

**Question on Notice
No. 785
Asked on 25 May 2005**

DR CLARK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

What are the aims of the In-Focus Program which is currently being run in schools in the Cairns district by the Queensland Police Service?

ANSWER:

The INFOCUS Program was launched by the Queensland Police Service - Cairns District Community Police Liaison Office on 19 October 2004. The program is structured toward students in Years 11 and 12 who are beginning to go to parties, nightclubs and other venues where alcohol is consumed.

The program was initiated after it was identified that many young people did not appreciate the effects that alcohol has on their behaviour, their ability to drive and complete simple tasks.

The program's primary aim is to educate the students, who would soon be applying for their driver's licences, that their driving ability and day to day motor skills are significantly inhibited by the consumption of even a small amount of alcohol.

A secondary aim of the program is to make the students aware that the consumption of alcohol may increase the chances of becoming a victim of offences such as assault, sexual assault, drink spiking and theft.

To date this program has been run at local high schools such as St Augustine's College, Bentley Park College, St Monica's College, Woree High, Smithfield High and weekly sessions are currently being conducted at the Trinity Bay High School. Approximately 700 high school students have taken part in the program.

The Queensland Police Service has received excellent feedback from both students and teachers from all schools and believe that this program will have a positive effect on the behaviour and knowledge of the participants.