

Question on Notice
No. 785
Asked on 23 May 2006

MR ROGERS asked the Minister for Health (Mr ROBERSTON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the introduction of the Government's tough new smoking regulation in 2005 –

Will he provide information about the number of charges brought against retailers for the sale of tobacco to minors and the number of fines levied for breach of the new regulation?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government does not tolerate the illegal selling of cigarettes to children.

There are 80 Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) located across the State who are authorised to enforce the tobacco legislation. This includes a team of four specialist EHO's who conduct sales to minors surveillance operations across the State.

Since the tobacco sales to minors legislation commenced in Queensland in 1998, Queensland Health has undertaken 22 successful prosecutions for the illegal supply of tobacco products to children. These include 13 prosecutions against retailers, and nine prosecutions against an adult who supplied tobacco products to a child, where the adult was not the parent or guardian for the child.

Since the commencement of the most recent amendments to Queensland's tobacco sales to minors legislation on 31 December 2005, which included the doubling of maximum penalties, Queensland Health has undertaken seven successful prosecutions. These include the prosecution of four tobacco retailers, and three adults for supplying cigarettes to a child. For these seven prosecutions, the total amount of fines imposed by the court was \$2,150.