

## Question on Notice

No. 788

Asked on Wednesday, 30 October 2013

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

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General provide an update on the progress of the Fraser Coast/Sunshine Coast Boot Camp?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hervey Bay for his question.

In May 2013, the Queensland Government announced the expansion of the Youth Boot Camp Trial to include the Fraser Coast, Gympie and Sunshine Coast Regional Council areas. The early intervention youth boot camp, targets young people at high-risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system, through a highly structured program involving mentoring and physical training. Throughout the program young people are taught discipline, respect and responsibility.

In August 2013, I announced Mr Bob Davis, from Oz Adventures, as the successful service provider. Mr Davis has been running “Operation Hard Yakka” successfully at Susan River, in the Sunshine Coast region, since 2008.

The first group of young people in the Fraser Coast/Sunshine Coast Youth Boot Camp commenced boot camp on 15 October 2013, with 10 young males from the Maryborough and Hervey Bay area’s attending the 28-day residential camp. Parents also attended a two-day residential program.

Preliminary, feedback from parents indicates they have seen an increase in their children’s level of respect and discipline in a very short period of time.

On 11 November 2013, the first group completed the camp program, with a formal passing out ceremony, before their families and distinguished community guests.

Following their graduation, participants will continue to engage with staff from “Operation Hard Yakka” as a part of the community re-integration phase of the youth boot camp program. Community re-integration will focus on young people implementing the goals they set during the camp, while receiving ongoing support from both the camp organisers and other service providers in the Fraser Coast region.

Planning for the second group of young people is now underway, with the second camp scheduled to commence in February 2014.