

Question on Notice
No. 84
Asked on 4 March 2014

MR MINNIKIN asked the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what is being undertaken to make suburban parties safer in the Chatsworth Electorate?

ANSWER:

Due to the inaction of the previous Labor Government, parties were able to become out of control, endangering the safety of the community and our emergency services workers tasked to respond to these events.

That is why this Government is committed to revitalising front line policing by providing an additional 1,100 new police officers over four years. In addition, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* was recently amended to provide police with additional powers to respond to out-of-control events and reduce the senseless violence and property damage that inevitably followed.

The new laws came into effect in February 2014 and now give police powers to better protect the community in relation to out-of-control events, including the ability to direct people to stop unacceptable conduct and to immediately leave a place and not return within a specified period.

This legislation also creates offences for gatecrashers and for those who arrange or host an event which has become out of control. Furthermore, it includes the provision for a person convicted of a relevant offence to pay the associated costs incurred by police. However, in circumstances where the organiser of an event is not at fault, safeguards have been included in the legislation such as a defence of having taken reasonable steps to ensure the event does not become out of control or where a third party caused the offence.

These new powers significantly bolster the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) capacity to prevent, control and deter antisocial behaviour and help make our local communities safer.

In addition, the QPS continues to offer the Party Safe initiative. Party Safe provides hosts with practical strategies for planning parties and improves police monitoring of parties. The objective of the Party Safe initiative has been to address community concerns surrounding undesirable outcomes of celebrations and parties, particularly those involving the excessive consumption of alcohol, alcohol-related violence, gate crashing, and driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

The QPS provides an online Party Safe registration form on the QPS Party Safe website (<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalSafety/youth/partySafe/>). Police constantly monitor the registrations received in their divisions and, if necessary, adjust rosters to ensure sufficient operational officers are available to monitor and manage local parties.