



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2332318
Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 22 August 2013 enclosing Petition No. 2060-13 requesting the Government provide funding to the Hard Yakka Youth Boot Camp in Hervey Bay.

This Government is committed to addressing crime as part of its *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan*, which includes \$2 million in funding for the trial of two youth boot camps that commenced January 2013 – a Sentenced Youth Boot Camp in Cairns and an Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp in the Gold Coast. On 24 March 2013, the Government announced an expansion of the youth boot camp trial to three further locations. These include an Early Intervention Youth Boot Camps in Rockhampton and the Fraser/Sunshine Coasts and a Sentenced Youth Boot Camp in Townsville.

On 21 August 2013, I was pleased to announce that Operation Hard Yakka in Hervey Bay was selected to run the Fraser/Sunshine Coast Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp. Hard Yakka's specialised program has been run by a former Special Forces instructor since 2008 and has successfully helped more than 80 at-risk youths gain life and work skills.

These boot camps will not be a holiday camp. Participants will learn about values, respect and responsibility. The camp involves physical training, adventure-based challenges, job search training, community awareness and indigenous culture. Parents will also be included in the program by attending a three-day parental training seminar designed to support them and their child in the next phase of the camp.

I would like to thank the petitioners for their support for our youth boot camps, as part of the Government's commitment to getting serious about crime and helping vulnerable young people to get their lives back on track.

Yours sincerely

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice