



Off the streets: Wujal Wujal youth who have benefited greatly from participating in the PCYC's My Way program activities.

Kids doing it PCYC's way

BORED youngsters in Hope Vale will be the next to benefit from a program that is being rolled out across the Cape to keep kids out of trouble.

The driving force behind the Police Citizens Youth Club's My Way program is Sen-Sgt David Bird, whose work with Yarrabah youth a decade ago was the catalyst for his latest project.

He said communities across the Cape wanted it because it worked.

"It is booming, it is out of hand, the councils just want us in there for their kids," Sgt Bird said.

Program rolls out across the Cape

At Wujal Wujal, where after-school activities are now supervised by two indigenous PCYC employees, youth crime dropped by nearly 70 per cent in the first year and is believed to have remained at record lows.

"People tell me it is a pleasure to live there now ... and they feel a lot safer," Sgt Bird said.

One of the biggest differences was the empty streets at night, he

said, with tired children tucked into bed rather than sitting in gutters or gambling.

Next for the program is Hope Vale, where the council and Federal and State Governments have jointly pitched in \$225,000 to repair the badly dilapidated hall as a venue for the activities.

Sgt Bird is also close to signing off on plans to bring the program to Napranum and Weipa.