

**Question on Notice
No. 356
Asked on 8 May 2014**

MS D'ATH asked the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent deaths of young women in Brisbane's CBD and surrounding areas—

What actions has the Minister directed to be undertaken by agencies within his portfolio to assess safety and risks to people who use public areas and pathways in those areas and to improve safety for those people?

ANSWER:

This Government has a strong plan for a brighter future. We are delivering on our commitment to revitalise front-line services by providing 1,100 additional police officers over four years. To date, the Newman Government has already delivered more than 750 additional police officers across this great state – and we are well on our way to meeting our election promise of 1,100 additional officers.

Between 1 April 2012 and 1 May 2014 this government has increased the total number of officers across the police divisions of Brisbane City, Fortitude Valley, South Bank and West End by 42 officers.

A dedicated City Police operational team known as Operation Brisbane has been established. This team, which includes 11 bike squad officers, provides a safe and secure environment for people who reside, work, travel on public transport, or visit entertainment precincts in the Brisbane City, South Bank and Kangaroo Point areas. The team:

- Maintain a high policing profile in key locations including educational institutions, transport hubs (rail/bus/taxi), parks, recreation areas and entertainment precincts;
- Increase interaction between police officers and members of the public;
- Provide personal safety and security advice to the public;
- Increase customer focus at points of contact with members of the public, including front counter and police beat shops.

Police are continuing to engage with Translink and Queensland Rail in conducting both uniformed and plain clothes operations on public transport so that both compliance and public safety issues are addressed.

A dedicated police officer is based in the City Safe CCTV office at peak times enabling the efficient and rapid identification of public safety issues in the Brisbane City and Fortitude Valley areas. This is coupled with improved access for police to enhanced technology, with the introduction of a number of mini iPads enabling remote access to all City Safe cameras.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is also continuing to engage with the Brisbane City Council and other stakeholders, with a rolling program of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design audits and implementation of associated strategies in public spaces. This program assesses safety and security risks and addresses issues such as lighting, CCTV and aspects of the space. In the past 18 months, reviews have been conducted of the Brisbane City Botanical Gardens, Roma Street Parklands, Bedford Park in Fortitude Valley, the Go-Between bridge, and river walkways in Captain Burke Park, Thornton Street and the Kangaroo Point cliffs.

The QPS has pursued community engagement opportunities by:

- Conducting over 40 presentations to student groups in the North Brisbane District since October 2013;
- Chairing the inaugural meeting on 10 April 2014 of the Safe City Action Group which involves all key stakeholders from Government and non-Government service providers;
- Conducting the Sunnybank Community Safety Seminar on 27 March 2014 in partnership with the Brisbane City Council;
- Participating in the Griffith University Community Liaison Group which has included the implementation of a 'Buddy Scheme' involving mentors partnering with newly arrived international visitors;
- The delivery of targeted *Personal Safety Program* sessions to 365 community members since 28 March 2014 to an audience including international students, Southbank TAFE students, and workers and residents within the Kurilpa Park precinct (a further 1,100 community members have been reached by this program in non-targeted sessions); and
- Development of a commuter flyer in Chinese languages and English containing information to address street robberies of international student commuters. Crime Prevention Officers and Police Liaison Officers have been deployed to major transport precincts and university campuses to deliver these personal safety brochures and other information to domestic and international students.

Additionally, the QPS has partnered with the Brisbane City Council in the development of the Sunnybank Project to address offences against international students, particularly in the Sunnybank area. Resources such as a *Safer Living* booklet have been developed to address safety issues with materials translated into Chinese and to be translated into Korean. Two short advertisements on personal safety and road safety have been developed for release at the Sunnybank Cinema in the near future.

This Government is dedicated to protecting our community and delivering on its commitment to make Queensland the safest place to live and raise a family.