

Question on Notice
No. 1360
Asked on 1 November 2006

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

QUESTION:

- (1) With reference to most school children who are now making regular use of the Internet and as I understand the Queensland Police Service are prioritising the delivery of the Surf Safely message –

Will she outline this program and advise how this message is being delivered to Queensland school children?

ANSWER:

In September 2006, during Child Protection Week, the Queensland Police Service launched its 'Surf Safely' Internet safety program.

The 'Surf Safely – online personal safety' program is based around a presentation to provide school children internet safety messages, particularly relating to the use of chat rooms.

Created by detectives from Task Force Argos, State Crime Operations Command, the aim of the program is to inform children how to reduce the risk that they will be targeted by predators on the internet and how to respond if approached by these people.

The package includes a presentation, posters, handout reminder cards for students and mouse pads, which all contain online safety tips and is targeted at students between 9 and 14 years of age.

The program was developed to allow people with basic internet knowledge and skills to deliver the presentation to students. Child Protection and Investigation Unit investigators, school based officers and adopt-a-cops across the State will, upon request, deliver this internet safety presentation which encourages children to ask questions about on-line safety and to share any experiences they may have had on the internet.

Meetings have also been held between the Child Safety Directors of the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts to coordinate the delivery of the Surf Safely program in a systematic manner to all Queensland school children in both the State and private systems.

It is proposed that Surf Safely will be included in the protective behaviors programs that are routinely delivered by teachers and police throughout the State. By also utilising teachers to deliver this program, this vital safety message can be delivered to a broader range and greater number of children.