

**Question On Notice**  
**No. 424**  
**Asked on 21 April 2021**

**MR D LAST** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Chief Superintendent Craig Hanlon's statement in November 2020 that assaults in correctional centres in the Townsville region had increased by 70 percent in 3 years and at least two staff at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre injured on 12 April 2021—

Will the Minister advise what steps are being taken to reduce the number of assaults and ensure the safety of staff in correctional centres throughout the State?

**ANSWER:**

Last year, the Palaszczuk Government brought in new laws to boost the safety of custodial officers by increasing the maximum penalty to 14 years for seriously assaulting a corrective services officer.

Any assaults on staff are taken seriously and immediately referred to the Queensland Police Service for consideration of criminal charges.

This government is committed to the safety of custodial officers. Staff are trained in de-escalation techniques and control and restraint techniques. Queensland has introduced new training modules for Queensland Corrective Services staff which have been informed by evidence-based best practices to empower officers to deliver world class correctional services. Queensland's custodial officers are now recognised as being amongst the best trained in the world.

Other initiatives to enhance officer safety include:

- introduction of safer engagement strategies to manage difficult prisoners
- a new 1004-bed therapeutic facility at the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct
- an expanded Capricornia Correctional Centre, delivering 348 cells
- body worn cameras
- load bearing vests to secure body worn cameras and other accoutrements
- the rollout of chemical agents in every high security male correctional centre and for escort officers
- the delivery of 2000 bunk beds retrofitted to cells across Queensland
- the installation of safety hatches in cell doors.

Significantly, the Palaszczuk Government is supporting corrective service officers and emergency responders with new changes to workers compensation laws, meaning that their diagnosed PTSD claims will be deemed work-related, resulting in immediate treatment and benefits under the workers' compensation scheme.