

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 181**  
**Asked on 22 April 2004**

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

QUESTION:

What programs/initiatives have the Queensland Police Service put in place to ensure that the Queensland Community has world class police dog squads?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Dog Squad was established in 1972. The Royal Australian Air Force and the New Zealand Police Dog Unit conducted the initial training of police dog handlers and dogs for the Queensland Police Service. The training of police dog teams was commenced in Queensland in 1975.

The training methodologies of the Queensland Police Dog Squad Training Unit are being continually reviewed to ensure that world best practices are employed. Training methodologies developed by the Queensland Police Dog Squad Training Unit have been adopted by all states of Australia and New Zealand and general purpose instructors have been requested to provide instructions on these methodologies.

There are currently sixty-four handler/dog teams located within the Queensland Police Service, this number is made up of 54 general purpose teams located throughout the state, six drug detection teams and four explosive detection teams, all of which are based in Brisbane.

The initial training of all handler/dog teams is conducted in Brisbane at the Police Dog Training Unit, located at the 'Norm Watt Complex', Oxley.

The training unit is staffed by a senior sergeant, state co-ordinator, one sergeant, police dog instructor, one civilian general purpose police dog instructor and one civilian specialist police dog instructor. [One day in every week is dedicated to continuation training of all handler/dog teams.](#)

Competency based assessments are conducted twice yearly on every handler throughout the state to ensure that their competencies are being maintained.

[In 2001 the Queensland Police Dog Squad was instrumental in creating the Australasian Police Dog Advisory Group, which consists of all state and federal police dog squads within Australia and New Zealand. The purpose of this group is to facilitate co-operation that enhances the capability of the police dog profession in Australia and New Zealand.](#)

The Australian Police Professional Standards Council, in conjunction with representatives of each of the Australia and New Zealand Service Dog Squads, implemented specific competency standards required by each of the Services.

Specific guidelines and instructions for all QPS Dog Squad personnel are contained in the Police Dog Squad Handbook.

In March this year, the construction of a purpose built Police Dog Development Facility at Oxley was approved. This initiative will ensure the continued supply of high quality working dogs, bred from working line German Shepherd dogs.

The facility will accommodate a rotation of fourteen dogs as they are being developed for future police dog work. The development process will be conducted from when the dogs are acquired at the age of six to seven weeks to when they have attained the age of sixteen to eighteen months. They will then be issued to their handler to commence training.

In 2001 this Government provided funding for the establishment of two drug detection dog teams. This number has now increased to six handler/dog teams.

The position of the civilian specialist police dog instructor was established in 2002 to conduct the training of drug and explosive detection dog teams.