

**Question on Notice
No. 825
Asked on Wednesday 24 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

What is the Government doing to address the problem of chroming?

ANSWER:

This government has taken a strategic approach to addressing the issue of volatile substance misuse, which is sometimes referred to as chroming. Volatile substance misuse is deliberate inhalation of a volatile substance, such as aerosols, paint, glue and petrol. These substances are referred to as “potentially harmful things” in the legislation. Chroming refers to the specific use of chrome-based aerosol spray paints.

The response undertaken over the past three years has been in line with the National Drug Strategy and includes responses based on supply reduction, demand reduction, treatment and a direct response to substance misuse.

Legislation was introduced by this government in April 2004 to address supply issues by making it an offence to knowingly sell “potentially harmful things” to a person who the retailer/ salesperson would reasonably expect may inhale or ingest the “potentially harmful thing”.

The *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2003* provides all police with explicit search and seize powers with respect to these “potentially harmful things” if they have, or are, or are about to be inhaled or ingested by a person.

A trial of additional police powers has also been undertaken in five locations in Queensland since July 2004. These powers allow officers in the trial zones of Cairns, Mt Isa, Townsville, Brisbane City and Logan to detain a person who has recently misused, or is using these substances and take them to a place of safety. The place of safety can include a hospital (if the person requires medical attention), the person's home, a relative's home or friend's home or a designated “place of safety”.

This trial has now been extended to 31 December 2006 with an additional two trial zones of Caboolture and Rockhampton commencing on 1 July 2006.

The Department of Communities funded places of safety in the trial zones and provided a mixture of accommodation, support, substance abuse intervention, case management and Indigenous related support services to balance the government's response to this issue.

The Government is continuing to examine additional measures to address the problem of chroming.