


Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 11/08/2020

FILE: 11082020_001047_LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: (no subject found)

MEMBER: Ms LAUGA

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.43 pm): The No. 1 priority for Queensland Corrective Services throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency continues to be the health, safety and wellbeing of Corrective Services officers and, importantly, the broader community. Measures to support Queensland Corrective Services to maintain safety throughout the pandemic have included those in the Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020. Section 7 of the regulation was introduced to ensure that all offenders can continue to be supervised in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for the unlikely event that the public health directions prevent in-person reporting.

During this pandemic, face-to-face appointments, electronic monitoring and substance testing have all continued based on assessments of risk and relevant health advice. Appropriate levels of supervision to address risk have been maintained and will continue to be maintained during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Any offender who is released by the courts or Parole Board Queensland for supervision in the community is subject to different supervision requirements. These requirements are determined based on the level of risk an offender presents to community safety. A greater risk is met with more intense supervision and more restrictive conditions.

One cohort that is subject to significant supervision requirements is those supervised under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, the DP(SO)A. This government will always take a hard stance on managing dangerous sexual offenders after they are released from custody to ensure our community safety is maintained at this level.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Nicklin, I note that you are on the speaking list. The member for Keppel is not being inflammatory and she shall be heard in silence.

Ms LAUGA: Queensland Corrective Services closely monitors the state's most dangerous offenders under the DP(SO)A orders using 24/7 GPS monitoring, surveillance, curfews and intensive case management and interventions. Supervision orders place significant restrictions on DP(SO)A offenders in the community and are tailored to the specific risks posed by that offender. As an example of how supervision is continuing during COVID-19, the community can be assured that face-to-face contact with DP(SO)A offenders has remained unchanged during the pandemic. In some isolated cases—such as where an offender may have presented with COVID-19 symptoms or is residing at an aged-care or mental health facility—additional supervision methods were required and these were adopted on a case-by-case basis. These could include, for example, rearranging appointments, introducing curfews or increasing surveillance.

Queensland Corrective Services has and will continue to put the safety of the community at the forefront as it adapts to the changing environment presented by COVID-19. Measures that have been introduced to support this effort must remain in effect. This regulation is absolutely essential to keep community corrections officers safe and reduce the potential transfer of this virus within the community. We know from the last time the LNP were in government that they have no respect for the jobs our frontline workers perform. Now we know they have no respect for the safety of our frontline workers. I will be opposing this motion.