

**Question on Notice
No. 810
Asked on 24 May 2007**

MS VAN LITSENBURG asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the new microdot ID technology, which I understand is currently being trialled as part of the Idit project by the Queensland Police Service in Sandgate—

Will she advise how this technology works and if, on the completion of a successful trial, this process will be expanded to other local districts including Redcliffe?

ANSWER:

Microdot technology is a method of identifying property. Microdots are applied to items of property using an individual spray pack. Each spray pack contains a pod of microdots which are combined or encased in ultra violet trace glue. Each microdot is about the size of a grain of sand. Each microdot in that pod is encrypted with one identifying code and each pod is registered to an owner. After the spray is applied to an item of property, the microdots can only be detected by ultraviolet light scan and are not visible to the naked eye. Upon microdot identification the item can be traced to the original owner.

The six-month property trial in the Sandgate Police Division is designed to generate interest regarding the technology and increase the number of persons who permanently identify their household and personal property items. This can be achieved utilising traditional methods (engraving or inscription), digital photography of jewellery and the new microdot technology.

During the trial the pod packs are available to any interested persons from the Sandgate Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) for a cost of \$60. One pack will identify all items in an average household. There is a wealth of information relating to this exciting technology and officers at the PCYC can assist with all enquiries about this product.

Police officers will also be demonstrating the process of applying microdots to various property items at the Queensland Police Service Exhibit during this year's 'Ekka' at the Royal National Association showgrounds.

This is a Metropolitan North Police Region project which is being piloted in the Sandgate Police Division. The project is due for evaluation in November 2007. Following completion of the trial, it is expected the project will be expanded to include other districts within the Metropolitan North Region, as well as any other interested Police Regions. As the Redcliffe Police District falls within the North Coast Police Region, the option of implementing this project within the Redcliffe District will be a matter for consideration by that Region's management in due course.

Although a 4% drop in property crime was shown in the Police Service's Mid-Year Statewide Crime Statistics, the Beattie Government will maintain its vigilance toward reducing the huge cost to the community generated by criminals who steal items of property from innocent Queenslanders' homes and businesses. We will continue to provide police with the resources and technology needed to reduce the market for unlawfully obtained property.