

Question on Notice
No. 225
Asked on 7 March 2024

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the vehicle immobiliser trial— Will the Minister advise (a) the number of vouchers (reported separately by trial zones) (i) that have been redeemed and (ii) manually allocated by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and (b) the number of vouchers allocated by the QPS that have been redeemed?

ANSWER:

The trial commenced in August 2023 and I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that they expect all vouchers to be allocated within a one year period. The QPS will continue to work with voucher recipients and installers on this novel and nation leading initiative.

The QPS confirm that they are yet to identify a single example of a vehicle with a secondary engine immobiliser being stolen. On any measure, this is an impressive statistic and supports the argument for the Federal Government to mandate the inclusion of secondary engine immobilisers in the Australian Design Rules for new and imported vehicles.

To date, the QPS further advise that they are satisfied with the voucher take-up and the installation progress, noting that numerous trial areas were significantly impacted by recent severe weather.

Moving forward, the QPS will continue to work with stakeholders to also ensure that necessary refinements are made to improve participant engagement. Reducing vehicle theft remains a significant priority for QPS and preventative measures such as this initiative support their efforts.

The Member should note that the data required to answer the Member's question is held and most accurately reported by the Queensland Government agency which administers the voucher program. As such, I recommend that the Member direct the relevant portions of the question to the relevant Minister to obtain verified data.

That being said, I appreciate the Member's interest in the question and I am further advised that while the QPS itself does not allocate vouchers, the QPS has taken the preferred approach of referring members of the community through to the electronic mainstream application system as an alternative to the manual allocation system. The Member should note that the term 'manual allocation' refers to vouchers where the QPS have assisted an applicant to apply through the electronic system. I am advised that to determine how many of these vouchers have been redeemed through the electronic mainstream application system would require a manual examination of records, which is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

I am also advised that, as at 2 April 2024, the total number of redeemed vouchers, including those applied for using the manual allocation system, was 3,225 in Cairns, 177 in Mount Isa, and 2,735 in Townsville. QPS is currently planning a follow-up process, to support voucher recipients with their installation options.