

**Question on Notice
No.576
Asked on 17 April 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Safety Stand Project (a training initiative of the Logan Police District), which has received international recognition by reaching the semi-finals of the CAPAM International Innovations Awards Program 2005-06-

What are the aims of this program and the topics covered in the Safety Stand Project workshops?

ANSWER:

The Safety Stand Project reached the semi-finals in the Commonwealth Association for Public Management and Administration (CAPAM) International Innovations Awards Program 2005-2006, competing with 112 submissions from 13 Commonwealth countries.

Safety Stand was developed as a proactive strategy to address trends that were becoming obvious in other regions. It provides refugees and humanitarian entrants from African and Middle Eastern countries with an introduction to Australian laws and the Queensland Police Service through one-day workshops.

In particular, Safety Stand aims to build trust and rapport between police and the multicultural community in Logan. This is achieved through:

- enhancing collaboration and communication;
- reducing fear of local police and laws;
- increasing cultural awareness amongst police officers;
- increasing each refugee's understanding of their responsibilities under the law;
- decreasing numbers of newly arrived refugees entering the criminal justice system;
- increasing the reporting of crime and violence within multicultural communities; and
- providing contact before situations result in conflict.

Safety Stand workshops are ideally provided to new arrivals after a three month settlement period. The workshops are run in partnership with ACCES Services Incorporated, a Logan-based community group. ACCES is committed to addressing needs of disadvantaged members of the community by providing training and services to encourage and support skill, resource and self-responsibility development.

Topics covered in the workshops include:

- information on laws and regulations in Queensland that touch on every day living;
- personal safety strategies;

- the provision of important contact numbers for Emergency Services and interpreter services;
- the roles and responsibilities of the Queensland Police Service;
- domestic violence issues;
- traffic laws and regulations;
- drug and substance abuse issues;
- the role of Crime Stoppers;
- Neighbourhood Watch Programs;
- the resolution of neighbourhood disputes;
- information sessions on other agencies such as Logan City Council, Centrelink and the Department of Immigration; and
- anti-discrimination issues.

Safety Stand workshops are enabling new arrivals to build a rapport with Queensland Police and develop links with the broader community. Such is its success, Safety Stand will continue to be conducted in the Logan Police District throughout 2007.