

Question on Notice

No. 884

Asked on 22 August 2023

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TREATY, MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS, MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the social reinvestment initiative of \$165,000 for community night patrols in Kowanyama—

Will the Minister advise (a) what outcomes have been achieved for the community and (b) what evaluations the department has undertaken to date?

ANSWER:

The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, through the social reinvestment program, supported Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council to implement the Kowanyama Community Night Patrol to improve safety and residents' perceptions of safety by addressing identified need for a greater security presence within community.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council reports that the Night Patrol began on 30 November 2022 and runs daily between 6:00pm and 6:00am.

From early December 2022 until the end of February 2023, Council reported the Night Patrol Officers engaged with 169 community members.

422 referrals have been made to diversionary activities and support services, including the health clinic, and men's, women's, and youth shelter support groups/activities.

In July 2023, the Kowanyama Community Safety Committee, which includes representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, and the Community Justice Group, reported anecdotal community improvements in a range of areas including community safety.

The Committee considered the Night Patrol to be a significant contributory factor to these outcomes.

The Kowanyama Community Night Patrol program has created employment opportunities for four local community members as Night Patrol Officers. Employment opportunities will be sustained through the transition to a local community security service through formal commercial arrangements, expected to be finalised later this year.

Night Patrol Officers proactively engage with young people in Kowanyama on a nightly basis, and this work has been credited by community members as both preventing crime and minimising harm.

A comprehensive assessment of outcomes will be undertaken in 2023-24.