



Speech by

Hon. Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT

Hansard Wednesday, 7 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Scientific Major Incident Response Vehicle

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (9.58 am): As the Premier has announced, after question time we will be launching the new \$200,000 scientific major incident response vehicle for police. This vehicle is the envy of other Australian states. It is saving police time as they can process evidence at the crime scene. It also reduces the likelihood of evidence being lost or destroyed.

The truck is used alongside a forensic services forward command post, and contains a series of pop-up tents which are used as a complete on-site crime scene management centre. These tents will also be on display this morning. At a crime scene, they are used to house additional equipment and examination areas, exhibit handling, information technology and rest areas.

Queensland has a good story to tell in terms of solving crimes using DNA, which is why I was astonished to read an article in the *Courier-Mail* last month by criminologist Paul Wilson. He wrote, 'Queensland is woefully behind in integrating into the national DNA data bank.' Mr Wilson could not be more wrong.

Queensland was the first state to integrate into the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database. We did this in September 2003. Western Australia soon followed and we began matching DNA information with them. The Northern Territory and the Commonwealth have since followed. It is giving our police a better chance to crack unsolved crimes through DNA.

Queensland is a leading jurisdiction in Australia for DNA interjurisdictional matches. We currently have more than 86,000 person samples and 10,000 crime scene samples uploaded to the national DNA database. To date, interstate people have been linked to 109 Queensland crime scenes through the national database—from break and enters to serious sexual offences and robberies.

Since 2002, DNA matching in Queensland has been used to generate more than 8,783 suspect matches in homicides, sexual crimes and property offences, including 959 prisoner profile links. In fact, last year Queensland's DNA legislation was recognised nationally by the Australasian Police Ministers Council as the preferred model for successful interjurisdictional matching on the national database. Queensland is leading the country with our DNA matching models and I look forward to updating the house on the results from continued use of this vehicle that we are launching today.