



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 9 March 1999

POLICE BEAT SHOPFRONT, GARDEN CITY

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): Prior to the election last year, the Labor Party and I campaigned strongly on community policing. To be effective in crime prevention and management, we must put police on the beat where the people are. While we did not specifically promise it in the election campaign, I am proud to say that the first Police Beat shopfront opened under the Beattie Government has been opened in Garden City in my electorate.

With over 200,000 people using Garden City per week, it makes sense to put our police where the people are. Here is an example of our Labor Government delivering on our election commitments. Just after being elected in June last year, I was approached by the Garden City management, AMP, to investigate the possibility of having a Police Beat shopfront in its centre. All past attempts to talk to the previous member for Mansfield regarding the possibility of having a Police Beat shopfront appeared to fall on deaf ears. The previous member continued the line of the then Police Minister, Russell Cooper, the member for Crows Nest, to only pay lip-service on community policing and not be fair dinkum about the matter.

So I am pleased to inform the House that, while the previous Government put community policing on the backburner, Police Minister Barton has put it at the forefront in the tackling of crime. I believe that having greater police presence and visibility will have a positive effect on the crime rate, and that is why I have worked hard and lobbied the Police Minister to ensure that Garden City gets this shopfront.

It is interesting to note that Garden City was the very first shopping centre to have a Police Beat shopfront back when the Goss Labor Government introduced them. That was obviously a mobile shopfront which went from shopping centre to shopping centre, but it was launched initially at Garden City. So I am proud to say that now a permanent shopfront is situated at Garden City. Having the police shopfront where the community shops and socialises and from which they commute breaks down many of the barriers that people have of feeling uncomfortable if they need assistance or advice. This initiative is particularly helpful to local business owners worried about security in their shops.

I am pleased to work with organisations such as AMP which do not just look at what it costs but how they can assist the community.

I want to thank the Police Minister, Tom Barton, not only for recognising the need for such a police shopfront at Garden City but also for what he is doing for community policing throughout the length and breadth of this State. The Police Minister is delivering on the commitment that we would put community policing at the forefront in the tackling of crime.

Time expired.
