

## Question on Notice

No. 940

Asked on 14 June 2011

**MR BLEIJIE** asked the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to community justice groups—

- (1) What is the total funding provided to the community justice groups program in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (reported by year, group and reported for both statutory and non-statutory)?
- (2) How many matters did each community justice group support in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (reported by year, group and reported for both statutory and non-statutory)?
- (3) How many matters in (2) involving a defendant resulted in the indigenous person being sentenced to actual imprisonment?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for his question.

The Queensland Government continues to meet its commitment to actively address Indigenous justice issues and make substantial contributions to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Community Justice Groups (CJGs) strive to respond effectively to social and justice issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, providing invaluable support to Indigenous victims, witnesses and defendants at all stages of the legal process. A key focus of their work with Indigenous communities is to implement diversionary and early intervention strategies that make a real difference to the cycle of re-offending and incarceration.

CJGs also provide core services that directly support the courts, including making culturally-grounded submissions that magistrates and judges consider when determining the most appropriate sentences for offenders. In addition, community justice groups are actively involved in the Murri Court, the Remote Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) Programs and the Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program.

In contrast, I note that the Liberal National Party has offered no positive or progressive policies to deal with Indigenous Justice issues. The best the Opposition can offer is to propose mandatory sentences for a range of offences, despite the well-documented research that shows such policies; distort the criminal justice system, do

not result in a reduction of re-offending rates, have a disproportionate effect on juvenile and first-time offenders, particularly those first-time offenders with a disability or impairment and will have the potential to result in increased incarceration rates for Indigenous Queenslanders.

If the LNP's policy of mandatory sentencing was to be introduced, the progress made in working with Indigenous Queenslanders to find appropriate sentencing practices and positive diversionary processes would be redundant.

For the year 2009-10 financial year, up to 31 March 2011, a total of 2,412 submissions were made by CJGs to the courts.

I am also advised for the 2010-11 financial year, up to 31 March 2011, a total of 2,412 submissions were made by CJGs to the courts. Submissions are self-reported and are not reflective of all of the support that CJGs have provided to victims, witnesses, defendants and their communities throughout the year.

It is important to note that CJGs are still finalising the data for the 2010-11 financial year and the number of submissions from 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011 will be supplied to the department in due course.

In relation to total funding provided to the CJG program for 2009-10 and 2010-11, the below table outlines how the grant funding has been allocated.

The *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* and the *Bail Act 1980* contain confidentiality provisions that apply to community justice group members and require that any recording or disclosure of information may only be done as part of making submissions to the court or to another member of the group. Accordingly, CJGs are not required to provide to the department the names of individual defendants and identify a breakdown in the number of Indigenous persons being sentenced to imprisonment.

<b>CJG Grant Allocations</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
<b>Statutory CJG</b>		
<b>Aurukun</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Cherbourg</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Doomdagee</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Hope Vale</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Kowanyama</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Lockhart</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Mapoon</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Mornington Island</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Napranum</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Northern Peninsula Area - Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico</b>	<b>163,578</b>	<b>165,000</b>
<b>Palm Island</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Pormpuraaw</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Woorabinda</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Wujal Wujal</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Yarrabah</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Total statutory CJG</b>	<b>\$1,612,270</b>	<b>\$1,621,000</b>
<b>Non-statutory CJG</b>		
<b>Atherton Tablelands</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Badu Island</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Boigu Island</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Caboolture</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Cairns</b>	<b>96,478</b>	<b>107,000</b>
<b>Charters Towers</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Cloncurry</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Coen</b>	<b>93,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Cunnamulla</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Erub (Darnley) Island</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Goondiwindi</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Iama (Yam) Island</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Inala</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Ingham</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Innisfail</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>

<b>Kuranda</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Logan</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Mackay</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Maryborough</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Masig (Yorke) Island</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Mer (Murray) Island</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Moa (Kubin Village) Island</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Mossman</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Mt Isa</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Normanton</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Rockhampton</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>107,000</b>
<b>Saibai Island</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>St George</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Thursday Island</b>	<b>102,478</b>	<b>104,000</b>
<b>Toowoomba</b>	<b>89,478</b>	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Townsville</b>	<b>103,478</b>	<b>107,000</b>
<b>Tully</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
<b>Warraber (Sue) Island</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>Unspent funding carried forward from 2009/10</b>
<b>Total non-statutory CJG</b>	<b>\$2,172,494</b>	<b>\$2,316,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,784,764</b>	<b>\$3,937,000</b>