



December 2024

Corrections NEWS



First Nations artwork unveiled
[Page 10](#)



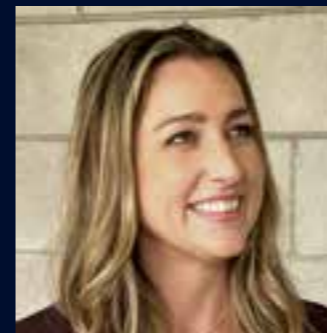
The King's Birthday Honours
[Page 16](#)



Pawesome partnership
guiding prisoners to better
outcomes
[Page 24](#)

Contents

Message from the Minister	3
Message from the Commissioner	4
Messages from the Deputy Commissioners	5
Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre construction update	9
First Nations artwork unveiled	10
NAIDOC awards 2024	12
Senior officers acknowledge First Nations history	14
QCS launches Reconciliation Action Plan	15
The King's Birthday Honours	16
Recognising QCS Everyday Heroes	17
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre wins national award	18
QCS Executive Champion for Veterans and Reservists named	19
QCS officer awarded prestigious Fellowship	20
Veterans' Health Week	21
Break the Silence and the Violence	22
Pawesome partnership guiding prisoners to better outcomes	24
Wolston gives koalas a helping hand	26
Transformation Office News	27
Inspiring women to reach new heights	28
New gender identification framework introduced	29
QCS business plan and <i>Corrections 2030</i> update released	30
EKKA roundup	32
Hair-raising historical chair restored to former glory	34
Connection is key to enhance mental health	35
New Reproductive Health Leave available for QCS officers	36
The crucial work of the Parole Board Queensland Secretariat	36
A vital service for victims of crime	37
Around the state	38
In the Media	41
Graduations	48
In memoriam	50



**Message from
Minister Laura Gerber MP**
Minister for Youth Justice and
Victim Support and
Minister for Corrective Services

On 1 November 2024, I was sworn in as the Minister for Corrective Services.

It is a huge honour and I look forward to working closely with our wonderful officers to deliver on the Crisafulli Government's promise to Queenslanders of fewer victims of crime in this state.

Queensland Corrective Services plays a vital role in this. Our dedicated officers are on the front line of public safety, working tirelessly to reduce reoffending and keep Queenslanders safe. This ultimately leads to fewer Queenslanders falling victim to crime.

I am determined to support Queensland Corrective Services with the resources, infrastructure and opportunities needed because I know that a strong and stable corrective service creates a strong and safe community.

Over the past month I have made it a priority to understand the challenging and rewarding work corrections perform right across our state. Since being sworn in I have visited correctional centres and community corrections in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Brisbane and Ipswich.

I have met some incredible officers who are making a real difference. Our officers are our greatest asset and I will ensure they are supported as they carry out their important community safety duties to address offending behaviour, assist in rehabilitation and help offenders reach a crime free life.

A special shout out to Tess Harmer who I had the privilege of awarding with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in recognition of 20 years of service. Tess's two decades of unwavering commitment across both custodial and community corrections has had an extraordinary impact on both corrections and the community. Tess is an invaluable asset to the Central Region helping to prevent further offending and save lives in the community. Congratulations Tess on your well-deserved recognition.

It has been incredibly heartening to see Tess's work ethic replicated everywhere I have visited across the state.

Whether you are in custodial or in community corrections the work you do driving rehabilitation and preventing reoffending plays a crucial role in keeping our community safe.

Thank you to every officer right across our correctional network for the complex and important work you do every day. I appreciate the challenges you face and I am committed to supporting you to keep Queensland communities safe.

Front cover: New dog squad recruits destined for Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre
Corrections News is published by the Media and Communications Unit, Queensland Corrective Services.

GPO Box 1054
Level 21, Northbank Plaza
69 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4001,

(07) 3565 7824

QCSMedia@corrections.qld.gov.au
www.corrections.qld.gov.au



**Message from
Commissioner
Paul Stewart APM**
Queensland
Corrective Services

Welcome to the final edition of Corrections News for 2024.

As we reflect on the year that was, and all the achievements we have made, we are now looking to the future and what 2025 will bring.

Following the recent State Government election, I welcome the opportunity to work with the new Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, the Honourable Laura Gerber MP.

Together we will be working on keeping Queensland safe, building on the excellent work done every day by our officers.

The priorities we will continue to focus on over the next four years revolve around officer safety, and effective rehabilitation for offenders.

These values underpin the priorities of the new government, which include:

- managing the current capacity requirements, and planning for the next decade of capacity requirements,
- ensuring that correctional facilities are a place where people can reform,
- ensuring officer safety in prisons by providing corrective service officers with operational equipment, resources and support they need to safely and effectively perform duties, and
- ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the Parole Board Queensland.

I will also be working with Minister Gerber and other Ministers to develop initiatives that promote public safety, and support monitoring of offenders of domestic and family violence. In addition, the Minister has asked that we continue to be inquisitive and to embrace innovation and new and better ways of working.

QCS is already working on relieving capacity issues, with the much-anticipated opening of Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre in 2025, which allows around 1500 more places for prisoners and will deliver exceptional rehabilitation programs.

We've also been driving recruitment this year, resulting in more than 1000 new Custodial Correctional Officers (CCOs) coming on board throughout Queensland, as well as more than 140 officers graduating from the Foundations program to work in Community Corrections.

This year has been another incredibly busy and productive year for every part of QCS and I thank you for playing your part in the complex and challenging work done every day across the state.

In 2025 I am sure we will continue to work together, strive for excellence, support one another and make a positive impact in the lives of those in our custody and care.

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

A special thanks goes to those of you working over the Christmas and New Year period. Your commitment and efforts to keeping Queensland safe have not gone unnoticed.

I hope you get to enjoy time with family and friends over the holiday period. For those of you traveling, please take care on the roads and keep an eye on weather conditions.

I wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful festive season.



Gary McCahon PSM
Deputy Commissioner
Custodial Operations

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge all the officers who will be working in correctional centres during the Christmas break. Your attendance is critical in maintaining the safety and security of the centre over the festive period, and not be taken for granted.

When I reflect on 2024, I am particularly proud of the progress we have made in the Veterans and Reserve Members space. This year QCS stood up the Veterans and Reserve Members portfolio and I was honoured to be appointed the Executive Champion, with Colin Martin and Mark Plath appointed as Deputy Champions.

While there is a lot of work to do, I am pleased with the work that has progressed so far. The Veterans and Reserve Members Working Group will soon be established and will commence the development of the QCS Veterans and Reserve Members Strategy, which will be vital in having QCS recognised as an employer of choice for Veterans and Reserve Members. You can learn more about this on page 19.

In addition to my newest Executive Champion portfolio, I have maintained the LGBTIQ+ and Women portfolios and continue working with the Deputy Champions in bettering outcomes in this area. I was once again thrilled to see QCS turn out for the 2024 Brisbane Pride March. QCS is committed to providing an inclusive and psychologically safe workplace for our people, and seeing our LGBTIQ+ and ally officers each year indicates that our officers are safe and comfortable expressing their true and authentic selves in the workplace.

Throughout 2024, we saw a number of outstanding leaders contribute through the Leading Women Network. I have received feedback from officers from a broad range of divisions, ranks and roles who speak about the value of these sessions and look forward to working with my Deputy Champions to pivot into a more QCS-focused space in 2025.

Thank you for the work that you do — stay safe over the festive season.



Ursula Roeder ACM

Deputy Commissioner
Community Corrections
and Specialist Operations

As we approach the festive season, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all officers across QCS. This year has been one of tremendous growth and progress in community engagement, service enhancements and project reform. Across QCS we have seen a year marked by exceptional industriousness, dedication, and high performance across every team, with this showcased at the Commissioner's Operational Performance Reviews.

During 2024, the Community Corrections Specialist Operations (CCSO) Project Delivery Command was established and has made impressive strides in project management, setting a new platform for delivery and innovation. The Parole Board Secretariat (page 36) also demonstrated unwavering commitment and resilience, responding at short notice to urgent requirements to support Board decision-making. Additionally, our High Risk Offender Management Unit (HROMU) has continued to demonstrate dedication in overcoming challenges, focusing on high-quality case management and supervision of the complex Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders Act) (DPSOA) population, as well as supporting community safety.

Meanwhile, our Specialist Operations team has made notable progress in enhancing clinical skills and service delivery refinements, re-entry services and partnerships. Investments in training, centralised recruitment and disability services have enriched team capabilities and service delivery.

Specialist Operations initiated phase two of the Intelligence Capability Uplift Project, delivered specialist intelligence training and developed a Prisoner Telephone System Dashboard to support monitoring and risk identification. In 2024, legislative changes were implemented to promote the safety and well-being of victims, with the Victims Register supporting

the implementation of these amendments to enhance victims' access to the service. Sentence Management Services officers also worked tirelessly to support capacity utilisation across the state in the context of growing prison populations.

QCS expanded End-to-End case management in Far Northern and Northern regions to support continuity of care for those on the journey toward positive reintegration. Our Community Corrections officers continued demonstrating commitment to continuous improvement in supporting behavioural change and working closely with stakeholders to ensure the right support networks are in place for supervised individuals. These initiatives across the state were recognised through acknowledgement at various internal and external events, including National Corrections Day, the Commissioner's Awards For Excellence, the QPS Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards and the QBANK Everyday Heroes Awards. Weipa District Manager Geoff Robins ACM and former District Manager Selina Shea ACM were also recognised in the Australia Day Honours list as worthy recipients of the Australian Corrections Medal.

Christmas is a time to pause, reflect and connect. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication, compassion and resolve that each of you brings to your work. Your collective efforts help ensure we fulfil our operational priorities and foster positive change across the sector.

Thank you for your service and continued dedication. May you and your families have a safe, peaceful and joyful holiday season.



Adam Black

Deputy Commissioner
Organisational Capability

As 2024 nears its end, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all officers for their efforts in maintaining community safety. Our shared commitment to the QCS strategic priorities has allowed us to meet our objectives of providing a safe, modern and responsive correctional service, dedicated to enhancing Queensland's safety.

In collaboration with other teams within QCS, Organisational Capability division has successfully rolled out several major initiatives in 2024.

The Corporate Governance and Risk Group has developed a set of risk management documents, including the *QCS Risk Management Policy*, the *QCS Risk Management Framework*, and the *QCS Risk Management Guide*. These crucial documents outline the minimum requirements, explain key risk management concepts, and offer guidance on the risk management process. Effective risk management is vital for better decision-making, improved outcomes, and greater accountability. By proactively managing risks, we can identify potential threats and take pre-emptive measures. We all have a responsibility to be alert in identifying and managing risks relevant to our roles. We need to cultivate a positive risk culture where all officers are empowered and supported to actively participate in risk management.

In September, I had the privilege of attending the Digital Services and Information Technology Command (DSITC) IT professionals' barbeque, along with Commissioner Stewart and Deputy Commissioner Denning. This was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the contributions of our officers. DSITC continues to lead the way in modernising our systems through the implementation of Microsoft Teams calling, Prisoner Telephone upgrades, and reducing call rates for prisoners.

DSITC has made notable contribution to the IOMS E2E project, leads the IOMS Evolve project and has completed the Enhanced Digital Mobile Radio implementation.

This year also featured the second promotion of the *Get Ready Queensland* initiative. The Disruptive Events Management Unit (DEMU) has disseminated communications to enhance QCS's preparedness for severe weather events.

Infrastructure, Asset Services, Major Capital Works Command recently finished the Lotus Glen Pharmacy fit-out and Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) Clinic, and has begun the fit-out for low secure housing at Townsville Correctional Centre and Townsville Women's Correctional Centre. Furthermore, in alignment with the *2023 QCS Waste Reduction & Recycling Plan (WRRP) 2023-2027*, QCS prepared and submitted an annual State Entity Report to the Department of Environment and Science. This report showcases QCS' significant progress in meeting WRRP targets, demonstrating effective waste management practices and commitment to our environmental responsibilities.

These achievements highlight our team's dedication. We look forward to building on this progress in the upcoming year. I will take this opportunity to wish you a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year period.



Rebecca Denning

Deputy Commissioner
Workforce Culture, Integrity
And Capability

As 2024 draws to a close, we can be proud of the significant steps we've taken to demonstrate our strong and ongoing commitment to building a safe, respectful, diverse and inclusive people-centred culture. I am pleased to announce that the Commissioner has recently approved the publication of four new policies, including:

1. *QCS Code of Practice*
2. *QCS Workplace Policy*
3. *QCS Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure*
4. *Assessing and Referring Conduct and Performance Matters Practice Directive.*

These policies provide guidance on workplace expectations and obligations; making a public interest disclosure; addressing performance management, development, and recognition; and practical information on aligning work performance with personal conduct principles.

The publication of these documents means we have delivered all of the Crime and Corruption Commission's *Taskforce Flaxton* recommendations, which sought to reform QCS' anti-corruption framework, improve external oversight mechanisms and safety for officers and prisoners, increase accountability and transparency and raise performance standards.

Everyone has the right to a workplace that is safe and free from sexual harassment. This is why I am so pleased to advise we are also in the process of finalising a policy and practice directive relating to preventing and responding to sexual harassment and sexually discriminatory conduct.

Of course, new policies are only part of what is required to embed positive workplace behaviours. Officers from Workplace Culture, Integrity and Capability Division will work collaboratively across the agency to build our understanding of behavioural expectations and processes for addressing behaviours that fall below the acceptable standard. I encourage all officers to review these new policies and managers and supervisors to discuss the policies with their teams.

With the holiday season approaching, I would like to acknowledge and thank all QCS officers for their efforts and collegiality as you navigate and balance a complex reform agenda and demanding operational work. Your work every day makes Queensland a safer place. I hope many of you can enjoy a well-deserved break and reconnect with family and friends. For those of you who will be working through the holidays, please know we appreciate your dedication and commitment.

Merry Christmas to you all and a happy New Year.

Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre construction update

The Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 (SQCP-S2) Program team has completed several activities and work packages in readiness for day one operations at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC).

Key completions include finalising structured day and unit routines, developing LVCC's emergency response model and piloting an officer orientation program to ensure its effectiveness during onboarding.

Throughout this process, QCS collaborated closely with Together Queensland and West Moreton Health.

Deputy Commissioner Organisational Capability Adam Black said the team was now focused on commissioning the centre.

"Commissioning is an intricate process that includes testing the infrastructure to make sure it meets safety and security standards," Deputy Commissioner Black said.

"Service delivery areas will be provided with necessary resources and equipment.

"We can ensure officers who work at LVCC receive training on new systems and processes as well as other resources they will need to undertake their roles.

"Recruitment for LVCC is ongoing for various positions, including roles for people with degree qualifications in occupational therapy, social work, psychology, education, criminology, counselling, and behavioural science."

To stay updated on the centre's progress, visit the SQCP-S2 internal microsite: [Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct Stage 2 - QCS Intranet](#)

For more information about job opportunities and living in the Lockyer Valley region, visit corrections.qld.gov.au/lockyervalley

Fast facts:

- Forty buildings constructed.
- The largest yards and units of any centre in Queensland.
- The four-metre-high walkways with anti-climb mesh.
- Additional green and open spaces for family visits.
- Information and communication technology support available on-site.

For more information on what is involved in commissioning, visit [Hello LVCC](#)



First Nations artwork unveiled

First Nations Elders and senior QCS officers gathered to commemorate NAIDOC week with the unveiling of the First Nations artwork *Walking together as one*.

Painted by Aunty Claire (Yinaa) Walker – a proud Wiradjuri woman and Superintendent of the Murridhagun Cultural Centre, it represents the story of QCS' ongoing journey towards reconciliation.

The event began with a smoking ceremony in the forecourt of QCS headquarters on Ann Street, followed by the official unveiling of the artwork on Level 21.

The artwork displays handprints in ochre from Wiradjuri country, of political leaders and Commissioner Paul Stewart, as a pledge to their commitment of reconciliation.

Following the unveiling, Elders and senior QCS officers retreated to a yarning circle to talk in detail about the past, present and future.

Aunty Claire said the purpose of the artwork was to empower officers and strengthen connections with First Nations communities.

“We are working together to reduce the overrepresentation of First Nations people in our correctional system.

“The painting tells the story of our journey of reconciliation, walking together as one, and symbolizes the commitment of everyone to recognize our past as we look to the future,” Superintendent Walker said.

“The small dots represent a new beginning where we start to think about pride, humility, identity, culture, spirituality and relationship to country, and as we grow, so does the size of the dots.

“The coloured areas represent people, who bring cultural knowledge to share so that we can share our cultural history in this country, including difference and diversity.

“The walking tracks illustrate that everyone’s journey is different and the bumps and turns encourage us to reflect on our own thoughts, knowledge and unconscious bias whilst moving forward as one mob, regardless of skin colour, cultural background or origin.

“Central to the artwork is the circle where Elders, First Nations officers and QCS leadership commit to strengthening relationships between First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples.

“There are also two goannas on the painting, which are a totem from my country, as well as a turtle to represent the Torres Strait Islands.

“The hand, fingerprints and other marks reflect the intention to listen and understand past injustices inflicted on our mob since colonisation and what we can do individually and as a collective to ensure we learn from past mistakes, so these situations are never repeated.

“You guys might need us for our cultural knowledge, but we need you just as much for your strengths. If our mob can see that First

Nation people are being acknowledged and represented within QCS, it gives us strength, and a sense of purpose and value.

“The piece encourages us to create our own narrative for the reconciliation journey and to think about equity and equality in closing the gap and building relationships.”

About the Artist

Aunty Claire (Yinaa) Walker is a proud Wiradjuri woman, and Superintendent of the Murridhagun Cultural Centre.

She has been a part of the QCS family for more than 20 years, working tirelessly to reduce the overrepresentation of First Nations people in our care and under community supervision.

She is passionate about working towards reconciliation and taking everyone on the journey with her.



Guests enjoyed afternoon tea from First Nation’s cater Birrunga Gallery and Dining, sampling crocodile, kangaroo, emu, house-made damper breads, cheeses, wattle seed roasted nuts, native dips and fresh fruits.



NAIDOC awards 2024

The work of officers at Townsville Correctional Complex (TCC) in reducing the over representation of First Nations prisoners in the prison system has been recognised with three NAIDOC awards that pay tribute to the legacy of past officers.

As part of TCC’s NAIDOC Day celebrations – held later in August to allow community Elders to attend – the annual NAIDOC staff awards recognize the efforts of officers driving change across First Nations incarceration.

Townsville Correctional Centre General Manager, Superintendent Louise Kneeshaw said the awards paid homage to the Custodial Correctional Officers (CCOs) who led the way.

“What goes on in TCC doesn’t happen without amazing commitment from the officer group, and often times the ideas are all officer driven and my job is to get out of the way and let the magic happen,” Superintendent Kneeshaw said.

“NAIDOC is a big week, and this wouldn’t happen without the CLO team who work tirelessly to get it up and going, working hard at making sure the events we have are meaningful for all the people involved.”

The 2024 recipients are:



Rachel Montgomery and Glenda Duffy, The Harold Mara Mentoring Award

Rachel and Glenda have been recognised for their role with the Red Cross and ‘Sister’s for Change’ program, empowering prisoners by giving them a voice on the issues impacting them in the centre through support, encouragement and empathy.

Harold Mara served as a Custodial Correctional Officer at the Townsville Correctional Centre from August 1990 to December 2007, playing a significant role in mentoring his fellow officer’s particularly indigenous officers.



Karen Owens, The Fred Lemson Quiet Achiever Award

Karen has been recognised with the award for her commitment to supporting First Nations prisoners as a Cultural Liaison Officer, tirelessly and selflessly going above and beyond to earn good outcomes for prisoners and their families.

Fred Lemson served in a number of roles at Townsville Correctional Centre most recently as a Correctional Supervisor until his passing in October 2008. Having commenced duty in April 1998, Fred was an officer known for getting on with the job without seeking praise or recognition.



Sonja Neville, The Kelvin Anderson Closing the Gap Award

Sonja has been recognised for her efforts in introducing services that support and enhance the chances of success for prisoners on release. Instrumental in the success of vocational education at TCC, Sonja was a critical partner in introducing the award winning Civil Safety program to TCC.

Former QCS Commissioner Kelvin Anderson made significant achievements in terms of reconciliation and Closing the Gap, and continues to be a leader in this field. This award recognises the efforts of Mr Anderson for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, offenders, and community.

Senior officers acknowledge First Nations history

In the spirit of NAIDOC, a group of 39 officers visited the Ration Shed Museum in Cherbourg in August to expand their insight into the complex history and experiences of First Nations people.

Located 170 kilometres north-west of Brisbane, Cherbourg is on Barambah Creek, which runs through Wakka Wakka country.

The history of Cherbourg is one of great sorrow for First Nations people, who were forcibly removed from country and brought from all over Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Murridhagun Cultural Centre Cultural Liaison Officer Debbie West, a proud Wakka Wakka woman, said it was good to go back to her community and share her knowledge and culture with officers.

“We can only move forward and open our minds by acknowledging our country’s unique culture. By walking together on this journey, it will help us to close the gap. I welcome you all to come on this journey.”

Assistant Commissioner Transformation Office Jo Dansey said the visit was an important journey and thanked SQCP-S2 AC Kris Winter for organising the visit.

“It was really a great opportunity and an important experience to support our journey as individuals and collectively as an organisation,” Assistant Commissioner Dansey said.

Assistant Commissioner Ethical Standards Unit Catherine Moynihan agreed and said truth telling was important.

“It was a such a privilege to be an invited guest to Debbie’s country. The story telling about the resilience of the community was really inspiring,” Assistant Commissioner Moynihan said.

QCS Academy Manager Nadine Robinson said the visit immersed everyone in the stories and traditions of the Cherbourg community.

“The visit not only highlighted cultural significance but also the resilience of First Nations people,” Ms Robinson said.

“Debbie’s personnel and profound connection to Cherbourg’s history made the experience deeply meaningful and enriching.”

The Ration Shed Museum tour was organised by Assistant Commissioner Winter and led by prominent Cherbourg community member Uncle Eric Law.

QCS launches Reconciliation Action Plan

Queensland Corrective Services proudly launched its first ever Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as part of this year’s NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said the launch of such an important framework demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for First Nations peoples.

“We are proud to launch our Reconciliation Action Plan, which is full of measurable actions that will enable us to properly address issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including the over-representation in the criminal justice system,” Commissioner Stewart said.

“QCS has been taking positive steps for many years to build relationships and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system and this plan formally builds on that important body of work.

“It is crucial that we collaborate closely and seek input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, stakeholders, partners and communities to improve our understanding of cultural diversity and difference across Queensland which will further enhance the services and experiences we offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The RAP was developed through extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders and endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. It also includes artwork designed by Aunty Claire Walker, Superintendent of the Murridhagun Cultural Centre.

Commissioner Stewart said QCS had a great opportunity to embrace and build a better partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as all people in QCS’ care and under our supervision, including QCS officers and the community.

“There is so much we can do as an organisation to improve outcomes to reduce incarceration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Reconciliation Action Plan will play an important role in driving this change.

“Thank you to everyone involved in the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan and to all of our officers across the State for the work you do with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples every day,” Commissioner Stewart said.



The King's Birthday Honours



Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon PSM, Correctional Supervisor John Rossett ACM and former Community Corrections District Manager Selina Shea ACM were presented with their King's Birthday honours at investiture ceremonies hosted in Brisbane and Cairns.

Queensland Governor, Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM hosted ceremonies at Government House in Brisbane and the Court House Gallery in Cairns to present the honours.

Deputy Commissioner McCahon received the Public Service Medal (PSM) for his 40 years of outstanding service to corrections in Queensland and New South Wales, while John and Selina were awarded the Australian Corrections Medal (ACM) for distinguished service by an operational member of adult corrective services.

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

"On behalf of QCS, I want to congratulate Deputy Commissioner McCahon, John and Selina for their outstanding commitment in creating stronger and safer communities," Commissioner Stewart said.

"Their dedication to improving lives and keeping our community safe speaks volumes and I am incredibly proud of the impact they've made through their work and in our community.

"Corrections is challenging work but our officers - through their unwavering commitment - work tirelessly every day to improve the lives of those in their care and under our supervision to keep Queensland communities safe."

QCS Deputy Commissioner Gary McCahon began his journey with QCS starting as a Prison Officer at the Townsville Prison in 1984. Demonstrating exceptional leadership capabilities, he swiftly rose through the ranks, taking on various roles including State Coordinator Dog Squad, where he introduced competency-based training and assessments including implementing Specialist Narcotic Dogs within the North Queensland Region. He held various senior executive roles of General Manager/Governor Correctional Centre positions throughout Queensland and New South Wales including General Manager of NSW State Operations Group, Director Custodial Operations Northwest and Southwest Regions and Director of Corrective Services Brush Farm Academy. During 40 years of service, as well as leading strategic reform projects in Corrections he transitioned two privately run prisons to public operations and implemented the Officer Safety (Use of Force) review recommendations, positioning the jurisdiction as the best trained and equipped in Australia and on par with global standards.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Custodial Correctional Supervisor John Rosset began his career with QCS in 2004 as a Custodial Correctional Officer, devoting the past 19 years

to providing exceptional service delivery and leadership to the officers and prisoners of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. During this time, he has also fulfilled the role of trade instructor, which saw him provide skills and training to positively contribute to the prisoners he supervised. Mr Rosset advanced in his career in 2018 by undertaking the role of Acting Correctional Supervisor, followed by his permanent appointment to the role in 2019.

Former Logan City Community Corrections District Manager Selina Shea began her employment with Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) in 2007 as a Probation and Parole Reporting Officer, in the

Brisbane South Community Corrections office and had more than 16 years of distinguished service with QCS in predominantly frontline leadership positions. In the District Manager role, she was responsible for the management and oversight of over 1200 offenders subject to supervision in the community. Throughout her career, Ms Shea consistently demonstrated her unwavering commitment to community safety and made significant contributions to QCS, including developing meaningful partnerships to establish and build critical intervention initiatives such as pharmaceutical rehabilitation services.



Recognising QCS' EVERYDAY Heroes



QCS Education Services Manager Tracy Taylor took home a QBANK Everyday Hero award at a ceremony on October 11.

Tracy won the Ownership category, which honours a person who's demonstrated empowerment and integrity, for her work overseeing education programs at high and low security facilities across Queensland.

She was one of 23 finalists selected from across the state for the 10th annual awards which celebrate the exceptional achievements of people within Queensland police, fire, health, ambulance, corrective services, public service, education and volunteers.

The award recognised Tracy for her work in rehabilitation, specifically the educational partnerships and training programs she implemented to upskill prisoners to improve their transition from prison to employment on release.

Tracy said she utilised her previous experience working with long-term unemployed people and disengaged youth to help Queensland offenders build numeracy and literacy skills as well as vocational training and qualifications.

"We offer units of competency, skill sets and qualifications that can be completed in the community under an apprenticeship or traineeship post release to create employment opportunities for prisoners," Tracy said.

"We've also hosted career expos at our centres where they can talk to prospective future employers and explore what life with a career and away from crime could be.

"The prisoners become really empowered by their knowledge, and the feedback we're getting is that we've provided them with hope and an idea of the employment opportunities available to them on their release.

"Many of these people haven't been given the opportunity to be successful in life and we're showing them a different path and building their confidence that they can keep learning throughout and after incarceration.

"I don't feel like a hero but I'm very passionate about what I do and have a supportive team who are excited to support my ideas and initiatives."

The winners were selected by a panel of judges, with both a personal prize and \$2000 donated to a charity of their choice.

Roma Community Corrections (RCC) was also recognised as a finalist for their contribution of the domestic violence vigil in Roma earlier this year.

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre wins national award



The Environmental Management Recycling Program at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre has been nationally recognised at the 2024 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards.

Awarded the Most Outstanding Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) project: Regional/rural, the centre's recycling program has redirected 700 to 1000 tonnes of waste from landfill since its launch in 2022.

Using prisoner labour to redirect about half of the centre's waste from landfills, the program is Queensland's largest recycling initiative in a correctional facility.

Prior to creating a prisoner workforce industry for waste management, up to 54 tonnes of waste per month were being sent to landfill.

The program aids prisoner rehabilitation by offering education, skills in waste management and improved employment prospects after release.

Acting Correctional Manager Larry Guilfoyle said there were multiple challenges involved in operating a successful diversion industry inside a secure facility.

"Correctional facilities by nature are enormous consumers, so initial steps were small ones, but as efficiency and learning increased the process became more successful," he said.

"By demonstrating an ongoing and successful capacity to deliver these outcomes, we are establishing an industry standard and blueprint for other correctional facilities.

"Beyond the environmental benefits, the program trains and prepares prisoners - many of them First Nations - for improved reintegration into community and possible employment in the recycling industry on release."

The Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards, held during Waste Expo Australia, acknowledges and celebrates outstanding achievements within the waste and resource recovery sector.

In 2023, the program also won a National Corrections Day award for promoting a culture of accountability by promoting the ethical treatment of all waste materials.



QCS Executive Champion for Veterans and Reservists named

Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon PSM has been appointed as the QCS Executive Champion for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Veterans and Reservists, alongside Superintendents Mark Plath and Colin Martin as Deputy Champions.

Together they've drafted a veterans and reservist members road map with three main objectives:

- to develop a strategy and an action plan which has tangible actions that can be implemented,
- to have QCS recognised as an employer of choice for veterans and reservists transitioning out of service, and
- to create a sense of community within QCS to recognise their unique experience and skills they bring in.

Superintendent Mark Plath said the aim of the champions was to simplify access to people who require support.

"We are fortunate to have many veterans and reservists among our ranks, and we value the skills they bring to the organisation," Superintendent Plath said.

"We want to ensure QCS is doing everything we can to support veterans' mental health and wellbeing, recognising the unique challenges they've faced over the course of their duties.

"The work we are doing enables the organisation to better recognise the skill sets that veterans and reservists have, and are still are gaining through their employment, that can be applied to the broader staff within QCS, but also to the prisoners and the offenders we manage day to day within the agency.

"We are currently developing a survey to identify how many veterans and reservists are employed within QCS, so we can ensure the support on offer can be targeted to those who may require it."

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.

There are a range of specific support services available to all ADF veterans and reservists, including accessing support through:

[Support services | ADF Members & Families | Defence](#); the [Office for Veterans | About Queensland and its government | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#); the [Department of Veteran Affairs](#), and [Open Arms](#).

QCS officer awarded prestigious Fellowship

Congratulations to Manager Disability Services Daniel Pollock (Dan) for being awarded a prestigious Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Trust to spearhead transformative changes for prisoners with disabilities.

Deputy Commissioner Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Ursula Roeder said Dan was a respected leader in the disability services field with an impressive track record within QCS.

"Dan's background in complex human services including forensic disability and mental health, and his passion for continuous learning and research make him an exceptionally deserving recipient to be awarded this important fellowship, and lead this vital work for QCS," Deputy Commissioner Roeder said.

"This coveted fellowship is a life-changing opportunity for Dan to travel overseas to learn more about global models of disability justice

and share his findings and learnings to make a difference within Queensland and Australia.

"The increasing number of people with disabilities in our justice system is driving the need to revisit traditional incarceration models, and the work Dan will undertake through this Fellowship will address this and encourage positive change."

Dan said he was honoured to be awarded the fellowship and emphasised the opportunity it offers to tackle the specific challenges encountered by this group. He also highlighted the contribution it will make in ensuring QCS remains a leader in modern methodologies and skill enhancement aimed at reducing recidivism.

"I am thrilled to be awarded this fellowship and am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from QCS," Dan said.

"I certainly have some work and planning to do, but I am looking forward to exploring new approaches and models to support culture



Veterans Health Week was celebrated in October. This year's theme was *Keep Connected*, which aimed to promote good health and wellbeing in the everyday life of veterans by keeping socially connected.

Multiple events were held throughout October to help build social connections including:

- *Golden Oldies* music bingo,
- breathwork for stress relief and social connection,
- *Women Veterans Network Australia* – mini wellness retreat day, and
- *Keep Connected* – veterans and families sunset sail.

Executive Champion for Veterans and Reservists Deputy Commissioner Custodial Operations Gary McCahon PSM said it was important for veterans to stay connected.

"To help veterans stay connected, Open Arms has developed [Tools for Keeping Connected](#). The tools are designed to help map social connections, and recognise the important connections already created, and helping fill any gaps that may be present," Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

"I thank all our veterans and reserve members for their service and hope they take time to build social connections by meeting with up friends, reconnecting with old friends or asking someone for advice or help."

change and encourage diverse thinking surrounding disability within custodial settings," Dan said.

Throughout the project, Dan will study innovative custodial frameworks and rehabilitation approaches, community transition strategies, and support pathways, aiming to inform and transform Australia's approach to disability justice. This includes prioritising an approach for First Nation's people with disabilities and evaluating how other countries are enhancing their support for indigenous populations.

"The opportunity to bring together academic theory and 'real world' experiences to realise innovative, forward-thinking change will pave the way for change, not only within QCS but also on a national level," Dan said.

Break the silence and the violence

Townsville Women’s Correctional Centre (TWCC) is using art to raise awareness and knowledge about sexual violence and send a powerful message – sexual violence will not be tolerated within the community.

A canvas banner, titled *Break the Silence and the Violence*, was completed during a series of workshops delivered by the North Queensland Women Justice Network during Sexual Violence Awareness month in October.

Four topics were delivered over six sessions for incarcerated women and two for officers, with themes such as strength of survivors, affirmative consent and the law, myths surrounding sexual violence and strategies to heal.

The banner was divided into six sections for the women to express their experiences, learnings and commitments for a future free of sexual violence.

Prisoners were also provided a space to speak openly and safely about their experiences, promoting the support options available to people impacted by sexual violence.

Deputy General Manager Townsville Correctional Complex, Superintendent Silvi Baretta said TWCC is proud to support the public awareness campaign, to promote sexual violence awareness and prevention.

"The Sexual Violence Awareness Workshops provide a safe space for prisoners to confront and talk openly about its impact on individuals and communities, equipping them with the tools and strategies necessary for healing, fostering a sense of hope and resilience," Ms Baretta said.

"Having officers participate in these workshops is crucial in ensuring mutual understanding and empathy, but also reinforces a unified stance against sexual violence and violence against women, both within and outside the correctional environment.

"Thanks to our external service providers - Transform Lives program, The Women’s Centre, NQ Women’s Legal Service and QuIHN for their involvement in this year’s campaign."

Sexual violence is defined as not only physical assault but any unwanted, non-consensual sexual behaviour towards another person.

Sexual violence can happen to anybody, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, socioeconomic status, ability, sexual orientation or location with women, children and young people facing the highest prevalence of sexual violence.

NQ Women’s Legal Service’s Principal Solicitor and Acting Director Hayley Grainger said there were well-established links between women’s experiences of domestic, family and sexual violence and imprisonment.

"For some of the participants, it was possibly the first time they had heard about their own experiences in this context; as both a victim survivor and a perpetrator," Ms Grainger said.

"Some had not understood the terms 'coercive control' or 'sexual violence' as it relates to their own experience, but once it was broken down into more digestible terminology, many were able to recognise instances in their own relationships.

"The workshop content gave participants the opportunity to view their own experiences through a more informed lens, as well self-reflect on their own behaviour, and invited them to think about how to communicate more respectfully and without coercion."

Support is available for anyone impacted by sexual violence. Phone 1800RESPECT, text 0458 737 732, or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au for online chat and video call services.



inappropriate physical contact



intrusive questions about a person's private life or physical appearance



sharing or threatening to share intimate images or video without consent



images or videos that are sexually suggestive or that constitute a sexual advance



unwelcome touching, hugging, cornering or kissing



repeated or inappropriate invitations to go out on dates



sexually suggestive comments or jokes that offend or intimidate



requests or pressure for sex or other sexual acts



sexually explicit gifts, images, videos, cartoons, drawings, photographs, or jokes



actual or attempted rape or sexual assault



sexual gestures, indecent exposure or inappropriate display of the body



being followed or watched inappropriately, or someone loitering inappropriately, either in person or via technology



technology-facilitated unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature—including on virtual meetings



Inappropriate staring or leering



repeated or inappropriate advances on email or other online social technologies



sexually explicit comments made in person or in writing, or indecent messages (SMS, social media), phone calls or emails—including the use of emojis with sexual connotations

References: Australian Human Rights Commission, Everyone's Business: Fourth National Survey on Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces (2018). Australian Human Rights Commission, Respect at Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian workplaces (2020). Deloitte Access Economics, The Economic Costs of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Final Report, February 2019).

Pawesome partnership guiding prisoners to better outcomes

A partnership between QCS and Guide Dogs Queensland is giving new skills and opportunities to women prisoners in Brisbane.

As a part of their community service work, six low security prisoners from Helana Jones Centre have become 'puppy raisers', with support from handlers at Guide Dogs Queensland.

The women complete tasks including cleaning the kennels, preparing puppy food, basic obedience command training as well as interacting with older dogs.

Helana Jones Manager Paula said the partnership provided the women an opportunity to develop skills while giving back to support the community's needs.

"Helana Jones Centre plays an integral role in the community. Our team collaborates to support women by involving them in purposeful projects that foster their personal growth and simultaneously benefit the community," Paula said.

"The work the women are doing at Guide Dogs Queensland contributes directly to their reform and rehabilitation in many ways like learning new skills and participating in community life so they are ready to transition back into the community with greater ease once they are discharged.

"The partnerships we have with charity organisations like Guide Dogs Queensland are invaluable in ensuring our women can reintegrate back into society, stay connected and give back - so they have the best chance of not returning to custody."

The partnership aligns with the QCS priority of reforming prisoners in our care, to help them choose a better and more purposeful path upon release.



Wolston gives koalas a helping hand

More injured and sick koalas are receiving life-saving care thanks to a new humane trap designed and manufactured by prisoners at Wolston Correctional Centre.

Five new traps have been designed and manufactured by prisoners in the industry workshop at Wolston to support the RSPCA and non-profit charities like the Ipswich Koala Protection Society.

The traps allow wildlife rescuers to safely capture and transport the endangered species for medical care and rehabilitation while minimizing stress.

Peter Luker, Correctional Supervisor at Wolston and President of the Ipswich Koala Protection Society said the new traps had been shared across the Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and other southeast Queensland groups so far, helping increase koala rescues by more than 60 per cent.

“During koala trauma season, when they are moving around to mate and are more at risk of being injured, we have been using the new traps three or four times a week and they have really made our rescues more effective,” Peter said.

“Every koala we rescue and rehabilitate is eventually released back to their habitat to breed and re-build the population, so we are very grateful for the support in helping us get koalas off the endangered list.”

After being approached for assistance, Wolston trade instructors worked with prisoners to design a trap that is safer and less traumatic

for the koalas. The traps are collapsable for easy transport and use the koala’s weight on a pressure plate to activate the door, safely containing them.

Trade Instructor Darren said the prisoners working on the traps not only came away with new, employable skills but also a sense of pride giving back to the community.

“The prisoners in the workshop love doing these types of jobs, building their vocational skills and knowing they are making positive contributions to society,” Darren said.

“The skill sets we are teaching here in the workshop can take them in the right direction so that when they leave, we don’t see them back.”

RSPCA Queensland Wildlife Operations Manager Jo Jordaan said the support from QCS meant they could help more koalas, particularly during breeding season.

“The Wildlife Hospital at Wacol treated over 600 koalas last year, and unfortunately we are already on the way to seeing more this year,” Jo said.

“Here in Queensland, koalas are endangered so it is amazing to have these new traps that really help our rescue teams improve our service. The traps are super handy to capture injured or sick koalas with as little stress as possible.

“September was *Save the Koala Month*, and it’s timely to remind people how important koalas are to Australia and why it is essential we are able to help them.”



Jo Dansey

Assistant Commissioner
Transformation Office

It has been a full and busy year in the Transformation Office (TO) as we support QCS to deliver the projects and programs that enable us to continue transforming into a top-tier public safety agency.

The Portfolio Delivery team includes the Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) and a major milestone this year has been the development of a new Project Portfolio Management (PPM) tool, set to launch in early 2025. This tool will streamline program and project management and improve portfolio-wide reporting. Designed with the user in mind, the QCS PPM tool will provide a centralised information system, simplifying project management for teams across the agency.

The Portfolio Change and Communications team has continued to provide projects and programs with change management and change communications advice, tools and functional activity and in late November we will be launching a new TO SharePoint site that will provide easy access to our framework, tools, and new lite change and communications templates and user guides.

The Strategic Transformation team is instrumental in aligning QCS projects with broader objectives and ensuring tangible benefits across the agency. Recently, we’ve refined the concept and initiation phases of the project lifecycle, introducing a simplified process, improved templates, and integrated tools designed to accelerate project kickoffs and set teams up for success.

An essential part of our purpose is to uplift project skills across QCS. This year, we prioritised training and support for Senior Responsible Officers (SROs), ensuring they’re equipped with governance expertise and ongoing mentorship. Additionally, change management and communications training has been provided to various PMOs and project resources, enhancing team capabilities across QCS.

In an exciting new initiative, we launched the Project, Change, and Transformation Community of Practice (CoP). This informal learning network offers a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and skill-building for all staff involved in project work. We encourage anyone with an interest in projects or change to join this community.

Thank you to all those from both the TO and across QCS who have contributed to these activities, and we look forward to working alongside you in the new year.

Contact the team at transformationoffice@corrections.qld.gov.au if you would like to join the CoP or find out more about any of the activities highlighted above.

Inspiring women to reach new heights



Working Women and Wellbeing was the focus of the August Leading Women's Network event, hosted by QCS.

The Leading Women's Network seeks to embed a diverse and inclusive workplace culture where women can fully participate, thrive and be supported toward their potential.

The professional development events are open to members of participating public safety and integrity agencies of any gender, level and rank who want to learn and commit to professional development.

QCS hosted the panel discussion on August 27 in Brisbane city, with the audience hearing about the careers of Assistant Commissioner Jo Dansey from the QCS Transformation Office, Magistrate Tina Previtiera and psychologist Doctor Zoe Walter.

The panellists discussed their experiences of being high achieving women, the unique competing priorities in their lives that often affect women, and feelings of imposter syndrome.

Assistant Commissioner Dansey spoke about her work-life balance and how she had learned to separate her self-worth from her work performance.

"Wellbeing takes awareness, accountability and effort, across a range of areas of life," she said.

"Like any relationship it requires investment, maintenance and boundaries to be balanced and healthy.

"Women in particular, often feel the pressure to excel in every aspect of life, including wellbeing which makes it yet another task on our to-do lists, but holding unrealistic expectations and passing unreasonable judgement on ourselves is both damaging and counter-productive."

Assistant Commissioner Dansey said prioritising wellbeing takes discipline.

"For me to be successful at work, I need to maintain a baseline level of wellbeing," she said.

"Our needs are unique, and therefore our approaches must also be. I find it easier to manage when I break it down into four pillars - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual - which helps me target remediation where I need it.

"I want to emphasise the importance of being kind to ourselves, managing those expectations and recognising that you control your relationship between your work and your wellbeing.

"While I don't achieve perfection every day - I may not even achieve average every day - I have made wellbeing a priority in my life by staying engaged with my journey, knowing that I will continue to grow and face new challenges."

New gender identification framework introduced

The new **Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023** (BDMRA) introduced a new gender identification framework in Queensland, which took effect on 24 June 2024.

Queenslanders can now legally change their registered gender without having to first undergo gender reassignment surgery and may also register as non-binary.

Deputy Commissioner of Custodial Operations Gary McCahon PSM said as a result, conducting searches and testing on a 'same sex' basis may not be practical in all instances.

"Changes have been made to the **Corrective Services Regulation 2017** (CSR) via the **Corrective Services (Searches and Testing) Amendment Regulation 2024** (the Amendment Regulation)," Deputy Commissioner McCahon said.

"These changes ensure our practices align with the new gender identification framework to better accommodate the diverse needs of prisoners and offenders during searches and urinalysis testing.

"The changes will not affect which correctional facility individuals are placed in, or significantly change the way our officers already engage with individuals, with safety and wellbeing at the forefront of all decisions.

"These amendments have required an extensive body of work across the agency, and I want to thank everyone who was involved in progressing these amendments to support the safety of frontline officers while evolving our practices."

The amendments went live on 16 September 2024. For more information visit the **QCS Legislation page**.

Detailed policy guidance has been developed to support the implementation of the changes, and Custodial Operational Practice Directives (COPDs) and Operation Practice Guidelines (OPGs) are being updated to reflect the framework, and can be found on the QCS intranet site.

QCS business plan and Corrections 2030 released

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM announced the release of two significant strategic documents in August which identify the operational priorities for QCS, and how they are positioned in the long-term plan to ensure the ongoing success of QCS as a top tier frontline public safety agency.

The *Corrections 2030* refresh is an update to the 10-year strategic roadmap which guides the work of Queensland Corrective Services. Originally launched in 2019, it has now been updated to reflect our current needs and challenges.

The *QCS Business Plan 2024-25* identifies the operational priorities for the coming year.

Both plans can be found on the intranet at [Strategic & Business Plans - QCS Intranet \(dcs.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/strategic-business-plans-qcs)

The business plan supports delivery of the Government's objectives and the [QCS Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#), through delivery of operational priorities over a one-year period, in addition to the critical frontline business as usual operations.

Some key actions in the 2024-25 business plan include:

- safely managing the impacts of increasing prisoner numbers,
- continuing construction of and recruitment for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre,
- increasing base bed capacity in low security facilities,
- delivering the QCS Culture Action Plan 2024-26,
- developing and implementing a revised inspection framework,
- enhancing service delivery to victims of crime,
- developing and delivering *QCS' Path to Treaty Program*,
- improving the range and access to rehabilitation programs designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,

by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,

- continuing to deliver end-to-end case management in selected locations, and
- improving management and outcomes for women by continuing to progress recommendations of the *Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Report 2*.

Commissioner Stewart said when *Corrections 2030* was developed we could not have imagined COVID-19 and the flow on effects.

"COVID-19 challenged us and highlighted the resilience and resourcefulness of our people. We rose to the evolving situation and seized new opportunities and ways of working so we could continue to deliver for our people, the community, offenders and prisoners," Commissioner Stewart said.

"We have made much progress towards our *Corrections 2030* vision and the five-year review is an opportunity to celebrate our achievements, take stock of where we are and continue mapping our path forward.

"As part of this collaborative review, the Executive Leadership Team recognised it was necessary to refresh our corporate principles and values to better reflect our progression as *One QCS*.

"Each day, our people embody our three values of professional, ethical and respectful as they come together to manage nearly 11,000 prisoners in correctional centres and about 20,000 offenders in the community, making Queensland safer by addressing offending behaviour and reducing recidivism.

"The five principles of Safety, Excellence, Empowerment, Respect and Accountability remain, now framed in a way more befitting of our transformation, and our commitment to rehabilitation and reform, and to improving our response to vulnerable people in our custody and care. Allow these principles to guide your activities each day.

"The demands on our system continue to mount, with growing numbers, increasingly difficult individuals to manage and an urgent need for cultural reform to break the intergenerational cycles of trauma and social disadvantage associated with imprisonment.

"We have set ourselves 10 future directions to keep us laser focused on capacity management, supporting vulnerable groups, delivering evidence-informed programs and supports, futureproofing our business and partnering across the system to deliver better outcomes.

"Meeting these objectives will take concerted and sustained effort from every one of us and I sincerely thank you for your ongoing support.

"It is a challenging time to work in corrective services, but I am confident that, guided by our strategic documents including the update to *Corrections 2030* and the operational guidance of the *QCS Business Plan 2024-25*, our people will continue to rise to the challenge."



Ekka

The Brisbane Exhibition (EKKA) 2024 took place from August 1-10 at the Royal National Agriculture and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) showgrounds. QCS annually participates in the show with a display in the Queensland Government Precinct, using the event as a recruitment opportunity and showcasing QCS' activities across the state.

Director of Media and Communications Kym Charlton said the event was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the hard work of QCS officers.

"Each year the QCS Media and Communications team works with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to create an engaging display that introduces the public to the myriad of career opportunities within QCS," Kym said.

"This year we were again thrilled to have the Passive Alert Detection (PADD) dogs attend, which really brought some excitement to our stand. The PADD dogs have become firm crowd favourites at the Ekka, and are a major drawcard to the Government Precinct.

"PADD dogs Union and Locke (and their handlers!) greeted every visitor who stopped by for a conversation, providing us with an opportunity to engage the public about the work of QCS officers and their role in maintaining public safety.

"Each year we put a call out to all officers asking for volunteers to help us staff the Ekka stand, and we are so grateful to those who offered their time and genuine enthusiasm for their work.

"Our goal is always to help people understand the role of QCS, and inspire others to want to join us.

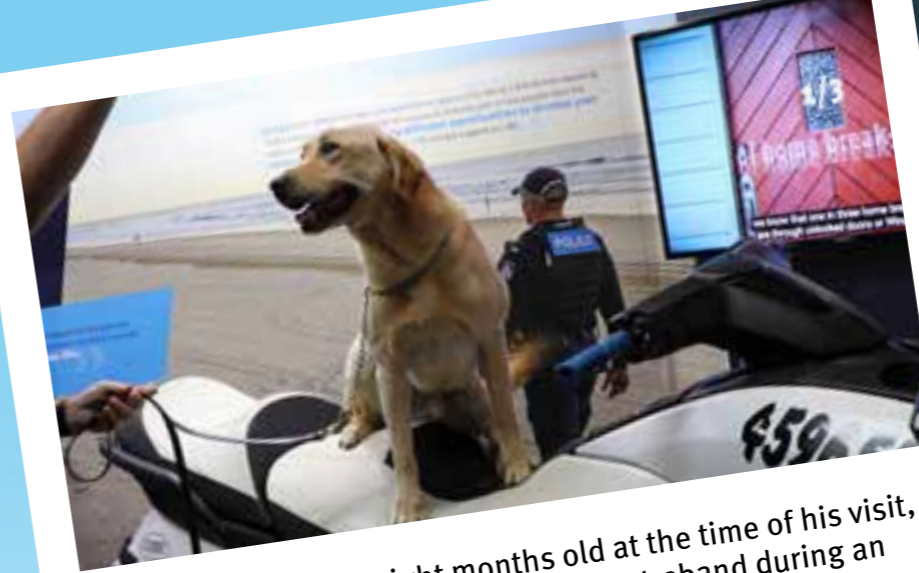
We fielded lots of enquiries from people keen on becoming CCOs, and also surprised quite a few people with the breadth of opportunities available within QCS.

"People often think of the stereotype when it comes to prison officers, but we are glad to challenge that and explain the vital role we play in rehabilitating offenders and making Queensland safer for everyone."

If you would like to become an Ekka ambassador in 2025, keep an eye on your emails in June next year and submit an expression of interest.



Assistant Commissioner Eloise Hamlett joined Wolston dog handler to speak with ABC radio about the vital work that QCS officers undertake to keep Queensland safe.



PADD dog Locke was eight months old at the time of his visit, practicing his new skills hunting out contraband during an interview segment with ABC's Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca. He distinguished himself finding the contraband each time, receiving lots of pats and playtime as a reward.

PADD dog Union enjoyed showing off his skills to search bags for contraband in two daily shows, where a young member of the audience was asked to help hide contraband for him to seek. He happily performed his duties and gave lots of licks and attention to everyone who crossed his path.



Hair-raising historical chair restored to former glory

A circa 1930's dental chair, used as a barber's chair in the old Etna Creek reception store to provide regulation short back and sides haircuts to prisoners has been restored by low security prisoners at Capricornia Correctional Complex.

The chair, which carries a tag reading *Denpro Dental Products Brisbane Pty Ltd, Model A, Serial Number 80* had been sitting idle in a shed since being decommissioned for use some time in the early 2000's.

Capricornia Correctional Complex trade instructor, Cameron Byrne determined the chair's history with the help of long-serving Custodial Correctional Officers.

"Once the old Etna creek jail was demolished, the chair was stationed behind the Vestibule office at Capricornia Low Custody," Cameron said.

"They had a prisoner worker employed as a barber for the Low Custody, who would cut everyone's hair.

"Haircuts were not as regulated, but no styles like mohawks, rats' tails or mullets were allowed.

"This continued until sometime in the early 2000's, until the chair became unserviceable."

The chair is one of several restoration projects completed by prisoners at the low custody centre with a horse drawn carriage proudly sitting at the front of the facility after being rebuilt.

The projects aim to provide prisoners with employable skills to help them find employment upon release from the centre, in turn reducing the risk of recidivism.

Deputy General Manager, Capricornia Correctional Centre Leanne Smith said the barber's chair would be placed somewhere in the centre where it can be seen by staff and visitors.

"It gives the prisoners who worked on the project a sense of pride and some skills they can take away with them to hopefully use in the community and get jobs," Ms Smith said.

"We also have three work camps out in Blackall, Clermont and Springsure and they're often undertaking projects to restore different things in those communities – wool wagons, the pump station, train wagons.

"There's lots of projects the prisoners undertake which gives them pride in what they're doing, gives them a sense of value within the community and assist those community members to enjoy the things they have."



Connection is key to enhance mental health

Wellbeing took the spotlight during Queensland Mental Health Week with officers across the state pausing to reflect on the importance of connecting for better mental health.

Wellbeing Manager Anna Casey said connection was one of the strongest protective components we can tap into to enhance overall mental health.

"Our officers consistently promote wellbeing and foster meaningful connections with their colleagues, forming strong bonds which promotes healthy work relationships and boosts productivity and efficiency, not only during Queensland Mental Health Week, but regularly throughout the year," Wellbeing Manager Anna Casey said.

Connect for Mental Health was this year's Mental Health Week theme and during the week, QCS engaged in activities and awareness raising initiatives across the state.

- Connecting with self – actively promoting the [QCS Wellbeing Intranet Page](#) which offers helpful activities officers can participate in - both inside and outside of work - to maintain and improve wellbeing, including resources such as the [Six Building Blocks of Wellbeing](#).
- Connecting with community – actively engaging with our QCS community and encouraging participation in events held during Queensland Mental Health Week and throughout the year such as National Corrections Day, Darkness to Daylight, Pride March, NAIDOC Week, International Women's Day, Veteran's Health Week and R U OK Day.

- Connecting with others – working with QCS' wellbeing partner, Converge, to proactively engage officers around the rollout of the Integrated Onsite Program (IOS) within correctional centres, which allows officers to connect through meaningful discussions around mental health and wellbeing topics.
- Connecting with nature – continued promotion of the importance of Embracing Nature, one of the [Six Building Blocks of Wellbeing](#), to maintain and improve wellbeing.

Wellbeing Manager Anna Casey said it was heartening to see officers take part in one of the many local workplace events that took place across the state.

"QCS will continue to champion mentally healthy workplaces and prioritise proactive wellbeing initiatives to support our workforce, contributing to safer communities across Queensland," he said.

For more information on mental health and wellbeing, please visit the [QCS Wellbeing Intranet Page](#).

New reproductive health leave available for QCS officers

Officers now have access to additional time off to attend to reproductive health matters under the new Reproductive Health Leave (Directive 07/24).

Assistant Commissioner People Capability Command Erica Gallagher said the new leave policy was designed to support officers who need extra time for their reproductive health needs.

“Health events often impose additional stress on families and the need for more time off can vary depending on the situation,” Assistant Commissioner Gallagher said.

“The new directive is positive news for eligible QCS employees as they can now access up to 10 days of reproductive health leave per year.

“We hope this helps alleviate some of the burden placed on officers during an already potentially challenging time.”

An employee is entitled to up to 10 working days reproductive health leave during each entitlement year (from 1 July in one year to 30 June the following year).

Leave may be taken for part of a day and may require evidence if leave is greater than three consecutive working days. Reproductive health leave is non-cumulative from year to year.

The new leave may be taken:

- when chronic reproductive health conditions require absence from the workplace,
- to receive fertility treatment such as IVF,
- to attend preventative screening appointments associated with reproductive health,
- for treatment associated with reproductive health, including hysterectomy and vasectomy.

The full eligibility criteria is outlined at clause 6. of Directive 07/24.

Directive 07/24 also encourages employees and managers to discuss flexible work options to assist employees experiencing reproductive health concerns to manage work demands as an alternative to taking reproductive health leave or where the leave entitlement may be exhausted, if it suits the needs of all concerned.

Eligible QCS employees can apply for reproductive health leave online via Aurion ESS or via submitting a [leave form](#) for officers who do not use ESS. Supervisors with a Level 7 delegation as per the *QCS Employment and Workforce Management Delegation Manual* can approve this leave type.

For further information, including FAQs about reproductive health leave, visit the [Leave page on the QCS intranet](#).

The crucial work of the Parole Board Queensland Secretariat

Within the Queensland criminal justice framework, Parole Board Queensland (PBQ) plays a critical role in ensuring community safety by making decisions regarding the release of individuals on parole from custody, as well as amending or suspending parole orders.

The parole system overall plays an important role in community safety by providing prisoners with a structured, supported and supervised transition back into the community.

Behind every parole decision is a team providing vital administrative support to the Board – the Parole Board Queensland Secretariat - a small, dedicated QCS team. While they don't make decisions on parole matters, their work is a central part of the criminal justice system and essential to the parole process.

The PBQ Secretariat is based in Brisbane, led by the Chief Administrative Officer and supported by a network of experienced officers. They provide comprehensive

administrative, legal and business services support to the board, working closely with QCS and other government stakeholders such as Queensland Health to ensure all decisions are based on the most up-to-date and accurate information available.

One of the key roles of the secretariat is to manage the day-to-day logistics of PBQ operations. This includes scheduling and coordinating about 300 matters for hearing each week, from preparing meeting agendas to drafting decision-related correspondence. Additionally, the Secretariat is responsible for processing new applications, typically receiving between 80 and 120 new parole applications per week. These applications are subject to legislative timeframes and can involve accessing multiple sources of information to assist the Board to determine whether an individual is suitable for parole.

In addition to handling applications, the secretariat plays a vital role in the 24/7 monitoring of parole-related requests from Community Corrections. When a case manager determines that a released individual's risk can no longer be managed under supervision in the community, they may request that the

A vital service for victims of crime

QCS offers a crucial service for victims of crime through its Victims Register - a register designed to provide eligible persons with important information about events in the sentences of those who they are registered against.

A person is eligible to register against a prisoner who has been sentenced for a violent or sexual offence (including domestic and family violence). QCS officers can also apply as the registration could be related to work or a personal experience.

Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations Sarah Hyde said the Victims Register was an essential tool in providing victims with the information and support they need to feel safe and empowered throughout the justice process.

“Our commitment is to ensure victims remain informed while protecting their privacy and offering ongoing support for their recovery,” Assistant Commissioner Hyde said.

To register, the perpetrator must be in a QCS correctional facility or supervised in the community by QCS for a sentenced period of imprisonment, subject to a continuing detention or supervision order (DPSOA) or classified as a homicide offender, in accordance with section 323 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.



Once registered, victims receive notifications about significant events, including the individual's release date, parole applications, transfers between facilities and any escapes or the death of the individual they're registered against.

“By staying informed, victims can better prepare for these changes and take any necessary safety precautions.”

Victims Register state-wide Manager Janeve said the goal was to help victims feel supported and empowered.

“The Victims Register is an essential part of the justice system, recognising the ongoing impact of crime on victims,” Janeve said.

“By keeping victims informed and supported, the register helps to foster a sense of safety and contributes to the healing process. The service aims to be a pivotal resource in aiding victims as they navigate the aftermath of crime.”

QCS officers are encouraged to visit the Victims Register microsite and complete the online module, ORG106 Victims Register, for more information.

individual's parole order be suspended and they be returned to custody.

The secretariat ensures these requests are immediately reviewed and provided to a board member for decision-making.

The secretariat also plays a pivotal role in managing communication between PBQ and other units within QCS, as well as several external stakeholders.

This includes the exchange of information with Sentence Management Services and Community Corrections to ensure any amendments or suspension to parole orders are promptly reviewed by the board, engagement with Queensland Police Service (QPS) when warrants are issued, and engagement with the Victims Register to ensure victims are kept informed.

With more than 900 emails received daily, the Secretariat's work is complex and challenging and carried out in an environment where accuracy is critical.

The secretariat's legal team provides advice and support, and represents PBQ in Judicial Review matters before the Supreme Court. This team has a strong administrative law background and plays a vital role in ensuring the Board is briefed

on relevant court outcomes, as well as provide advice on process changes as a result of court decisions, or in response to legislative or policy change.

The business services team support the Board in ensuring the smooth running of their rostering, payroll, human resources, recruitment and asset management, amongst other things.

As a unique unit within QCS, the PBQ Secretariat helps bridge the gap between operational officers, Community Corrections, and the Parole Board. They are a crucial conduit for ensuring information flows between all stakeholders involved in parole decisions, and are key players in the system that upholds community safety and the humane treatment of offenders.



Around the State

WOLSTON

Custodial Correctional Officer (CCO) Luseane (Lucy) from Wolston Correctional Centre represented Australia at the International Powerlifting Federation's (IPF) Women's Classic Open Powerlifting Championships in Lithuania in July.

Just two years into the sport, she achieved personal bests for squat, bench press and dead lift, and an Australian record in the bench press.

Lucy's next competition is the Australian Nationals early next year, to qualify for the 2025 IPF World Championships in Chemnitz, Germany.



MAREEBA

Lotus Glen Low Custody Farm has been aiding the Mareeba Scouts through a long-term community service partnership.

The Scouts requested help to clear overgrown land for expanding their activities, such as creating creek access and space for fire pits.

CCO Rob and four prisoners completed the task successfully, benefiting both QCS and the community.



GLADSTONE

Central Region Community Corrections attended Gladstone's Dorrie Day – Carnival of Careers in August.

Dorrie Day is a First Nations careers event bringing together local businesses and community organisations from around the Port Curtis and Coral Coast regions.

The day was an opportunity to explore First Nations-identified roles in communities to unlock new possibilities and career pathways.



Cultural Liaison Officer Chantelle from the Gladstone District Office was honoured to raise the Aboriginal flag and make a speech at the Gladstone Flag Raising Ceremony at Council Chambers during NAIDOC Week. Chantelle is on the Reconciliation Committee for the Gladstone Regional Council and also a member of the Gladstone Regional Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee.



TOWNSVILLE

Officers from Townsville Correctional Centre took part in the Dragons Abreast Townsville regatta on October 13.

The officers who participated are members of the Townsville Chiefs, made up of a group of QCS officers with a representative from each part of Townsville Correctional Centre, who strive to give back to the local community by taking part in fundraising activities.

The team was able to raise \$2000 to donate to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, including \$1000 to the Dragons Abreast cause.



CAIRNS

QCS officers attended the Cairns Show in July.

Between esky races and PADD dog demos they even snuck in some radio interviews to highlight the great work being done in both the Custodial and Community Corrections space.



WOODFORD

Woodford Correctional Centre made several donations to charities during National Homelessness Week.

Officers banded together to support Encircle Community Services, Community Bank Samford, and Bendigo Bank as part of the 'Collection for the Homeless Drive'.

The charities were presented with pillows, blankets, hygiene products and non-perishable items among many other donations.



BRISBANE

QCS Victims Register team attended the National Victims of Crime Day Event at Parliament House on September 11.

Statewide Manager Janeve and Senior Advisor Kellie represented QCS at the event along with QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart.

Themed 'Journey to Recovery', the day brought together government and non-government sectors to focus on the coordination of state-wide services to ensure there is trauma-informed, victim-centric, and timely support for victims.



BRISBANE

Commissioner Paul Stewart and Deputy Commissioner Gary McCahon, Executive Champion for LGBTIQ+, joined the strong contingent of officers who marched the streets of Brisbane in support of QCS' ongoing commitment to an inclusive workplace.

Brisbane Pride is a chance for officers and their families to come together and shine the spotlight on the importance of feeling safe and being their true selves, not only when they come to work, but every day.



TOWNSVILLE

Townsville Correctional Centre Chief Superintendent Louise Kneeshaw, Superintendent George Muir and Dean Bell attended a special "Banjo Breaky" at The Oasis Townsville to mark Veterans Health Week in October.

The breakfast, which aims to enhance community bonds and engagement within a dedicated space designed to unite veterans, was an opportunity to build relationships with the local defence community and explore support services and opportunities for veteran QCS officers and first responders.



ROMA

Roma Community Corrections *Safe St George Partnership* project scooped a win at the QPS Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards on October 9.

Safe St George is an interagency project developed by the Roma team in response to

high-risk domestic violence within the rural and remote towns of St George and Dirranbandi.

QCS partnered with QPS, Child Safety, Lifeline and Department of Housing, which gives the ability to respond swiftly and proportionately to domestic violence in the community so outcomes for victim survivors are improved and access to intervention for perpetrators is targeted.

The team was also a finalist in the QBANK Everyday Heroes Awards for their coordination of the DFV Vigil in Roma earlier this year.



INALA

During the month of August, the Inala District Office took part in an internal competition called 'QCS Connect Four' which aimed to improve officer confidence in the use of QCS Connect and embed technology into business as usual case management practice. The game followed a similar structure to a conventional game of Connect Four, where a token was provided in response to an action on the QCS Connect Dashboard.

Throughout the month there was fierce competition and enthusiasm from officers, and everyone supported each other to go beyond their comfort zone to learn new functions. Overall, the Inala Office completed more than 150 actions on QCS Connect across the month, resulting in 85% of Supervised Individuals being enrolled in online services, and staff officers feeling increasingly confident to use QCS Connect.



IN THE MEDIA

Television - Radio - Newspaper - Social Media - Online

Issue: 260624

QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES BEST SOURCE OF NEWS

Est- 1859

'In the Media' highlights the efforts of our officers, who work tirelessly each day to keep our communities safe from Queensland's far north to its south-east corner.

Whether it is educating prisoners about recycling, restoring ecosystems, celebrating our new officers, constructing humane traps for koalas, or applying a trauma-informed approach in managing women in custody, our officers are essential to transforming lives and building safer, stronger communities.

We value your contributions in sharing your experiences and being part of media opportunities to help raise awareness about our public safety agency.



Reef Revolution program

01 August 2024

Low security prisoners in Townsville have trialled a new community service program restoring ecosystems that support the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area while connecting them to nature.

Developed in partnership with *Envite Environment* and QCS, the Reef Revolution pilot program aims to build the skills and capacity of prisoners in conservation and eco-system management, aiding their transition from prison

to employment upon their release.

Participants of the Reef Revolution program are guided by *Envite* to restore the ecosystem around Mundy Creek, a small coastal drainage system running from Garbutt to the coast at Rowes Bay and out onto the Great Barrier Reef.

The site plays an important role in the drainage and flood mitigation system of Townsville and has important spiritual and social connections for Traditional Owners and the broader community.



Rollout of Emergency Response Medals with COVID-19 clasp commences in Townsville and Mareeba

22 August 2024

Officers at Townsville Correctional Centre became the first in Queensland to receive the Emergency Response Medal with a Covid-19 clasp.

Presented to QCS officers at a special ceremony on Tuesday, the Emergency Response Medal acknowledges the dedication and resilience of officers who respond to emergency situations during a significant event in Queensland.

The COVID-19 clasp recognises duties including direct response, maintaining core business or a combination of both during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mareeba Community Corrections were next in line to receive their medals and the first Community Corrections Officers to receive them.



Wolston's industries help protect endangered koalas

27 September 2024

More injured and sick koalas are receiving life-saving care thanks to a new humane trap designed and manufactured by prisoners at Wolston Correctional Centre.

Queensland Corrective Services Wolston's industries help protect endangered koalas.



Lotus Glen recycling national award

27 September 2024

The Environmental Management Recycling Program at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre has been nationally recognised at the 2024 Waste Innovation & Recycling Awards.



Wandering Goat education program at LGCC teaching prisoners skills

23 August 2024

Male prisoners at Lotus Glen Low Custody Community (Farm) have been taking part in an education program that teaches basic barista skills.

The program is run by QCS education staff in partnership with BSI Learning, with the goal of providing practical skills and experience that

prisoners can take with them when released back into the community

If prisoners are able to find meaningful employment upon their release, they are much more likely to break the cycle of reoffending, thus resulting in community safety.

'The Wandering Goat' is the name of the 'café' where the prisoners are doing their learning, with the name reflecting the origins of coffee and the goats being taken care of at the Low Custody Farm.

The program has also been run previously within the high security centre.

Hep C out of prison

12 August 2024

Queensland is leading the country in driving hepatitis C out of the state's prisons with a high-intensity test and treat program.

More than 2900 prisoners were tested in the past year and the 430 that tested positive were offered antivirals that can cure the disease within 12 weeks.

The program is not only aimed at stopping the spread of the disease within the prisons but also in the wider Queensland community on prisoners' release.

Hepatitis C is blood-borne virus that impacts the liver. Without treatment it can lead to liver disease and liver cancer. Most infections are sparked through unsafe injection practices, unsafe health care, unscreened blood transfusions, injection drug use and sexual practices that lead to exposure to blood.

Queensland has the largest prisoner test and treat program for hepatitis C in Australia. In 2021, almost half of all prisoners treated for the disease nationally were in Queensland, and within the state around half of all people treated for hepatitis C in general were in custody.

It is estimated that more than 74,000 Australians are living with the disease, despite the availability of therapies that can cure more than 95 per cent of people.

"Hepatitis C can present real risks to officers, other prisoners and to the safety of the community upon the prisoner's release," Custodial Operations, Central and Northern Region, QCS Assistant Commissioner Eloise Hamlett said.

"The hepatitis C program is an important health initiative running in correctional centres around Queensland with wide ranging benefits to protect our officers and improve prisoner health, including encouraging them to become drug-free."

Body scan technology to crackdown on Brisbane prison contraband

8 August 2024

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre is the first in Queensland to trial new X-ray scanner technology, as part of a zero-tolerance crackdown on prison contraband.

It comes after 2,446 detection incidents were reported at Queensland correctional centres in the 2023/24 FY with almost 58 per cent of those incidents "drug-related".

The hi-tech scanner is about the same size as airport security machines and can detect mobiles, weapons and drugs, wherever they're hidden.

It also means less invasive and traumatic searches of vulnerable female prisoners, with better results in less than half the time of traditional searches.

The scanner will be trialled over three months before being rolled out to other Queensland women's prisons.

Non-invasive search technology was a recommendation of the *Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce final report* into the experiences of girls and women in the criminal justice system.

About 500 scans have already been completed at the Wacol facility with "positive" experiences reported by female prisoners.

In the last year, 121 trade qualifications and more than 1840 units of competency were achieved by First Nations trainees.

The new technology is hoped to stamp out contraband.



Civil Safety Partnership

19 July 2024

Townsville Low Custody Correctional Centre's partnership with Civil Safety delivers six hands-on training programs for low custody First Nations prisoners in conservation and land management, rural operations, construction, foundation skills, agriculture and horticulture, and resources.

Prisoners train across the correctional centre's

788-hectare reserve with specialist machinery from skid steer loaders to excavators and forklifts.

Heavy machinery training underway at a decommissioned farm behind the Townsville Correctional Centre is transforming the area into a worksite for low custody female prisoners.

In the last year, 121 trade qualifications and more than 1840 units of competency were achieved by First Nations trainees.

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE corrections.qld.gov.au/take-a-look-inside

QCS CAREERS corrections.qld.gov.au/careers



Follow us
@QLDCorrections

Tell your story. Contact us at qcsmedia@corrections.qld.gov.au

More than 1000 Custodial Correctional Officers graduate in 2024

Queensland Corrective Services welcomes our newest Custodial Correctional Officers (CCOs) who will be working across the state to help keep Queensland safe.

Ceremonies across Queensland have celebrated the graduation of over 1000 officers this year, who completed the 10-week Custodial Officer Entry Program (COEP) to prepare for the challenges in the correctional environment. Another 142 Community Corrections officers graduated from the Foundations course over 2024. Congratulations to everyone on these milestone achievements!



Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

22 August 2024
5 September 2024
31 October 2024
11 December 2024

Maryborough Correctional Centre

6 September 2024
4 December 2024

Townsville Correctional Centre

13 September 2024
9 December 2024

Capricornia Correctional Centre

16 September 2024
6 December 2024

Queensland Corrective Services Academy

18 September 2024
11 December 2024

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

20 September 2024
13 December 2024

First QCS paws graduate to the frontline in Lockyer Valley

Queensland's newest high-security men's correctional centre marked a historic milestone on 31 October with the graduation of its first Corrective Services dogs (CSD).

Butch, Riot, Boss, and Donnie, along with their handlers, joined 97 new CCOs in the largest graduation ceremony for QCS, held in Laidley.

The new CCOs successfully completed the 10-week COEP, while the CCODHs (Custodial Correctional Officer Dog Handlers) finished the 12-week General-Purpose corrections dog training course. They are now ready to be a part of the 800-strong workforce at Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC).



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.

Custodial Correctional Officer Douglas James Cronin

Douglas joined QCS in April 2001 as a Custodial Correctional Officer in Townsville Correctional Centre and spent the last period of his career as a Farm Officer, taking care of the eucalyptus plantation and koalas from Billabong Sanctuary.

He was a larrikin, and highly respected by his colleagues.

We acknowledge the positive impact Douglas made during his time with QCS and extend our gratitude for his service to the wider community.

Cultural Development Officer Uncle Dean Edmund

Uncle Dean joined QCS in 2001 as a Custodial Correctional Officer at Capricornia Correctional Centre, then moving into the Cultural Development Officer role in 2010.

Uncle Dean was a Darumbal man and Cultural Elder at the Capricornia Correctional Centre. He was a friend to many in the cultural teams and Murrighagun and was involved in the cultural workshop that created the Positive Futures program.

Custodial Correctional Officer Adam Neilson- Carr

Adam joined Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) in May 2015 as a Custodial Correctional Officer in Townsville Correctional Centre. Adam had transferred to Woodford Correctional Centre in July this year.

Adam was an exemplary officer who will be sadly missed by his colleagues. He will be remembered as someone who took care to help his colleagues, had a great listening ear and loved the Cowboys.

Custodial Correctional Officer Yme Dwarshuis

Yme joined QCS in July 1999 as a Correctional Manager Accommodation at Capricornia Correctional Centre.

Yme undertook a number of roles for QCS including as a Regional Director/Regional Manager for Community Corrections Central Region, General Manager Capricornia Correctional Centre, Executive Director Community Operations and a Deputy Commissioner, Custodial Operations. He retired from Queensland Corrective Services in January 2018.

Yme will be remembered as a manager who cared deeply about his staff and went over and above to ensure that they felt valued and respected.

Custodial Correctional Officer Anthony (Tony) Dalton

Tony joined QCS in January 1998 as a Custodial Correctional Officer in Woodford Correctional Centre.

Tony was an exemplary officer who will be sadly missed by his colleagues.

Emma Brohman

Emma's career with QCS spanned 26 years across a number of roles. Emma began with QCS in July 1998 as a psychologist at Woodford Correctional Centre, in the early period after its commissioning and worked there for a number of years before joining Borallon Training and Correctional Centre and various other roles within head office.

Emma joined Sentence Management Services in 2013 and led multiple teams within the portfolio, contributing significantly to internal business reforms and the development and growth of officers.

Passive Alert Drug Detection dog Thommo

Passive Alert Drug Detection (PADD) dog Thommo recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge after a distinguished career at QCS, and a couple of well-earned years in retirement with his handler, Scott.

Thommo worked with Scott at Wolston Correctional Centre. He also represented QCS at events such as the Brisbane Ekka, where he demonstrated his detection skills and brought a smile to many faces with his enthusiasm and gentle nature.

Thommo also helped to train other QCS PADD dogs, assisted police with operations and search warrants.

He was awarded 'QCS Top Dog' for the year of 2020 and five-year Canine Service Medal from the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association.

Thank you for your service Thommo and rest easy now – you were such a very good boy.



Corrections NEWS

GPO Box 1054
Level 21, Northbank Plaza, 69 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4001
(07) 3565 7824
QCSMedia@corrections.qld.gov.au
corrections.qld.gov.au



Follow us
@QLDCorrections