

**Question on Notice
No. 919
Asked on 7 June 2007**

MR O'BRIEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

Will she advise what the CAPE program is and how it benefits Indigenous youth in Far North Queensland?

ANSWER:

The *Community Activity Programs through Education* (CAPE) program is a Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) initiative which aims to provide effective and sustainable youth programs for Indigenous communities in Queensland. Its long-term goal is to develop mechanisms to support government agencies and sporting and recreation groups in achieving their vision of making Indigenous communities safer.

In 2002, the PCYC initiated a needs analysis and feasibility study of a new model of Indigenous PCYC at Mornington Island and Palm Island. This study was undertaken in response to the recognised success of the Yarrabah PCYC Indigenous model.

The study resulted in the establishment of Indigenous PCYCs at Mornington Island and Palm Island. It also identified the need to support smaller, less isolated Indigenous communities with a new PCYC culturally appropriate program.

To meet this need, the CAPE program was developed through extensive consultation with government agencies, community groups and individuals in all Indigenous communities in Cape York.

The objectives of the CAPE program are to:

- establish a sustainable operational platform to support sport and recreation focussed organisations through a co-ordinated approach at community level;
- provide support mechanisms to reduce boredom for young people in Indigenous communities;
- co-ordinate initiatives which have the potential to reduce substance abuse in Indigenous communities;
- provide cost-effective options for establishing PCYC Community Centres in Indigenous communities;
- increase community engagement through a coordinated consultative process;
- develop sustainable, positive recreational activities for young people in Indigenous communities; and
- provide support mechanisms to reduce levels of violence and other anti-social behaviours.

In July 2004, the newly developed CAPE program was introduced into Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale. This was done in response to requests by Indigenous people in those communities. Within 12 months of the commencement of the program, juvenile crime at Wujal Wujal had been reduced by 67%.

The program has entered into a shared responsibility agreement with all three levels of government and the Hope Vale community to re-develop the Hope Vale community centre into a suitable venue for PCYC activities. This agreement was signed on 17 October 2005 by the Prime Minister, the Premier, the Mayor of Hope Vale and the Commissioner of Police. The re-development of the community centre will be completed in July 2007.

In October 2005, I officially launched the CAPE program at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The Queensland Police Service has provided substantial support for the program through the allocation of a full-time Senior Sergeant, two Police Liaison Officers, equipment and ongoing project support.

To date, CAPE PCYCs have been established at Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale and Napranum Indigenous communities. The program at Napranum was developed through use of the Government's Cape York Partnerships Negotiation Table process. As part of this process, the Napranum community supported the development of a shared responsibility agreement between the three levels of government, private enterprises (including Rio Tinto), the Weipa Community Council and Napranum community members.

The Napranum PCYC Youth Development Centre employs more local Indigenous people than any other organisation (excluding government bodies). Approximately 60 youths attend supervised activities conducted at the Centre each weekday between 3.00 pm and 9.00 pm.

The CAPE program is also working with the Cooktown Shire Council to support its Community Centre hub development for Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale. This will allow for Indigenous people from all three communities to participate in structured activities not available in these small isolated communities.

Subject to the future provision of sustainable funding from all three levels of government, it is planned for the CAPE program to be rolled out as a youth development management platform to all of the Cape York Indigenous communities over the next ten years.

The CAPE program demonstrates the benefits that can be achieved when governments and communities work together to improve the levels of safety and quality of life for people living in Indigenous communities.