

Question on Notice No. 595, Thursday, 20 May 2004

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -
What programs has his department in place to involve young people in working towards safer and more secure communities?

Mr CUMMINS:

EMERGENCY SERVICES CADET PROGRAM

The Department of Emergency Services (DES) recognises that youth development is about providing all young people with positive experiences and opportunities which enhance their strengths and capacity and which affirm them as contributors to their communities and shapers of their own future. Through youth development, communities are able to recognise, value, support and encourage young people's contribution. DES manages the Emergency Services Cadet Program, which is a major Queensland Government funded youth development program.

The purpose of the Emergency Services Cadet Program is to introduce young people to forms of emergency related voluntary training programs, which will better equip them for community life.

The Emergency Services Cadet Program provides young people with the opportunity to develop personal qualities and skills, such as leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and a sense of place in their community. The Emergency Services Cadet Program caters for young people who have commenced high school and continues up until the age of 18 years.

The objectives of the Program are to develop:

- life skills and encourage participation in local communities;
- personal strengths, including self confidence, initiative, leadership and teamwork;
- skills and knowledge to enhance community safety; and
- a recruitment pool for emergency services.

Every young person who participates in the Emergency Services Cadet Program is provided with enhanced opportunities for:

- active, empowered citizenship;
- commitment to voluntary action;
- enhanced self identity, self efficacy, self esteem, self reliance and self confidence;
- effective membership and leadership of teams and groups;
- enhanced skill development;
- participation in different and challenging activities and experiences; and
- connection and contribution to the community.

The Emergency Services Cadet Program operates in 38 communities and involves approximately 800 young people and is supported by approximately 220 adult leaders.

The Cadet Program has been particularly successful in rural areas. The Program has helped young people grow into community minded members with many going on to become adult Volunteers in the State Emergency Service (SES); Rural Fire Service, QFRS; and other Emergency Services.

The involvement of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) in the Emergency Services Cadet Program will provide the cadets with broader education and skill acquisition opportunities. This contact with other emergency services may provide a recruiting base for these agencies.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2003, DES commenced the trialing of a three year Junior Development Program, with the approval of the Department of Education, for primary school young people in the Indigenous Communities of St Pauls, Coen and Warraber. The Junior

Development Program is aimed at providing training to students in years 4 - 7 to provide increased safety skills to children.

The training is delivered once a fortnight for approximately one hour by local Emergency Services personnel from the SES; Rural Fire Service, QFRS; Volunteer Marine Rescue; and QAS.

There are four topics covered over four years. The topics are:

- Boat Safety, Knots and Mapping (on the water);
- Bushcraft, Navigation and Mapping (on the land);
- Danger, Accidents and Junior First Aid and
- Fire Safety, Natural Disasters and Communications.

The Community Services Unit, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has a variety of projects that involve young people in working towards a safer and more secure community.

These projects include:

- Drug Education - The QAS Drug Unit is dedicated to addressing drug problems in our community. The target groups are drug users, parents, community groups and school students. Paramedics provide drug awareness sessions for members of the community such as teachers, parents, children and community groups.
- Primesafe - Primesafe is targeted at primary and secondary school students throughout Queensland, who are encouraged to 'adopt a paramedic' to increase first aid awareness among students. Ambulance officers link with schools to deliver relevant first aid training, raise awareness of accident and injury prevention and school safety.
- Baby Capsules - The Baby Capsule Hire Service (BCHS) assists parents with baby capsule hire and fitting. Trained staff ensure that the capsule is fitted correctly to ensure comfort and safety for babies. Infant/child restraint checks by the QAS at major shopping centres throughout Queensland, have shown that many privately owned restraints are fitted incorrectly. As a result, the QAS provides a free safety check service to the Queensland community.
- First Aid - The QAS offers a variety of first aid training of which the target group is ten years and above. These courses range from Junior First Aid to Senior First Aid and Child Injury Prevention Courses. Participants receive information to enable them to respond to an incident requiring first aid within their community.
- CPR for Life – The CPR2000 (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) project has been renamed 'CPR for Life'. CPR for Life was launched on 8 June 2004 at Parliament House and is a community based health promotion program that aims to provide all Queensland community members with the life saving skill of CPR. This training is available for any person over the age of 14. CPR for Life allows young adults to become self-sufficient and increases their skills and confidence to perform CPR within their community.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), has a number of programs that involve young people working towards safer and more secure communities. These programs address a number of relevant issues, and are delivered to a variety of age groups. They are :

- Firefighters conduct visits to Kindergartens to introduce basic fire prevention and safety topics to pre-school aged children. The visit culminates in the

children being shown the fire truck. The visit is arranged through the local fire station.

- **Fire Ed** is one of the longest standing, and best-known programs of the QFRS. It involves a visit by fire officers to Grade-One children, in their classroom, and another visit during which they can see a fire truck at close quarters, and possibly see a demonstration of some of its equipment. The program is delivered in conjunction with Queensland primary schools. This program utilises connections within an area's local community, to provide fire safety education to the target group.
- **Safecity** is a program initiative of the QFRS and delivered to students in Year-Seven. The program is available in all Queensland schools and educates children about Government and other organisations that contribute to making our communities safer. In partnership with these groups, students identify community safety issues and explore how these groups meet the needs of their community. As a reward for their effort, the students are then treated to a visit to an emergency service facility or related organisation.
- The **Fight Fire Fascination Program** is an intervention strategy, using education and personal development tools, and involves specially trained firefighters visiting child fire setters and their families to promote awareness of fire safety. Over time, the firefighters (also know as FFF practitioners) develop trust and understanding with the children and young people who like to play with fire, explaining the consequences as well as the benefits of fire, and teaching them how to make their homes safe from danger. By including goals, objectives and rewards, the firefighter is usually able to turn a negative into a positive by stopping the unsafe fire play and generally improving the young client's self-esteem.
- The **RAAP program** is an honest presentation, from a firefighter's perspective, to Year-12 students, on the reality of road accidents. Firefighters visit schools to conduct a multimedia, interactive presentation that explores the causes of accidents, and explains the QFRS role from initial turnout, to patient extraction. The program seeks to provide positive strategies and influence behaviours by having students discuss their attitudes to driving, and encourages the adoption of strategies to stay safe in potentially risky situations.

A practical demonstration using the Jaws of Life is also conducted, creating a practical accident scene, allowing students to see first hand what happens at an accident.