

Question on Notice
No. 196
Asked on Wednesday 21 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will she supply for the separate facilities in Queensland, details, types and amounts of all illicit and illegal drugs and drug implements found and confiscated from prisoners and visitors to prisons and detention centres over the past three years in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Due to the security and good order of correctional centres it would be inappropriate to specifically identify contraband found at each centre.

However in 2005-06, Detectives with the Corrective Services Investigation Unit (CSIU) laid 528 charges against 415 persons. The majority of these charges related to the possession of contraband by prisoners and their visitors. The CSIU referred 1547 matters back to correctional centres for breach action under the provisions of the Corrective Services Act 2006.

Drug use in Queensland jails has dropped from 17.9% of inmates in 1996-97, to around 5.1% in 2004-05. We now have 50 intelligence and investigation officers - including 21 police officers - working around the clock to gather intelligence, undertake surveillance, monitor prisoner phone calls and identify informants

The Government is committed to ensuring that illegal substances are not introduced into correctional facilities and since 1998 a comprehensive range of drug detection and deterrence initiatives have been introduced.

Some of these strategies include drug detection dogs used to identify the presence of any drug or drug related implements in searches, and Itemiser & Ionscan drug detection devices to aid detections of illicit drugs being brought into corrective services facilities.