



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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Hansard 16 May 2001

### SAFELINK

**Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): I rise to speak about a pilot program being conducted through the Palm Beach Police Station. Recently, I attended the launch of Safelink in Burleigh. Safelink is an initiative of the Queensland Police Service and is aimed at reducing thefts and break-ins. The Safelink program has been coordinated by Senior Constable Gavin Roots of the Palm Beach Police Station and is a joint community policing initiative to encourage visitors to be more careful about locking up their units and their belongings. The motto is, 'In the unit, the car or on the beach, keep your valuables out of reach'.

The project informs visitors through brochures and check lists how to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime and reminds them to lock up and keep their valuables safe. I attended the launch in Burleigh, together with the officer in charge of Palm Beach Police Station, Senior Sergeant Mark Anderson, acting Superintendent of the Gold Coast, Inspector Richard Nikola, and a number of high-rise holiday apartment managers.

The Safelink initiative focuses on five key areas: unit security, property security, vehicle security, and protecting your belongings on the beach and when out and about. Visitors will be given a brochure on check-in at their holiday accommodation and check lists will be affixed to the back of the apartment doors and at the lifts to help remind visitors to be careful.

This is a great example of the proactive approach of modern policing. Safelink is the result of local initiatives being encouraged and directed at local problems. Prevention is always better than cure and Palm Beach police have shown how police can work with the community to solve problems and prevent crime.

I was proud to be invited to the launch of this local initiative and commend the police on their hard work and dedication to the community. I wish them well in this innovative project.

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