

Question on Notice
No. 948
Asked on 1 September 2021

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Project Booyah— Will the Minister advise (a) the total amount invested into this program, (b) the criteria for young offenders going into the program, (c) the rate of recidivism prior to and after entering the program for participants and (d) how many participants in Project Booyah are recidivist offenders?

ANSWER:

Project Booyah is an award-winning community safety initiative of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and I note that it has been recognised with a 'gold' Australian Crime and Violence Prevention award at Parliament House in Canberra.

While I am advised that approximately \$3.25 million in 2021-22 has been directly allocated to Project Booyah related initiatives, it is not possible to quantify the total amount invested because to do so would require a manual examination of all of the significant in-kind support provided by the QPS and such manual examination would be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

I am informed by the QPS that Project Booyah sets a mandatory requirement that 50% of all participants must have a recorded offence history, however the final decision as to selection is based around behavioural assessment tests conducted to determine if participants are at the point in their personal development to benefit from the program. A victim informed practice is also undertaken to ensure that the young person is not negatively impacted during program sessions.

I am also advised an independent review by the Griffith University School of Criminology in November 2020 determined that of the Booyah participants with an offending background who completed the program and were then supported with further case management, 54% did not commit any further offences in the two years post program, and a further 22% had dramatically reduced offending patterns and offence categories. It was further determined that of all youth with a recorded victim occurrence, 75% of these youth had not recorded another victim event in the two years after the program.