

**Question on Notice
No. 510
Asked on 16 April 2008**

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

QUESTION:

In relation to the latest reduction in state-wide crime statistics—

Will she provide details of some of the achievements in the Brisbane North and West regions?

ANSWER:

The Metropolitan North Region has a very good result in relation to reduction in crime.

The 2006/07 Police Annual Statistical Review showed overall crime rates reduced of nine percent for the region. Offences against the person reduced by 8%, property crime by 10% and other offences by 7%.

For the Brisbane West District assault incidents decreased 29 percent with 112 fewer offences reported. Rape and attempted rape incidents fell by 13 percent. Unlawful entry offences recorded a fall of 27 percent with 510 fewer offences reported. There were 369 less break-in of houses representing a rate drop of 31 percent. Unlawful entry of shops and other premises dipped by 26 and 20 percent respectively. The number of arson offences decreased by eight offences in 2006/07 equating to a 29 percent rate fall.

In the Brisbane North District Assault offences decreased by two percent when considering population growth. The rate of total robbery offences declined by 36 percent with armed robbery falling 41 percent. Unlawful entry offences dropped overall by 10 percent with 280 fewer offences reported in 2006/07. Across the categories of dwelling, shop and other premises there were decreases of 14, 6 and 5 percent respectively. Arson offences decreased by 22 percent with 12 less offences reported.

Detailed information can be found in the police services annual statistical review at www.police.qld.gov.au.

The midyear snapshot for Queensland provided encouraging statistics where Queensland has recorded reductions in all three broad offence categories per 100,000 persons. Offences against the person are down 5% Offences against property are down 13%, and Other Offences are down 1%.

Detailed crime statistics for all police regions and districts for 2007/08 will be available in the annual statistical review which will be released in November this year.

Police in these districts have undertaken a number of strategies and operations in order to reduce crime.

For example:

Operation *PUSH* was conducted in Brisbane North District over December 2007 and January 2008 with the objective of engaging recidivist property offenders through street

checks and interviews to clear up reported offences. Results included 617 charges on 246 offenders, and 512 street checks.

Operation *PANTHER* is an ongoing strategy in Brisbane North where police patrols distribute cards at business premises after hours advising of police inspections, particularly passing comment as to the security of premises and offering hints for improvement. Officers in charge follow up the distribution of cards with telephone calls to business owners. This strategy promotes interaction between police and businesses to work co-operatively to reduce opportunities for break and enter offences.

Operation *CRILLY* is a regularly run operation in Brisbane North involving police working with Community Corrections to engage Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR) offenders through interviews and registered address checks. These operations have improved the partnership with Community Corrections and promotes regular repeated interaction with and monitoring of ANCOR offenders.

Operation *TOLSTOY* is a regular monthly operation in Brisbane North focusing on the rail corridor traversing the district. The operation focuses on the movements of offenders along the railway and identifies networks and groups of offenders as well as providing a deterrent police presence.

Operation *TREVALLY* is an ongoing operation targeting organised shop stealing at shopping centres in Brisbane North. Local officers and Tactical Crime Squad work with retail loss prevention officers and centre security to focus on policing and deterring shop theft. An example of the results of this operation include 27 offenders being charged with 32 charges (including theft, drug and traffic related matters) over 4 May to 8 June 2007. Additionally benefits flow from improving co-operation between major retail outlets and police, increasing security resources and deterring offenders.

In Brisbane West District there is a particular emphasis on marketing the 'priority in policing' model, stressing the shared responsibility of policing throughout all stations and sections. This results in an increased vigilance by all units to provide a first response capacity to respond to calls for assistance and enhance visibility, which additionally contributes to crime prevention.

An increased frequency and intensity has been placed upon traffic operations (e.g. Operation *STOPPER* focussing on drink drivers) and crime operations, including targeting the rail corridor within the district. These have contributed to the district's overall achievements, including the reduction of offences. Road Safety Initiative Program (RSIP) funding enables a greater application of officers on the district's roads to manage road safety, particularly at vulnerable times during public and school holidays.

The marketing of Problem Oriented Policing Partnership (POPP) related projects in Brisbane West District, such as a liquor poster, highlights responsible service of alcohol in an around licensed premises and aberrant patron conduct with a view to reducing assaults and improving overall safety.

Brisbane West District has increased the capacity of its Target Team to a total strength of seven to allow operational flexibility and assist the district through timely policing responses to identified developing crime trends.

The introduction of the District Operations Group Committee, involving all officers in charge, regular monitor crime trends and co-ordinates the development and evaluation of appropriate policing strategies to respond to those trends. This strategy lends towards

improving overall district co-ordination of resources and increasing operational effectiveness and efficiency.

Brisbane West District has also introduced a Recidivist Offender Program with a view to targeting and managing recidivist offenders through engagement. The objective being to detect and deter crime.

Whilst all crime reduction statistics have been centrally verified by Statistical Services, Information Resource Centre, Queensland Police Service, other statistics identifying the number of offenders and number of charges relative to specific operations has been provided by district resources.