

Question on Notice
No. 763
Asked on 29 October 2013

MR JUDGE asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister explain the benefits Queensland Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYCs) are bringing to communities generally and detail the Newman Government's commitment to inspiring youth development and crime prevention through PCYCs?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association (QPCYWA) has been operating in Queensland for 65 years. There are now 54 PCYCs across Queensland all developed as a result of a wave of community support for a club to address the needs of young people in their area. There were 2.9 million attendances at PCYC activities across Queensland in 2012, and there is a continued demand for PCYCs across the State with discussions for branch developments in seven communities occurring at the moment.

PCYCs offer a diverse range of activities including sport, recreation, music, culture, youth development, school age care and crime prevention programs. With 60% of its 83,000 members in the youth age range, PCYCs are also supporting the broader community with access to a range of sport and recreation activities at an affordable cost. PCYCs work with communities to tailor programs to meet gaps in existing services.

PCYC Queensland is delivering programs with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) as well as meeting outcomes for 10 other State Government departments. In addition to delivering its own leadership programs, PCYC Queensland also conducts the Duke of Edinburgh Award and PCYC Emergency Service Cadets in a number of communities. Both those initiatives provide personal development and resilience building in young people, which are key to increasing a young person's capacity to overcome risk factors and become a more valuable contributor to the Queensland community.

The Government maintains its commitment to supporting the partnership between the QPCYWA and the QPS with the allocation of a Sergeant of Police at every branch. This allocation of a police officer to every branch is critical to the success of PCYCs being identified as a safe environment for young people, and an accountable and credible organisation that delivers quality programs at an affordable rate for the community. The Queensland Government funds a number of programs delivered by the PCYCs across Queensland, including the Indigenous Community Sport and Recreation Program, the PCYC Emergency Service Cadets Program, a number of Youth at Risk Initiative Workers as well as ongoing support from the Gaming Community Benefit Fund and the various Casino-related funds.

The QPCYWA is recognised as an important community hub that fosters volunteerism and brings together a number of activities under one management committee. This strengthens the sustainability of those activities within a community through the support structure that QPCYWA provides. The QPCYWA is recognised as having significant capacity to effectively deliver and manage youth strategies that will be considered, along with other organisations, as the recommissioning of youth sector funding is finalised in the near future.