

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. BE17-032

Senator Watt asked the following question on 24 May 2017:

Senator WATT: My apologies. I am happy to keep going with Safer Streets, but I realise there is one other question I need to ask about firearms, so we might get those people back as well. Regarding the Safer Streets Program, in May last year Minister Keenan made an announcement in Townsville and committed \$2.7 million in community safety funding for Queensland through the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association. In that announcement, the minister announced:

The funding will create new Youth Support Officer positions to provide dedicated post-program support to Project Booyah graduates in seven locations across Queensland, including Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mount Isa, Wooldridge, Nerang and Palm Beach-Elanora.

Can you advise whether that funding has been provided?

Ms Hawkins: I have lists of various things, but I think for the specific question you are asking it might be best for us to take it on notice.

Senator WATT: Okay.

CHAIR: I suspect the answer is yes, because I think I had something to do with the announcement.

Mr Lodge: I suspect that the funding will have commenced, but, as it is often provided against milestone payments, we will take on notice whether the balance of the funding has been provided.

Senator WATT: If you could. I can only assume that I am asking this question because the funding has not been provided. If it has not been provided, could you advise why it was not included in the 2017-18 budget.

Ms Hawkins: We will take that on notice.

Senator WATT: Additionally, when will it be provided? If it is not being provided, could you advise why the government has cancelled this commitment. Are you aware of any decision to cancel that commitment?

Ms Hawkins: I have lists of what is funded, but I will take it on notice because of the amount of detail I have here—you can imagine, with all these grants programs, there is a limit to what we bring up. We have a lot of lists of who was funded, but to drill down to that next layer we will answer that on notice.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

A funding agreement between the Commonwealth and the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association was executed on 14 December 2016. As per the funding agreement, the first grant instalment of \$1.32 million (which covers the Youth Support Officer project and

another project also listed under the same funding agreement) was paid on 19 December 2016. The balance of the grant is split into three further progress payments, to be paid on acceptance of progress report 1 (anticipated August 2017), on acceptance of progress report 2 (anticipated February 2018) and on acceptance of the final report (anticipated June 2018).