

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 732

asked on Tuesday, 13 June 2023

MR P WEIR ASKED MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS, MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what early intervention measures have been actioned for youth offenders within the Condamine Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to early intervention and prevention programs to break the cycle of crime, which is why we announced a suite of measures earlier this year to invest in community safety; tackle the complex causes of crime; and target serious repeat offenders.

Evidence tells us that keeping communities safe in the long term is best achieved through early intervention activities that wrap around young people at risk of offending and reoffending, and their families. Therefore, more than \$154 M has been invested in intervention programs and services from 2020-21 to 2022-23 across the state.

By addressing the causes of youth crime and supporting young people transitioning to adulthood, young people can avoid becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system and instead move towards better lives and positive futures.

The below youth justice programs focus on early intervention, however also support young people and families across the continuum within the Condamine Electorate, however it is important to note that program data below reflect service delivery for the Toowoomba region, in which young people in the Condamine electorate may access:

Services funded by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training available to parts of the Condamine Electorate:

CatholicCare – Youth Bail Support:

Provide support to young people subject to bail, who are at risk of being remanded in custody due to lack of positive supports in their community. The service provides one-on-one mentoring, case management, and appropriate referrals to support positive health, social, educational and housing outcomes.

- 25 referrals were received from 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023

Goolburri Youth Participation Program (Family Led Decision Making)

Family Led Decision Making is an early intervention approach to encourage young people to avoid offending and re-offending through the facilitation of a process which involves the participation of family and community members. During this process, young people are dealt with in a culturally appropriate manner that acknowledges their needs and gives them the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and develop responsible, pro-social behaviours.

- 22 referrals were received from 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023

Lifeline Changing Lanes (Young Offender Support Program – YOSS)

YOSS assists young people to develop pro-social skills through case work services that enable stable accommodation, respectful personal relationships, cultural and community connections, health, learning / earning, informed decision-making, interpersonal skills, and goal setting.

- 32 referrals were received from 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023

CHANGE (Community Helping Adolescents with New Growth & Endeavours)

This one-off program delivered through the Community Partnerships Innovation Grants is a wraparound support and skills service delivering tailored assistance to youth (12-17years) who are at-risk of becoming entrenched in the justice system. With the support of our judiciary and community Elders, CHANGE brings together the capabilities of five respected and experienced local organisations who will provide the “village” needed to raise the child including Adapt Mentorship which provides opportunities for young people to connect to their community via programs and cultural mentoring opportunities.

Services delivered by the Toowoomba Youth Justice Service Centre available to all or parts of the Condamine Electorate:

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice conferencing is an inclusive process that establishes a meeting between a child or young person who has committed a crime and the people who were affected.

- There were 44 conferences held in the 12 months to 31 March 2023

Transition to Success (T2S):

Transition to Success (T2S) is a service delivered by Youth Justice that aims to prevent young people’s introduction to or progression through the justice system. T2S is vocational training and change orientated program delivered in a community setting to young people aged 15 years and above, who are involved in the youth justice system or considered to be at being at-risk of entering. Across the State 48% of young people completing T2S transition to further education or employment, including traineeships. Transition to Success programs statewide have now prioritised referrals of Youth Justice clients predominantly targeting higher risk young people. T2S was launched in Toowoomba in May 2021.

- Since the programs commencement there have been 11 full or partial program completions.

Working collaboratively with other agencies servicing the Condamine Electorate:

Youth Co-Responder Teams (YCRT)

YCRT involves the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Youth Justice (YJ) staff working together to intervene early with young people at risk of coming into contact with the youth justice system and those who may need additional support to comply with statutory orders. This initiative commenced in Toowoomba on 18 May 2023.

- There have been 307 engagements with young people (to 2 July 2023)

Services available to young people for referral or self-referral for parts of the Condamine electorate:

Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)

Programs offered by PCYC include:

- Project Booyah: recently launched at Toowoomba PCYC, Project Booyah is a 16-week community inclusive mentoring program incorporating adventure-based learning, leadership skills, social and skill development training, community intervention, functional literacy/numeracy support and vocational scholarships to support disconnection young people regain a sense of their own self-work, build resilience and enable them to feel a connection with their local community.
- Braking the Cycle: a driver mentor program designed to support learner drivers, to provide young people with increased employment opportunities, community connection and driver education.
- RUBY (Rise Up and Be Yourself): a free physical fitness program for women who are, having been, or likely to be experiencing domestic and family violence.

Youth Connect

Youth Connect works with young people aged 12-25 in the regional communities, together with their families and service providers to:

- Identify local needs, issues and opportunities
- Support young people's health and wellbeing
- Empower young people to take a lead role in the delivery of young programs
- Create platforms for young people to connect, belong and participate in their local communities

DISCO (Downs Industry Schools Co-op Inc)

DISCO provides a range of support services, programs, counselling and career guidance to young people aged 15-24 to assist their transition through school or from school into further education, training or employment. The work undertaken by DISCO aims to assist young people to determine career choices and develop work skills to contribute to further education or employment opportunities.