

Question on Notice

No. 645

Asked on Thursday, 19 April 2007

MRS MENKENS MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**)—

In 2005-06 and 2006-07 (to date), what programs and/or facilities have been established by the Government to engage Queensland youth in positive community activity so as to divert them from boredom induced violence or crime?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for her question. The Queensland Government is committed to promoting participation and leadership among all young Queenslanders. The Department of Communities is particularly focussed on supporting those at risk, particularly those at risk of offending.

Funded programs that engage young people in positive activities and reduce the risk of offending include: Crime Prevention Grants; the 13-15 year old Out of School Hours Care Program; the Youth and Community Combined Action Program; Youth At Risk Outreach Services; Social and Economic Development Services; and the Volatile Substance Misuse Initiative.

The Youth and Community Combined Action program helps communities respond to the factors that contribute to youth crime and also helps young people develop positive connections with their communities with life, social and vocational skills. The Department of Communities provides \$2.1 million per annum to this important initiative.

Funding was also provided to promote positive community activities through initiatives such as: the Statewide Safer Schoolies Initiatives; National Youth Week activities; and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award expansion project into Indigenous communities, totalling \$730,000 in non-recurrent funding for 2006-07.

Other initiatives divert young people from offending and promote community service include The Duke of Edinburgh's Award expansion projects into the youth justice system and into community organisations working with 'at risk' young people.

The Queensland Government also funds the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative, which is a partnership between the Department of Communities and Education Queensland. In the 2006 school year the Youth Support Coordinators assisted more than 4,500 secondary students to stay engaged in school or training.

Another important initiative that is addressing boredom during 2006-07 is the Positive Futures initiative, which aims to re-engage young people disconnected from their communities through the development of stronger relationships with community role models in sport, recreation and vocational skills and art and cultural pursuits. The Department of Communities has allocated \$1.6 million to this initiative.