

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 164

Asked on Wednesday, 6 March 2024

MRS L GERBER ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail all alternative diversion programs currently operating in Queensland under section 38 of the Youth Justice Act 1992?

ANSWER:

Alternative diversion programs (ADPs) are designed and delivered specifically to respond to the young person referred to restorative justice, and the offence they have committed. Each ADP is an individualised and targeted response that helps the young person understand the harm caused by their behaviour and address the underlying causes of their offending. In accordance with section 38 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, the program must involve the young person participating in activities to address their behaviour and/or strengthen their family and community relationships and or education.

ADPs are not limited to a set list of programs, rather when a youth worker or caseworker is supporting a young person through an ADP, they have access to youth justice delivered programs and initiatives, programs offered by other agencies, funded services and what is available in community depending on the needs of that particular young person. The type of programs that young people have taken part in as part of their ADPs include:

- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets, Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control and Aggression Replacement Training, delivered by the Department;
- Offence-based programs such as Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Fight Fire Fascination;
- A series of engagements with community services that works with young people on their need areas such as Family Lead Decision Making, drug and alcohol counselling, family conflict, education and employment;
- The young person, their support network and community members addressing potential impacts of the offence, then implementing a plan to address the young person's behaviour through activities such as: re-engaging with school; connecting with the community through sports or social clubs; attending counselling; apologising to victims or committing to positive conduct at home and in the community;
- A combination of the examples above.