

## Question on Notice

No. 379

Asked on 16 April 2024

**MR T WATTS** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### QUESTION

With reference to legislative changes in 2023 regarding the sale of illicit tobacco— Will the Minister provide (reported separately for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024) (a) the number of monitoring and enforcement activities undertaken by Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers in the Toowoomba North State Electorate (Toowoomba Regional Council area) and (b) the number of specific breaches, warnings and on-the-spot fines issued in the same area?

### ANSWER

(a) Compliance and enforcement activity is recorded by Public Health Units and reported as aggregate data by Hospital and Health Service boundaries, which differ from Council boundaries.

The Darling Downs Public Health Unit services the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and South West Hospital and Health Service. The data relates to compliance monitoring and enforcement activities across both Hospital and Health Services.

The Darling Downs Public Health Unit undertook a total of 70 inspections of retailers between July 2023 and March 2024. Across the same period, 117 enforcement actions were recorded.

(b) The Darling Downs Public Health Unit issued 35 on-the-spot fines for sale and possession/storage of illicit tobacco. Illicit tobacco was seized from 33 retailers, totaling 584,393 cigarettes and nearly 130kg loose tobacco with a value of nearly \$560,000. Over 1000 bongs, ice pipes and their components were also seized.

For other offences, including display and advertising of smoking products, bongs and ice pipes, and failure to display the mandatory sign, 96 on-the-spot fines were issued.