Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGEE

BOONDALL/ZILLMERE COMMUNITY/POLICE ADVISORY GROUP

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (10.23 p.m.): I wish to pay tribute to the people involved in the Boondall/Zillmere Community/Police Advisory Group, or CPAG. Recently, the group was awarded a Regional Silver Certificate in the Police Commissioner's Lantern Awards, which gives recognition to successful community policing projects.

The Boondall/Zillmere CPAG has been established for almost two years. Its main aim is to foster a genuine partnership between the community and police to address local law and order issues. Police records show that the suburbs encompassed within the CPAG have experienced a drop in reported crime since the formation of the group. The CPAG takes a proactive approach to addressing law and order issues.

In addition to holding bimonthly public meetings with local police and residents, it lends support to initiatives designed to address the causes of crime. For instance, the group recently participated in the staging of a blue light disco and is currently planning for a safety audit to commence early in the new year. It also works in close association with local groups focused on youth, such as the North East Community Support Group.

The CPAG model is one which should be adopted in other areas of the State. It relies heavily on the voluntary involvement of local residents and other community and business interests. It is less structured than a Neighbourhood Watch and covers a much larger area. The concept of the CPAG has been supported strongly by local and senior police officers and elected members at all three levels of Government. The group also receives strong support from the North Star Sports Club in Zillmere, which allows it to use the club's premises for meetings and group activities. I congratulate all of those involved on the management committee on their success to date and wish the group well in the State finals of the Commissioner's Lantern Awards.