

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1416**

**Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009**

**MRS SCOTT** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

Will the Minister outline the positive results from youth conferencing and diversionary measures in the Logan City area?

### **ANSWER:**

The Department of Communities currently funds and delivers statewide diversionary options and the subsequent youth justice services, prescribed by the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

These services directly support the needs of people who have been affected by a crime committed by a young person between the ages of 10 and 16 years.

The Logan service is centrally located at Woodridge and has continued to develop positive working relationships with local police and the court system.

In 2008–09, 252 conference referrals were received from the Logan City area, 65 per cent of which were diverted from the local courts and 35 per cent from the Queensland Police Service. This demonstrates a high level of confidence in the department's capacity to deliver justice and welfare services to the people living in the Logan area.

Youth Justice Conferencing provides a safe, supportive environment for the participants to explore the offending behaviour and develop a mutually agreed outcome which includes victim reparation.

Youth Justice Conferencing holds young people accountable for their actions and assists young people to accept responsibility within a process which is designed to be positive and re-integrative in focus.

In 2008–09, 91 per cent of Youth Justice Conferences in the Logan City area reached an agreement whereby the conference service monitors the successful completion by the young person in the conferencing process, and ensures the satisfaction of victims, police and judicial staff.

Another important function of the Youth Justice Service is to provide the victims and young offenders involved in crime with critical links and referrals to a range of government and non-government support services including therapeutic and behaviour management programs.