

Question on Notice

No. 181

Asked on 19 March 2014

MR BYRNE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr JARROD BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

How many juveniles have completed the boot camp in north Queensland at Lincoln Springs and how many of these have been sentenced to a boot camp order?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Rockhampton for his question.

As at 8 April 2014, four young people had been sentenced to a boot camp order since the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp Program (the SYBC Program) was re-established at Lincoln Springs. Three young people are currently in the residential phase of their order at Lincoln Springs. Of these three young people, one will return home in mid-April while the other two are due to return in early May 2014. Once home, the young people will commence the community supervision phase of the SYBC Program.

In addition to the four young people sentenced to a boot camp order, 11 young people have completed the residential phase of the SYBC Program at Lincoln Springs. While none of these 11 young people have been sentenced to a boot camp order, all have been sentenced to other youth justice orders such as: probation; community supervision; conditional bail and conditional release. It should be noted that all 11 young people sentenced to other youth justice orders have extensive criminal backgrounds.

I would note that the Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp Programs (EIYBC Programs) have been described as a welcome innovation by the President of the Childrens Court, His Honour Judge Michael Shanahan in the *Childrens Court Annual Report 2012-13*.

As at 8 April 2014, 65 young people have commenced the EIYBC Programs within the Gold Coast, Hervey Bay/Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton regions. Of these 65 young people: 29 are actively involved in the current EIYBC Programs; 33 have successfully completed the EIYBC Programs and the remaining three did not complete the full EIYBC Programs. Of the three young people that did not complete the EIYBC Programs, one moved interstate and the remaining two young people withdrew from the community phase after completing the boot camp component.

The service providers of the EIYBC Programs have reported good outcomes for all the participants including: improved family relationships, re-engagement with education, training and/or employment and improved health and wellbeing.

The Gold Coast EIYBC Program provider, Kokoda Challenge, has reported that:

- 42% of participants engaged or re-engaged with education, training and/or employment, reported improved social skills and have improved relationships at home;
- 33% of participants have improved physical wellbeing; and
- 50% of participants have improved emotional wellbeing.