

**Question on Notice
No. 1093
Asked on 28 September 2004**

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

What strategies and initiatives have been implemented by the Queensland Police Service to educate and protect Queensland children from Internet paedophilia activities?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service has long recognised the threat that the Internet posed to the children of Queensland. Four years ago there was an increase in the investigative strength of the Internet team at Task Force Argos.

The Task Force has achieved significant results from covert surveillance of the Internet chat rooms that Queensland children frequent, resulting in the prosecution of child sex offenders from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory. Queensland has the toughest laws in Australia against internet paedophilia.

As part of Child Protection Week 2004, the Queensland Police Service launched an information booklet, web page and poster to educate parents as part of their campaign to protect children from the threat of internet paedophilia. The booklet entitled 'Who's chatting to your kids?' is the result of the experience that officers of Task Force Argos have had in the investigation of child sex offenders. The booklet teaches parents about how to identify whether children are at risk, and encourages them to educate their children about the dangers associated with the internet, in particular with chat rooms.

Following the success of the recent Operation Auxion, the Government allocated an extra \$1 million to boost the Queensland Police Service's ability to fight internet child pornography.