

**Question on Notice
No. 859
Asked on Wednesday 24 May 2006**

MRS REILLY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

How can the police service's Home Link Program aid older residents in the community and how can seniors access this program?

ANSWER:

- The Home Link Program is an initiative of the Gold Coast Police District where members of the public register their contact details with police, the details of which are then accessed should that person be involved in an emergency situation or if a need arises to contact next of kin, friends or family.
- Examples of incidents where this information would benefit both police and the public include when a person is found unconscious or injured at home or in a public place or suffering mental confusion.
- Police encourage all members of the public to register their details with the Home Link Program. However, the program is of particular benefit to the elderly, especially if they live alone, are mobility impaired, or have a physical, medical or mental health disability.
- The program gives peace of mind to the older residents of the community and their loved ones that should there be an emergency, police can promptly locate appropriate support persons.
- Residents of the Gold Coast wishing to access the program can do so by contacting the Gold Coast Home Link Co-ordination Unit on 55707939. A Volunteer in Policing (VIP) member will then attend the person's home to conduct a security audit of their residence and assist with the completion of the Home Link Registration Form.
- Currently the program also operates at Bundaberg Police District and the Metropolitan North Police Region.