

**Question on Notice
No. 823
Asked on 25 May 2011**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide information on how community police beats (for example, Riverview Police Beat) assist in community wellbeing?

ANSWER:

The Neighbourhood Police Beat (NHPB) Program commenced in 1993 and is a Government funded policing initiative aimed at providing the people of Queensland with an effective policing presence in urban situations.

There are currently 58 NHPBs operational throughout Queensland. Ten are situated within Southern Police Region, one being the Riverview NHPB which is a single-officer residential police beat and became operational in 1999.

The success of this program to date has been demonstrated by the high community acceptance of Neighbourhood Police Beats and the expressed desire of communities to have more of this service in their immediate area.

Evidence has also revealed that police officers involved in the NHPB program are generally achieving a high degree of satisfaction in performing their duties, and are performing their duties effectively, efficiently and in line with their sworn oath of office.

Single-officer NHPBs, such as the Riverview Neighbourhood Police Beat, are usually established in a residential home within the designated police beat area. The officer and his/her family also reside at the residence.

Other models for NHPBs include:

- single officer non-residential (sharing office space at police station);
- two officer - both residential;
- two officer - one residential;
- four officer non-residential; and
- eight officer non-residential.

The focus for the NHPB officers is to develop solutions to local problems. The officer may do this by monitoring calls for service and working with agencies and the local community. The calls for service for NHPBs can be unique to an area and diverse depending on the beat area. The NHPB officer's role is also to increase police-community interaction, information flow, community satisfaction with the police and the community's sense of safety.

NHPB officers perform not only operational police duties but are also proactive in their designated NHPB areas. They support their local communities by providing services or advice on topics such as:

- business and home security assessments;
- foot and vehicle patrols of shopping areas and streets;
- personal safety;
- presentations at schools on issues such as road safety and schoolies;
- victims support;
- calls for service follow up; and
- attendance at local community and business meetings and school activities.

The work of NHPB officers mainly involves being out and about, mixing with members of the local community, hearing and responding to their concerns, and generally providing an enhanced visible policing presence within the local area.

The Bligh Government is strongly committed to the concept of police beats as it promotes cooperation between local police, businesses and the community in seeking to prevent crime.