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Innovative program to put 'Youth on Track'

Clarence and Coffs Harbour State MP's Chris Gulaptis and Andrew Fraser have welcomed last week's announcement that Social Futures will deliver the innovative 'Youth on Track' early intervention program which is designed to coordinate support services for 10-17 year olds at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system.

The NSW Government has announced the \$14.5 million expansion of the program to sites in Coffs/Clarence, New England and Central West, following its success in Blacktown in Sydney's south west, Hunter and Mid North Coast.

Mr Gulaptis said 'Youth on Track' is a vital early intervention program that aims to get young offenders off their trajectory into the criminal justice system and a life of crime.

"This is a terrific initiative. Almost 90 per cent of young people who have participated in 'Youth on Track' have either stabilised or reduced their contact with police and 53 per cent reduced their offending risk factors after three months," he said.

Mr Fraser said 'Youth on Track' is about improving community safety by turning young people away from crime as early as possible and getting them back on track.

"This targeted intervention program has produced positive outcomes in helping break the cycle of incarceration and I am pleased it is being expanded into the Coffs/Clarence Local Area Command.

The program will be delivered in the Coffs/Clarence region by Social Futures (formerly the Northern Rivers Social Development Council).

Social Futures CEO, Tony Davies said the 'Youth on Track' early intervention model has achieved very positive outcomes in the areas where it has been trailed.