

**Question on Notice
No. 927
Asked on 7 June 2007**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

Will she provide an update on the latest outcomes of the U-Turn Program run by the YMCA Youth Services in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service and other partners?

ANSWER:

The U-Turn Program commenced in 2004 and is designed to influence the offending behaviour of young offenders and thereby reduce the impact of vehicle theft on the community.

The Program is based on the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council's *Best Practice Model* and targets young recidivist vehicle theft offenders aged between 15 and 20 years as well as those at risk of offending. The Program seeks to address the underlying issues which contribute to the unlawful behaviour of these young offenders.

The initial two-year pilot of the U-Turn Program was delivered from July 2004 to July 2006 and involved eight courses, each consisting of a minimum of 10 participants.

Subsequently, YMCA Youth Services successfully applied (with support from the Queensland Police Service) for an Australian Government Crime Prevention Program Community Partnership Grant to deliver Stage Two of the U-Turn Program. This funding extends the Program from October 2006 to April 2008 and allows for another six ten-week courses to be conducted.

This extra period allows for implementation of the recommendations from the National and Queensland Police Service evaluations completed after the pilot phase. The outcomes of these evaluations include a future in-depth re-evaluation; additional case management models being delivered to participants; and the opportunity to seek further funding for the Program at the end of the contract period, once final results have been evaluated.

Stage Two of the U-Turn Program also seeks referrals from a broader criteria base which includes burglary offences and general "at risk" youths in the target group, rather than only vehicle offenders.

The success of this initiative in breaking the recidivist crime cycle is evident from the following facts. Since 1 July 2006, a total of 34 participants have completed the Program, and 18 of those participants have graduated and received a Certificate 1 in Automotive Training. Of the graduates, 66% have not re-offended since completing the Program and the remaining 34% have not been involved in car theft.

As a restorative justice measure, each U-Turn course helps build the esteem of young people and contributes in a positive way to the community through the repairing of cars provided by the insurance industry for donation to victims of vehicle theft. To date, nine donated vehicles have been repaired and given to victims. Another two vehicles have been repaired and are ready to be handed over to victims in the near future.

The U-Turn Program is an excellent example of the Police Service working in partnership with community groups such as the YMCA to reduce the incidence of crime and strengthen relationships between young people and the broader community.