



Police Beats – putting a face to the QPS in urban communities

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Police Beat officers walk the beat, talk to people, solve policing problems, handle complaints and make arrests – and that is just the beginning.

These officers aim to improve the community feeling about personal safety and to reduce the fear of crime, while establishing a friendly and relaxed environment where people can talk to police.

“Police Beat officers focus on local issues and aim to ‘put a face’ to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in their community,” Acting Inspector Monica O’Mara, State Coordinator, Police Beat Program said.

Throughout the state, there are 49 Police Beat Shopfronts (PBSF) attached to shopping centres and central business districts. These extend from Cairns in the far north of Queensland, to the Gold Coast in the south-east.



The PBSF was first launched in December 1992, with the opening of the Toombul facility on January 27, 1994.

The program was developed as a result of the Government Shopping Centre Security Policy and

since its inception has received government funding to assist in the establishment of an effective policing presence in shopping centres and business districts..

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Police Beat (PAHPB) was officially opened in November 2005 by Police and Corrective Services Minister Judy Spence and Health Minister Stephen Robertson.

The hospital was the first in the southern hemisphere to have such a police establishment and took more than two years to come to fruition.



The PAHPB area falls within the South Brisbane Police District and covers the PA Hospital, Buranda Plaza, a hotel, multi-level car park, 15 residential houses, a number of unit blocks as well as retail shops in nearby Woolloongabba.

It has an operational strength of six officers on a monthly rotation and is staffed between 8am and 10pm, seven days a week.

Acting Sergeant Johan Louw, Officer in Charge, PAHPB said that core duties of the beat included taking responsibility for the hospital’s inquiries and acting as a liaison between QPS members and the hospital.



“Officers also assist with coronial matters at the hospital and liaise with the various departments while taking a proactive approach to patrolling surrounding areas and delivering crime prevention information,” he said.

A recent report issued by the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) praised the achievements of the PAHPB. The report titled *The Princess Alexandra Hospital Police Beat: An evaluation by the Crime and Misconduct Commission* was issued on February 23.

In the report the CMC said the PAHPB had achieved a great deal in a short time and that its record of success in terms of accomplishing its overall mission was worthy of praise.

Neighbourhood Police Beats (NHPB) are located across the state and consist of residential and non-residential establishments with a focus on individual communities, as opposed to business districts or shopping centres.

There are currently 50 NHPBs throughout Queensland.

In 1993 the NHPB program was launched with support from the then Criminal Justice Commission (now known as the CMC) and government funding, which brought the strength of country policing, personal interaction, community involvement and proactive enforcement to urban areas in Queensland.

The philosophy of NHPB is to reduce repeat calls for service and to develop strategies that target local problems and encourage problem solving.

This is achieved through police-community interaction and information flow while increasing community satisfaction and the public’s sense of safety.

The Hemmant NHPB is the 50th in the state and was officially opened on February 21.

The hours of duty of the beat officer will be dependant on the needs of the community, and a blue emergency phone was installed for after hours use by the community. This phone diverts to the Wynnum Police Station which operates 24 hours a day.



Hemmant Neighbourhood Police Beat.

At the opening of this NHPB, Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson said that as a result of unprecedented population growth and movement across the south-eastern corner of the state, it had become essential for the service to recognise where and how it could be most effective.

“One very effective policing method has been the creation of police beats in Queensland communities. These ensure the policing needs of local areas are being met with a level of service tailored to each individual locality,” he said.

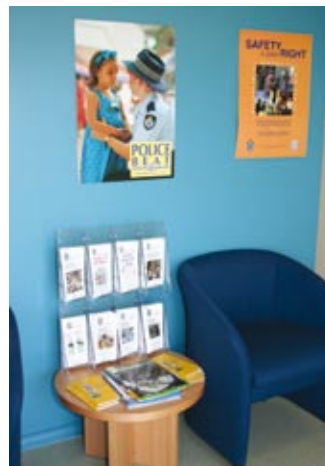
The Hemmant residential establishment is staffed by Senior Constable Darren Brown, who brings to the role his knowledge and experience of the local area and issues through his previous work with the Wynnum District CIB.

Commissioner Atkinson encouraged all residents and visitors in Queensland to take advantage of their local Police Beat.

“We count on the residents within each community to make each NHPB a success by sharing information and making the best possible use of police in your community,” Commissioner Atkinson said. ■



Officers from Princess Alexandra Hospital Police Beat.



Police Beat officers provide operational policing services and support to local police stations and communities throughout Queensland.