

**Question on Notice  
No. 371  
Asked on 20 May 2014**

MR BYRNE asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

Will the Premier advise details including the number of staff, role/level and department for any government employee involved in the LNP Government boot camp program, listed for each boot camp (including after boot camp mentoring etc.) and provide a list of government grants, by department, or other money paid outside of the boot camp contract to the external providers for the programs?

ANSWER:

This Government is well on track to delivering its commitment to trial youth boot camps as part of a strong plan to fix the previous Labor Government's slap on the wrist approach to youth offending and provide a bright future to young Queenslanders. Four boot camps are now operating.

In 2012-13, a total of \$387,959 was invested in grants for the Boot Camp Trial. Of this grant funding, Safe Pathways was granted \$225,119 and the Kokoda Challenge Association was granted \$162,840.

These funds reflect the part-year operations of the Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp (EIYBC) on the Gold Coast and the Sentenced Youth Boot Camp (SYBC) in Cairns.

In 2013-14, a total of \$2,948,647 will be invested in grants for the Boot Camp Trial. The funding breakdown is as listed below:

- Beyond Billabong – \$1,833,801;
- Kokoda Challenge Association – \$439,840;
- Police Citizens-Youth Club – \$386,742; and
- Oz Adventures – \$288,264.

These funds reflect the establishment of the Rockhampton EIYBC, the Fraser/Sunshine Coast EIYBC and the Cairns/Townsville SYBC in a more remote location.

The Boot Camp Trial is being funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). No other departments make payments to the service providers for the delivery of the Boot Camp Trial.

All boot camps are staffed by non-Government employees. However, support is provided to each service by a Regional Director and regional Youth Justice (YJ) Service Centre staff of DJAG. In relation to the Cairns/Townsville SYBC, DJAG maintains statutory authority for all young offenders on Boot Camp Orders. One Principal Service Development Officer and one Administration Officer oversee the case management and referral processes for this boot camp. Two Queensland Correctional Officers also provide 24/7 security at the boot camp centre. Additionally, due to the remoteness of this camp, DJAG contributes to additional transport costs incurred by the service provider.

DJAG's YJ Central Office provides support to each of the boot camps, as they do for all YJ programs. A Principal Program Officer monitors the delivery of the boot camp program, a Senior Resource Officer oversees contract management, and a Principal Criminologist is currently establishing robust evaluation processes. Each of these positions has further responsibilities independent of the Boot Camp Trial.

Crown Law and an independent Probity Advisor were engaged during procurement, and evaluation teams were established for each location. Evaluation teams were made up of Senior Officers or Executives from DJAG, the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, and the Queensland Police Service.

DJAG is also responsible for managing the capital infrastructure works, maintenance and repairs at the SYBC property at Lincoln Springs.

Since the commencement of the Boot Camp Trial, over 100 young people have been accepted into boot camp programs and there are promising early indications of behaviour changes. It is too early to draw significant hard data about outcomes from the boot camp program. However, I am advised that the service provider of the Gold Coast EIYBC, which has been operating for the longest period of time, has recently reported that of the 28 young people who had completed the intensive phase of the program:

- 97% had no subsequent proven offences;
- 92% had re-engaged with education, training and employment;
- 85% had improved social skills;
- 78% had improved relationships at home;
- 82% had improved mental wellbeing; and
- 89% had improved physical health.