

Question on Notice
No. 1829
Asked on 26 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to plans to restrict members of outlaw motorbike gangs from wearing gang identification patches on their clothing—

How will such a restriction affect non-outlaw groups wishing to wear their identification patches?

ANSWER:

There is no legislation restricting major and organised crime groups in Queensland from wearing patches.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are an ongoing investigative and intelligence priority for the Queensland Police Service based on their known involvement in criminal activity and their propensity for violence within Australia and internationally.

The Bligh Government is committed to the fight against organised crime. This includes providing sufficient resources to the Queensland Police Service to target major and organised crime groups.

As a result of this Government's 2006 \$2 million election commitment to target the criminal activities of these gangs, the Queensland Police Service's Outlaw MotorCycle Gang Taskforce codenamed "Hydra" was established in September 2006.

The Police's Outlaw MotorCycle Gang Taskforce codenamed "Hydra" is responsible for directing Queensland Police Service strategies aimed at disrupting and dismantling outlaw motorcycle gangs in Queensland.

These strategies include ongoing liaison with interstate law enforcement agencies in relation to the policing of outlaw motorcycle gangs and the Australian Crime Commission's Outlaw Motorcycle Gang National Intelligence Task Force.

Strategic assessments of Queensland-based outlaw motorcycle gangs and members, within the national and international context, are conducted to provide tactical, operational and strategic direction utilising overt and covert investigative methodologies and other contemporary policing techniques. Partnerships with the Australian Crime Commission and Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission support these strategies.

The Queensland Police Service will continue to work with, and monitor the impact of strategies adopted in, other policing jurisdictions to combat organised crime.