

**Question on Notice
No.796
Asked on 24 May 2007**

Mr Roberts asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (Ms SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

Given recent local media reports of police coverage in Nundah, will she advise what police resources are available to service this suburb and what improvements have been implemented by the Labour Government since its election in 1998?

ANSWER:

The Beattie Government remains committed to ensuring community safety across all Queensland communities. As Minister for Police, I am attuned to the policing needs of Nundah and recently met community members and local police on these very issues. At this meeting police advised myself and the group of the current proactive strategies being employed in the Nundah area. Police advised at this meeting currently the Nundah area was not experiencing any significant crime trends and I was pleased to note the comments of the community members who indicated there were noted improvements in the area due to this proactive policing.

In relation to police resources, Nundah Village is less than three kilometres from Hendra Police Station and approximately six kilometres from Boondall Police Station and Policing Complex, which also houses the North Brisbane Police District Headquarters and additional support units, including the District Traffic Branch and a Tactical Crime Squad. Hendra and Boondall Police Stations are two of the largest divisional stations in the Brisbane metropolitan area. A police beat is also located approximately 500 metres from Nundah Village at Toombul Shopping Centre. At the aforementioned meeting, the Officer in Charge of the Hendra police station advised the “beat officers” will make daily patrols of the Nundah Village area. This concentration of police resources in the vicinity of Nundah is allowing police to adequately deliver the range of high quality, responsive policing services that local residents expect and indeed, deserve.

As part of its commitment to protecting our children and enhancing community safety the Beattie Government has provided numerous improvements to the delivery of policing services since it was first elected in 1998. A selection of the types of improvements to policing that residents of Nundah will have noticed include:

Police Numbers

This Government has increased police numbers each year since coming to office in 1998. By October 2008, through the creation of an additional 200 new sworn police positions, there will be a total of 9,928 sworn officers - an increase of over 3,100 police officers since this Government came to office. This will more than meet the Government's commitment to maintain a police to population ratio above the national average.

Police Civilianisation

The Beattie Government has provided funding for a civilianisation program within the Police Service, to return significant numbers of police officers performing, either wholly or partly, non-front line functions to direct operational service delivery roles. Police positions are being

civilianised in a range of functions, including communications rooms, watchhouses, intelligence, and station administration (property, roster, counter), project/policy, legal and others.

Tactical Crime Squads

Tactical Crime Squads were established as part of the Government's commitment to strengthen the capacity of the Queensland Police service and get tough on crime and the causes of crime. There are now 16 Tactical Crime Squads spread throughout Queensland staffed by more than 200 officers. Tactical Crime Squads were established to investigate all crime, with an emphasis on property crime and possession and supply of drug offences. The Squads provide assistance to local detectives, and, depending on the needs of the community, can also conduct district-based special operations into problems such as break and enter and hooning.

A Tactical Crime Squad, based in the North Brisbane Police District, regularly conducts operations in the Nundah area. Pawnbrokers in the area are given regular attention whilst the Squad also patrols the railway stations, licensed premises and local markets on a regular basis.

Anti-hooning Powers

In 2002, the Government introduced new ground breaking legislation to deal with car hoons. Under amendments to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* police were given powers to seize and impound vehicles being driven in an inappropriate manner. The Government has also extended this legislation to include the confiscation of noisy and/or irresponsibly ridden trail bikes.

These ground breaking laws will be extended from the 01 July 2007 to allow police to confiscate the vehicles of drivers who repeatedly drink drive, drive while unlicensed, unregistered or disqualified or repeatedly drive illegally modified vehicles.

National Child Protection Offender Registration Scheme

The National Child Protection Offender Registration Scheme in Queensland enhances the ability of the Queensland Police Service to supervise the activities of registered paedophiles, in line with community expectation. The *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act* was introduced to require offenders who commit sexual or other serious offences against children, to keep police informed of their whereabouts and other personal details to enable police to keep track of these offenders after they have been released.

Child Abduction Alert System

The Child Abduction Alert System commenced in Queensland in April 2005. This system, which is the first of its type in Australia, assists police to quickly locate children who have been abducted and return them home safely and has since been replicated in other states of Australia.

Neighbourhood Police Beats

The Neighbourhood Police Beat program increases community access to policing services and strengthens partnerships between the community and police. The Government continues its investment in Police Beats through its commitment under the Smart State Building fund of \$10 million over three years to assist in the establishment of 25 new

Neighbourhood Police Beats over 2004-2007. There are more than 40 Neighbourhood Police Beats operational across Queensland.

Police Beat Shop-fronts

Typically, Police Beat Shopfronts are established in shopping centres and central business districts and provide a visible police presence, facilitating access to police by the community. The Toombul Police Beat Shopfront at Toombul Shopping Centre near Nundah is one of more than 40 Police Beat Shopfronts operational throughout Queensland

Move On Powers

In 2006 the Government extended police 'move-on' powers to cover all public spaces in Queensland. The extension of 'move-on' powers safeguards the community's right to feel safe in public places and also removes the time-consuming and extensive application process for local councils.

Counter Terrorism Coordination Unit

In 2003, the Queensland Government took a proactive approach to global terrorism by establishing the Counter Terrorism Coordination Unit (CTCU) within the QPS. The CTCU is responsible for designing and implementing strategies to prevent terrorism, as well as working cooperatively with similar units throughout Australia and internationally. The Government has also enacted specific terrorism legislation to support national initiatives and the police capability to fight and prevent terrorism in this country.

DNA matching

By enacting the forensic procedures provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, the Government set the benchmark for inter-jurisdictional DNA matching legislation. Queensland was the first state to go live on the national DNA database. The use of national DNA matching has allowed the QPS to solve numerous crimes, and identify persons of interest in unsolved cold cases. DNA matching technology has been used to generate suspects in homicides, sexual crimes and property offences.