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KERRY SHINE MP

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Youth Offender Blitz extended to Toowoomba

The Bligh Government has boosted its efforts to stamp out youth crime, extending the Youth Offender Blitz to Toowoomba.

Community Services Minister Karen Struthers today joined Toowoomba North MP Kerry Shine to announce local young repeat offenders would be the next targets of the blitz.

“About 200 10 to 16-year-olds are responsible for more than one quarter of all youth offences committed in Queensland,” Mr Shine said.

“The blitz is a comprehensive four-pronged approach focussing on learning or earning with intensive case management.”

The four-pronged approach includes: ensuring young people are learning or earning, not offending; intensive case planning and follow through; one-on-one support and mentoring; and getting parents involved and taking more responsibility.

Ms Shine said the expansion was great news for Toowoomba, helping tackle local youth crime to make the community safer.

“I have been pushing strongly for further action to address youth crime in our local community, and I am pleased to say this call has been answered,” Mr Shine said.

“This initiative has already had positive results in other parts of the State and I look forward to seeing similar results here.”

The blitz started on the Gold Coast, Cairns and Rockhampton in November last year and has been extended to Ipswich, Caboolture, Logan and Townsville.

Ms Struthers said the Toowoomba blitz will target approximately 30 young people who commit the most crimes, making sure they get what’s needed to stop their criminal behaviour.

“The overwhelming majority of young Queenslanders do the right thing,” Ms Struthers said.

“For those who do get in trouble with the police, we know for most it serves as a wake-up call for the individuals and their parents and they don’t reoffend.

“This is what being both tough on crime and the causes of crime involves. It means doing the one-on-one hard work with offenders to make sure they get the support they need to be learning or earning.

“We are focused on evidence based programs, which is a stark comparison to the LNP who are all slogans and no policy.”

For more information on how the government is supporting individuals, families, or communities visit www.communities.qld.gov.au

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