

**Question on Notice
No. 691
Asked on 10 May 2006**

MR WELLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING AND WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (MRS KEECH)—

With reference to increases in liquor sales on the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) How many (a) staff and (b) staff hours are available to undertake surprise inspections of hotels and liquor outlets to ensure compliance with liquor trading requirements?
- (2) Will she ensure that the inspections occur during peak liquor trading times?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question and his ongoing interest in ensuring that compliance with the *Liquor Act 1992* is maintained by licensees within his electorate.

The Sunshine Coast Regional Office of my Department currently employs three fulltime Liquor Licensing Officers, all of whom work four shifts each month performing after-hours inspections of licensed premises as part of their regular working arrangements.

Shifts are of seven and a quarter hours' duration, and this equates to a total of 87 hours of after-hours activity per month. These arrangements are in accordance with the *Liquor Licensing Investigators Hours of Work – Certified Agreement 2005*.

Shifts are scheduled to coincide with peak liquor trading hours, and are undertaken both to target specific complaints and as proactive compliance operations.

In addition, the Brisbane-based Liquor Compliance Flying Squad visits the Sunshine Coast Region every two months. Since its establishment in August 2005, the Flying Squad has visited the Sunshine Coast on six occasions, totalling 75 attendances at licensed premises during that time. The Flying Squad's primary operations occur on weekends and after-hours, during peak liquor trading hours.

Finally, every sworn police officer has the same powers under the *Liquor Act 1992* as liquor licensing inspectors, and Sunshine Coast police conduct regular operations with divisional officers and independently.