

Question on Notice

No. 931

Asked on 13 October 2015

MS SIMPSON ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the scrapping of \$24m of Safe Night Out funding in the recent budget— Will the Minister explain (a) what ongoing funding will be available for the operation of the Sunshine Coast Safe Night Out Precincts and (b) why are plans to introduce compulsory ID scanners and share information between venues about patrons banned from Safe Night Out Precincts still on hold?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for her question.

I can confirm funding to address alcohol-related violence has not been scrapped.

The Palaszczuk Government took a comprehensive plan to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence to the election. The Government has allocated total funding of \$32.1 million over four years across the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and Queensland Health. This includes funding for safe night precincts established in 15 locations across Queensland and is in addition to providing extra funding of \$20 million to the Queensland Police Service to target crime hotspots throughout the State, and issues such as organised crime, alcohol-fuelled violence and ice.

The Government is committed to a multi-faceted approach to addressing alcohol-related violence, including place based management initiatives in entertainment areas, such as those at Maroochydore and Mooloolaba that are part of the Sunshine Coast safe night precinct.

Through the drink safe precinct trial, the previous Bligh Government demonstrated the value of Government and industry working together at a local level to help address alcohol-related violence.

We have committed an \$8 million grant funding program to assist local boards in implementing initiatives that will minimise alcohol and drug-related harm, disturbances and public disorder within each safe night precinct. A further \$750,000 is being provided to local boards to assist with their establishment and administration expenses.

In May 2015, the local board for the Sunshine Coast safe night precinct was granted \$10,000 in seed funding towards secretariat and administrative services expenses, insurance and branding. When the local board is close to expending the approved grant, they are welcome to submit another application for a further seed funding grant.

The Sunshine Coast safe night precinct local board, in consultation with State and local government agencies, has identified its priorities for improving the safety of visitors to the precinct. The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is working with the local board to finalise applications for safe night precinct grant funding for the initiatives.

In relation to your enquiry regarding ID scanners, I can confirm the Governor in Council approved the postponement of the implementation of mandatory ID scanners for up to 12 months.

Based on the legislative provisions as they stand, more than 200 licensees would be required to install and operate scanners, either leasing or purchasing them from approved operators who will maintain and operate the systems which transfer information from police and the courts to licensees.

As part of this considered approach, I have hosted stakeholder round tables to discuss the Government's proposed approach to tackling alcohol-related violence. Feedback was received in relation to the ID scanning provisions introduced by the previous Government and I intend to engage further with industry members on their views regarding mandatory ID scanners before a final decision is made.