



**CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM**  
**18 July 2002**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Will the Attorney-General advise the house why, when he was in Port Lincoln last Friday to launch a victim support service, he did not also report that funding for the Port Lincoln Crime Prevention Program was to be axed? The state government entered into a three-year agreement with local government to fund local crime prevention committees. In a media statement issued on 11 July by the Premier and the Minister for Regional Affairs (Hon. Terry Roberts) it was claimed that one of the regional highlights was an additional \$500 000 to support crime prevention committees in a number of centres including Port Lincoln.

The Treasurer issued a correction on Monday. However, his release did not reveal that, far from receiving an additional \$500 000, the crime prevention program had actually been cut by \$800 000 across the state. In Port Lincoln, the crime prevention program has been very successful with programs such as the excellent anti-spiking drinks campaign, Don't Get Spiked, attracting national attention. A crime prevention representative from Port Lincoln even went to Canberra to outline some of their initiatives.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** A decision has not been taken on which of the local government crime prevention programs will continue and which will not, but we have to achieve a budget saving of about \$800 000.  
*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Yes we do in order to achieve the budget results in the justice department. The member for Flinders is quite right to say that the government erroneously advertised in a press release on the internet that there would be a \$500 000 increase in crime prevention funding in regional South Australia. That was an error and, as soon as it was detected by one of my officers, arrangements were made to issue another press release delivering the true situation. As I have told the house before, the mistake was made because the \$500 000 increase in crime prevention funding was a budget bid of the previous government. We are not here to put into effect every budget bid made under a previous government, nor are we here to implement the Liberal Party's election promises; that is not what we are about.

When I was in Port Lincoln on Friday, I discussed the issue of crime prevention with the relevant people from the Port Lincoln council. I advised them that an overall cut was coming in relation to crime prevention. I could not inform them whether there would be a cut to their program because that decision has not been taken even now

**CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM**  
**15 July 2002**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Will the Attorney-General advise the house if the Port Lincoln crime prevention program has been cut? I have been contacted by the council, which is very concerned. It was involved in a phone link-up this morning with the Crime Prevention Unit regarding the program and was advised that the Attorney-General on Friday decided to cut the current crime prevention program. Funding for the program has been reduced by \$1.4 million to \$600 000 in total. A media release by the Premier clearly indicates the following: \$500 000 to support crime prevention committees in six regional service areas to focus on problem solving approaches to local crime issues. Committees will be funded in Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Mount

Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Murray Bridge.

The city council questioned the cut, cited the media release by the Premier and suggested that the regional areas would be funded and that the city would receive \$100 000. They were advised that this was a mistake and that a statement would be made retracting the statement. When I checked the state budget web site today, the media release 'State budget will build positive futures for regional South Australia' was still on there, and there was no retraction that I could find.

The Port Lincoln city council has a crime prevention officer under the crime prevention program, and it was advised that the officers will have six months to wind down their projects. I understand that the crime prevention unit management project officer and administrative staff are public servants and will not be directly affected by the reduction in the local crime prevention program. This could mean that there will still be a crime prevention program in South Australia, but it will be centrally based.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** I thank the member for Flinders for the question; it is a pertinent question. A mistake was made in one of the news releases that was issued in connection with the budget and a mistake was made in the news release displayed on the internet. In fact, there will not be a \$500 000 increase in crime prevention funding to local councils in those regional areas. That was, in fact, a budget bid of a previous government, and I emphasize 'a bid'. In fact, the crime prevention program will be reduced, as the member for Flinders says, and that was notified to crime prevention officers with local councils across South Australia today. The method used to reduce the overall funding will be a matter for me to decide in the weeks to come.