

**Question on Notice
No. 312
Asked on 22 March 2005**

MR McARDLE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to policing of the Sunshine Coast District –

Will she advise (a) the approved strength (number of police officers) of the District (b) the actual/current strength (number of police officers) of the district as at 22 March 2005 (c) the number of police officers (as at 22 March 2005) that are on (reported separately) (i) recreation leave, (ii) extended sick leave, (iii) stress leave, (iv) leave related to workers' compensation claim or (v) reassigned to other duties outside the Sunshine Coast District?

ANSWER:

After seeking advice from the Commissioner of Police, the following information is provided:

(a) &(b)

Police numbers for the Sunshine Coast District at 1 July 1998 when the Beattie Government was first elected and at 1 April 2005 are shown in the table below:

District	Approved Strength 1 Jul 98	Actual Strength 1 Jul 98	Approved Strength 1 Apr 05	Actual Strength 1 Apr 05
Sunshine Coast District Police Total	263	294	392	407

(c)

The regional allocation model includes provision for police resourcing, in terms of programmed and spontaneous leave. The number of officers on recreational leave varies from time to time and is carefully managed through a district leave planner. The essence of this approach is to restrict access to recreation leave at times of peak demand, i.e. Christmas, New Years etc. in favour of period of less demand.

On the nominated date, less than 3% of police officers were on extended leave (in excess of 28 days).

The term "stress leave" is not an official Queensland Police Service term.

Police officers can lodge a claim with Workcover for "mental related illness." These claims are then determined.