

**Question on Notice
No. 726
Asked on Thursday 11 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

- (1) What work is undertaken by police liaison officers and the benefits to policing and to the community that these officers have achieved?

ANSWER:

There are currently 140 Police Liaison Officer positions in Queensland. Most are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background however there are a significant number of PLOs from other backgrounds.

PLOs

- Liaise with indigenous and multicultural communities to foster co-operation and understanding. This assists police to do their job better. Examples of this are the PLOs involvement in Community Consultative Groups assisting African, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Pacific Islander and Muslim communities.
- Advise police officers on the cultural beliefs, needs and protocols of the community in which they work. This improves the service that police provide. This is provided by PLOs on a one on one basis as well as addressing operational police such as first year constables and recruits during training.
- Identify potential crime or disorder problems in the community and advise and assist in prevention strategies. This prevents problems from occurring or getting worse. This includes working within communities addressing domestic violence issues. Two PLOs were recipients of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards 2006
- Establish and maintain communication between the community and police. This helps the police and the community to work together to prevent crime and solve problems. Police Liaison Officers assist with substance misuse and youth violence issues.
- Improve community access to policing services and refer to other services where necessary. Police Liaison Officers assist in communication with police officers and help to put people in touch with other organisations through Indigenous Community/Police Consultative Groups, Community/Police Reference Groups and Ethnic Community Liaison Groups. Police Liaison Officers have made valuable contributions in diverting youth from the Criminal Justice System utilising Police and Citizens Youth Club facilities.

PLOs have contributed or instigated a number of projects addressing specific issues such as Graffiti, Domestic Violence, Indigenous Oral Histories, Adopt-a-PLO and cross cultural training. PLOs regularly interact with school students during annual events as NAIDOC WEEK and Sorry Day. They also participate in the Youth Justice Conference Program. Police Liaison Officers are seen as positive role models within their specific communities.