

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1091**  
**Asked on 9 June 2006**

MS NELSON-CARR asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing (MR SCHWARTEN) –

**QUESTION:**

How many Queensland communities are currently involved in the Community Renewal Program and what has been the extent of the program's success in building safer and more rewarding neighbourhoods?

**ANSWER:**

The Community Renewal program operates in 19 neighbourhoods clustered into 10 Renewal Zones across the State. Community Renewal operates in the following 10 geographical areas:

- Brisbane South: Acacia Ridge
- Brisbane South West: Inala and Carole Park
- Caboolture: Caboolture South, Caboolture East and Deception Bay
- Cairns: Manoora and Mooroolool
- Gold Coast North: Eagleby and Beenleigh
- Gold Coast South: Varsity Lakes and Labrador
- Logan: Woodridge, Kingston, Loganlea and Marsden
- Palm Island
- Townsville: Vincent
- Upper Ross: Rasmussen, Condon and Kelso.

Community Renewal has a very positive role to play in brokering integrated Government responses to complex and interrelated community issues. It also operates at the grassroots level to increase the capacity of residents and groups to harness resources from State and local government agencies and community sectors to develop sustainable responses to locally identified issues in disadvantaged communities throughout the State.

The \$9.3m in projects that will be delivered in 2006-07, will be another significant contribution in achieving this outcome. This funding will be distributed across projects targeting local infrastructure development, specific zone priorities and community capacity building initiatives. A thorough process is undertaken by Community Renewal to ensure that the money is allocated to projects which can produce sustainable outcomes for the community involved.

The program actively engages residents from targeted communities to identify local issues and develop solutions which meet the communities' needs. Community Renewal works closely with State, local and non-government agencies in each renewal area, ensuring efforts are coordinated and resources directed towards community-identified issues. Any potential project or initiative developed is a targeted solution which aligns priority issues with Community Renewals' Key Result Areas, whole-of-government priorities and the priorities of partner agencies.

In February 2006 a Community Life Survey was conducted in nine renewal zones involving 2189 residents. The objective of the survey was to help the Queensland Government determine people's perceptions of safety and community services in their neighbourhoods. This is one of the methods that Community Renewal uses to identify the success it has had in the various zone communities.

Specifically, the survey reported that over a third of the residents in renewal zones (36.1%) perceived a better quality of life since Community Renewal has been in the neighbourhood, with 42.1% of residents anticipating positive changes in the neighbourhood over the next two years. Also, one third of residents perceived improvements in neighbourhood safety over the last two years.

Phase 2 of the Community Renewal Program sees ongoing development of sustainable solutions to local issues and building community capacity in renewal areas. Community Renewal has supported over 50 projects in phase two of the program to date, with each project targeting identified priority outcome areas for each zone. Ongoing evaluation of each project ensures they are achieving identified objectives and generating positive outcomes for residents in these communities.