

**Question on Notice
No. 604
Asked on 10 May 2011**

MRS KEECH asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the value of neighbourhood watches in supporting the Queensland Police Service in protecting the safety of communities in Albert and other regions of Queensland?

ANSWER:

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland (NHW) has been in operation since 1988. NHW is a community based program that involves members of the community working in partnership with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to improve personal safety and household security within local community areas.

The NHW program has over 500 registered NHW groups operating throughout Queensland. The Coomera Police District, which includes the Albert Electorate, has three active NHW groups.

As you would be aware, since 2009, Mrs Dominique Lummus has been the Area Co-ordinator for Oxenford NHW group and has actively participated as the NHW State Community Coordinator (SCC). This role involves Mrs Lummus working closely with NHW State office, sponsors and other key NHW partners to ensure a strong community voice.

The commitment of the NHW program to the QPS is detailed in the Vision, Value and Mission statements of the NHW Queensland Strategy 2009 - 2013 which reflects the priorities of the QPS Strategic Plan 2010 - 2014.

Participants in the NHW program support the QPS in protecting the safety of the community by regularly attending meetings with police, by providing information to police regarding offences committed and local crime problems, and by disseminating crime prevention information to community members.

NHW members in the Albert Electorate and across Queensland continue to provide outstanding support to the QPS. Some examples of this support are detailed below:

- In June 2009, information from a NHW member to the Oxenford NHW Police Liaison Officer (PLO) assisted police in locating and arresting offenders for burglaries in the Coomera area within a 24 hour period.
- In response to an increase in graffiti in the Oxenford and northern Gold Coast areas, the NHW group invited the NHW PLO to provide information on reporting tags. This information was then published in the Oxenford NHW newsletter for community distribution. The SCC liaised with the Gold Coast Sun newspaper resulting in an

article on graffiti, including information on how to report graffiti to police and promoting the QPS 'Dob in a Vandal' initiative.

- In 2010 a NHW member overheard a conversation between young people discussing their involvement in burglaries in the local area. NHW members reported the information to police which resulted in the young people being arrested for break and enter offences.
- April 2011: In order to assist Sunshine Coast police in addressing road safety and reducing road trauma, members of the Coolumb, Nambour, Minyama and Buderim NHW groups distributed large yellow stickers with the graphic "50 in My Street" to be attached to wheelie bins. The appearance of these stickers serves as a reminder to slow down in residential streets.
- In December of 2010, the SCC participated in an interview with Vision Radio, a national broadcasting radio station, promoting the NHW program to encourage community participation and to inform the community about the new NHW Queensland website www.nhwq.com.au.

Further information on community involvement and support for the NHW program can be obtained from the NHW guiding documents and NHW District Support Plans which are located on the above website.