

Question on Notice
No. 382
Asked on 24 March 2011

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the successful community policing initiatives of having police officers working in our schools—

Will the government fund in this year's budget a position at the Nambour Police Station for the employment of a police officer to work at our Nambour and Burnside schools?

ANSWER:

The School Based Policing program is a successful joint initiative of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Education Queensland. The program aims to establish positive relationships between police and secondary school communities. It assists these schools to achieve educational, developmental and preventative outcomes to locally identified policing issues through the provision of a police officer to that community.

At present, there are 35 School Based Police Officers serving 47 State secondary schools and their feeder primary schools. The North Coast Police Region has seven (7) School Based Police Officers, more than any other police region in Queensland. These officers are based at the following schools:

- Clontarf Beach SHS / Redcliffe SHS
- Hervey Bay SHS / Urangan SHS
- Kawana Waters State College
- Kepnock SHS
- Bundaberg SHS
- Morayfield SHS
- Maroochydore SHS

There are also approximately 850 police officers working with their local schools via the Adopt-a-Cop program. This program allows police officers an opportunity to establish a relationship with the students and school community in primary schools or other education institutions.

Schools within the Nambour Police Division are supported by visits from uniformed and plain clothes police officers. These officers also respond to specific requests from schools in the division to provide presentations on policing and allow school students to visit the station to discuss law and police functions as part of their studies.

The Sunshine Coast District Traffic Branch provides management of local instalments of the Road Accident Awareness Program and the Rotary Club's Fostering Youth Driver Awareness program.

Whilst there are currently no plans to expand the School Based Policing Program I would

encourage all schools, including the Nambour and Burnside State Schools, to discuss with their local police the possibility of establishing an Adopt-a-Cop.