

Question on Notice

No. 704

Asked on 12 May 2011

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

With reference to State Government youth engagement programs in the Nambour area—What youth engagement programs are currently available for the unemployed youth in the Nambour area?

ANSWER

In 2010–11, the Queensland Government is investing more than \$2.1 million administered by the Department of Communities to deliver a range of programs and support aimed at assisting young people including unemployed youth in the Nambour area.

The programs and other support being delivered, which all include components of youth engagement are as follows:

- A Youth Engagement Program providing information and referral services for young people needing crisis intervention and support, court support and outreach, youth work and outreach services targeting identified public spaces known to young people.
- The Youth and Combined Community Action program providing court support for Maroochydore Court and Caloundra Murri Court and community-based skills development.
- A transitional housing program to provide supported medium and long-term accommodation, social support and general service availability to young people between 16 to 25 years.
- The Maroochydore Crisis Shelter providing crisis accommodation and short-term accommodation for up to three months, as well as social support and general service availability to young people between 16 to 21 years and their dependants.
- The Young Parent's Support Program providing individual and group support to young pregnant women and young parenting families across a range of social, personal, parenting, health and welfare needs.

In addition, the Queensland Government has established a Youth Support Coordinator initiative on the Sunshine Coast. United Synergies is funded to provide supports to young people at risk of disengaging or who have recently disengaged from learning, and to assist young people and their families to resolve social and personal issues and develop skills.

The Nambour Neighbourhood Centre is also a key component of youth engagement and community service delivery in this region for young people including unemployed youth. The Queensland Government built the centre and funds the delivery of a range of programs aimed at supporting and assisting young people, such as:

- Crisis intervention, individual needs assessment, a pleasurable parenting program, assistance to families and young people to join activities, meet people and to feel connected in the community.
- The Good Beginnings Program to provide friendship and practical assistance to families with children up to eight years of age.
- Assisting the centre's major community development focus to provide information and referrals, computer facilities, drop-in facilities, library, mutual support and self help groups, living skills development workshops and community education sessions.

The Queensland Government is very aware of the pressures faced by young people including unemployed youth and is working in partnership with funded agencies on the Sunshine Coast to provide a range of social and support services to benefit all youth in this region.