

Question on Notice
No. 658
Asked on Thursday 19 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to traditional links for the new community service site at North Stradbroke Island—

Will she outline the type of work being carried out by community services workers at the former Myora Mission and whether Indigenous offenders will be given the opportunity to participate in this valuable community service program?

ANSWER:

The former Myora Mission is an approved community service project now known as the 'Minjerribah–Moorgumpin Elders' Project and has been in operation since November 2006.

Since November 2006 a total of nine offenders have worked at the site. At present there are currently seven community service workers assigned to this project. Two of the workers are female, one Indigenous and one non-Indigenous, who are assigned office work within the 'Elders' building.

Five workers are male, four Indigenous and one non-Indigenous, who carry out a variety of tasks including the maintenance of the old Myora mission site (Terra Bulla Leaumeah), maintenance of the Dunwich Cemetery and clearing and planting an area of bushland opposite the Elders Office with native fruit trees and plants. Since the commencement of this site, 353 hours of community service have been completed valued at \$5,295 to the community.

As has been described, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders are assigned to perform various tasks at this project. The community service workers are under the supervision of a well-respected Indigenous elder and will hopefully finish their community service with a greater understanding of the cultural, historical, heritage, and spiritual values of the Stradbroke Indigenous community.