



An open letter from the QPU President to the people of Queensland

Drop the 'service' we are the Queensland Police

Monday October 6, 2025

QPS management can no longer hide from the fact their own direction of the organisation is flawed and failing to deliver for Queenslanders.

The senior ranks have forgotten what it's like to be on the frontline or they've spent so much time shuffling paper they don't know what's required to be done by first responders in 2025.

The Police Service Annual Report reinforces there's a widespread failure of leadership, direction and planning in the Executive circle. Most of those sitting at the table are more focussed on their own career ambitions than core policing and the well-being of first responders.

The Working for Queensland results indicated 33% of police who have resigned from the QPS had done so primarily due to their belief, the senior leadership was of poor quality.

Even the Police Commissioner in the same survey didn't argue with the sentiments. His response to the data was honest "Our employees do not have confidence in me and my cohort. They need better systems, better resources, more support. That comes back on me."

Despite this truthful evaluation nothing has been done to improve systems and resources for the police answering an extra 66,000 calls for assistance this year.

Instead, this week the QPS announced another organisational restructure. It's not immediate reform and again failing to deliver meaningful action.

This crisis is not caused by the Constables, Senior Constables, Detectives, Sergeants and Senior Sergeants who risk their lives every day.

Police are not only doing their own core tasks of policing but we've been forced to fill the gaps left by every other government departments because we are the only ones picking up the calls for help every hour of the day. It's why we've become known as a police 'service'.

Constantly, police are sent to transport mental health patients instead of patrolling the streets.

Police sit for hours in hospital corridors guarding prisoners instead of patrolling the streets.

Police babysit Corrective Services prisoners and youth offenders in watchhouses instead of patrolling the streets.

Detectives with unique investigative skills are regularly reassigned from complex inquiries into criminal activity to prop up rosters elsewhere on the frontline.

There can never be an excuse for a victim of crime to hear an offender isn't being arrested because detectives have been redirected due to a manager wanting to reach their own performance targets.

This is not policing. Every wasted hour is an hour stolen from the community we swore to protect.

Police often go 'over and above' to assist victims of crime and to make them feel safe. I seriously doubt an online survey that delivers a bunch of sterile stats that claim police do not treat people fairly. Any keyboard warrior can make up their own version of facts and sway this type of data. I'd like to know how many of the survey contributors have actually had any interaction with police.

Police are often working in sub-standard stations across the State, some of them I doubt would be allowed to be occupied under current council building codes. While politicians work in what could be considered five-star amenities, most police accommodation is regarded as 'half star'.

Officer stress is compounded by not having police vehicles that are 'fit for purpose' for the operational environment because policy is sidestepped and the views of the frontline experts are ignored.

Queensland deserves an efficient and effective Policing structure not a diluted "service" bogged down in bureaucracy.

At the 2025 QPU Conference our membership voted to advocate for a name change to delete the word service. Let's make it simple, if you need Queensland Police you call the Queensland Police.

I'm confident rebranding to Queensland Police would be straightforward and clear.

The Government could also make good on their promises around law and order to immediately:

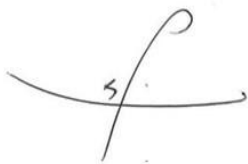
1. Deliver a name change, establishing the title Queensland Police.
2. Direct the Police Commissioner not to divert detectives from major cases to fulfill targets and quotas for senior managers.
3. Fund mental health intervention, emergency housing, and social services to minimise police having to step in as the only service provider 24hours a day.
4. Continue with robust recruiting and incentives to increase frontline numbers, deploying officers to communities where Queenslanders need them most.
5. Immediately invest in building new police facilities and liveable accommodation for police in rural and remote areas.
6. Amend the *Human Rights Act* to make victims' rights more important than those of criminals.

The QPU can see no barrier to immediate action on these items. The evidence is clear without more time wasted on reviews and restructures.

The Thin Blue Line is fraying not because of the men and women who wear the uniform, but because of a decade of betrayal from senior officers.

Police take great pride in helping the people of Queensland when they need assistance or in upholding the laws. It's only fair they are supported with the resources needed and a management team focussed on the frontline.

It is time to give policing back to the police and safety back to the people.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Shane Prior', with a stylized flourish.

Shane Prior
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