

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 137**  
**Asked on 20 February 2007**

MR DEMPSEY asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent launch of the Australian National Council on Drugs position paper on methamphetamines, including “ice”—

What initiatives have been developed and what level of funding has been provided by the Beattie Government to control supply, prevent uptake, and treat methamphetamine dependence (reported separately) in 2005-06 and 2006-07 year-to-date (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Beattie Government is committed to addressing the harms caused by methamphetamines including the illicit drug ‘ice’. This drug is highly addictive and causes serious short and long-term physical and mental health damage. An estimated 95,000 Queenslanders have used methamphetamines, including ‘ice’, in the last 12 months.

With reference to initiatives for the current financial year 2006-07, in November last year the Premier and I launched the whole-of-government *Ice-Breaker Strategy*. This strategy is a comprehensive approach to addressing methamphetamine use including prevention, treatment and law enforcement. It includes:

- a statewide education campaign to warn young people of the dangers associated with ‘ice’ use (\$600,000 has been provided to develop and implement this campaign);
- an assessment of drug treatment facilities and other interventions in order to provide recommendations for improved treatment responses, with funding of \$150,000 provided;
- law enforcement measures against the manufacture, dealing and possession of this drug, and a ban on the retail sale and display of ‘ice pipes’; and
- a pharmacy enforcement team which works with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Queensland Police.

Other initiatives for 2006-07 include:

- Queensland Health spends over \$50 million per annum on alcohol and drug services within the public and non-government sectors. This includes assessment for substance use and mental health problems, treatment planning, case management, counselling, and residential treatment. Key programs include a network of Queensland Health alcohol and drug services, and the COAG funded *Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative* and the *Drug Court* program which provide drug treatment and rehabilitation for offenders. These programs all provide treatment for people dependent on methamphetamines;
- the *Ravesafe Program* which provides drug education and support through “peer helpers” at nightclubs and dance music venues in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast (program funding is \$60,000 per annum); and

- the *Second Amphetamines in Queensland Study* to survey amphetamine users to better inform the development of programs and treatment services (\$100,000 has been provided for this study).

With reference to initiatives for the financial year 2005-06, Queensland Health led the development and dissemination of a range of important amphetamine education resources for health workers including:

- statewide roll-out of *National Amphetamine Education Resources* for health workers;
- information resources for frontline workers from police, customs, emergency services, corrections and health sectors to assist generalist workers who come into contact with individuals affected by amphetamines; and
- the dissemination of National Drug Strategy best practice guidelines: *Management of Patients with Psychostimulant Toxicity* to health services.