

**Question on Notice  
No. 965  
Asked on 15 June 2011**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the 95 Police Recruit Operational Vocational Education (PROVE) program recruits inducted into the Queensland Police Service in March this year—

How many are currently in the electorate of Gregory and how many are located in western Queensland generally?

**ANSWER:**

In 2009, the Bligh Government gave a three-year commitment to increase police numbers by up to 600 officers, bringing the total number of police to more than 10,600 by March 2012. The number of police officers has increased under the Queensland Labor Government by more than 3,700 – from 6,800 officers in June 1998 to 10,574 officers at 1 June 2011 (including 113 new police officers sworn-in on 27 May) – an increase of 55%.

However, the Police Commissioner and his senior executive, and not politicians, should decide where and how police resources should be allocated.

In order to make the best use of available resources, the number of officers allocated by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to any location, such as the electorate of Gregory, must be determined having regard to a range of factors. This includes the needs of communities throughout Queensland, the total number of officers within the QPS and the complexity of providing an equitable policing service in a state the size of Queensland.

To this end, the QPS has developed and maintains a Staffing Allocation Model which is used for determining the allocations of officers across police regions, districts and divisions. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of the relative workloads and police staffing needs of all areas as identified through population, crime and traffic statistics and various other factors common to all regions.

Each police region is provided with an allocation of officers as determined by the Model. The priorities of regional and district managers remain focussed on the safety of Queensland communities, the safety of QPS officers and ensuring the highest levels of service delivery across the state are maintained at all times.

There were, in fact, two inductions of Police Recruit Operational Vocational Education (PROVE) program recruits in March 2011. 95 recruits from the Oxley Police Academy and 56 from the Townsville Police Academy.

As the member may be aware, the QPS endeavours to ensure that graduates (First Year Constables) of the Townsville Police Academy are allocated to the Far Northern, Northern and Central Regions. Similarly, the QPS endeavours to ensure that graduates of the Oxley

Police Academy are allocated to the Southern, South Eastern, Metropolitan North, Metropolitan South and North Coast Regions.

The allocation of new First Year Constables to training centres/stations is dependent upon the relative training capacity of such centres/stations and the anticipated staffing levels in those centres/stations at the time of graduation. Where appropriate, police officer numbers in the Far Northern, Northern and Central Regions are also supplemented by the allocation of new First Year Constables from the Oxley Police Academy.

On 24 March 2011, 56 Police Recruit Operational Vocational Education (PROVE) program recruits were inducted into the Queensland Police Service. These 56 new First Year Constables (FYCs) were allocated to the following police regions, Far Northern (18), Central (19, of which 8 were allocated to the Rockhampton District) and Northern (19, of which 6 were allocated to the Mount Isa District in Western Queensland).

On 31 March 2011, 95 Police Recruit Operational Vocational Education (PROVE) program recruits were inducted into the Queensland Police Service. These 95 new First Year Constables (FYCs) were allocated to the following police regions, Metropolitan North (19), Metropolitan South (20), North Coast (20), South Eastern (21) and Southern (15, of which 7 were allocated to the Toowoomba District).

Policing services to the electorate of Gregory are provided by a number of police divisions attached to the Longreach and Rockhampton Police Districts, Central Region and Charleville Police District, Southern Region. The majority of police divisions providing policing services in the electorate of Gregory are small police divisions ranging from 1 officer to 9 officers.

The QPS considers it is not practical to allocate first year constables to smaller districts and remote locations due to the demands associated with meeting the commitments of ongoing training requirements of the first year constable program. It is the case that all first year constables are initially allocated to approved training stations in regions and larger police districts that can provide constant access to suitably qualified training officers.