

**Question on Notice  
No. 516  
Asked on 20 April 2005**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the trial of the 3am lock out in Brisbane—

What has been the impact on crime rates in other areas of Queensland where the lock out has been implemented?

ANSWER:

The 3am lock out is an initiative of the Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading & Wine Industry Development, The Honourable Margaret Keech MP.

I thank the Member for Yeerongpilly for his strong support of the 3am lock outs and for his question which highlights the overwhelming success of these lock outs in other areas where they are in place throughout Queensland.

Police in Townsville and at the Gold Coast, where 3am lock outs have been in place for some time have provided the following encouraging results.

**Northern Region**

When the 3 a.m. lockout was implemented on 1 June 2004, there were ten venues within the Townsville central business district with liquor licences to 5 a.m.

A comparison was undertaken for the six month periods 1/6/2003 to 30/11/2003 (pre lockout) and 1/6/2004 to 30/11/2004 (post lockout).

	Pre-lock out 1 June 2003 - 30 November 2003							Post-lockout 1 June 2004 – 30 November 2004						
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
<b>Assaults</b>	11	8	6	10	10	7	<b>52</b>	2	4	8	9	10	5	<b>38</b>
<b>Good order offences</b>	38	23	66	34	29	40	<b>230</b>	17	23	18	24	17	5	<b>104</b>
<b>Drunks</b>	30	17	56	30	30	46	<b>209</b>	8	15	4	25	26	24	<b>102</b>

*(Assaults include: Assault police / Serious Assault / Grievous Bodily Harm / Unlawful Wounding / Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm / Common assault / drink spike)*

*(Good Order Offences include: Public nuisance / Obstruct police / Wilful damage / Drink driving /Liquor Act offences)*

*(Drunk figures: directly relate to licensed premises and do not include park dwellers)*

All of the listed offences occurred between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. on various nights of the week. The statistics show significant decreases of up to 50% for the nominated classes of offence.

Police officers rostered to work in Townsville's night club precinct known as "Flinders Street East" report a significant improvement in patron behaviour as a consequence of the 3 a.m. lockout. Property owners and members of the public working in the area also report an improvement in the overall amenity of the location and support the retention of the lockout.

On 31 March 2005, the 5 a.m. liquor licences for late night venues were renewed with the 3 a.m. lockout condition remaining. There is substantial evidence to support the effectiveness of the lockout.

### **South Eastern Region**

The introduction of a 3am lockout condition on extended hours trading permits on licensed premises on the Gold Coast came into effect from 2 April 2004. A comparison of general offences within the Gold Coast District for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 January 2005, compared with the same period in 2003/ 2004 indicates:

- Burglary offences down 11%
- Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle down 4%
- Assaults down 2%
- Steal from m/vehicle down 18%

An analysis was conducted in relation to all assault offences reported within the Gold Coast District for the comparable periods. The analysis examined those assaults committed by and upon members of the public and reviewed assaults directly relating to police officers and indicated:

- a decrease of 7% in all non police related assaults; and
- a decrease of 18% in non police related Serious (Other) assault offences.

An examination of the incidence of good order offences committed between 3.00am and 6.00am, for the same period, within the Gold Coast District indicates a decrease during the 2004/05 period.

The theft of motor vehicles committed between the hours of 3.00am and 6.00am within the Gold Coast District has decreased by between 17% (5am-6am) to 40% (4am-5am) during the 2004/05 period, compared with the same period in 2003/04. Overall, Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle offences within the District have decreased by 4%, however in the police division of Surfers Paradise, these offences have decreased by a significant 15% during the same period.

The incidence of wilful damage offences committed between the hours of 3.00am and 6.00am within the Gold Coast District have decreased by between 8% (4am-5am) and 11% (5am-6am) during the 2004/05 period, compared with the same period in 2003/04. Further significant decreases were recorded in the Surfers Paradise Division during these hours with decreases between 45-51% recorded for the same comparative period.

The calls for service relating to street disturbances in the Surfers Paradise division between 3.00am and 6.00am decreased by 12.87% during the 2004/05 period, compared with the same period in 2003/04.

The calls for service relating to public drunkenness in the Surfers Paradise division have decreased by 14% during the 2004/05 period compared with the same period in 2003/04.

The introduction of the lockout condition has seen a reduction in the number of general crime classes across the Gold Coast District.

3am lock outs continue to be an overwhelming success areas where they are in place throughout Queensland.