

SCHOOLIES BE SAFE AND WATCH YOUR MATES

MESSAGE FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE GOLD COAST SCHOOLIES ADVISORY GROUP

Surfers Paradise continues to be the central hub for school leavers to gather and celebrate with their friends. Since the 1970's, the Gold Coast has been the holiday destination of choice for thousands of Year 12 school leavers.



As a Gold Coast resident, I understand the concerns the local community has regarding the influx of students and its impact on the Surfers Paradise precinct.

As a parent, I also recognise the need for a response to this phenomenon by providing diversionary activities and support services 'on-the-ground' to enhance the safety of school leavers and the local community during this time.

The 2018 Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response will be in place from Saturday 17 to Friday 23 November.

In my honorary role as the Independent Chair of the Gold Coast Schoolies Advisory Group, I advise the Queensland Government and local council on the Schoolies Community Safety Response and provide suggestions on how to balance the interests of the community with the safety of thousands of young people who gather here.

The ongoing patience and support of all Gold Coast residents during the end-of year Schoolies period is recognised and greatly appreciated. I would also like to extend a special acknowledgement to the hundreds of locals who actively embrace Schoolies, by donating their time to support the community and its visitors.

Mark Reaburn,
Independent Chair, Gold Coast Schoolies
Advisory Group

THE SAFER SCHOOLIES INITIATIVE - MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER

The Queensland Government's Safer Schoolies Initiative is a whole-of-government response to the Schoolies holiday period across Queensland. The government does not promote Schoolies, but realises there is a need to support both Year 12 school leavers and the communities where they gather by helping to make Schoolies as safe as possible.

The initiative sees government working in partnership with local councils and community groups to provide diversionary activities, support services and safety programs to help keep young people safe and to minimise potential impacts of Schoolies on local residents, businesses and communities across Queensland.

The Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response is implemented to manage the influx of tens of thousands of young people who choose to book their end-of-year holidays on the Gold Coast. Marketplace advice indicates approximately 22,000 schoolies will visit the Gold Coast in November this year.

The Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response includes:

- a highly visible police presence
- additional emergency services, local law and liquor licensing officers
- a coordinated volunteer and community support program providing advice and support to schoolies
- diversionary activities in an alcohol and drug-free schoolies only area
- wristbanding to easily identify schoolies.

Activities conducted after Friday 23 November are not aligned with the Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response.

ABOUT THE GOLD COAST SCHOOLIES COMMUNITY SAFETY RESPONSE

As part of the seven-night Response, a central section of Surfers Paradise beach will be fenced nightly for exclusive access by schoolies. Known as the Schoolies Hub, the alcohol and drug-free area will host free entertainment, including a Chill Out Night on Tuesday 20 November 2018.

The Schoolies Hub will operate Saturday 17 to Friday 23 November from 7pm to 12am.

To access the Schoolies Hub, all schoolies must have an official Schoolies wristband which is issued on proof of Year 12 student photo ID. The message to non-schoolies is clear; Schoolies is for legitimate 2018 Year 12 school leavers only.

Recharge Zones provide a place for schoolies to receive free water and support, with a purpose built Ambulance Treatment Centre along The Esplanade, offering medical and first-aid services if needed.

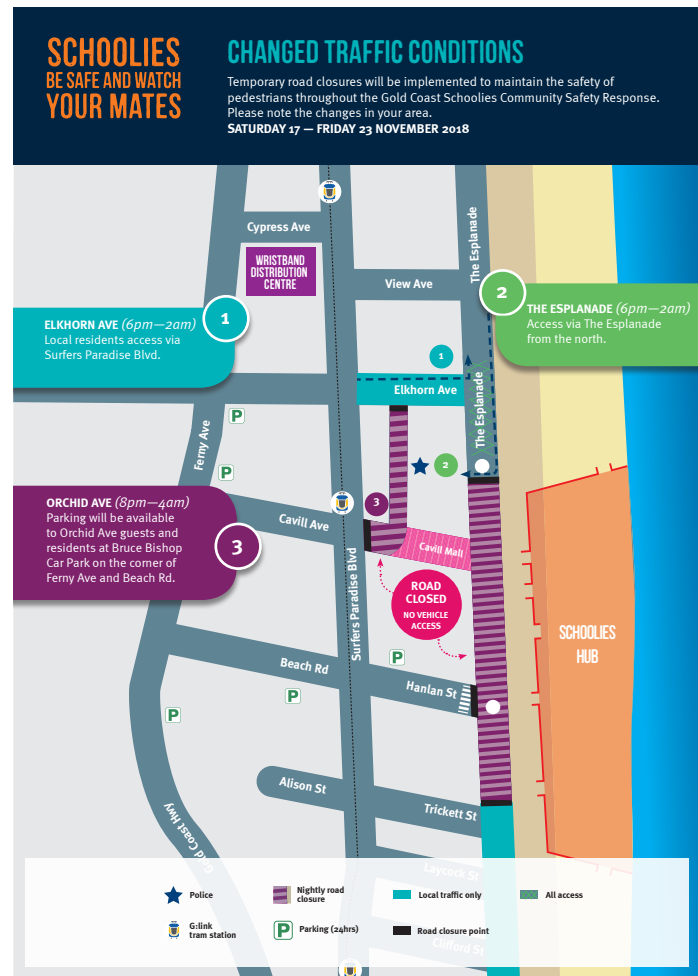
Police, emergency services, security, volunteers and officials will maintain a highly visible presence during Schoolies, providing the community and visitors with additional support.

ROAD CLOSURES TO ENSURE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Due to the temporary population increase in central Surfers Paradise during Schoolies, road closures are needed to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. Residents who cannot access their building during the closures will be offered alternative car parking. Please contact us for further information.

DATE	TIME	TYPE	LOCATION
Monday 12/11	7pm to 3am	Full closure (no access)	The Esplanade (Soul roundabout to Hanlan St)
Saturday 17/11 to Friday 23/11	6pm to 2am	Full closure (no access)	The Esplanade (Soul roundabout to Trickett St)
Saturday 17/11 to Friday 23/11	8pm to 4am	Full closure (at QPS discretion)	Orchid Ave, and Cavill Ave (Surfers Paradise Blvd to Orchid Ave)
Saturday 24/11	2am to 9am	Full closure (no access)	The Esplanade (Soul roundabout to Trickett St)

Note: The information in this table is accurate at the time of printing but may be subject to change without further notice.



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

More than 1200 volunteers, including many local residents, will support the 2018 Gold Coast Schoolies Community Safety Response by volunteering their time to enhance the safety of school leavers and the local community. They come from a range of organisations including Crime Stoppers Queensland Ltd, Drug ARM Australasia, Gold Coast Youth Service, Red Frogs Australia, Rosies - Friends on the Street, State Emergency Service and the Volunteers in Policing.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit schoolies.qld.gov.au or call the Schoolies Hotline 13 QGOV - 13 74 68

@SchooliesGC | @SchooliesInfoForParents