

Question on Notice

No. 536

Asked on Wednesday, 19 April 2006

MR HAYWARD MP asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR PITT**) -

What initiatives are run by the Department of Communities in the Kallangur Electorate to address the causes of juvenile crime and have these initiatives reduced the incidence of juvenile crime?

ANSWER:

There are several Department of Communities initiatives working toward reducing incidences of juvenile crime in the Kallangur electorate. These include: Youth Justice Services, Youth Justice Conferencing and Youth Crime Prevention programs.

The *Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities* is an essential part of the Queensland Government's commitment to creating safer and more supportive communities through fostering the development of community networks. This strategy stresses the importance of strengthening the ability of communities to plan and develop their own responses in local areas. Crime prevention initiatives that are specifically targeted at young people are aligned with this broader community crime prevention strategy.

The Department of Communities provides funding for crime prevention programs specifically aimed at young people under the Youth and Community Combined Action (YACCA) program, Youth Crime Prevention and Graffiti Solutions.

While these services may not be geographically based within the Kallangur electorate the services provided are available to young people from that area.

The Youth and Community Combined Action (YACCA) program is recurrently funded to assist young people between the ages of 10-17 years old who are at risk of offending or who are involved in the Youth Justice System. Key activities that the YACCA programs undertake include facilitating young people's connection to their community, linking young people to specialist support services and working to resolve family and community conflict. The Support, Outreach, Alternatives, Reconnections (SOAR) service, based in Redcliffe, has been funded for \$76,774 in 2005-06 to deliver an interim YACCA service to the Kallangur Electorate.

In 2002 the Department of Communities established a Youth Justice Service in Morayfield to service the Redcliffe Peninsula and Caboolture area. Youth Justice Conferencing is a diversionary justice process that models leading international practice in addressing youth crime. A conference is a facilitated meeting between the young person, their family and the victim. The purpose is for the young person to be held accountable for their actions and to reach agreement with the affected parties regarding how the young person may make amends for their actions.

In the 2005-06 year to date there have been 113 conferences held in the Redcliffe Peninsula and Caboolture area with 99% of participants indicating that they felt the conference was fair and 98% being satisfied with the agreement reached.

The number of finalised court appearances for offences for the area covered by the Caboolture Youth Justice Service Centre, which includes the electorate of Kallangur decreased from 179 in the September quarter 2004 to 143 in the December quarter 2005.