

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 498**  
**Asked on 16 April 2008**

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

- (1) How many Queensland police officers have resigned since 1 July 2007?
- (2) Of those in (1), how many are commissioned officers?
- (3) How many are non-commissioned officers?
- (4) How many of these resignations transferred to the Australian Federal Police?
- (5) What specialist areas are these resignations coming from?

ANSWER:

The current position of the Queensland Police Service is the best it has been for many years. In the last 7 months we have increased police numbers by 244 from 9538 (1 September 2007) to 9782 (1 April 2008). For the period 1 July 2007 to 14 March 2008 there have been 488 new police officers inducted into the Service. With a further 207 planned in the next 3 months.

We will induct nearly 700 new police officers in 2007/08. Last month another 86 new police officers were inducted into the Queensland Police. By October this year we will have 9,928 police officers.

Our State police to population ratio is better than the national average. Queensland is 1:429 National Average: 1:430. In addition, we have more civilian staff members who support our police officers than most other states in Australia.

Queensland's separation rate generally is between 3 and 4% which compares favorably with other jurisdictions (4.3% average) and the public service which is as high as 6.5%.

274 officers have resigned from 1 July 2007 to 1 April 2008. 4 of these were commissioned officers.

Currently the Queensland police service has the second highest retention rate of any police service in the country.

While police are taking other career opportunities our numbers continue to increase and we have I think the best trained police in the country.

The job market is extremely competitive at the moment and most government departments and even private companies are facing problems with poaching.

The QPS has no trouble recruiting. In fact, the 'We don't do boring' recruitment campaign has been very successful and I am advised that application numbers are currently averaging 170 per month with intakes at the Oxley and Townsville academies fully subscribed. This was as high as 220 per month for the first 6 months of the campaign.

The Queensland Police Service also attracts police officers from other jurisdictions seeking to relocate to Queensland. During 2006-07, 81 officers with prior policing experience from

within Australia and from overseas were appointed to the Queensland Police Service. In 2005-06, it was 75 and in 2004-05, 64.

The Queensland Police Service also continues to be a "Service of choice" with a continual strong level of interest from officers from overseas and other jurisdictions.

Since January 2008, the Service has received 71 PACE applications from current and former police officers (intrastate/interstate/overseas) including 19 former Queensland Police Service officers.