

Question on Notice
Number: 633
Asked on Tuesday 15 June 2004

MS CAROLYN MALE, Member for Glass House asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR PITT**)-

QUESTION:

'With reference to the Youth Justice Conferencing Service operating out of Caboolture – How many people have participated in conferences and were victims of crime satisfied with the conference outcomes?'

ANSWER:

The Sunshine Coast, Caboolture and Redcliffe Peninsular Youth Justice Conferencing Service provides coverage to the Glasshouse Electorate. This service commenced operations on 11 October 2002 and is co-located with the Caboolture Youth Justice Service.

Since operations commenced in October 2002, the service has conferenced 310 young people from referral points (police and courts) across the Sunshine Coast, Caboolture and Redcliffe Peninsular regions.

Satisfaction ratings for conferences conducted by the service have been consistently high, with victims and offenders reporting in 97.7% of instances that 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 is a restorative justice approach to juvenile offending which has the advantage of bringing together the people most affected by a crime – the victim, the young offender and their family, police and community members.

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, though is not limited to, 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.