



Speech by

Hon. T. McGRADY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Hansard 6 December 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Lantern Awards

Hon. T. McGRADY (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (9.50 a.m.), by leave: Later on today I will attend and address the 2001 Police Commissioner's Lantern Awards, which is an annual event to recognise some very valuable crime prevention programs in place in Queensland.

When we talk about community policing we are really talking about bridging the gap between police and the community. There are many initiatives which are helping to find solutions to address a variety of policing issues across Queensland. The best problem solving solutions emerge from the police forming partnerships with their local community and involving the community in the process, either from the outset in identifying the problem or in devising and implementing strategies for overcoming it. Crime prevention is as much a community responsibility as it is the job of police.

Each of this year's entrants in the Lantern Awards is an example of a situation where groups have developed unique solutions to problems in their local community. The evolution of problem oriented and partnership policing will continue to rely on the input of police and community right across the state. I have no doubt that all members are committed to improving the quality of life in their communities. That is why we must all work with police in our particular electorates to push proactive crime prevention. Through this we might all develop innovative solutions to address particular crime issues.

In this regard my ministerial colleague the member for Lytton and Minister for Innovation and Information Economy is a shining example. Earlier this year he made representations to me regarding graffiti. Following this, a working group comprising community members from his electorate was established. They are now going about presenting ideas to local police to assist them in dealing with this issue in their area. The minister is but one shining example. In fact, as recently as this morning I have discussed with my ministerial committee the prospect of involving backbenchers in a committee to develop other solutions to graffiti. This is an issue affecting communities the length and breadth of Queensland.

I know that the member for Mudgeeraba plays a very active role in her local police community consultative committee, as do the members for Logan and Albert. In fact, I know that we have many members who also play active roles in groups within their electorates. Police should not be alone in tackling crime. We can all play a role in crime prevention. I urge members to adopt this approach.
