



FROM COMMISSIONER ATKINSON

Indigenous Community Policing – staffing and training

Providing a quality policing service to Indigenous communities can be very challenging. We are committed to ensuring that staffing numbers in these areas are sufficient and all officers receive adequate training.

Police Minister Spence announced in June 2007 that Aurukun, Kowanyama, Yarrabah, Woorabinda and Doomadgee Stations will each be upgraded to a total of 10 officers. Pormpuraaw, Hopevale and Lockhart River Stations will each be upgraded to four officers and an additional three officers will be stationed at Murgon to assist Cherbourg Station. The increase in staffing in these areas is a total of 29 officers. Land has already been set aside in a number of communities and I am pleased to advise that planning is underway to acquire additional accommodation in these centres to house these additional officers.

The leadership and judgement shown by officers in charge of these communities is crucial in moulding the perception the community has of its officers. For this reason, the officer in charge positions of Aurukun, Bamaga, Yarrabah and Woorabinda are in the process of being upgraded to Senior Sergeant.

From a training perspective, Recommendation 210 of the

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) Report recommended that officers working in Indigenous communities receive cultural awareness training. Cultural awareness training packages have been developed by the Cultural Advisory Unit and the QPS Academy through the Cultural Appreciation Project. The first stages of the project have been completed with revised Competency Acquisition Program (CAP) units and new training to all recruits at the Academy. Many police districts have included the revised CAP units as part of their induction training for new officers arriving in their districts.

The next stage of the project, the development of community specific training packages, has now commenced. This phase will entail consulting with Indigenous community groups and experienced police who have worked in Indigenous communities, to design training from an operational viewpoint. The finished training package I believe will be a valuable tool for police.

These community specific training packages will eventually cover all Indigenous communities however Aurukun, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Woorabinda packages have priority.

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JUDY SPENCE MP
MINISTER FOR POLICE, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND SPORT

Minister praises police initiatives

Police around this State are showing great initiative, developing programs that are making a real difference in local communities.

In Parliament last month I took the opportunity to congratulate a number of officers on innovative programs that are making a difference in Queensland.

QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT HANSARD

(extract) – Thursday 6 September 2007:

Indigenous Communities,
Domestic Violence

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt – ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services)

Police working in our state's Indigenous communities are dedicated to working with their local communities to address local issues. It is a sad fact that domestic violence is especially prominent in some Indigenous communities in the state's north. In fact, in the town of Normanton, where 60 per cent of the population is Indigenous, in 2006 there were over 300 reported incidents of domestic violence. One in three adults in the town were also involved in protection orders last year, either as the respondent, the aggrieved or the named person. That is a shocking statistic.

This year the local police in Normanton have taken it upon themselves to find a new way to address this tragic trend. It was identified that community ownership of the problem had to be established. Under the guidance of the local officer in charge, Sergeant Dave Rutherford, police are now working with the local Rugby League team, the Normanton Stingers, to promote the non-violence message. The Domestic Violence—It's not out game! campaign commenced in March this year, with members of the Normanton Stingers and their supporters wearing jerseys and wristbands carrying the campaign logo and with banners displayed at all football games.

Mr Johnson: It's a good one, too. I see them on Imparja TV all the time.

Ms SPENCE: I will get to that. Furthermore, team members have agreed to make a personal commitment to desist from domestic violence and they have decided that if an individual commits domestic violence they will be subject to playing bans and ultimately excluded from the team. Team players are also appearing in television advertisements on the Imparja network, as mentioned by the member for Gregory.

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