

Question on Notice
No. 538
Asked on 19 May 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the work undertaken by the voluntary group Community Supporting Police -

Will she provide advice on what support is given through the Queensland Police Service to assist with the emergency accommodation services provided by this organisation?

ANSWER:

The Community Supporting Police organisation (CSP) was formed in Brisbane in 1990 following the release of the Fitzgerald Inquiry Report. Branches have now been formed in regional centres of Queensland to reflect the decentralised nature of the State.

The objectives of the organisation are as follows: -

1. To foster friendship between community and police, their families and friends.
2. To have discussions, hold meetings, conduct working groups and arrange entertainment in furtherance of objective (1).
3. To raise money in support of –
 - (a) voluntary assistance programmes designed to enhance and build relations between police and community, as approved by this organisation;
 - (b) any project approved by the membership and sponsored by the Commissioner of Police.
4. To provide comfort to families of police suffering from illness or distress in crisis situations.
5. To do any other thing which is in conformity with the foregoing objectives and, where practicable, assist Police Welfare and Police Chaplains in their functions on behalf of families of police in bereavement or grief.
6. All assets or funds of the organisation will be used solely to further the objectives of the organisation, and no portion of those funds will be paid or distributed to members except as compensation for out of pocket expenses.

To assist Community Supporting Police meet their objectives, the Queensland Police Service has approved the use of a number of police residences for use as emergency accommodation for Police Service members and their families, who because of medical and other emergencies have need to access short term accommodation in Brisbane and large regional centres. General maintenance, renovation and on-going refurbishment of the residences are financed by CSP through general fund raising.

The residences are located at the following centres: -

- Rosalie House, Brisbane
- Woody Point Cottage, Woody Point

- Sondra Lodge, Yeppoon
- Margaret House, Townsville
- Sarah House, Cairns.

A sixth residence located at Sandgate Road, Nundah will become available for use as emergency accommodation.

The Commissioner of Police handed the keys to the premises to the Community Supporting Police organisation on 15 April 2004. The ownership of the premises remains with the Commissioner of Police.

Renovation and maintenance work needs to be undertaken before the premises is utilised for accommodation purposes. Occupancy is expected in late August 2004.