

**Question on Notice
No. 297
Asked on Wednesday, 8 March 2006**

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

QUESTION:

- (1) What benefits does Crime Stoppers provide in solving crime and ensuring safe communities?
- (2) What recent successes has Crime Stoppers achieved in partnership with the Queensland Police Service in the Mackay – Whitsunday region?

ANSWER:

- (1) Crime Stoppers solves crime through an interactive partnership between the community and the Queensland Police Service.

Crime Stoppers is a community sponsored program. It has a free telephone hotline that allows members of the community to provide anonymous information about criminal activity. The caller is not required to provide their name, allowing the caller to overcome any fear of involvement or retaliation. The telephone call is received at the Crime Stoppers Unit in Brisbane which is operated 24 hours, seven days of the week.

The call is not electronically recorded and members of the community are not identified by name however callers are allocated a code. The information is electronically forwarded to the police establishment nearest to where the crime is alleged to have been committed or where the information relates to. Upon receipt of this information an evaluation is conducted, and depending on the quality of the information, it is acted upon.

The code allocated to a caller allows the caller to provide further information at a later time. It also allows for the caller to check on the progress of the investigation and to apply for a reward if the information is of significant importance and a reward is approved by the Crime Stoppers Committee.

Through the Crime Stoppers program the general community is encouraged to report unlawful activity to the police service. This involvement from the community has resulted in the arrest of offenders for serious crimes and in the seizure of tainted and stolen property and drugs. The cost associated with crime to the community is effectively reduced.

The program provides a valuable partnership between the community and the Queensland Police Service. This partnership has proven to be successful and assists to provide a safer community. The more information that comes into the hotline, the more likely crimes will be solved, and arrests and charges laid. This means fewer criminals and less drugs in the community.

- (2) The Crime Stoppers Program is strongly represented and supported by the community within the Mackay-Whitsunday Region. Crime Stoppers is actively promoted within the Whitsunday area.

During 2005 there were 97 information reports generated for the Mackay-Whitsunday Region from calls to the Crime Stoppers hotline. From the reports, Police have arrested 40 persons on a total of 88 charges. 89% of these offences were drug related and the remaining offences related to stolen property, assaults, sexual offences and weapons offences.

The success of the program and the strong partnerships developed within the Mackay-Whitsunday Region are evident in the results achieved. The Crime Stoppers Program continues to work well within the region, and is an effective aid to enforcement, providing a safer environment for the entire community.