



Corrections NEWS



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

It's been a busy few months across our corrections community!

An important event that certainly comes to mind is National Corrections Day, and I was fortunate to attend the ceremony in Brisbane.

I had the pleasure of meeting many talented and passionate officers who protect our community and uphold justice through their important work, and I'd like to give a shout out to Veronica Little from Townsville Correctional Centre.

Veronica joined QCS 25 years ago and won the Inspirational Female Award as part of the Commissioner's International Women's Day Awards. Her work, leading the next generation of officers, is inspiring and a testament to her dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe.

As corrections officers, you are the backbone of community safety and are at the frontline of protecting Queenslanders, while helping break cycles of crime, and creating conditions that foster rehabilitation.

I'm really proud that in just six months of being in Government, we have welcomed more than 900 new officers. That's fantastic, and with more graduations coming up, that number will grow again.

I also recently had the pleasure of attending the largest-ever intake for the Statewide Dog Squad at Southern Queensland Correctional Centre.

I met Neil Grossman, his wife Teagan, their children and their dog Neci. The family recently moved to Rockhampton to work at the Capricornia Correctional Centre and are a great example of a Queensland family passionate about keeping our community safe.

For many of you choosing to join the field, it isn't just a career choice – but a continuation of a legacy, a family-affair, fuelled by pride in protecting the community and upholding justice.

That is why we see many in our corrections family stay with us for a very long time. You support each other in difficult moments – and have a shared passion to serve. That passion and longevity is something we must all foster.

Thank you for what you do.

Let's keep going together with purpose, unity, and with a shared goal: fewer victims of crime, safer communities, and a justice system that delivers.

Front cover: Veronica Little from Townsville Correctional Centre receives the Inspirational Female Award

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Paul Stewart APM
Commissioner
Queensland
Corrective Services

As we reach the midway point of 2025, we reflect on the past six months and what we have achieved as an organisation.

We had a challenging start to the year, due to a string of adverse weather events across the state, but I am always humbled to witness firsthand the camaraderie and commitment of our teams.

Unfortunately, ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred delayed our International Women's Day awards ceremony that was scheduled in March, but we were able to move it and acknowledge the exceptional women and men we have in QCS at the National Corrections Day ceremony held recently in Brisbane.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, and Minister for Corrective Services, the Honourable Laura Gerber MP also attended the award ceremony and thanked officers for all their hard work and professionalism in keeping Queensland safe. You can read more about the ceremony and the winners of awards on page 10.

During the event, we celebrated diversity, acknowledging the varied backgrounds, cultures, and experiences that make our workforce unique and effective. This diversity enables us to connect effectively with the people we supervise to correct offending behaviour and to develop innovative solutions to the challenges we face as a profession.

Corrections is a vital link in the criminal justice system, and we work hand-in-hand with police, the courts, and Parole Board Queensland to reduce crime and make Queensland a safer place to live, work and visit.

As an organisation, we remain focussed on managing the ongoing challenge of capacity issues.

QCS will continue to work with Minister Gerber towards the Government's commitment to manage and plan for correctional centre capacity to meet demand now and over the coming decade.

We were pleased to learn that the 2025-2026 State Budget includes capital funding of \$2.39 billion over six years to provide much-needed additional prison capacity at Arthur Gorrie and Townsville Men's correctional centres.

It is expected the first prisoners will be moved to Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre later this year. Once operational, the centre will provide more than 800 permanent jobs to the local community.

In the first half of this year, we have also been able to add another 104 beds in low security prisons at Lotus Glen, Townsville Men's, Townsville Women's and Numinbah correctional centres.

The Senior Leadership Team remains focused on cultivating a professional, respectful and positive culture in QCS in which people feel valued, respected and included.

With this in mind, QCS is introducing mandatory education and training for all officers in preventing sexual harassment and sexually discriminatory conduct and maintaining respectful workplaces in the second half of 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping Queensland safe, and to helping to make QCS a great place to work.



Eloise Hamlett ACM
Acting Deputy
Commissioner
Custodial Operations

I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation and recognition to all correctional officers across Queensland. Your efforts and dedication to delivering safe, secure, and effective custodial operations have not gone unnoticed.

From managing the full range of prisoner behaviours and operational challenges to facilitating reform efforts, your work is critical to public safety. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the exceptional work of our frontline officers.

Operational excellence stems from mastering the fundamentals - getting the basics right every time. It's about consistency, attention to detail, and a focus on delivering quality custodial services. By doing the little things right, day in and day out, we look after one another's safety and wellbeing, maintain public confidence, and build the foundations that enable us to drive continuous improvement and achieve positive long-term outcomes.

I encourage all officers to remain vigilant and proactive in the day-to-day supervision of prisoners while also considering the impact of our decisions on victims and their families.

I would like to offer my congratulations to National Corrections Day and International Women's Day Award recipients. Special recognition also goes to Mr Stuart McHaffie, Mr Patrick Ralph and Ms Shannon Atkins, who have been nationally honoured with the Australian Corrections Medal for their distinguished service to community safety.

Lastly, we look forward to welcoming Mr Jon Peach to Queensland Corrective Services this September as the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner for Custodial Operations.

These are the award winners.





Ursula Roeder ACM
Deputy Commissioner
Community
Corrections and
Specialist Operations

As the Executive Champion for Domestic and Family Violence (DFV), May is a significant point in the calendar when we stop to recognise and reflect on how we can contribute to preventing DFV. During DFV Prevention Month, I was heartened to see so many QCS officers promote DFV awareness in a variety of different ways including participating in the Darkness to Daylight fundraiser, presenting at the Brisbane DFV Forum, the promotion of LGBTIQ+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day, and the development and release of the See, Hear, Believe – DFV for LGBTIQ+ training module, now available to all QCS officers. Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to pause, reflect, participate in events, donate, and complete the new training module – your participation is critical in preventing DFV now and in the future.

Also occurring in May was National Corrections Day - a day to celebrate the critical and often unseen work our officers do every day in protecting the community. I was privileged to attend the National Corrections Day Awards, which this year also incorporated the International Women's Day Awards, which were postponed earlier in the year due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. I was particularly proud to see the Community Corrections and Specialist Operations division so well represented at the awards night, shining a light on the outstanding work that occurs within our division each and every day. Community Corrections and Specialist Operations continues to grow and develop as a division each and every day because of the hard work and dedication of its people, which is not something I take for granted.

Thank you for the remarkable work that you all do.

Take positive action today to build a safer Queensland.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month | 1 – 31 May 2025

There are easy ways you can get involved to help to end domestic, family and sexual violence in our communities.



Find more information, resources and practical tools via www.qld.gov.au/dfvpmth



Adam Black
Deputy Commissioner
Organisational
Capability

As we move forward into the 2025-26 financial year, we reflect on what has been achieved so far across Organisational Capability this quarter.

We have been focusing on our whole of department sequenced approach to planning which has been successful in bringing together each divisions' leadership teams to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await us.

To round out this year's cycle of divisional planning activities, I was pleased to lead the annual Organisational Capability Divisional Planning Day on 26 May. Managers and directors came together with the Organisational Capability senior leadership team to set our agenda and key priorities for the new financial year. The event served as an opportunity for leaders to discuss strategies for enhancing efficiency, driving innovation, and improving service delivery to operational areas while moving into the new fiscal environment.

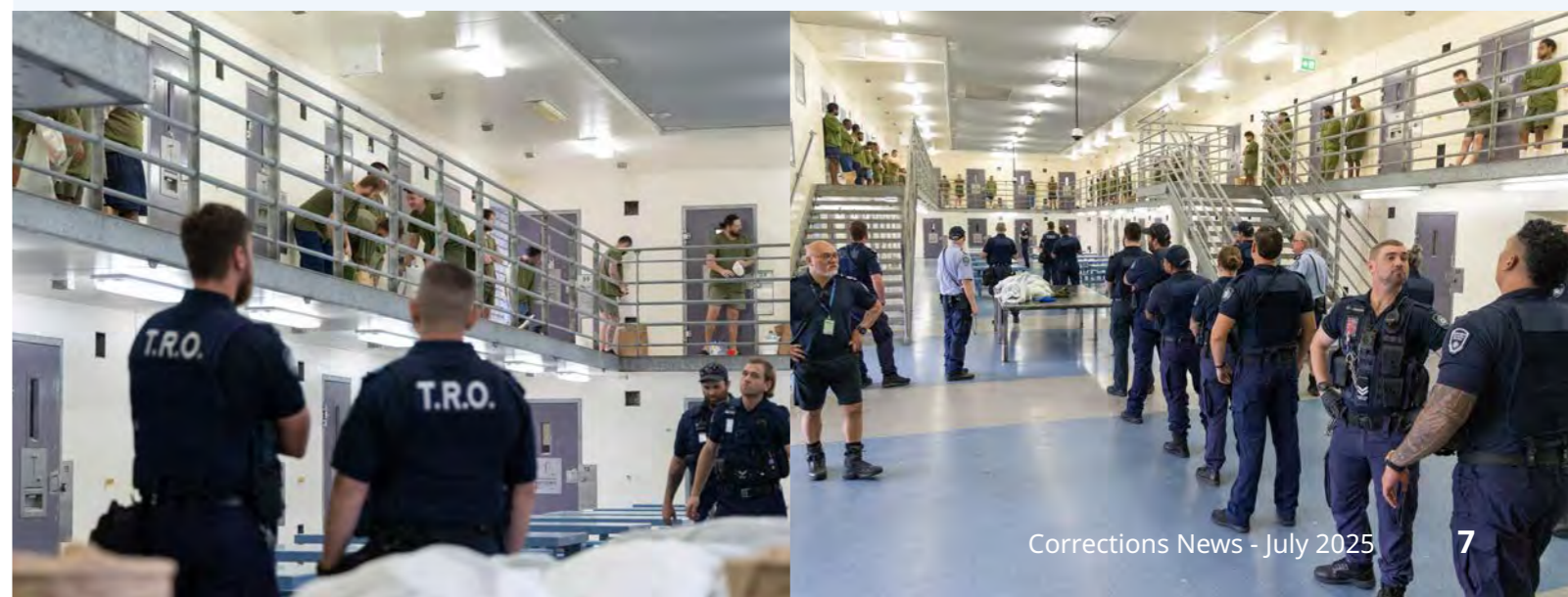
In April, the Disruptive Events Management Unit (DEMU) and key senior executive leaders conducted Exercise Inama, a QCS-wide, multi-agency discussion exercise. The exercise explored the potential loss of a correctional centre due to a major disaster, drawing on international case studies and recent experiences from Tropical Cyclone Jasper and ex- Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

DEMU assessed the implications for maintaining service delivery and the critical support available through Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements. The outcomes of the exercise will directly inform the development of a new Concept of Operations, enhancing QCS' ability to prepare for and respond to significant and severe disaster events.

The Partnerships and Strategic Engagement Group held two successful community engagement events in Yarrabah and Cherbourg recently, as part of the consultation process for the Discrete Community Workcamp and Cultural Connections program, receiving strong community support for the concept. Follow up consultation continues to occur, particularly with Councils, Traditional Owner groups and key stakeholders.

The 2025 Commissioner's Operational Performance Reviews (COPRs) for Corporate Commands are now complete.

The COPR team has been working in close collaboration with each Command to build operational and strategic KPIs and insights into each COPR. The action item management process has been further enhanced through the introduction of a more streamlined, automated, and user-friendly Action Item Register. Thank you to every participating Command for your continued support and participation in the COPR process, which will be further refined as we pursue continuous improvement across QCS.





Samantha Kane

Acting Deputy
Commissioner

Workforce Culture
Integrity and
Capability

I am so pleased to be writing this Foreword as the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Culture, Integrity and Capability. Throughout my career advising and supporting clients across the public sector, and since commencing with QCS in 2023, I have placed people at the centre of everything I do. I look forward to working with you all over the next 6 months to strengthen WCIC's place as the 'People Division' of QCS – focusing on supporting our frontline workforce in the complex work you do.

I would like to firstly acknowledge the work of Assistant Commissioner Erica Gallagher for her work leading the People Capability Command and congratulate her on her retirement after a long and distinguished career in the public sector. Thank you for your work in leading the People Capability Command which plays a vital role in enabling all areas of QCS to continue delivering frontline services.

This past quarter saw some of our dedicated officers acknowledged during the joint National Corrections Day and International Women's Day celebrations. The evening featured the Commissioner's Awards for Excellence, honouring individuals and teams who demonstrated our core values of Safety, Excellence, Empowerment, Respect, and Accountability. Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients – you are assets to our agency and we are lucky to have such a strong and committed workforce.

I'd like to highlight the Commissioner's recent reaffirmation of his commitment to the elimination of sexual harassment, bullying and discrimination in our organisation by sharing a video broadcast and the People Capability Policy and Practice Directive 'Preventing and responding to sexual harassment and sexually discriminatory conduct'.

This is an area of significant focus for WCIC; as the 'People Division,' we are committed to ensuring that QCS is a safe and inclusive workplace that prioritises the wellbeing of our staff. The Policy and Legal and Professional Standard and Governance Commands continue to work in partnership to ensure timely and people focused responses to conduct issues which fall below the line.

WCIC has recently welcomed Acting Assistant Commissioner Dr Yolonda Adams to the First Nations and Cultural Capability portfolio. Dr Adams is passionate about furthering the work of the QCS First Nations Portfolio and has hit the ground running as we gear up to an exciting NAIDOC week where we will reflect on the NAIDOC theme of 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'. Speaking of the next generation, I am thrilled to advise that our recent COEP graduation at Chandler included a record number of 17 First Nations recruits as part of the graduating cohort. This is a milestone number in our commitment to our 2026 workforce diversity target of 4% First Nations officers.

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, WCIC continues to support the government's commitment to reducing victims through a significant legislative program that delivers meaningful and forward-thinking reform. This is key to making our communities safer and ensuring our justice system is responsive, fair, and effective for everyone. Thank you to our hard-working Legislation Team within the Policy and Legal Command for your ongoing commitment to this important work.



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



Shining a light on QCS officers: Queensland celebrates National Corrections Day



On 16 May 2025, Queensland was illuminated in blue to celebrate National Corrections Day.

This is the first time the event has been held since National Corrections Day was officially moved from January to May.

This annual event acknowledges the outstanding work of corrections officers across Australia and New Zealand who contribute to public safety by rehabilitating and reforming offenders to keep communities safe and reduce crime.

QCS marked the day with a ceremony in Brisbane and local celebrations across the state recognising teams and individuals with awards reflecting the *Corrections 2030* principles of safety, excellence, empowerment, respect, and accountability.

Several officers were also acknowledged for their dedication and professionalism, receiving the Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal.

From the Cairns Courthouse in Far Northern Queensland to Winton's water tower in the state's North West, Maryborough's heritage listed City Hall in Central Queensland, and Parliament House in South East Queensland, councils acknowledged the important role of corrections by lighting landmarks in blue.

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart said National Corrections Day offered the chance to acknowledge the work of officers involved in public safety.

"Our officers show remarkable resilience and commitment every day, and on National Corrections Day we shine a light on that dedication and hard work," Commissioner Stewart said.

"We proudly recognise individuals and teams whose work embodies the values of *Corrections 2030*, guiding us to protect the public and reform lives to ensure there are fewer victims of crime.

"National Corrections Day is about honouring those who have excelled in their roles.

"I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our officers for the difference they make in keeping our communities safe."

In addition to these celebrations, several female officers were recognised for their contributions in making Queensland safe as part of the International Women's Day Awards, which were unavoidably delayed by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Commissioner Stewart said the women recognised had proven their impact on Queensland's safety.

"QCS is proud to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women, who make up nearly half of our workforce," Commissioner Stewart said.

"We recognise those who have gone above and beyond for others, who lead with integrity, and who make an enduring impact within corrections.

"The remarkable women nominated for these awards all lead by example – they are breaking down barriers, paving the way for others, and creating a more inclusive and diverse environment within our work force.

"This year we received nearly 140 nominations for these awards – almost three times as many as last year – and it's heartening to see people eager to recognise their colleagues for the excellent work they do to reform offenders and make Queensland safer."

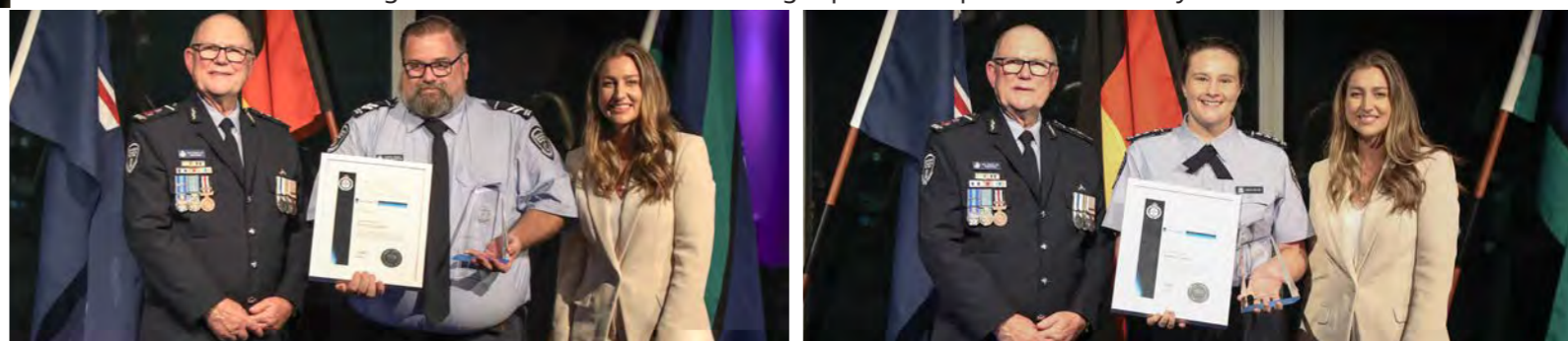
Commissioner's Awards for National Corrections Day Award recipients:

Safety – Demonstrating concerted action to deliver safer correctional environments and the community.



Winner – Greg Friend from Numinbah Correctional Centre
Winner – Mark Boyton from Infrastructure, Technology and Asset Services Command
Winner – Dean Bell from Townsville Correctional Centre

Excellence – Promoting a culture of excellence in stronger partnerships and community collaboration.



Winner – Industries at Wolston Correctional Centre
Winner – Janeve Colliss from the QCS Victims Register

Empowerment – Promoting a culture of empowerment to reduce crime and keep communities safe.



Winner – Offender Development Team from Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre
Winner – Mikaela Kissick from Parole Board Queensland Secretariat

Respect – Promoting a culture of respect by empowering professionalism and ethics in the workplace.



Winner – Beulah Davies from the Intelligence and Investigations Branch
Winner – Michael Czarnecki from Lotus Glen Correctional Centre collected by Chief Superintendent Gabrielle Payne

Accountability – Promoting a culture of accountability through innovation.



Winner – Colin Martin from the High Risk Offender Management Unit
Winner – Dr Melanie Mitchell from the Countering Violent Extremism Project

Commissioner's Partnership Award – Recognising outstanding collaboration between QCS and partner agencies to improve community safety.



Winner – Queensland Health, West Moreton Hospital and Health Services



The Commissioner's Unit Citation – Recognising a group of officers for outstanding conduct, professionalism or exceptional proficiency in operations or operations support.

Recipients of the Gold Citation were Superintendent Colin Poole from Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and Keith Ollenburg from Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre.

Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal – Recognising officers for their exceptional service performed with meritorious conduct.



Madeleine Euston – Community Corrections and Specialist Operations
 Jonathan Gardiner – Custodial Operations
 Peter Oxlade – Financial Services and Strategic Sourcing
 Morrie Naglik – Escort and Security Branch
 Fiona Lancaster – Woodford Correctional Centre
 Tara Thomas – Northern Region Community Corrections
 Tim Kurz – South Coast Community Corrections



International Women's Day Awards

Excellence in Performance in Custodial Operations – Recognising outstanding contributions in the custodial environment.



Winner – Superintendent Megan Crossley from Southern Queensland Correctional Centre.
Winner – Acting Superintendent Hanah Walton from Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre



Excellence in Performance in Community Corrections and Specialist Operations – Recognising excellence in community corrections or specialist areas, such as intelligence, investigations or dog squads.



Winner – Monique Vassallo from Parole Board Queensland Secretariat
Winner – Beck Field Cultural Liaison Officer, from South Coast Region



Excellence in Performance in Organisational Capability – Recognising significant contributions that enhance the agency's organisational capability.



Winner – Tahlia Johnston from the Operational Performance and Reporting Group

Excellence in Performance in Workforce Culture, Integrity, and Capability – Recognising efforts to enhance workforce culture and uphold integrity with QCS.



Winner – Lynda Hall-Watson from People Capability Command
Winner – Tanya Guild from People Capability Command collected by Acting Deputy Commissioner Samantha Kayne



Outstanding Emerging Female Leader – Recognising a rising leader who shows exceptional promise and achievement early in their career.



Winner – Superintendent Natalie Smith from Policy and Legal Command
Winner – Superintendent Silvi Baretta Deputy General Manager, from Townsville Correctional Centre



Outstanding Female Leader – Recognising an established leader who demonstrates exceptional leadership and impact within QCS.



Winner – Acting Deputy Commissioner, Eloise Hamlett ACM, from Custodial Operations.
Winner – Assistant Commissioner, Patsy Purtill, from Strategic Sourcing Command and Financial Services.



Inspirational Female Award – Recognising the extraordinary achievements and resilience of women who have made significant impact in their communities and/or workplace.



Winner – Veronica Little from Townsville Correctional Centre



Custodial Correctional Officer - Recruitment Process

Join Queensland Corrective Services and make a difference



Fitness assessment

Respond to Medical Emergency (RTME) test (completed within five minutes).



Psychometric assessment

Includes cognitive, emotional intelligence, written and personality assessments.



Medical check

Conducted via Sonic Health Plus (QCS will cover the cost of this. Full disclosure required).



Criminal History & Police Checks

All previous offences must be disclosed.



Custodial Officer Entry Program (COEP)

Duration: 10-week paid training at QCS Academy (Wacol) or regional centre.

Training: Chemical agent exposure, firearms, tactical skills.

Probation: 12 months, during which a Certificate III in Correctional Practice is completed.



First Aid Certificate

HLTAID003/HLTAID011 required before commencing COEP



Qualification Recognition

Relevant degrees may qualify for higher pay points.

Recognition of Skills Knowledge & Abilities (RSKA): Previous custodial or policing experience may be recognised for higher pay points.



Reference Checks

Two referees from a manager or supervisor within the past five years.



Deployments support SEQ prisons during ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought winds of up to 100 kilometres per hour when it crossed the coast at Moreton Bay on March 8.

This was the first time South East Queensland had braced for a cyclone in nearly four decades, and our southern officers were grateful for support from their experienced counterparts from the north.

Several Custodial Correctional Officers worked extra hours and days at their centres to ensure they were prepared for the impending impact, and some kitchen trade instructors also stayed behind to ensure officers were well fed. Custodial Correctional Officers from North, Far North and Central Queensland were deployed to help maintain safety and security at South East Queensland correctional centres in the lead-up to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred making landfall.

Ten officers from Townsville Correctional Centre and Maryborough Correctional Centre travelled south to support colleagues and centres through the weather event, plus additional officers from Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.

The officers assisted both during the severe weather event and during the recovery phase to relieve local officers who were dealing with the event personally.

QCS Commissioner Paul Sewart said it was important to ensure the safety and security at all centres at all times, including during natural disasters.

"QCS pre-positioned officers in South East Queensland to ensure public safety and the ongoing operational needs of high and low security correctional centres," he said.

"I am so thankful to those officers from up north who put up their hand to assist their colleagues down south, and I thank them for their service to both the agency and their state.

"Our northern colleagues are no strangers to this type of weather, and in some cases are more experienced in recovering from these types of events, and their operational capabilities and expertise was vital."

In February, Custodial Correctional Officers from South East Queensland were deployed to Townsville Correctional Complex to support officers following a year's worth of rainfall in just a week.

The reinforcements ensured public safety and allowed officers who had been working long hours at the centre to take much-deserved rest.

"The willingness of QCS officers to support their colleagues in other regions speaks volumes about the spirit of mateship and compassion we proudly strive to foster amongst our officers," Commissioner Stewart said.



Maryborough Correctional Centre assists with sandbagging efforts

Prisoners at Maryborough Correctional Centre again helped the community prepare for disaster by filling sandbags for residents to use in during impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred event of flooding in the region.

About 5000 sandbags are filled throughout the year by prisoners at Maryborough as part of their work programs and provided to Fraser Coast Regional Council and the local State Emergency Service (SES).

Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour thanked Queensland Corrective Services for its proactive disaster response efforts.

"We appreciate the ongoing support from corrective services. The rapid deployment of sandbags is incredibly beneficial to our community, just as they have been in previous disasters," said Mayor Seymour.

"Our collaboration with QCS is important and provides a much-needed resource to help support us during challenging periods or when additional assistance is needed.

"Corrective services is part of our community, and the agency works really well with our local disaster management group."

Acting General Manager of Maryborough Correctional Centre, Chief Superintendent John Owens said the correctional centre had played a hand in disaster preparedness by filling sandbags since 2018.

"QCS plays an important role in supporting disaster management groups across Queensland prepare for and clean up after weather events," Chief Superintendent Owens said.

"We are a proud part of the Fraser Coast community and filling sandbags is one way that prisoners can give back to the community as part of their rehabilitation.

"Having prisoners get hands-on with vital community work assists them in developing a strong work ethic and self-esteem, which supports their successful reintegration into society upon release."

Employee support:

QCS has support available for anyone impacted by natural disasters through Employee Assistance Services [Employee Wellbeing - QCS Intranet](#). For EAP assistance please contact Converge International on 1300 687 327.

Domestic and family violence prevention a focus

Across Australia, one in four women and one in 13 men will experience some form of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) in their lifetime.

These confronting statistics show the severity and prevalence of DFV in our society.

Each May, Queensland marks DFV Prevention Month. This annual initiative aims to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and coercive control, highlight the support services available, and send a clear message that violence in our communities will not be tolerated.

QCS actively engages in several activities during DFV Prevention Month, including educational programs, community outreach efforts, and collaborative partnerships with local organisations that work towards ending DFV.

Deputy Commissioner Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Ursula Roeder ACM is the QCS Executive Champion for DFV including Deputy Champions Sarah Hyde and Tim Thompson together they are taking a stand against abuse and disrespect within families.

"Its heartening to see many of our Community Corrections officers attending vigils and events across the state, drawing attention to this significant issue within our community," Deputy Commissioner Roeder said.

"The theme for 2025 is *take positive action today to build a safer Queensland*, and I'm proud to say QCS is intrinsically involved in taking positive and proactive action in this space.

"Everyone has a role to play in ending domestic

and family violence in our communities.

"Not all disrespect towards women results in violence, but all violence against women starts with disrespect and harmful attitudes.

"Gender inequality and engrained harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women are key drivers of domestic and family violence.

"We all have a key role to play to change the culture and challenge the harmful attitudes that underpin this form of violence in our communities.

"We have several online training tools available to all QCS officers, including the newly released the *See, Hear, Believe - DFV for LGBTQI+* modules, and the *foundational online training modules* that were developed by the Department of Justice.

"I urge all QCS officers to complete these training modules because you never know when you might need to call upon this knowledge in both the workplace and your personal life."

Support is available for anybody impacted by any form of domestic and family violence:

- Reach out to our Employee Assistance Provider [Converge International](#); or call their DVF helpline 1300 338 465
- If you are personally experiencing domestic or family violence, you can call the 1800RESPECT hotline 1800 737 732 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week)
- Reach out to [DV Connect](#) for gendered violence support (Womensline 1800 811 811, Mensline 1800 789 978).

South Brisbane



Officers from Brisbane Central and Brisbane South Community Corrections joined forces with counterparts from Queensland Police Service to hold a Domestic and Family Violence engagement event at the South Brisbane Railway Station on 14 May.

Redcliffe



Acting District Manager Megan Hughes was a guest speaker at the Redcliffe Domestic and Family Violence Vigil held on 7 May.



Roma



Roma Community Corrections hosted a candlelight vigil on 8 May. It's the second time the team has hosted the vigil to create space for reflection, remembrance, and hope.

Deception Bay



Ava, Katherine, Caitlyn, Alesandra, Julia, Tea and Angela respectfully represented QCS on 12 May at the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Moreton Assemblage 2025, held at the PCYC Deception Bay.

Darkness to Daylight 2025

This year marked the 12th year of Darkness to Daylight, an event raising awareness and funds for Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) charities.

Darkness to Daylight is an annual running event, with each of the 110km representing the average lives lost each year to DFV.

QCS had over 89 teams and registrations for the event raising more than \$7000!

Deputy Commissioner of Community Corrections and Specialist Operations Ursula Roeder said the funds would go to important initiatives.

“The initiatives funded through this event include education programs targeting boys and men, as well as emergency funding for people

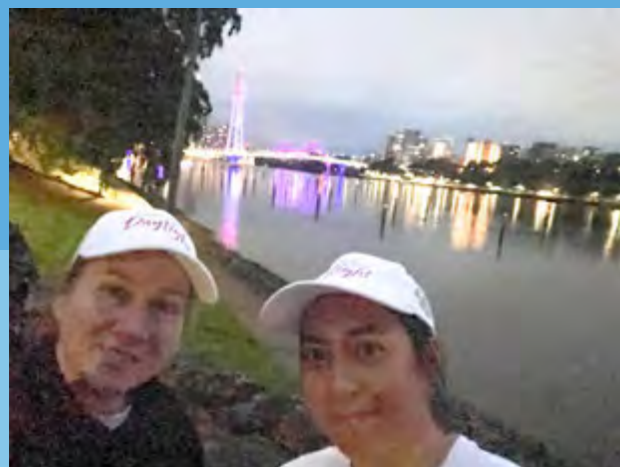
fleeing DFV situations,” she said.

“QCS’ involvement in Darkness to Daylight this year was impressive, and everyone should be proud of the difference they’re making by highlighting this issue.”

The 2025 event began on the evening of May 29 at Parliament House in Brisbane. Participants could choose to run or walk the 110km in a relay through the night, or complete a 10km or 3km course as the sun rose on 30 May.

Participants could also choose to complete the 110km virtually over the month of May.

For more information, go to [Darkness to Daylight : About Darkness to Daylight](#)



New online tools target Domestic and Family Violence

Officers across Queensland now have access to See, Hear, Believe – *DFV for LGBTQI+* training, to equip officers with the knowledge and skills to better understand, recognise and respond to the unique challenges the community faces when dealing with domestic and family violence (DFV).

The See, Hear, Believe – *DFV for LGBTQI+* modules specifically discuss indicators which an LGBTQI+ person may be experiencing DFV, such as threats of ‘outing’, using societal prejudice, manipulating gender identity and expression, health related abuse and isolation from LGBTQI+ communities.

Executive Champion for LGBTQI+ Acting Deputy Commissioner Eloise Hamlett said the online training aligned with QCS’ commitment to foster inclusivity, equity, and safety for all individuals.

“By providing insights into the distinct dynamics of DFV in LGBTQI+ relationships, this program supports our goal of creating an informed workforce that ensures safety and dignity for all,” she said.

“I highly encourage all officers to participate in the See, Hear, Believe – *DFV for LGBTQI+* training, which complements our existing LGBTQI+ initiatives and provides further opportunities for officer development and contributes to our broader diversity and inclusion strategy.”

Officers can access the training by searching Academy Online for ‘CTY069 See, Hear, Believe – DFV for LGBTQI+’.

Executive Champion for DFV and Executive Champion for Disability Ursula Roeder announced further online training was available from the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability and Child Safety (DFSDCS).

“DOJ has released two online training modules developed to support the start of the new coercive control legislation that started on 26 May 2025,” she said.

“The foundational online training modules are available statewide to government agencies and were developed in line with the Domestic and Family Violence Training and Change Management Framework released in April 2024.

“Module 1 explores what coercive control is, how to identify patterns of behaviour and the impact it has on victim-survivors, through the story of Riley and their experience as a victim-survivor of coercive control.

“Module 2 focuses on the start of the new coercive control legislation on 26 May 2025, and continues on from Module 1 with Riley who walks learners through the upcoming changes to the law.”

The modules are available on the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR) website: noviolence.org.au/learn/ and also on the new DOJ [Need to Know](#) website.

Officers can also access the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework through the [Need to Know](#) site.

“A new suite of accessible video resources to better support Queensland women with disability impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence are also available online, which were developed alongside women with disability and Queenslanders with Disability Network,” Deputy Commissioner Roeder said.

“They employ creative approaches including animation and Auslan sign language to raise awareness of DFV, healthy relationships and increase visibility and awareness of pathways to seek support.”

The DCCSDS print resources and new video resources are available at qld.gov.au/disability/adults/domestic-violence-support.

For further information on any of these online training initiatives or to get started, please contact Academy.Online@Corrections.qld.gov.au

20 Years of emergency response at Townsville Correctional complex

Townsville Correctional Complex's Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) has celebrated 20 years of operations at a ceremony in Townsville.

Established in 2005, CERT is responsible for working to maintain the safety and security of both the Townsville Correctional Complex during major and critical incidents.

Providing a skilled tactical and dynamic emergency response capability, CERT are ready to be deployed to emergent situations.

Becoming a Tactical Response Officer (TRO) is one of many career pathways Custodial Correctional Officers can take once joining QCS.

General Manager, Woodford Correctional Centre and Founder, Townsville Correctional Complex CERT unit, Acting Chief Superintendent Chris Davis said the 20-year celebration recognised the commitment and dedication of officers to keeping the Townsville community safe.

"The faces are different, but the dedication and commitment is the same and the type of individual is the same," A/Chief Superintendent Davis said.

"CERT was very much as it is today, a group of highly motivated individuals with a passion for service and providing safety within the correctional centre.

"This diverse group of officers are united by purpose, and are truly a magnificent group of people who represent the entire breadth of our agency.

"I think there's a little voice in some individuals where they want to put themselves to the test, challenge themselves to be part of a specialist team and everyone who's involved has to have a level of service within them."

The CERT team was first established at Townsville Correctional Complex following a number of reviews that identified the benefit of an emergency response

team including a scalable measure of response that involved all officers having a certain level of training to emergency response.

A ceremony was held to acknowledge the service of Townsville CERT to the safety and security of Townsville Correctional Complex and the Townsville community, recognising all members who have been part of the unit since operator's course number one.

Dog Handler and current co-coordinator of Townsville Emergency Response Team, Ryan Coleman said it was the original members of Townsville CERT who inspired him when he joined.

"It's the people; motivated, committed, and it takes a certain type of person with a certain moral compass to take that on," he said.

"They rely on each other so much, they trust each other essentially with their lives, so that's a big commitment to your colleagues and you need that during emergency response and those high-pressure times.

"Although it's not called upon all the time, it is an insurance policy for the centre when it's really needed, and that extends to the community.

"We're about keeping the community safe, the officers safe and the offenders safe."

Townsville CERT is actively recruiting Custodial Correctional Officers to join the unit.

To apply, get in touch with the QCS HR recruitment team at QCSRecruitment@corrections.qld.gov.au



Railway training sets prisoners on the right track

A group of six prisoners at Townsville Men's Low Custody Correctional Centre are on track to reform after completing a Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure.

The course, delivered under supervision alongside Registered Training Organisation Occupational Skills Centre Australia, is providing prisoners education and qualifications to secure employment upon release, in turn reducing recidivism and the number of victims of crime.

Successful completion of the course opens potential employment opportunities in track work, track maintenance and track installation.

QCS Vocational Training Officer Jess said the six graduating prisoners were motivated to become productive members of society by finishing the course and receiving their certificates.

"Each prisoner was required to complete 16 modules to earn the certificate, with a combination of classroom work and practical work," she said.

"It's that recognition of getting the certificate at the end that will give them the get up and go because now they have that skillset, and it opens up opportunities for when they're released to get themselves into the workplace.

"QCS offers a range of programs and interventions aimed at helping prisoners reform their behaviour through education or vocational training that gives them a sense of self-worth and increases their chance of employment post-release."

The course has previously been run at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, with QCS officers working together to learn from their experience and implement the course in Townsville using best practice.

Rail infrastructure is vital to North Queensland for the transport of freight from inland and interstate to Townsville's port, while track building and maintenance remains a vital skill in responding to flooding and natural disaster recovery.

Occupational Skills Centre Australia's Trainer and Assessor Jeff said expansion in the rail industry is happening nationally with the prisoners learning vital skills to commence employment.

"The course is basically a foothold into the rail industry, it's something that the industry across the board has put in as a prerequisite for getting into the rail industry as far as track maintenance," he said.

"It covers everything from health and safety, communication, manual handling and the core modules and then we go into the specialized units like ballasts, sleepers, fasteners and we cover a bit about track geometry as well.

"We came off the back of a disaster coming into this course and the officers at the Correctional Centre were very supportive, were able to adapt to the changes throughout and were very supportive in giving advice and direction when needed for training in this environment."



Officers working to Close the Gap and reduce overrepresentation

Townsville District Office's inaugural Closing the Gap event has brought together local organisations to support closing health, justice, employment and education gaps for supervised individuals.

An initiative of the First Nations Significant Events Working Group, the April event connected supervised individuals with community support organisations in a familiar location with hopes of improving outcomes for First Nations individuals, reducing their risk of reoffending and protecting community safety.

More than 25 supervised individuals attended the three-hour long event which exemplified the strength and importance of collaboration.

Townsville District Office Supervisor Nathan Bell described the event as a "one-stop shop".

"A lack of support or opportunities in these areas - employment, justice, health, education - often adversely affects the risk of reoffending for First Nations supervised individuals," he said.

"By holding events like this we can help lower the rate of incarceration rates of First Nations supervised individuals.

"This area needs constant energy and attention to be effective and we are well placed to make that happen moving forward."

The initiatives of the First Nations Significant Events Working Group have been supported by Community Corrections management and officers overall, this allows Community Corrections Cultural Liaison Officers to work in partnership with their case management colleagues to bring attention to important national and local dates or milestones to commemorate or celebrate and ensures that the learning is a shared responsibility and opportunity.

The Closing the Gap event was supported by Townsville Correctional Centre Cultural Liaison Officers and Sentence and Case Management Services. External stakeholders included Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services, TAFE Queensland, Queensland Injectors Health Network and Palm Island Community Company's Womens Healing Service.

Townsville District Office is now planning to run the event annually whilst continuing to implement other strategies throughout this year to help to Close the Gap.

New lanyard displays commitment to reconciliation

QCS is committed to reconciliation, inclusivity, and closing the gap for First Nations people, who are over-represented in the judicial system, including in our custody and supervision.

Following the launch of the QCS First Nations artwork, *Walking Together As One* during NAIDOC Week last year, Commissioner Paul Stewart announced that a lanyard featuring the artwork was available at the uniform store.

"The lanyard is more than an accessory; it is a visual representation of our shared journey towards building stronger relationships with First Nations prisoners and communities, benefiting all Australians," he said.

"The artwork featured on the lanyard has been generously provided by Superintendent Claire Walker of the QCS Murrighagun Cultural Centre.

"The design tells a powerful story, symbolising our commitment to listening, learning and walking together as one with First Nations people and includes the handprints of our Executive, Murrighagun and Cultural Liaison officers, local Elders and respected community members.

"Together, we will continue to make strides towards a future of equity, respect, and reconciliation."

In Superintendent Claire Walker's words:

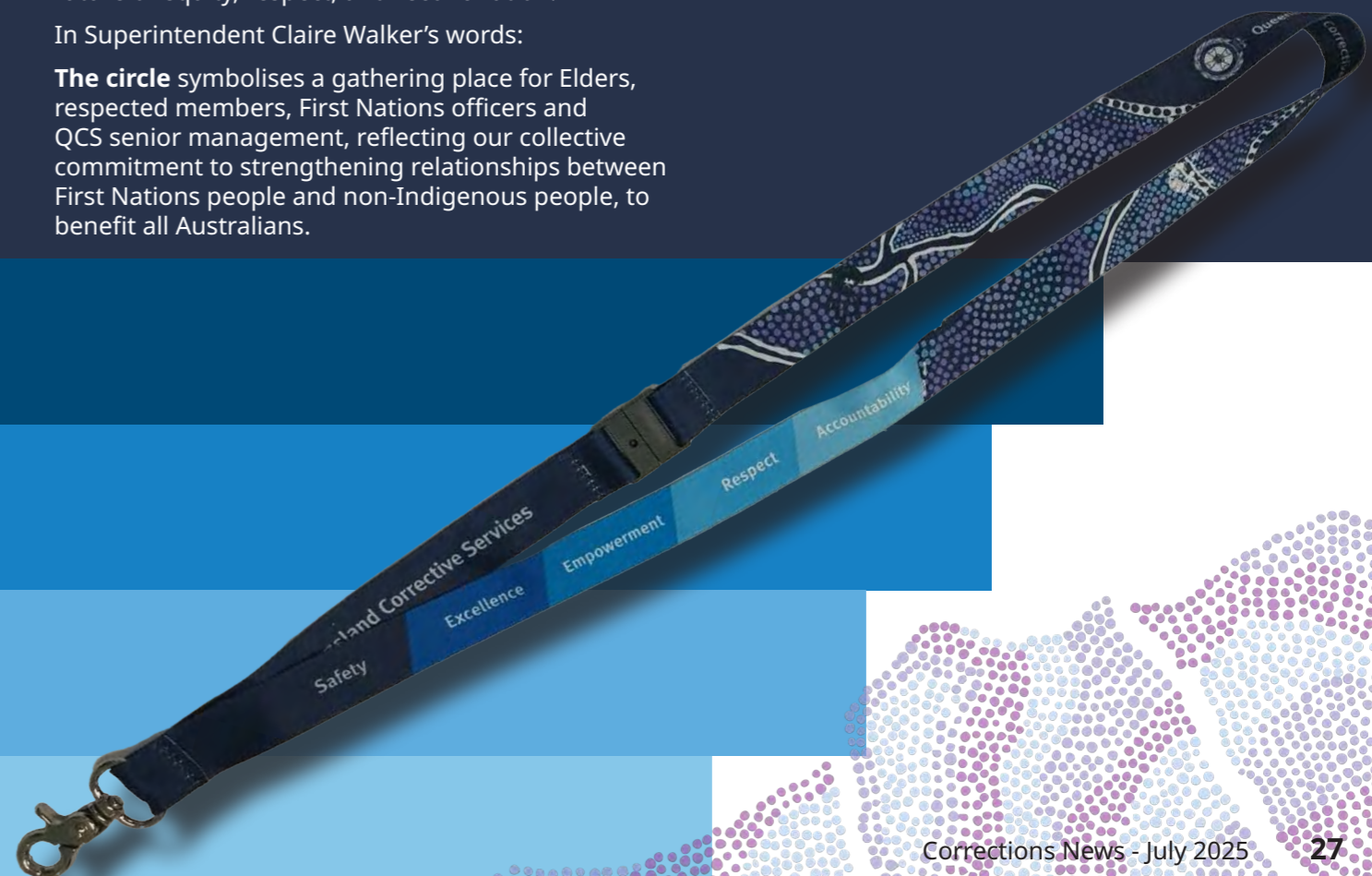
The circle symbolises a gathering place for Elders, respected members, First Nations officers and QCS senior management, reflecting our collective commitment to strengthening relationships between First Nations people and non-Indigenous people, to benefit all Australians.

The fingerprints reflect the intention to listen, learn and understand the past injustices inflicted since colonisation and what can be done individually and as a collective, to ensure that we learn from the past, so that these situations are never repeated.

The walking tracks represent a shared journey we are taking as individuals and as an agency towards reconciliation. This also encourages us all to reflect on our own thoughts, knowledge and unconscious bias whilst moving forward as one, regardless of skin colour, cultural background or what direction we are coming from.

Small dots at the bottom of the art is about 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 art encourages us all to create our own narrative for the reconciliation journey and encourages us all to think about equity and equality in closing the gap and building relationships to achieve this.

The variety of colours highlight the richness of cultural knowledge and the importance of sharing experiences to foster understanding and unity.



New beginnings for Policy and Legal Command

Samantha Kane was recently permanently appointed as Assistant Commissioner of Policy and Legal Command.

Assistant Commissioner Kane started working with QCS in December 2023 as Acting Assistant Commissioner, People Capability Command. Since August 2024, Assistant Commissioner Kane has been serving as Assistant Commissioner, Culture, Performance and Conduct, leading a cultural change program across QCS to address issues such as sexual harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

Assistant Commissioner Kane has more than 30 years of post-admission experience and is an expert in Queensland public sector law, with substantial experience in litigation, discipline, statutory interpretation, compliance, and administrative decision-making.

Prior to joining QCS, Assistant Commissioner Kane spent 20 years at Crown Law, including 15 years as Assistant Crown Solicitor, leading the Workplace Law Team. During this time, she advised and represented the State of Queensland and its various agencies, including QCS.

She is currently Acting Deputy Commissioner Workforce Culture, Integrity and Capability.

Managing psychosocial hazards in the workplace

We all play an important role in managing health, safety and wellbeing at work and managing and reporting psychosocial hazards and risks is one way of staying safe in the workplace.

A work-related psychosocial hazard is anything in the workplace that puts a person under psychological pressure, which over time may result in psychological harm or injury.

Assistant Commissioner People Capability Command Erica Gallagher said it is never too late to brush up on hazards and risks in the workplace and know how to report them.

"To ensure that our workplace is kept safe, it's important for officers to report all risks, both physical and psychosocial, to their managers or supervisors as soon as possible," Assistant Commissioner Gallagher said.

"The health, safety, and wellbeing of our officers is a priority for QCS, which aligns with our vision to develop a strong and healthy workforce that fosters a culture of wellbeing, resulting in greater productivity and enhanced delivery on the services we provide to the community."

Reporting hazards and incidents is an essential part of QCS' Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing Program, which is fully supported by the Code of Practice - Managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work.

"By reporting, it allows us to review existing methods that are in place to manage the risks to ensure that they remain effective.

"It also helps to identify additional controls through a risk management approach, in consultation with officers, that may reduce the risk of harm," Assistant Commissioner Gallagher said.

There are resources on the QCS intranet that can be found by searching Health, Safety and Wellbeing or if you require additional assistance with identifying or reporting hazards and incidents, please speak with your manager, supervisor, OHSEC or trained safety advisor.



Jo Dansey
Assistant Commissioner
Transformation Office

It's been a busy few months in the Transformation Office, with progress continuing on several of our programs.

As part of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT) reforms, the Women's System Reform PMO continues to deliver targeted initiatives to improve the experiences and outcomes of women in the correctional system.

In May, the bi-annual Women's System Survey was conducted across all six women's correctional centres. Run in-person, the survey captured insights from women in custody across key areas, from admission through to discharge. The results are instrumental in ensuring reforms are positively impacting rehabilitation opportunities for women offenders and prisoners.

Consultation workshops are also underway across May and June to support the re-design of women's system education services. These sessions are giving women with lived experience a seat at the table to shape future access to education and post-release employment pathways.

Frontline education officers will also have their say to ensure practical implementation is supported. The Women's System Reform PMO would also like to acknowledge the significant input and support from the Education Services team in Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services.

The Women's Handbook is now available. It will provide accessible, centre-specific information about available programs and supports, to help women better navigate their time in custody, while reducing reliance on QCS officers to answer routine questions making it easier for officers and women alike.

Work is progressing on the development of a new Women's Trauma Informed Practice Framework (WTIPF) for QCS. The framework will support QCS officers to work in ways that support the rehabilitation of women, reduce recidivism rates, improve safety in correctional centre environments, and improve community safety. Aligned with the QCS values and *Corrections 2030* principles, the WTIPF will also help deliver on the goals of the *Interim Women's Strategy 2023-2025* and the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations.

These initiatives highlight QCS' continued commitment to delivering a modern, sustainable, and evidence-informed correctional system.



New prisoner phones installed

The Digital Services and IT Command has recently completed Phase One of the Prisoner Telephone System Upgrade across the state.

The upgrade began in December, replacing all Arunta phones with the new digital Unity devices, with 486 phones upgraded and an additional 69 installed using existing infrastructure.

The first Arunta phone was installed by Telstra at Capricornia Correctional Centre in 1996, and the final call was made on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 3.35pm at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre in B14 after 29 years in operation.

Assistant Commissioner Digital Services and IT Command Michael Nikolic said QCS was supporting prisoners to build strong support networks that could help them succeed after release.

"QCS is dedicated to helping prisoners rehabilitate and reducing crime, and making phone calls to family and friends more accessible helps prisoners maintain strong connections which is a key factor in helping them turn their lives around," Assistant Commissioner Nikolic said.

"The new devices also give QCS enhanced intel capabilities, which will help to protect victims of crime and prevent further offending.

"The upgrade will ensure clearer, high-quality calls as well as more availability with more phones being installed throughout our centres.

"Calls will also be cheaper for prisoners, with a 49 percent reduction to mobile phone numbers, a 25 percent drop to local call rates and a 20 percent drop to national call rates."

Phase Two is currently underway, with more phones being installed and cabling being upgraded across centres.



Getting past the silos, towards a career in psychology

Beth grew up in a small country town near Tamworth after attending the local catholic primary and state high school. She had a job in the news agency and had a nice childhood in a town of only 3500 people.

But Beth had a burning desire to "get past the wheat silos on the edge of town" as the locals said, to go to university and begin an exciting new adventure.

Beth is now a Senior Psychologist at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre and while she took a roundabout way of getting to her destination, she believes she landed in the right place.

"I wanted to be a journalist – a foreign correspondent, so I could travel the world and have adventures, but my dad wasn't keen on that idea and urged me to think of something else," Beth said.

"I was having a meeting with my guidance counsellor at school one day, and the deadline was looming to make a choice about what course I should choose.

"I opened the careers book to a random page and pointed – my finger was on psychology. 'That'll do!' I thought."

So Beth went off to University in Toowoomba, but didn't really start to enjoy her degree until she was past her first year, when the complexities of psychology were revealed.

She completed her fourth year at James Cook University in Cairns, and when she finished her degree Beth chose to work at a local department store, before travelling across Europe and Africa.

Upon her return to Australia, she applied for a job at QCS as a Community Corrections Officer but wasn't successful initially, however they ended up offering her a contract position about a month later.

Beth really enjoyed working as a Community Correction Officer in the Cairns office. She did remote work in Yarrabah, Mossman and Cape York and got to see some incredible places, as well as working in the community at the same time.

"While I really enjoyed the job, but I knew it wasn't quite right for me – I wanted to use my skills. So I started my psychology registration and took a job at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre in the sex offender program unit.

"I realised I'd found something I really loved – I was helping people to make better choices and simultaneously learning an enormous amount from the people I was treating.

"I found a local mentor, who was a forensic psychologist, who always used to tell me that we do this work to ensure there are no more victims, and that has always resonated with me."

Beth moved around to other roles, got her psychology registration, took a role in head office, and then spent a year as a private psychologist, before returning to Lotus Glen.

"I just wanted to see what else there was, but I was really drawn back to QCS because I enjoyed working with people with complexities and knowing that I'm also making a difference to society with what we do is really rewarding.

"QCS has allowed me so many opportunities, but I've worked really hard for them because I genuinely love what I do.

"There is a great work/life balance, opportunities to try different roles, and the knowledge and skills I've learned from my clients has shaped the way I conduct my work, with the aim of making sure that there are no more victims."

QCS is currently running a recruitment drive for psychologists across Queensland. If you know anyone who might enjoy a career in corrections, or you yourself would like to explore your career options, please visit corrections.qld.gov.au/mental-health-careers.



Warwick Work Camp lends a helping hand at local agriculture shows

Show season is well under way in Queensland, and officers from Queensland Corrective Services have been working with prisoners from Warwick Work Camp to support communities by assisting show committees to prepare local showgrounds for their annual agricultural show.

The women from the low custody work camp assist, under supervision, with projects around the grounds needed to prepare the areas for the incoming events.

Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre Acting General Manager Chief Superintendent Andrew Wilson said officers worked closely with the women to teach them new skills and offer much needed assistance to the community to support the successful running of shows.

"Women from the work camp play an important role and have become valued members of the show prep team, significantly contributing to the preparation of the grounds ready to welcome thousands of visitors from the community," A/General Manager Wilson said.

The tasks range from setting up yards and fences to house animals, hanging banners in prominent areas, cleaning out and setting up sheds, setting up display shelves in the pavilions, preparing canteens for volunteers, ground maintenance, general cleaning and assisting anywhere else as needed.

The women also support events during the show and at this year's Warwick Show they assisted with timekeeping for sheep shearing competitions, they assisted in the show jumping arena, helped with wool grading and worked in the volunteer's Margie's Teahouse, preparing food and drinks. The women rotate through the jobs over the course of the three-day show and are accompanied by a QCS Field

Officer and community supervisor.

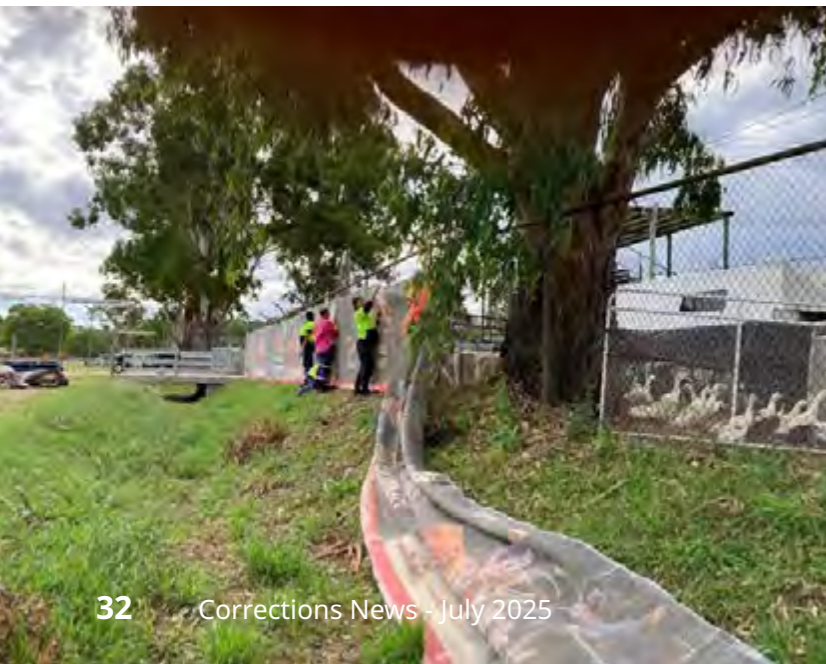
"This exercise is also very important for the rehabilitation of the women and I am proud of our officers who act as agents of change to ensure we are teaching them valuable skills, engaging them in meaningful work and supporting their reform, which ultimately contributes to a safer Queensland," A/General Manager Wilson said.

Warwick Work Camp has been working with the local community to prepare for the annual agriculture shows for the past 30 years.

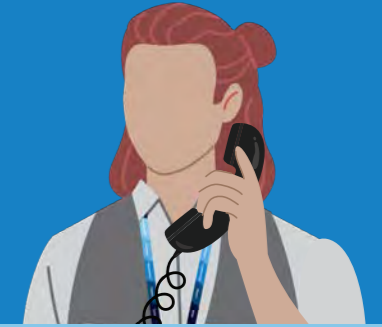
Work Camps benefit the community by providing a boost in labour in areas that may otherwise be under resourced, while teaching prisoners important skills needed to become productive members of society once they leave prison.

A/General Manager Wilson said they consistently receive positive feedback from the show organisers on the quality of work undertaken by the women from the work camp.

The women have also recently been involved in site prep for the Stanthorpe, Allora and Killarney shows, undertaking ground maintenance, cleaning halls and eating areas, setting up events and erecting fencing panels.



Migration to Teams Calling now complete



The statewide transition from Telstra Cloud Collaboration Cisco Powered calling to Microsoft Teams calling has been rolled out to more than 7000 officers and is now complete across QCS.

The project team deployed Poly desktop phones and soft client users at all correctional centres, community corrections offices and within QCS headquarters.

Assistant Commissioner Digital Services and IT Command Michael Nikolic praised the project team for their efforts and commitment to the massive undertaking across the organisation.

"Congratulations to all involved in the implementation of this system which will provide our workforce with better and more secure ways to use voice communications and a more robust system needed to respond to QCS' changing needs," Assistant Commissioner Nikolic said.

"This modern upgrade will give our officers greater flexibility and accessibility, more efficiency, cost savings and a host of new innovative features to enhance the overall experience."

Throughout the six-month migration, the project deployment team travelled the length and breadth of the state to correctional centres, community corrections offices and within QCS HQ, transitioning officers to Teams Calling, providing training and technical support, and tackling some difficult challenges along the way.

Assistant Commissioner Nikolic said officers across QCS were now integrating Teams Calling into their daily operations.

"Everyone played an important role in this project - whether you were part of the original project team, joined the project later or assisted intermittently, I thank you all for your unwavering determination and commitment."

Training is always available online if you need a refresher, so jump onto the intranet any time by looking up Telephones to Teams Calling.

Alan Butler retires after a long career in corrections



Chief Superintendent of the Queensland Corrective Services Academy, Alan Butler was honoured on 20 March for his 18-year career and retirement from QCS.

Commissioner Paul Stewart APM presented Mr Butler with a Meritorious and Ethical Service medal and a Medallion for Retiring Officers at a celebration at the QCS Academy.

Commissioner Stewart praised Mr Butler as an experienced and respected leader who joined QCS as Director of Learning Services at the Academy.

“Under his stewardship, the Academy grew significantly, evolving into the leading training institution within our agency,” Commissioner Stewart said.

“He also played a hand in training 6936 custodial recruits since 2006, with the training programs continually adapted over the years to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of our officers.

“One of Alan’s standout achievements was the successful launch of our online training portal, which revolutionised how we deliver some of the training across the agency.

“His leadership also guided significant changes to the Custodial Officer Entry Program (COEP) training, ensuring it stayed current, relevant and impactful.

“One of the most significant legacies Alan leaves behind is the introduction of the Murridhagun Cultural Centre, which has been pivotal in providing officers with the necessary training and resources to better engage and work with our First Nations’ officers and prisoners, promoting understanding, inclusivity, and cultural competence.

“Additionally, Alan played a key role in the delivery of Community Corrections training, enhancing the skills and preparedness of officers in this crucial area.

“Alan has been a significant and valued member of QCS, and I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him all the best for his retirement.”



Around the state

Palen Creek

Palen Creek Correctional Centre hosted a special Anzac Day ceremony in April.

The ceremony was conducted by prison chaplains and enabled officers and prisoners to honour those who defended our country.

As part of the occasion, prisoners working in the kitchen also made traditional Anzac biscuits for all attendees to enjoy.



Lotus Glen

The Lotus Glen Correctional Centre low custody male farm was recently recognised by the Mareeba Lions Club for its contribution to the maintenance of the Bunny Seary Lookout, a popular spot for local tourism.

The Mareeba Lions Club reached out to show their appreciation and gratitude for the efforts of the low custody farm and its workforce, whose hard work contributes to the presentation and maintenance of public spaces across Mareeba and the Tablelands.

The location also holds historic value, commemorating Arthur Francis “Bunny” Seary, a soldier in World War II and Mareeba Shire Councillor.



Clermont

Prisoners from Clermont Work Camp completed a multitude of tasks to freshen up the local showgrounds in preparation for the annual Wombat Festival in May.

Projects included the fabrication and painting of a truck tailgate and side gates, the painting of the showground’s portable stage and show jumping equipment, the restoration of outdoor chairs and the old junior cricket shade hut, as well as assisting with the construction of trestle tables for the festival.

The Wombat Festival is a Clermont Artslink initiative, which aims to use art to celebrate and raise awareness of protection of the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat.





Clermont Work Camp have also been busy rebuilding a horse cart from a pile of scrap metal using recycled materials.

Officers from the work camp found the remnants of the cart in some long grass near the Clermont Showgrounds and together with the prisoners they undertook research before embarking on the project to completely reconstruct the cart.

Prisoners were able to hone their woodwork and welding skills to complete the project, which mainly used offcuts and scrap materials.



Brisbane

Twenty-three new Community Corrections case management Foundations graduates were recognised in a ceremony at the QCS Academy in April.

The graduates will step into crucial frontline service roles in Sentence Management across the state, including Case Managers, Senior Case Managers, and Probation Services Officers.

Their hard work in completing their training demonstrates their commitment to reforming those under QCS supervision and encouraging long-term behavioural change, helping to keep Queensland safe.



Hervey Bay

Probation Services Officer Nathan has been successfully leading the Beanie project at Hervey Bay Community Corrections.

Nathan took on the Beanie project to offer mindfulness, purpose and feeling of achievement to supervised individuals who can't attend community service sites due to various reasons.

As part of the project, instructions, wool and knitting looms are provided to the supervised individuals to create the beanies which are donated to various not-for-profit organisations, such as the Neighbourhood Centre for the homeless and the maternity ward at the local hospital.

In the past year, under Nathan's supervision, 114 small beanies and 55 large beanies have been made, accounting for nearly 450 community service hours.



Woodford

Woodford Correctional Centre recently represented QCS at the Emergency Services Expo at the Woodford Showgrounds.

The small team battled some trying weather conditions initially but greeted visitors with big smiles and friendly conversations about recruitment and how their roles in custodial, dog squad, tactical response and disability support contribute to safer communities.

The Expo attracts thousands from the community and brings together a range of emergency services, providing an opportunity to engage and promote QCS.



Warwick

A Warwick Work Camp prisoner made use of her artistic talents as a part of her rehabilitation to beautify the local showgrounds.

The prisoner impressed the local show society with her artwork, and as a result they asked her to complete a special project - painting these metal bins for their caravan show.

The project has allowed the woman to practice and refine her skills, and give back to the community.



Townsville

Officers at Townsville Men's Correctional Centre successfully delivered a Certificate I in Construction.

They teamed up with RTO Civil Safety to deliver the four-week course to prisoners, teaching foundational skills and knowledge to pursue an apprenticeship in any construction trade, with 11 men recently graduating the course.

Through their ongoing collaboration with Civil Safety, TCC education and service delivery support officers are working hard to equip prisoners with the vocational training and skills they need for successful reintegration into society post-release through meaningful employment outcomes.



Community Corrections officers at Townsville District Office hosted a successful Closing the Gap event, bringing together local organisations to support closing health, justice, employment and education gaps for supervised individuals.

Joining forces with the TCC Cultural Liaison Officers and Sentence and Case Management Services, the joint Community Corrections and Custodial teams hosted four First Nations providers as part of the inaugural event.

With a goal to connect supervised individuals with community support organisations in a familiar location, it's hoped the event improves outcomes for First Nations individuals, reduces their risk of reoffending and protects community safety.





Charleville

The dedicated team at Charleville Work Camp supported the community during flooding in Charleville and surrounding areas in April.

Officers supervised prisoners on various projects, including at Charleville airport where they manually unloaded and loaded food supplies bound for Quilpie township and surrounding areas.

They also filled over 1000 sandbags to be used in the community.



Northern Region Community Corrections Regional Advisor Kirsten recently received her 30-year Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Kirsten commenced with QCS in 1990 and has worked in administration roles across custodial operations at Townsville Correctional Centre, Sentence Management and Parole Board Secretariat prior to joining the Northern Region Team in 2018.

Acting Regional Manager Jade described Kirsten as a highly valued member of the Regional Admin team who enjoys shaping her role to provide meaningful high-level support across the region.

IN THE MEDIA

Television - Radio - Newspaper - Social Media - Online

Issue: 260624 QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES BEST SOURCE OF NEWS Est- 1859

In the media has been highlighting the work of our officers, who strive each day to enhance community safety across Queensland.

From intercepting contraband in correctional centres to rehabilitating offenders to prevent further crimes, our officers play a crucial role in improving lives and ensuring safer communities.

Thank you for helping to share our stories in the media and drawing attention to the efforts made to reduce victims of crime.

Well done to you all!



Win News National Coverage

Channel 9 16 May 2025

National Corrections Day News Media Coverage



10 NEWS FIRST

Channel 10 National Coverage

May 16 2025

National Corrections Day News Media Coverage



DOG SQUAD

Channel 7 Coverage

May 9 2025

Dog Squad Graduation

Shining a spotlight on QCS officers like Mimi Rogers

By Angela Norval

Queensland will be illuminated blue today (16 May) to mark National Corrections Day (NCD).

The day acknowledges the work of corrections officers who contribute to public safety by rehabilitating and reforming offenders to keep communities safe and reduce crime.

Queensland Corrective Services is marking the day with a ceremony in Brisbane, recognising teams and individuals with awards reflecting the principles of safety, excellence, empowerment, respect, and accountability, where several officers were also acknowledged for their dedication and professionalism, receiving the Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal.

Across the state, landmarks lit up blue to mark the special occasion including the Bundaberg Schol of Arts Building.

Central Region Community Corrections regional manager Superintendent Mimi Rogers who started her role with QCS in 2007, said National Corrections Day provides an excellent opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution of their officers.

“As a frontline public safety agency, our officers are dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our centres, offices, and the broader community every day,” she said.

“Queensland Corrective Services plays a key role in improving community safety and reducing the number of victims of crime by rehabilitating offenders and preventing further offending.

“I value and appreciate the incredible work our people perform and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.

“One of Queensland Corrective Services’ objectives is to reduce crime, delivering evidence informed and responsive case management supports a reduction in recidivism and ultimately improves community safety.

“Our workforce are made up of very dedicated and passionate people who work in the communities they live in and ultimately also want to keep safe.”

Superintendent Rogers highlighted that collaborating and partnering with local service providers, government agencies and non-

government organisations supports greater visibility and responsiveness to the diverse needs, strengths and challenges within a community.

“Engaging in cultural awareness training supports culturally appropriate service delivery as well as more inclusive practices.

“This enhances our ability to address criminal behaviour and boost community safety.

“Given the essential work performed by our Community Corrections Officers and Custodial Officers is undertaken behind the scenes, the important role our workforce plays in keeping the community safe, is often not visible to the public.

“As frontline workers, who undertake a critical and complex role in challenging circumstances, National Corrections Day is vitally important to raise awareness of the excellent work undertaken by our wonderful people who diligently and tirelessly promote community safety, each and every day.

“In a challenging work environment, it is important to invest in self-care strategies and build resilience.

“Personally, I am a member of Tennis Bundaberg and enjoy playing socially a few times a week to support my mental and physical health.”

Corrective Services Minister Laura Gerber said National Corrections Day is a chance to honour our dedicated correctional officers and the important role they play in protecting our communities.

“Making Queenslanders Safer is at the heart of my role as Minister and it’s at the core of what our Corrective Services Officers do every single day,” Minister Gerber said.

“I would like to recognise the outstanding work of our officers and the dedication and passion they’ve shown to building safer communities and protecting Queenslanders.

“The future of Queensland Corrective Services is strong and full of potential and together we can continue to work towards creating a safer state.”



Central Region Community Corrections Regional Manager Superintendent Mimi Rogers is happy to celebrate National Corrections Day and raise awareness of the many different people involved in corrections. (Contributed)

National Corrections Day

LANDMARKS throughout the state were lit up blue to mark and celebrate National Corrections Day last Friday.

The day acknowledges the work of corrections officers who contribute to public safety by rehabilitating and reforming offenders to keep communities safe and reduce crime.

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is marking the day with a ceremony in Brisbane, recognising teams and individuals with awards reflecting the principles of safety, excellence, empowerment, respect, and accountability.

Several officers were also acknowledged for their dedication and professionalism, receiving the Meritorious and Ethical Service Medal.

From the Cairns Courthouse to Winton's water tower, Maryborough's heritage listed City Hall, and Parliament House, councils acknowledged the important role of corrections by lighting landmarks in blue.

Minister for Corrective Services Laura Gerber said National Corrections Day is a chance to honour our dedicated correctional officers and the important role they play in protecting our communities.

"Making Queenslanders safer is at the heart of my role as Minister and it's at the core of what our corrective services officers do



every single day," she said.

"I would like to recognise the outstanding work of our officers and the dedication and passion they've shown to building safer communities and protecting Queenslanders.

"The future of QCS is strong and full of potential and together we can continue to work towards creating a safer state."

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart APM said National Corrections Day offered the chance to acknowledge the work of officers involved in public safety, both in Queensland and throughout Australia.

"Our officers show remarkable resilience and commitment every day, and today we shine a light on that dedication and hard work," he said.

"We proudly recognise individuals and teams whose work embodies the values of Corrections 2030, guiding us to protect the public and reform lives to ensure there are fewer victims of crime.

"National Corrections Day is about honouring those who have excelled in their roles.

"I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our officers for the difference they make in keeping our communities safe."

Tribute to work of QCS officers

Molly Frew

Landmarks across Queensland are illuminated blue today to celebrate the work of the state's correctional workers.

May 16 is National Corrections Day, which raises awareness about correctional officers who work to keep the community safe and reduce crime by "rehabilitating and reforming offenders", Queensland Corrective Services said.

QCS Commissioner Paul Stewart said "our officers show remarkable resilience and

commitment every day, and today we shine a light on that dedication and hard work".

According to the Queensland Government's Corrections 2030 road map, there are more than 5000 correctional officers working every day in Queensland.

Minister for Corrective Services Laura Gerber said making Queensland safer was at the "heart" of her work as minister and was evident in the work correction services offi-

cers undertake every day.

"I would like to recognise the outstanding work of our officers and the dedication and passion they've shown to building safer communities and protecting Queenslanders," Ms Gerber said.

"The future of Queensland Corrective Services is strong and full of potential and together we can continue to work towards creating a safer State."

To mark the day, several officers and teams will receive

awards at a ceremony in Brisbane.

Several female officers will also be recognised for their service as a part of International Women's Day Awards delayed by ex-tropical cyclone Alfred.

According to QCS data from 2022, women made up 45 per cent of the QCS workforce and held 49.6 per cent of senior officer roles.



Cairns courthouse lit up in blue.

Celebrating 8000 officers on National Corrections Day

By Paul Stewart, APM, Queensland Corrective Services commissioner

May 16 is National Corrections Day, an occasion where we stop to recognise and celebrate our officers working to make Queensland safer where you live.

It is a day dedicated to recognising the often unsung contributions of corrective services officers who work tirelessly to ensure public safety across the country.

From Boigu Island in the Torres Strait to Mungindi in the state's far south and west to Camooweal, Queensland Corrective Services' more than 8000 officers work to make Queensland a safer place for all of us.

You may think of corrections simply in terms of prisons, but in addition to the 11 high and six low-security centres across the State, we operate 35 Community Corrections district offices, and over 140 reporting locations across the state.

We also have 13 work camps embedded in regional and remote Queensland communities, assisting with activities such as maintenance of public facilities like cemeteries, parks and rest areas and assisting with agricultural shows and major events that draw thousands of tourists to our regions each year.

In fact, last financial year, QCS work camps and low custody facilities provided \$7.78 million in labour to these communities across the State, benefiting not only our country towns, but providing prisoners with the skills and training to lead successful, crime-free lives upon their release back into the community.

This year, we celebrate diversity, acknowledging the rich tapestry of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences that make our workforce unique and effective.

Our officers, whether they are custodial correctional officers, community corrections specialists, trade and educational instructors, dog squad officers, psychologists, counsellors, cultural liaison officers, frontline support, or

administrative officers, all share the common mission of reducing crime through the effective rehabilitation and reform of prisoners and offenders.

Diversity is not just a theme for this year's National Corrections Day; it is a cornerstone of our operations.

Our workforce reflects the communities we serve, bringing together a wide range of cultures, perspectives and skills that enhance our ability to address criminal behaviour and boost community safety.

This diversity enables us to connect effectively with the people we supervise and to develop innovative solutions to the challenges we face as a community.

Corrections is a vital link in the criminal justice system, and we work hand-in-hand with police, the courts and Parole Board Queensland to reduce crime rates and make Queensland a safer place to live, work and visit.

As we celebrate National Corrections Day, we also focus on the well-being of our officers.

We recognise their work can be challenging and, at times, confronting.

It is our responsibility to ensure they are the best trained and equipped in Australia, supported by strong legislation and access to the best available employee support services.

Our officers are the lifeblood of our agency.

We value their commitment and dedication to keeping Queensland communities safe. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of them for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the great state of Queensland.

This National Corrections Day, I hope you take a moment to recognise the contribution Corrective Services officers make to community safety in Queensland and across the country.

Mayor acknowledges hard work of corrections team

By MATT NICHOLLS

McKINLAY Shire mayor Janene Fegan says Julia Creek would be lost without its work camp and has paid tribute to the correction officers who oversee the program in the community.

On Friday, which coincided with National Corrections Day, Cr Fegan said the Julia Creek Work Camp had become integrated with the community to the point where other councils were now envious of McKinlay Shire.

"The camp is on a fortnightly roster basis and, when they're in, their main purpose is to help community events with set-up, clean-up, just general overall help," she said.

"They help in various ways, like tidying up the RSL area ... they're just an extra set of hands that help keep our volunteers from burning out."

Cr Fegan said she was in the process of lobbying the state government to make the work camp a full-time arrangement.

"They're actually quite integrated into the community," she said.

"Most people know of them. Obviously, there's a turnover of the inmates but with their small allowance they come up the street once a week and buy locally."

The mayor said McKinlay Shire had supported Queensland Corrections strongly since the Julia Creek

Work Camp was announced in the late 1990s and that there was a strong partnership in place.

"We actually provided the land that the work camp is on and we've supplied extra living accommodation so that the corrections officer doesn't have to move in and out when they have relievers," Cr Fegan said.

"We assist with equipment that they use, like lawn mowers and tools. We really work well as a partnership."

The mayor also paid tribute to long-time correctional supervisor Allan Sotheren, who oversees the Julia Creek Work Camp.



QCS welcomes 230 officers to join the ranks of public safety this year

Queensland Corrective Services has welcomed an additional 230 Custodial Correctional Officers (CCO) to its ever-growing family across Queensland so far this year.

Ceremonies across the state have celebrated the officers, who have joined QCS from a diverse range of backgrounds and nationalities.

Having completed the 10-week Custodial Officer Entry Program, the new recruits will bolster officer numbers at correctional centres across Queensland and play an important role in making Queensland safer.

The new CCOs were deployed to Arthur Gorrie, Brisbane, Brisbane Women's, Borallon, Southern Queensland, Wolston, Woodford, Palen Creek, Maryborough, Lotus Glen, Rockhampton and Townsville correctional centres.

Congratulations to 10 new Corrective Services Dogs

QCS also welcomed new additions to the Dog Squad, in its largest singular intake of General Purpose canines.

The 10 new Corrective Services dogs and their handlers graduated into the specialist QCS Dog Squad and have been deployed to correctional centres around the state to enhance safety and security.

Congratulations to Brock, Blondie, Viper, Zyke, Neci, Jack, Gunner, Vlad, Oni and Axel and their qualified handlers.

Congratulations to all and thank you for your dedication.



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 services to Queensland. They are and will be sadly missed.

Lisa Collie (retired)

Lisa's career with QCS spanned 17 years at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre until her retirement in 2024. Lisa commenced at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre with the GEO Group in a sentence management role. She then moved to the custodial stream in 2008, quickly becoming a well-respected member of the custodial officer workforce. In 2020, Lisa transitioned to QCS and continued to be dedicated to hard work and supporting her colleagues. Lisa is remembered as a loving mother, bright and funny colleague and loyal friend who wanted to see the best for everyone. Lisa's passing is deeply felt by her family and colleagues.

Education Officer, Gordon Gauld

Gordon joined QCS as a Case Manager with Community Corrections in 2016 and later became a Correctional Counsellor at Capricornia Correctional Centre. He was known for his dedication and passion, positively impacting everyone he met. Gordon was respected by friends and colleagues alike.

Custodial Correctional Officer, John Duncan

John commenced his career with QCS in 2001 at Capricornia Correctional Centre. He was an industrious officer who consistently impacted those he engaged with positively. John earned respect from both his peers and colleagues, and his absence will be keenly felt.

Trade Instructor, Stephen (Steve) Dwyer

Steve began working as a Custodial Correctional Officer at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre in 2011. He was dedicated and passionate, positively impacting everyone he met. Steve was respected by friends, colleagues, and prisoners alike, who all feel a sense of loss at his passing.



Correctional Custodial Officer, Wendy Bridges (retired)

Wendy commenced her career with QCS at Woodford Correctional Centre in March 1999, continuing until her retirement in May 2022. She was highly regarded and respected by both her friends and work colleagues. Her passing is deeply mourned by her family and colleagues.

Correctional Custodial Officer, Steve Bangrove (retired)

Steve started with QCS in October 2001 at Woodford Correctional Centre before his retirement in October 2011. During his service at Woodford, Steve was a member of the response group and also acted as a supervisor. Steve is remembered for his love of sport and for being a solid and reliable mate to his friends and fellow officers. Steve was well-known and well-respected amongst his friends and work colleagues. Steve's passing is deeply felt by his family and colleagues.

Correctional Custodial Officer, Janeene Cupitt

Janeene started her employment with SERCO in January 2015 at Southern Queensland Correctional Centre before she transferred to QCS in July 2021, where she worked until her retirement in 2025. Janeene was a bright and bubbly figure, and she showed absolute determination and commitment in every role she undertook. She was a much-loved member of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre team, and will be deeply missed by her colleagues, and fondly remembered.

Passive Alert Detection Dog, Dog Wade (retired)

Wade was certified as a PADD after joining Queensland Corrective Services in 2013. He excelled in detecting contraband at multiple centres and represented QCS at Ekka between 2014 to 2020. He also performed demonstrations for Work Safe Week, Law Week, and many other promotional activities within the agency. Wade retired from his duties in 2021 and lived with his handler and family, along with retired General Purpose Dog Lexy until her passing in 2023. He will be remembered for his unique personality and having an insatiable appetite. He is missed by his handler and the teams at Wolston and Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre.



Corrections NEWS

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