

Question on Notice
Number: 609
Asked on Thursday 20 May 2004

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

QUESTION:

How many youth from the Metro North Region of Brisbane have participated in Youth Justice Conferencing and what were the satisfaction outcomes for both the victim and the perpetrator of the crimes involved?

ANSWER:

The Brisbane and Gold Coast Youth Justice Conferencing Service commenced operations in 2001 and provides coverage to the greater Brisbane area, including the Metro North Region of Brisbane. The service is located in Albert Street, Brisbane.

Since operations commenced in 2001, the service has provided conferencing services to 558 young people, including 295 from referral points (police and courts) in the Metro North Region of Brisbane. Of the matters referred to this service, 49% have been generated by police and 51% from the courts.

Participant satisfaction ratings for the service have been consistently high, with victims and offenders reporting that in 96% of instances they were satisfied with the process and the outcomes achieved. 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 program.