



FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CONDER

# Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police (QATSIP)

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has been trialling the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police (QATSIP) concept in three Indigenous communities since 2000.

The project involves the QPS, through the QATSIP program, taking responsibility for all policing roles in individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Currently, the function is shared between the QPS, and the local council (through Community Police) using local law and order by-laws.

The project has seen the transfer of the community policing function from local councils at Woorabinda, Yarrabah and Badu Island to the QPS.

It is based on a belief in the value of working in partnership with Indigenous communities to deliver an effective policing service.

The project was extensively evaluated in 2003, finding that the trial had been successful and resulting in the project concept being formalised into a recognised program. The program now receives continual funding.

I am grateful for the work of the QATSIP officers who have contributed to and supported the program throughout that time.

Recently, Senior Sergeant Matt Orme and Sergeant Brendon McMahon, from Far Northern Police Region, in conjunction with Human Resources Development Branch developed a Law and Order By-Laws Training Course.

The course is designed to provide the necessary knowledge and skills to enable QATSIP officers to examine, understand and interpret law.

The course explains, in detail, relevant by-law offences as well as the powers available to them in exercising their duties.

The course also includes a police operational skills training component to assist QATSIP officers to use their powers in the field.

It is intended that the course will be delivered to QATSIPs in the near future, and it will also be of great interest to state police working on Indigenous communities as they share the same by-law powers as the Community Police.

The issue of the roles and responsibilities of policing functions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities is under review by a Law and Justice Chief Executive Officers' Committee project, the Policing Indigenous Communities Project.

The project, which is expected to be finalised by 2007, will examine all aspects of policing in remote communities and aims to identify a preferred model for the future policing of Indigenous communities.

I believe the result of this review will ultimately lead to an enhanced policing presence in remote communities.

