

**Question on Notice
No. 630
Asked on 10 May 2011**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to neighbourhood watch groups—

- (1) How many new neighbourhood watch groups have been established in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (reported separately for each year and broken down by police district)?
- (2) How many neighbourhood watch groups have been disbanded or closed in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (reported separately for each year and broken down by police district)?
- (3) What was the total state contribution to Neighbourhood Watch in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is an internationally recognised crime prevention program which encourages communities to join together in small informal groups for the purpose of improving the safety of their families and other people who live, visit and do business in their neighbourhood. It also encourages interaction and a shared sense of responsibility between individuals, neighbours and communities for preventing and reducing crime through the promotion and development of crime prevention strategies.

NHW Queensland has over 500 registered NHW groups operating throughout the State, has been in operation since 1988 and is strongly supported by the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

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.

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 NHW Queensland website www.nhwq.com.au.

Whilst the QPS, through the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Branch, provides a level of support to this wonderful community organisation; any decision to establish or disband an individual groups lies solely with NHW Queensland. The below tables show the requested breakdown of NHW groups established and disbanded in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 by police district.

(1)

Region	District	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Far Northern	Cairns	2	4	1
Metropolitan North	Pine Rivers	-	1	-
Metropolitan South	Oxley	-	1	-
North Coast	Maryborough	-	2	1
Northern	Townsville	3	3	-
South Eastern	Coomera	-	1	1
	Gold Coast	3	1	-
Total		8	13	3

(2)

Region	District	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Far Northern	Cairns	-	-	3
Metropolitan North	Brisbane West	4	-	-
	North Brisbane	-	2	10
	Pine Rivers	3	3	-
Metropolitan South	Oxley	-	2	-
	South Brisbane	11	-	-
	Wynnum	-	2	-
North Coast	Gympie	-	8	-
	Bundaberg	2	5	-
Northern	Townsville	5	5	-
South Eastern	Gold Coast	4	-	-
Total		26	27	13

(3)

The Queensland Police Service, through the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch (the CSCP Branch), allocates funding each year to the NHW program to support regional events such as NHW regional forums and Neighbour Day.

When a region nominates to host the annual NHW State Conference, additional funding is provided for venue hire and costs associated with accommodation, transport and registration fees for all NHW regional award winners. It is a regional responsibility to source additional funding to cover all other costs in hosting the event.

The NHW program sponsors the State Community Coordinator as a member of NHW Australasia representing NHW Queensland volunteers. To maintain an active membership, the State Community Coordinator is required to attend meetings held within Australia and internationally. The CSCP Branch assists the State Community Coordinator by funding costs associated with travel, food and accommodation.

The NHW program has received sponsorship from external organisations such as the Real Estate Institute Queensland Ltd (REIQ), Suncorp Metway Insurance Ltd, Brisbane City Council (BCC) and DS Numbers Pty Ltd.

The financial contribution provided by the CSCP Branch and sponsors during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is detailed below:

	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>
CSCP Branch	6,600	22,991	7,000
REIQ (2007-2010)	50,000	50,000	
DS Numbers Pty Ltd		5,000	5,000

Suncorp Ongoing sponsorship agreement to provide \$20,000,000 free public liability insurance cover for NHW.

BCC Ongoing sponsorship agreement to provide a motor vehicle for use by NHW State Office to conduct NHW business.