

Question on Notice

No. 607

Asked on Wednesday, 18 April 2007

Mrs MENKENS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland (Mr Shine) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Penalties Enforcement Register –

Will he provide monthly figures for the last three financial years detailing (a) the number and types of actions taken for non-payment of fines including licence suspensions, wage deductions, property seizures, and arrest warrants and (b) the number of Good Behaviour Orders applied for and made and the reasons they were made?

ANSWER:

The State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) has suspended almost 300,000 driver licences and issued fine collection notices forcing deductions from financial institutions on 3,795 occasions in the last three years. In addition to the major enforcement actions undertaken by SPER, wage deductions have been ordered in 142 instances and SPER has registered an interest in property owned by fine defaulters on 284 occasions. The automation of the fine collection notice and wage deduction process in the SPER system in 2007/08 will streamline the process and it is anticipated this will further enhance SPER's effectiveness at collecting unpaid fines.

5,620 Warrants of Arrest and Imprisonment have been issued during the past three years. These relate solely to offenders who are serving time in gaol on unrelated SPER matters who elect to "call-in" warrants in order to finalise all outstanding debts. Warrants of Apprehension for offenders who have moved interstate have been issued on 2,424 occasions.

- (b) Good Behaviour Orders have been approved for 165 enforcement debtors over the last three years. The reason for the approval of the orders on each occasion was after considering a report from a doctor, that for medical or psychiatric grounds, the Registrar of SPER was satisfied the enforcement debtor was not suitable for performing community service, could not pay all

or part of the amount owed and it was inappropriate to issue an arrest and imprisonment warrant.

Listed below is the monthly break-up of actions taken by SPER.

Month	Driver Licence Suspension Issued	Fine Collection Notice (Bank)	Fine Collection Notice (Employer)	Enforcement Warrant to Register Interest in Property (Land/Mveh)	Arrest warrants (custodial)	Warrant of Apprehension (Interstate)	Good Behaviour Orders
2003/07	5192	30	1	0	137	116	0
2003/08	10623	33	0	0	180	388	0
2003/09	9315	46	1	0	217	156	0
2003/10	24282	84	0	0	294	74	10
2003/11	31385	58	0	2	96	80	9
2003/12	2500	0	0	0	137	23	8
2004/01	5578	55	0	0	76	48	5
2004/02	2499	125	1	1	175	18	0
2004/03	4543	97	0	11	239	67	5
2004/04	23616	113	0	2	90	92	5
2004/05	8327	136	5	31	170	53	5
2004/06	5402	201	4	17	232	19	5
2004/07	5020	139	0	25	147	49	2
2004/08	5044	191	13	65	79	39	1
2004/09	5804	120	0	1	113	22	6
2004/10	4785	148	7	5	269	24	6
2004/11	4378	171	8	2	162	24	3
2004/12	3318	122	0	12	134	31	0
2005/01	7615	328	0	0	156	55	4
2005/02	4214	207	20	27	133	168	1
2005/03	12706	208	13	14	125	56	10
2005/04	8252	106	6	7	177	113	11
2005/05	11239	168	4	0	95	45	7
2005/06	9630	83	0	4	188	25	3
2005/07	7192	162	6	13	175	28	4
2005/08	6560	156	7	8	126	44	5
2005/09	6587	94	6	0	167	103	4
2005/10	6251	105	4	13	143	81	4
2005/11	9003	56	2	5	122	72	6
2005/12	6049	25	1	4	63	37	9
2006/01	2916	80	4	1	140	56	1
2006/02	8320	71	17	9	127	34	1
2006/03	9203	25	8	2	191	27	7
2006/04	5427	14	2	3	213	29	7
2006/05	6239	28	2	0	162	57	4
2006/06	10055	10	0	0	170	71	7
Total	299,069	3,795	142	284	5,620	2,424	165