

Question on Notice
No. 122
Asked on 20 February 2025

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON D PURDIE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the use of hand held scanners to conduct random searches, without a warrant—

Will the Minister advise for each month since the introduction of hand held scanner authorisations (a) the total number of searches carried out, (b) the percentage of people searched who were (i) under 18, (ii) Indigenous, (iii) unhoused, or (iv) culturally or linguistically diverse, (c) the total number of searches that led to drug related charges, (d) the total number of searches that led to weapons related charges, (e) the total number of searches that led to successful prosecution for weapons related offences and (f) any additional data being collected in relation to each random search conducted with hand held scanners?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that monthly data is unable to be provided, given data is recorded as a cumulative 'rolling' total. However, for the period from commencement to date (2 April 2023 – 24 February 2025), I am advised by the QPS that:

- (a) The total number of handheld scannings was 100,611.
- (b) The percentages of people who were subject to handheld scanning:
 - (i) Young people under the age of 18, as a percentage of the total was 33%.
 - (ii) Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders, as a percentage of the total was 6.92%.
 - (iii) QPS data relating to a person's housing status is not recorded.
 - (iv) Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people, as a percentage of the total was 10.02%.

Group	% of Total
Group 1 – Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	6.92
Group 2 – All others CALDs	10.02
Group 3 – Other/Unknown/Not Recorded	41.48
Group 3 - Caucasian	41.58

- (c) The total number of handheld scans *linked* to drug charges is not recorded. Handheld scans and drug charges are tracked cumulatively, without a method to link them directly.

- (d) The total number of handheld scans *linked* to weapons related charges is not recorded. Handheld scans and weapons charges are tracked cumulatively, without a method to link them directly. As an example, a handheld scan may result in a weapon located whereby possession of that weapon is lawful, with no charges preferred. The total number of weapons located in the period was 1,018.
- (e) I suggest that questions relating to court outcome data be directed to the Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity.
- (f) Any additional data being collected in relation to each random search conducted with handheld scanners is outlined in the table below:

	Gender		
	Male	Female	Unknown
Number of Persons scanned	83,683	16,566	362