

**Question on Notice  
No. 1691  
Asked on 11 November 2008**

MR PURCELL asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to neighbourhood watch groups in the Bulimba Electorate that are committed to the prevention of crime in our local area—

What support does the Queensland Police Service provide for these groups?

**ANSWER:**

There are four active Neighbourhood Watch area groups within the Bulimba Electorate encompassing approximately 1,500 dwellings.

Each group is managed by an Area Coordinator who has a strong relationship with the Queensland Police Service. The District Crime Prevention Coordinator for the South Brisbane Police District oversees the functioning of these groups.

Neighbourhood Watch Police Liaison Officers are designated from the Morningside Police Station to each of these groups. Depending on operational requirements, these Liaison Officers attend their Neighbourhood Watch group meetings on either a monthly or quarterly basis. At these meetings the Liaison Officers provide advice on local and general policing issues including information about offences against property, proactive measures which can be employed by residents, local divisional crime statistics, crime trends and personal safety. When sought by the groups, public safety presentations are also delivered. The District Crime Prevention Coordinator also attends Neighbourhood Watch functions in support of these groups.

The Liaison Officers assist with the regular production of Neighbourhood Watch area newsletters which are distributed to all households within each Neighbourhood Watch area. Police also provide crime prevention resources and material to the Neighbourhood Watch groups for distribution to households.

The Queensland Police Service also supports the Neighbourhood Watch Program through the appointment of a state coordinator who manages the Neighbourhood Watch State Office which in turn coordinates the Neighbourhood Watch program in Queensland. The Neighbourhood Watch State Office is currently implementing 14 recommendations from a QPS state-wide evaluation and parliamentary review into the Neighbourhood Watch program.

An electronic 'Crime Bulletin' is also being introduced across all police districts. The Bulletin will focus on community safety and crime prevention while promoting volunteer programs such as Neighbourhood Watch, Volunteers in Policing and Crime Stoppers. The crime bulletin is being rolled out state wide and it is anticipated that the Brisbane metropolitan area will have access to a crime bulletin in early 2009.

The Neighbourhood Watch State Office will also be communicating with grass roots Neighbourhood Watch members through state wide forums in February and March 2009. The purpose of these forums is to seek input into a draft new policy and procedures for the Neighbourhood Watch program. The policy and procedures will be aimed at ensuring that the great work that both volunteers and police do for the program, will be more effective both in terms of time and effort.