

# QPRIME – a vital weapon in the fight against crime

Quick and easy access to information is essential in helping police to solve crime.

And the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) new information management system, QPRIME, is doing just that.

QPRIME, which is currently being rolled out across the state, can provide crucial details such as a suspect's address, known aliases and associates, photographs and defining physical features at the click of a button.

Queensland police and staff members started using the first phase of the system on June 20 last year. This phase manages missing persons, sudden deaths, marine complaints, traffic crashes and traffic complaints, street/stop checks, intelligence submissions and Crime Stoppers files.

Not long after QPRIME came on line, the system provided vital information which helped reunite a missing person with his family.

On June 28, 2006, Sergeant Steve Andrews, Supervisor of the

Yamanto Communications Centre, received a call that an elderly man was lost, wandering around North Ipswich in his pyjamas.

Sergeant Andrews sent a police crew to investigate and they found a pension card with the man's name, but a fellow communications operator had difficulty locating the person on the existing police systems (which are still operating until all phases of QPRIME have been introduced).

"I jumped on QPRIME and found out he was reported missing from an aged care facility on the Sunshine Coast the day before.

"All the details of his description, his carer, his address and who last saw him were on QPRIME and allowed us to arrange his safe return.

"We could never have found out this information as quickly as we did without QPRIME," Sergeant Andrews said.

QPRIME has also assisted with major police investigations.

The system helped identify the victim and suspects in a murder investigation when the only information investigators had was a type of car and a person's first name.

"Although similar search facilities already exist in QPS systems, those provided by QPRIME proved easier to use and produced quicker results," an officer involved in the investigation said.

QPRIME has also assisted other recent investigations by being able to produce summary reports of people intercepted during street checks – recording of suspicious behaviour – and displaying an electronic map where street checks had been completed around places of interest to the investigation.

The details contained in these reports were then used to assist investigators in building a profile of the possible offenders.

Assistant Commissioner Ian Stewart said the new system was a welcome weapon in the fight against crime.

"When fully implemented, QPRIME will make it faster and easier for police across the state to access information when investigating crimes and will be used to record and manage all reportable police incidents," he said.

He said QPRIME was replacing 234 existing systems and would provide police officers with a single access point to give them greater capacity to detect, prevent and solve crime.

Phase 2 of QPRIME has been split into two releases.

Release 2.1 will go live across the state simultaneously in June this year with all crime, domestic violence and property managed in QPRIME.

Criminal Justice, including custody/watchhouse, proceedings and charges, will be managed in release 2.2, due for completion by mid-2008. ■