



Speech by

## Phil Weightman

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2007

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### LAW AND ORDER

**Mr WEIGHTMAN** (Cleveland—ALP) (6.12 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport. This government and the police are committed to keeping our children and the community safe. It has been mentioned in this debate that crime prevention initiatives are not what they should be. I would like to remind the House of some of these initiatives. The government has consistently placed this on the record but I will do so again.

The Crime Prevention Unit has an operational strength of 30 members, including 15 full-time police officers, four part-time police officers and 11 staff members. This unit provides valuable support and advice to operational police officers throughout the state by coordinating and managing a number of crime prevention programs that are conducted at both local and regional levels.

Several programs are currently managed by the unit, and I want to mention them. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design reduces crime by ensuring the design of buildings, areas or new developments considers recognised crime prevention principles and techniques. Property Security provides the public with key information about securing their property effectively and conducting security audits of businesses and private premises.

Home Assist Secure is conducted in conjunction with the Department of Housing and provides free information and subsidised assistance for people over 60 and people with disabilities. The Safety Audit Program provides training for community groups to undertake security audits with a view to reducing opportunities for the commission of crime.

The Personal Safety Strategies Program and the Protective Behaviours Program involve the provision of training in personal safety strategies to increase public confidence and to assist individuals avoid and counter situations of physical and emotional danger. Community consultative committees provide a forum for police to work with their local communities to prevent crime.

The At Risk Premises Project engages victims and neighbours to increase their security and reduce the repetition of break-and-enter offences. Neighbourhood Watch is a well-known and popular community based program that has recently negotiated a \$50,000 per annum sponsorship with the Real Estate Institute of Queensland which will continue until 2010. The Safety House Program identifies safe houses which people who are concerned about their safety can access in an emergency or when they feel threatened.

BizSafe is a partnership formed with NRMA Insurance to provide resources to district crime prevention coordinators for the supply of crime related education material to small to medium sized businesses that are at risk of crime. The Seniors Liaison Program had its genesis in the Seniors Task Force and aims to promote seniors safety and reduce the fear of crime.

Other programs include the school based police officers, the neighbourhood police beat officers and the police beat shopfronts. These are located in major shopping centres and schools, and they provide a link or nexus with the community. I find it hard to understand how opposition members can stand here and say that crime prevention does not work, because it does not actually work with the community.

After careful consideration and consultation with both the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Communities, the government recently made the decision to transfer the responsibility for all crime prevention functions to the Police Service from July 2007. I commend this initiative because it cuts down on the bureaucracy and allows the Police Service to focus all of the needed resources on crime prevention. Benefits anticipated as a consequence of that decision include the introduction of more cohesive and holistic crime prevention policies, the development of new and innovative crime prevention strategies and increased coordination in the delivery of crime prevention programs and services resulting in a more effective and timely response to prevailing crime trends.

All of these crime prevention initiatives are operated in partnership with the community, industry, local government and business interests. Each initiative is incumbent on forming a network to maximise the community outcomes. At the core of each of these initiatives is the protection of the community through enhanced preventative activities.

The mission of the Queensland Police Service is to serve the people of Queensland by protecting life and property, preserving peace and safety, preventing crime and upholding the law in a manner which has regard for the public good and the rights of the individual. All of the programs that I mentioned clearly indicate that the government and indeed the QPS are committed to protecting not just the young people of this state but also the wider community.

I joined the Queensland Police Service in 1980 when we had a National Party government. At that time it was not well equipped, it was not well paid and it was falling apart. That has changed recently thanks to this government.

Time expired.