

## Question on Notice

No. 1604

Asked on Thursday, 30 October 2008

**MR HORAN** asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth (**MS NELSON-CARR**)—

How many young offenders had a Youth Justice Conference in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 year to date and how many of them were charged with a further offence after completing the conference (reported separately by year)?

### **ANSWER:**

The number of young offenders who were referred to a Youth Justice Conference during 2006-07 was 2 040. This referral rate increased to 2 208 for the following year 2007-08. During both years, participant satisfaction rates (this includes the victims of youth crime) remained at above 98%.

For the September quarter of 2008-09, there were 681 conference referrals with a 97.7% participant satisfaction rate.

Data on the number of young people charged with further offences after completing a Youth Justice Conference is not able to be readily matched with existing information systems between Queensland Police Service and supervising agencies.

The Department of Communities is currently implementing a new information system which will align all statutory youth justice interventions in the future. Furthermore, the new information system will allow for the linking of court and police data through the integration of justice information systems. After this integration data on recidivism will be reportable and will have a high degree of accuracy.

International research suggests that restorative justice interventions like youth justice conferencing provide for more positive experiences for the offender, victim and the community than when compared with court processes. The satisfaction rates with Youth Justice Conferencing of victims, police, and young people who have offended, and their respective families is consistently above 97% in Queensland. International and domestic evaluations on the benefits of restorative justice processes are measured not only in terms of recidivism but include other aspects of the process such as victim participation and restoration.