

Question on Notice
No. 872
Asked on 18/8/04

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent seniors safety morning tea we co-hosted on 15 August – What initiatives are being developed to make seniors feel more safe and secure?

ANSWER:

On Monday 16 February 2004 the Queensland Government announced the establishment of the Seniors Task Force. The Seniors Task Force is chaired by the Police Commissioner, and reports to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

The formation of the Seniors Task Force marks the first time in Queensland that a comprehensive group of government and community representatives have combined to consider the issue of crime and fear of crime among seniors and to make recommendations to government concerning best practice strategies.

The Seniors Task Force has met four times, on 11 March 2004, 21 April 2004, 20 May 2004 and 12 August 2004.

At the meeting on 20 May 2004 the Seniors Task Force formed three sub-committees to develop best practice strategies on the prevention of crime against seniors, investigation of crime against seniors and reducing the fear of crime among seniors.

All three sub-committees have met, and reported their progress to the meeting of the Seniors Task Force on 12 August 2004.

The sub-committee on crime investigation is seeking to improve the support for senior victims of crime, examine elder abuse where seniors are regarded as a burden on families and distribute elderly victim abuse information to Justices of the Peace.

The sub-committee on reducing the fear of crime is conducting a literature search, organising a fear of crime survey and will develop strategies to address seniors fear issues in the media using crime statistics and myths and realities through targeted media.

The sub-committee on crime prevention is developing a prevention strategy, assisting the fear of crime sub-committee with a victims survey, and preparing a Seniors Safety handbook.

A draft of the handbook was tabled at the meeting on 12 August for consideration of the Seniors Task Force, and is expected to be completed and printed in time for a launch during Crime Prevention Week in October 2004.

The Seniors Task Force will continue to meet every three months, with sub-committees meeting monthly. The final report of the Seniors Task Force will be furnished by 31 December 2005. Strategies aimed at preventing crime against seniors and reducing the fear of crime among seniors will be implemented during the course of the Task Force, with the first being the production of the safety handbook.

