

Question on Notice

No. 879

Asked on 20 August 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 (reported separately for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024), (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 and (b) the number of specific breaches, warnings and on-the-spot fines issued in each jurisdiction?

ANSWER

Compliance and enforcement activity for the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* is reported as aggregate data, by Public Health Unit. I am advised the boundaries for Public Health Units differ from Council boundaries.

Between 1 April 2024 and 30 June 2024 Metro North Public Health Unit seized illicit tobacco valued at approximately \$617,000 (655,500 cigarettes, 1,732 cigars and 134kg of loose tobacco). Illicit tobacco valued at \$662,000 (705,000 cigarettes, 402 cigars and 140kg of loose tobacco) was seized from retailers by the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit.

Queensland Health is taking strong action against retailers that are supplying illicit tobacco. There has been a significant increase in inspections, fines, seizures, and prosecutions by Public Health Units, demonstrating the Queensland Government's commitment to protecting public health and addressing continued non-compliance at retail outlets.

The below enforcement activity is for 1 April to 30 June 2024.

	Metro North Public Health Unit (includes City of Moreton)	Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit (includes Sunshine Coast Regional Council)
Community complaints about potential breaches	65	32
Inspections of retailers suspected of illicit tobacco supply	32	21
On-the-spot-fines	96	33