

HILLARYS YOUTH PROJECT ENQUIRIES

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [12.50 pm]: I rise today to speak about the HYPE program that has been operating in the City of Joondalup in the past three years. My colleague the member for Wanneroo spoke previously about this project and its introduction to the northern suburbs' newest shopping centre.

I shall inform the House of the background that led to the introduction of this successful program. The name HYPE is an acronym for Hillarys Youth Project Enquiries. The project was designed to deal with a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour that occurred in the summer of 1998 at Hillarys Marina. The initial response of management and security was to confront young people and move them on, a tactic that soon proved to antagonise youth. Matters got progressively worse and the local police, in consultation with a community development coordinator from the Department of Community Development, quickly realised that a new and innovative method of dealing with youths was needed.

Marenee Provost developed what is now known as the HYPE program. The program involves youth workers, supported by police and retrained security officers, interacting with youth and identifying "at risk youth". These young people are then put in contact with various services that can assist them to deal with their problems. This early intervention has proved successful and the reduction in anti-social behaviour has all but disappeared from the Hillarys Marina area.