

Question on Notice

No. 359

Asked on 31 March 2022

MR S KNUTH asked the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION

With reference to reports youth crime is escalating in Innisfail, youth justice laws are inadequate and penalties do not meet community expectations—

Will the Minister commit to meeting and working with the Innisfail Neighbourhood Action Group (INAG) to hear their recommendations towards implementing laws and penalties that meet community expectations and deter youth gangs?

ANSWER

All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities.

This government has invested over half a billion dollars in early intervention programs and new detention centre beds. In addition, a further \$98.4 million has been invested for the whole-of-government *Youth Justice Strategy*, with a focus on serious repeat offenders. There are also more police on the ground across the state.

The Tablelands and Cassowary Coast Youth Justice Service Centre, based in Atherton, has an outpost office co-located with Child Safety, which provides direct youth justice service delivery in Innisfail.

Youth Justice staff in Innisfail support and supervise young people subject to youth justice orders as well as delivering offence focussed interventions including programs such as:

- Transition 2 Success and TAFE approved Basic Key Skills Builder activities;
- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART);
- Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control (ERIC);
- Re-navigating Anger and Guilty Emotions (RAGE);
- Community Service Order related activities; and
- Conditional Bail Programs.

Innisfail Youth Justice staff have strong working relationships with a range of local stakeholders within the youth justice sector, including local police, Child Safety, the Innisfail Community Centre, the Innisfail Youth Shelter, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service and Mamu Health Services.

The government is always happy to work with local community organisations, like the Innisfail Neighbourhood Action Group, to further assist and support young people and their families in the youth justice system and I have asked my department to reach out to the INAG to request a meeting to hear their concerns and recommendations as requested by the Member. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this meeting in due course.