

**Question on Notice
No. 818
Asked on Wednesday 24 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to anti-social behaviour in the Burleigh Heads/Palm Beach areas which I understand has decreased thanks to the Palm Beach Community Consultative Committee which is coordinated by members of the local police-

Will she outline the types of activities this committee uses in its strategies to help young people at risk?

ANSWER:

- The Beattie Government is strongly supportive of the work of the Queensland Police Service and its partners in the important area of maintenance of public order in the various communities of Queensland, including Palm Beach and surrounding suburbs on the Gold Coast.
- The Government further recognises the recent proactive steps taken by senior Gold Coast police managers in introducing policing operations targeting youth related activities and of the mobilisation of community support to address local youth issues through the reconstituted Palm Beach Police Community Consultative Group.
- The Community Consultative Committee has no less than 40 members representing government agencies, community groups and residents who are developing preventative programs and long term solutions to anti-social behaviour within this community.
- The Government also commends the Police Service in its efforts to educate youth within the Gold Coast in the area of social responsibility through its various school aligned officers.
- The Government and its partners are further working through the State Youth Task Force to further enhance youth engagement activities within the Southern area of the Gold Coast.
- The Government is also working with the local Council to secure the services of a Youth Worker for the Palm Beach area to assist in the co-ordination of youth activities.
- Police have assigned weekly enforcement action through "Operation Southern Alliance" to act as a quick response to calls for service, particularly youth related disturbances during the peak times on Friday and Saturday evenings.

- The Palm Beach Police Community Consultative Committee (PBCCC) is progressing a number of initiatives to better engage local youth in alternative positive recreational activities.
- The PBCCC has supported the revitalisation of the Adopt-a-Cop scheme in appointing adopted police officers to seventeen (17) schools throughout the area. Through this scheme, "Party Safe" and other initiatives are heavily marketed.
- The PBCCC has the use of existing organisations to develop young people's skills in community activities. One such organisation is the Kokoda Challenge Inc. which requires participating youths to achieve key goals prior to completing a walk of the historic Kokoda Track. Such an endeavour will allow these persons to acquire positive skills in leadership, commitment and self sacrifice.
- The PBCCC is also working towards the implementation of the CRYPAR Project (Coordinated Response to Young Persons At Risk) which addresses early intervention and referral of young persons at risk to existing government and non-government agencies.
- Further, the PBCCC has identified the increasing need for youth facilities in the area and is developing strategies to utilise retired community members who possess trade, art and other skills to mentor young persons. This will provide a positive influence on youths who would lack a cohesive family support structure.
- The Committee is also liaising with the Anglican Church with a view to implementing the SAILS program wherein youths who are affected by drugs, gambling and homelessness and are generally not receptive to traditional programs are taught to sail.
- The Government acknowledges the continuing efforts of the Palm Beach Community Consultative Committee.