

**Question on Notice
No. 417
Asked on 13 March 2007**

Mr Messenger asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to complaints regarding the understaffing of Broadbeach Police Station on Saturday evening, 17 February 2007, when, despite numerous phone calls, there was no staff tasked or available to attend a disturbance-

- (1) What action is being taken by the Government to ensure that the Broadbeach area has enough operational police so that response times do not continue to blow out?
- (2) What are the targets and latest actual figures regarding response times to calls for assistance and 000 emergency calls for each Queensland Police District?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Member is wrong. I am advised Broadbeach Police Station is not understaffed.

As the member has provided scant detail in a question loaded with supposition, I have consulted police and they can only assume the Member's question relates to noise from a neighbourhood party. An examination of calls for service on 17 February 2007 shows that police were attending jobs with a higher priority. These calls for service included a number of life threatening incidents including assaults, domestic violence and break and enters.

A review by Gold Coast police management confirms that optimum policing levels were present in the Broadbeach Police Station on the night in question.

This Government is committed to providing appropriate policing resources for all communities, including those on the Gold Coast. The Broadbeach Police Station currently has an allocated strength of 64 police officers. Broadbeach Police are also regularly supported by Gold Coast Police District resources, including the: Tactical Crime Squad; Traffic Branch; Criminal Investigation Branch; Child Protection and Investigation Unit; and the Dog Squad.

Overall there has been an increase of almost 3,000 police officers since the Beattie Government was first elected.

There are currently over 9,400 police in Queensland.

As part of this massive boost in police numbers the strength of the Gold Coast Police District has increased by 186 extra positions from 503 to 689 officers since this government was first elected.

Recently I announced that the policing numbers in the South Eastern Region will receive a large injection of at least another 40 new police by the end of the year.

This will almost double the allocation of 23 police during the 2005-06 financial year. More police are now stationed on the Gold Coast than ever before and those police

officers continue to provide extremely high standards of service to the Gold Coast community – be they residents, tourists or business operators.

- (2) The QPS does not have target response times to calls for assistance and 000 emergency calls.

Police endeavour to respond to all calls for assistance in the most appropriate manner and within acceptable timeframes. Police must prioritise requests based on the nature and urgency of the reported incident, and in line with other operational requirements. The priority of the response given to calls for assistance is determined by considering all the circumstances of the incident in question, including personal safety and disruption to the community. For example, life-threatening calls are given a priority over incidents that are less urgent and could be dealt with at a later time.

Shift Supervisors at both suburban police stations and communications centres are directly responsible for determining the order of priority in which operational police attend to various calls for service. Every effort is made to have the closest available police allocated to attend urgent matters as a priority.