Independent, Gatton

First Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre recruits graduate

A MAJOR milestone has been reached for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre as its first group of Custodial Officers graduate. Queensland Corrective Services is actively recruiting for roles for the new centre and across the state.



Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre to fill 800+ jobs worth more than \$100k in 2024

Christmas could come early for jobseekers in South East Queensland as Gatton's brand new correctional facility looks to fill more than 800 jobs. See how you could be making \$100k a year here.

Jessica Klein and Liam Cook

less than 2 min read December 4, 2023 - 11:45AM Gatton, Lockyer & Brisbane Valley

Newly constructed facility will create more than 800 jobs

Largest prison in the State

Peta McEachern

The newly constructed \$861m Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre will create more than 800 jobs in Queensland in the Lockyer Valley.

With 1536-beds, it will be Queensland's largest prison and operate differently than others, with a strong focus on mental health and drug and al-

ries acting deputy commissioner Adam Black said it was an exciting time for the Lockyer Valley's employment market and a great career opportunity for locals.

"Operating a facility of this size will need a substantial workforce and we have hundreds of job opportunities for

sure off on the vital system.

On numerous occasions in 2023, Toowoomba magistrates were told by lawyers that their clients were forced to sleep on floors because there were not enough beds.

Salaries for custodial correctional officers range from

HUNDREDS OF POSITIONS ON OFFER AT GATTON PRISON

Expressions of interest are already open for hundreds of positions at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which is expected to open its new facility next year.

Mobile polling stations in prisons for the first time

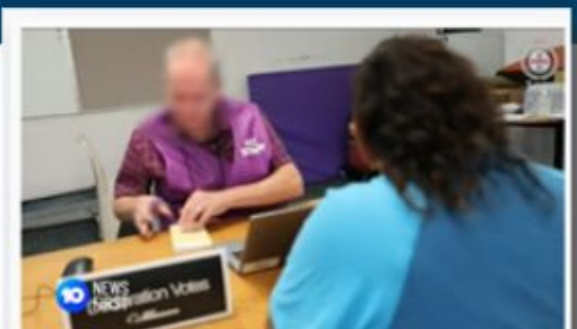
For the first time, the Australia Electoral Commission visited correctional centres around the state with mobile polling stations to collect votes in last October's Referendum on a Voice to Parliament.

This story, covered by Ten News, highlighted our commitment to the rehabilitation of individuals in custody, including facilitating simple and efficient opportunities to vote to enable them to make positive contributions to society.



10 News First at 05:42 p.m.

It's really important that they remain that link to the community and continue to have a say in what goes on. 5 million Australians have already pre-judged 2 million have applied for a postal vote, 110,000 voted via mobile polling, another 25,000 through remote polling and around 40,000 voted overseas, with many to make up their minds in the final hours. Ball security will be increased at all polling booths tomorrow, with residents being urged to act on towards staff and other



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Low custody farms and work camps

The work being delivered by officers at low-custody facilities and through the Work Camp Program continues to attract media interest.

At Lotus Glen Low Custody Farm, the livestock program is the story that keeps on giving with journalists from ABC Far North Queensland and Queensland Country Life publishing positive articles.

In November, ABC travelled to Blackall to see the array of community projects being delivered by the Work Camp based there, as well as the value work camps bring to regional and remote communities.

This story was broadcast across Australia on ABC radio, online and on the National News channel, where it was repeated multiple times throughout the day, further raising QCS' profile and highlighting the work officers do to facilitate prisoners' reparations to the community.

During the aftermath of Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily in December and January, the work camps also received media attention for the assistance they provided to impacted communities.



Livestock care key to prison

Lotus Glen cattle in demand in the north

Learning to care for cattle has led to prisoners choosing a better life on the outside. It also gives them the opportunity to develop skills and work toward gaining a TAFE course qualification so they can find meaningful work on cattle stations or farms on release. They are provided with a high level of theory and practical training, which improves their chances of finding employment.

Lotus Glen prison farm gives inmates sense of purpose, agricultural skills to help them find work

ABC Far North / By Phil Brandel
Posted Sat 18 Nov 2023 at 8:09am



The World Today at 12:24 noon

ABC Radio Sydney, 10 Nov 2023 12:24, R00103419311

The Blackall Work camp is run by Queensland Corrective Services. It's one of 13 in the state since it launched in the 90s. More than 300 prisoners have completed the programme. The 12 prisoners in the department to be low risk and have been chosen based on their skill set. Mitch Myers is the field supervisor.

So, we cover obviously welding, concreting, gardening, ground maintenance a lot of mowing, painting, whatever skills are usually hint towards what they like. And then I find them a job. And I've had some very skilled tradesmen come through.

The men aren't paid for the work they do. It's more of a swap for time that would otherwise be spent in the correctional facility. Those who complete the programme have an employment rate of nearly 100% on their release. Blackall-tambo Mayor Andrew Martin says they're contributing around 1400 hours of community service a month.

That's the best part of \$1 million a year.

As the nation grapples with a worker shortage. He hopes the programme could be expanded to the rest of the agriculture industry.



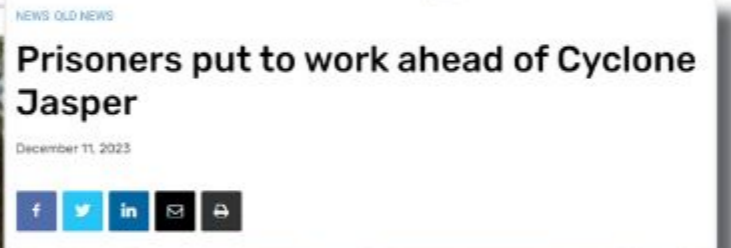
06:30 News at 06:32 a.m.

Download

ABC Western Queensland, 01 Feb Rcmoss90927

A group of prisoners will assist in cleaning up an iconic pub in Queensland's north west after it inundated with floodwater. Inmates involved in Queensland Corrective Services prison work programme will travel from Julia Creek to today to help the recovery effort at the Blue Heeler Hotel. The work camp supervisor, Alan Southern, says the clean up effort could take weeks.

They'll need our assistance for 2 to 3 weeks just to clean up the pub area and then, yeah, in other small things like that, because at the moment the water went up above the bar area of the pub, so there's mud on the walls, all the accommodation buildings are ruined, so there's a fair bit of work there to do. Yeah.



Low-risk prisoners at Innisfail Work Camp are playing a role in helping the town prepare for Cyclone Jasper, assisting the SES and Cassowary Coast Regional Council to clear drains and gutters, trim

Thanks to everyone who agreed to participate in media interviews in the past few months – we really appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to increase public awareness of the work you do!

Boosting community safety with new officers

Congratulations to all the new officers who were sworn into their vital role on the front line of public safety in Queensland.

Ceremonies in Townsville, Mareeba, Gatton and at the QCS Academy took place after officers completed their 10-week Custodial Officer Entry Program (COEP). The intensive course ensures officers are ready to face the challenges often faced with working in a correctional environment.

Graduations

Lotus Glen
Correctional Centre
9 February 2024

Lockyer Valley
Correctional Centre
21 December 2023

Townsville
Correctional Complex
13 December 2023

QCS Academy
6 December 2023

In memoriam

Our deepest condolences go out to families, friends, loved ones and work colleagues of the following 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.

Susan (Sue) O'Leary, former Senior Case Manager. Ms O'Leary joined QCS in 2007 as a Case Manager in Mt. Isa and also worked across Mornington Island and Palm Island in various positions, including Supervisor and District Manager until 2011. She then transferred to Brisbane and worked in Brisbane Central and Pine Rivers offices as an Assessment Officer until she was permanently appointed to Senior Case Manager at Redcliffe Community Corrections in 2011. Ms O'Leary worked in the Redcliffe office until she retired in 2020. She made a lasting impact on her colleagues and on those she supervised in the community. Ms O'Leary will be remembered as a kind and caring person with a great sense of humour and a passion for helping people.

Stephen Hine, Custodial Correctional Officer, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. Mr Hine joined QCS in 2021, where he took pride in his work, which was obvious to all of those around him. He made a positive impression on his colleagues and those he encountered and always had a big smile for everyone. Mr Hine was a well-respected officer and an officer that everyone loved having on their team.

Adam Stark, Custodial Correctional Officer. Mr Stark began his QCS journey in 2021 at Capricornia Correctional Centre and quickly became a well-respected member of the team. His dedication and contributions have left a lasting impression on everyone he worked with and his service to the wider community was gratefully received.

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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