

Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on 13 February 2024

MR A POWELL 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 (a) the number of monitoring and enforcement activities undertaken by Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers in the City of Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast Regional Council (reported separately for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023) and (b) the number of specific breaches, warnings and on-the-spot fines issued in each jurisdiction (reported separately for the same period)?

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.

Forty-five retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco have been identified in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service area, which includes the City of Moreton Bay Council area. These are all still under investigation.

Metro North Public Health Unit has advised that five officers were involved in Crime and Corruption Commission-led operations: Aberdeen and Radius. On 29 August 2023, 15 residential, retail and commercial locations in Logan, Redlands and Ipswich were raided. More than 8 million illicit cigarettes and 3.74 tonnes of loose-leaf tobacco with a total excise value of more than \$14 million were seized.

Twenty-one retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco have been identified within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service boundary, which includes the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area. Eighteen of the twenty-one retailers are still under investigation.

b) Between July and December 2023, Queensland Health identified 315 retailers suspected of supplying illicit tobacco across Queensland.

Over the same period, 206 on-the-spot fines for supplying or possessing illicit tobacco, displaying and advertising smoking products and failure to display mandatory signage were issued. There were 87 seizures of illicit tobacco, bongs, and vapes. Five written warnings and five improvement notices were also issued for breaches of retailers supplying or possessing illicit tobacco.