



Speech by

Hon. Kerry Shine

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Hansard Thursday, 19 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Justice Groups

Hon. KG SHINE (Toowoomba North—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland) (10.16 am): In February, I announced an additional \$4 million over four years would be committed to community justice groups. Community justice groups were established in 1993 in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. There are currently 40 statutory and non-statutory groups located throughout Queensland.

Under the funding boost for these groups, an additional \$1 million is being provided for this financial year—that is, 2006-07. This funding will provide: \$315,000 to supplement the existing base level funding for groups; \$300,000 for regional training forums; \$200,000 to expand community justice group activities in the Torres Strait; and \$185,000 for local level social justice initiatives.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General called for applications for funding of these social justice initiatives. Those applications have been received and assessed. I can announce today that the department has approved \$245,000 in applications, which is \$60,000 more than was originally allocated. The department will be able to fund all the recommended initiatives. These initiatives include funding for: night patrols for the groups at Innisfail, Cloncurry, Napranum and Kowanyama; extension of the Murri Watch program at St George; justice of the peace training at Coen; a youth engagement program at Logan; operational costs for the group in Aurukun; and community justice education at Wujal Wujal. Community justice groups play an important role in the implementation of a range of initiatives targeting the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.