

Question on Notice
No. 1036
Asked on Thursday, 2 September 2004

Mrs Smith MP, asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**Mr Pitt**) -

QUESTION:

What education programs are planned to prepare students for Gold Coast Schoolies Week?

ANSWER:

The Government has greatly expanded educational opportunities for young people who are planning to attend Gold Coast Schoolies Week in 2004. These opportunities will reap many positive benefits for all stakeholders, the local community, authorities and most importantly, Schoolies themselves.

A number of strategies are being employed to prepare students for Gold Coast Schoolies Week.

My Department has convened the Gold Coast Schoolies Week Youth Engagement Working Group which comprises representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Department of Communities, Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development, Queensland Health, Queensland Transport and Queensland Ambulance Service, with advice from the Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service;

This working group has developed an educational presentation, which incorporates much of the content of the Queensland Health booklets, and is offered directly to over 250 schools in the south-east corner of Queensland;

This presentation is delivered by representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Communities, Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development and other agencies as relevant to the health and safety issues covered by the presentation;

Information technology students from Griffith University have developed an interactive CD-ROM, which will be available to all schools in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. This CD-ROM contains the Education Panel program presentations, along with speaking notes so that teachers and other relevant staff can deliver the presentation at schools, which cannot or do not wish to invite a panel to present to their students. The CD-ROM will be available for order through the official Gold Coast Schoolies Week website – www.goldcoastschoolies.com.au;

As in the past three years, Queensland Health has offered all Queensland state and non-state schools a curriculum based package which is focussed on safe celebrations;

These packages consist of a lesson plan, video for teachers and/or other school staff, and a colourful youth-focussed booklet for each student which covers health, consumer and legal issues;

Throughout the state a number of organisations utilise these materials to incorporate into presentations they give to schools in their local areas, some for a number of years.