

Question on Notice
No. 217
Asked on 11 March 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Blitz on Bail program-

Will the Minister advise (a) if the program is still operating, and if so, since March 2020 (reported separately by individual month) (i) how many reviews of bail have been sought and (ii) how many have been successful and (b) if no longer operating, why was the program scrapped?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that this program is ongoing and that police continue to oppose bail in all circumstances where it is in the best interests of community safety to do so.

I am informed by the QPS that since the official commencement of the program on 1 July 2020 to 28 February 2021, 1,650 matters have been reviewed (867 Brisbane, 305 Cairns, 416 Townsville, 62 elsewhere in the state).

Given that 1,650 matters were subject to review over this period, the QPS has advised that the provision of this data on a month by month basis is an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

However, the QPS has furnished the following information in relation to 117 matters that were preliminarily identified by police as being potential vehicles for a s19B review:

Of those:

- Bail was refused by the magistrate in 101 cases
- Bail was granted by the magistrate in 15 cases
- One matter was finalised (plea of guilty)

Of the 15 cases where bail was granted, a decision was made not to proceed with a s19B review in seven cases, given strict bail conditions were imposed.

Further, this government is building on our Five Point Action Plan and targeting high-risk repeat youth offenders by expanding the number of Youth Justice senior prosecutor positions to a total of 12 locations across Queensland. These locations include Cairns, Townsville, Mt Isa, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Sunshine Coast, Darling Downs, Moreton, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Logan and the Gold Coast.