

**Question on Notice**  
**Number: 582**  
**Asked on Thursday 20 May 2004**

**MR T MULHERIN** asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR PITT**)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Youth Justice Conferencing taking place in Mackay – Will he provide statistics relating to how many referrals have been made to the conferencing service and whether victims and perpetrators of crime have been satisfied with the conference outcomes?

**ANSWER:**

The Mackay and Whitsunday Youth Justice Conferencing Service commenced operations in October 2003 and provides coverage to communities throughout the Mackay and Whitsunday region. The service is located in Sydney Street, Mackay.

Since operations commenced, the Mackay and Whitsunday Service has received 62 referrals. Fifteen of those referrals were from the police and 47 from the courts. There has been a very high level of satisfaction from conference participants, with offenders and victims reporting 100% and 98% satisfaction, respectively. Satisfaction ratings are determined on the basis of evaluative surveys completed by conference participants at the end of each conference.

Youth Justice Conferencing offers an opportunity for a young person to admit their offence and accept responsibility for their offending in a real and tangible way. It also provides a mechanism for victim involvement in the justice process. Victims are provided with an opportunity to tell their story and participate in the process of determining how the young person should make amends for the harm caused by the crime.

The purpose of a Youth Justice Conference is to reach an agreement about how a young person can repair the harm caused by the crime. An agreement may include an apology, restitution, voluntary work or involvement in support programs to help prevent further offending. The agreement is determined by those attending the conference and is therefore specific to the crime and meaningful to all involved in the process.