

Question on Notice
No. 2033
Asked on 7 October 2010

MR KILBURN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND FAIR TRADING
(MR LAWLOR) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what steps the government is taking to improve safety for young people from the Chatsworth Electorate that visit the Valley for entertainment?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has been actively working to reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour throughout Queensland, especially in areas with a high concentration of licensed premises such as Fortitude Valley.

On 30 August 2010, the Government tabled its response to the Parliamentary Law, Justice and Safety Committee's final report on its inquiry into alcohol-related violence (released on 18 March 2010).

The Government's response to the Law, Justice and Safety Committee's final report presents a range of decisive measures, the centrepiece of which is the piloting of a place-based management approach in three 'drink safe precincts' for two years from December 2010.

One of the three drink safe precinct pilots will be conducted in Fortitude Valley. This pilot will benefit those constituents in the Chatsworth electorate who wish to enjoy a safe and secure night out in Fortitude Valley. The other pilots will be conducted in Surfers Paradise and Townsville.

The Government will provide \$4.267 million in 'kick start' funding for the first year of the pilots, to fund additional police presence and community support services in the pilot drink safe precincts.

Additional local issues to be addressed in each pilot area include better public transport information, better management of crowding, footpath queuing, traffic and toilet amenities.

Measures specific to Fortitude Valley include:

- improving way-finding signage in the precinct so people know where to go for buses, trains and cabs
- improving secure taxi ranks in the precinct to increase capacity and to ensure they are more efficient and can get people into taxis more quickly
- opening the Fortitude Valley railway station 20 minutes before the first NightLink train service, instead of the current 10 minutes, to ensure all passengers are able to get to the platform in time for the train

- installing TV screens outside Fortitude Valley train station to show real-time information for commuters wanting to use the NightLink train services
- working with the Brisbane City Council to stagger NightLink bus departure times, and to examine changes to bus stops in order to minimise crowding
- setting up a public transport hub in the Valley mall, which will provide information on all transport options including taxis, NightLink buses and NightLink trains.

Evaluation of the precinct pilots will inform the future development of the Government's regulatory framework for liquor management in Queensland to ensure maximum effectiveness across the State.

There are other more immediate measures toward reducing alcohol-related issues which form part of the Government's response to the inquiry and which would be of benefit to the people of the Chatsworth electorate, as well as Queenslanders more broadly. These measures include:

- Providing courts with the power to ban persons from specified areas where banning is justified because of a person's behaviour
- Prescribing new ordinary trading hours for liquor sold for take-away to be from 10am to 10pm but retaining the ability for licensees to apply to have their takeaway outlet trade from 9am and 10pm to midnight, strictly on a demonstrated community need basis. This change will only affect new applications for licences or when a licence is transferred to another person. There will be no change in trading hours for licensees who currently have approved trading hours outside of the 10am to 10pm ordinary hours
- Making it mandatory for licensed venues to supply free fresh drinking water over the bar to patrons
- Updating Government communications campaigns and continuing education programs in schools to promote a more responsible attitude towards alcohol consumption.

The Bligh Government has worked closely and will continue to do so with the industry and the community to implement its response to the Law, Justice and Safety Committee's final report, and will continue to do so to support a reduction in alcohol-related violence in Fortitude Valley.