



Dale Last MP
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Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
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January 12th, 2022

Media Release – Stats prove prison staff at risk

Data released by the Labor state government shows that the number of Custodial Corrections Officers being compensated for workplace injuries has more than doubled in three years.

Shadow Minister for Police & Corrective Services, Dale Last MP, said the sobering statistics were yet more proof that the Labor government had failed when it came to managing Corrections Centres.

“In the 2018-19 financial year there were 219 Workcover claims by Custodial Corrections Officers,” he said. “In the 2020-21 financial year the number of claims had increased by 114% and the length of claims has also increased by over 60%.”

“No one can dispute the fact that these figures show more Officers are being injured and that the injuries they are sustaining are worsening. I have no doubt that one of, if not the leading, cause of this is the overcrowding.”

“Every week, 9 Custodial Corrections Officers are receiving Workcover benefits. That means that these are proven to be injuries or illness sustained as a part of their job, so the buck stops with the Minister.”

Mr Last said that Officers had been let down time and time again by the Minister and should expect more of the same.

“Minister Ryan is talking about extra beds, but a large number of those extra beds will come from installing bunk beds in high security centres,” he said. “So instead of one high security prisoner in a cell, guards will have to deal with two or more in a cell.”

“In the last budget, over 300 new staff were promised but in reality, there was only 104 additional staff. That is the lowest increase in several years and comes as Custodial Corrections Officers are dealing with occupancy rates of over 125%.”

“It took the Minister years to deliver fair pay for officers so you have to question how long it will take for him to make their workplace safe.”

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Source: [1614-2021.pdf \(parliament.qld.gov.au\)](#)