

Question on Notice
No. 2151
Asked on 10 November 2016

MR MADDEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Queensland Police Service is keeping the community safe in the Ipswich West Electorate, and any community initiatives to reduce crime in the electorate and surrounding areas?

ANSWER: [Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Mark Ryan MP)]

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the Ipswich West electorate is policed by officers from the Ipswich, Karana Downs, Laidley, Lowood, Marburg, Rosewood and Yamanto Police Divisions.

Police within the Ipswich West electorate, along with officers around the State, are working collaboratively to achieve the QPS objectives of delivering quality frontline services and building safe, caring and connected communities.

I am advised that Police Stations within the Ipswich West electorate have conducted a number of community forums throughout the year and these will continue in 2017. These forums have occurred at Lowood, Marburg and Rosewood and address a broad range of issues including, community safety, traffic enforcement, crime prevention strategies and understanding legislation.

Officers within the Ipswich West electorate also have access to specialist police from Criminal Investigation Branches, Child Protection Investigation Units, Road Policing Command, and the Intelligence, and the Counter-Terrorism and Major Events Command.

The release of the QPS 2015/16 Statistical Review demonstrated a reduction in break-ins (14.9 %) and fraud offences (9.8 %) across the Ipswich district.

A recent initiative involves officers from Lowood Station co-locating with a representative of the Domestic Violence Action Centre in the Lowood Community Centre to address the concerns of Domestic Violence.

Further, I am advised that Lowood Police have formed a partnership with local schools and the Somerset Regional Business Alliance to address school truancy and that the Ipswich Child Youth Service in conjunction with the Ipswich Police Citizens Youth Club have identified a number of “at risk” youth from the Ipswich West electorate who are now involved in the “Get Set for Work” program.

I am informed that a new community safety and engagement program has commenced at the Atkinsons Dam Caravan Park. Modelled on similar programs, the QPS has partnered with Government and non-Government agencies, to increase safety and reduce crime addressing compliance (building, fire, water) and support (transport, services) matters.

I am further informed that police officers within the Ipswich West electorate have a close liaison with staff from SEQWATER. This liaison sees officers conducting joint enforcement patrols on the Wivenhoe Dam ensuring community safety and reducing anti-social behaviour.

An additional six officers at Lowood Station has delivered an improved police response to the Brisbane and Bremer Valleys. This increase in officers enabled Lowood Station to provide a 24 hour police response four days a week.

Additionally borderless policing ensures that officers from Marburg, Rosewood and Lowood and Karana Downs are consistently working together in the electorate.

The increase in officer numbers by the Palaszczuk Government has allowed Divisional policing teams focusing on crime and traffic matters to be established in the Ipswich District.

I am advised that the Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit is instrumental in facilitating the following crime prevention strategies within the Ipswich Police District:

- Tool Box Secure Project – focusing on providing information to tradies and apprentices regarding property crime, locking and securing tradies/apprentices resources, tool and utes;
- Domestic and Family Violence – The “Pamper with a Purpose” annual information day;
- Armed robbery awareness presentation to businesses in the Ipswich District providing advice on security, cash handling and general safety for staff including the response from the QPS;
- Violence Is Not Our Game project – presentations to all sporting associations providing them with resources and information on how to minimise violence around clubs and at sporting events;
- Under the Bonnet – road safety and personal safety specifically designed to provide information to women on basic mechanical processes;
- Internet and cyber safety presentations to community organisations and schools;
- Various programs to senior citizens including identity theft and fraud, property security, personal safety and elder abuse;
- White Ribbon Day and Day for Daniel; and
- Rocky Horror Road Show – presentations to Year 12 students on the impact of road trauma.