

**Question on Notice
No. 967
Asked on 6 June 2006**

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

QUESTION:

How does the Department of Corrective Services ensure that 17 year olds are separated from older inmates at the high security Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and what programs are in place to rehabilitate those teenagers to break the cycle of offending?

ANSWER:

The Youth Offenders Unit at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has been specially designed to house all 17 year old male prisoners in south-east Queensland. The Unit has the capacity to accommodate up to twenty young offenders.

According to legislation, young offenders are managed separately and kept segregated from other prisoners unless it is positively determined, based on assessment, that it would be in the offender's best interests to be otherwise accommodated. They are then integrated into the mainstream prison population when they turn 18.

The 17 year olds have a structured day in which they undertake a range of rehabilitation programs including literacy and numeracy, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Correctional and counselling staff have developed a rewards based system to encourage good behaviour and positive communication with these young offenders. Rules have also been established within the Unit for offenders which focus on mutual respect, active and positive participation, and self control.