

Question on Notice

No. 467

Asked on Friday, 7 June 2013

MR HART asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (MR BLEIJIE)–

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General outline the benefits of a youth Intervention Boot Camp Program being established in the Gold Coast region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burleigh for his question.

Twenty years of Labor Government policy has created a generation of arrogant repeat offenders.

This Government is committed to addressing crime as part of its *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan*. As part of this strategy, I was pleased to introduce a trial of an Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp on the Gold Coast which commenced in January 2013.

In response to the growing community concerns around youth offending, I recently announced an expansion of the Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp trials to the Rockhampton and Fraser Coast/Sunshine Coast areas. It is anticipated that these boot camps trials will be operational in September 2013, with an evaluation of these trials informing any decision by Government to expand the program to other locations across Queensland.

The Gold Coast Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp, or Isurava Youth Boot Camp as it is known locally, is delivered by Kokoda Challenge in partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and targets young people aged 12 - 16 years of age who are at high risk of long term offending.

The Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp Program (the Program) assists in creating a safer Gold Coast community by preventing young people from entering the criminal justice system. These young people are on the verge of becoming young offenders and need help to make positive life choices so they do not enter into a life of crime. It is these young people that the Program aims to assist by instilling discipline and restoring the principles of respect, responsibility and accountability. The Program aims to achieve this by challenging their attitudes and behaviours and enhancing their physical health and well-being through a structured and physical training program.

Along with the boot camps, the Program includes a community focused component through which the young person's family are involved, family issues identified and the young person and their family are connected to services to address their individual needs. Mentors are important to support and guide the young person to complete the

Program successfully by matching them with a mentor early in the Program. The young people can continue to work with their mentor after they complete the Program, if they choose to.

As of 24 June 2013, two groups of five young men have completed the Gold Coast Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp Program. Early indications have been that this Program has been successful and has provided the young people with the motivation to turn their lives around, improve their behaviour, become respectful of those around them, re-engage in education and it linked them and their families with support services where there was need.

It is by identifying and addressing the causes of crime early that this Government is helping to break the cycle of youth crime, make the Gold Coast and all Queensland communities safer and provide young people with opportunities to reach their full potential.