

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee**  
**Inquiry into the 2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearing**  
**Minister Neville – Questions on Notice**

## Responses

- 1. Please provide further details about the 24-hour police assistance line, including how it would work.**

*(Page 10 of the transcript)*

The Government is launching a Police Assistance Line and online reporting portal to ensure Victorians can contact police when and where they need so they receive an appropriate response.

The Community Safety Statement 2017 committed to the establishment of a dedicated 24-hour Police Assistance Line (PAL) for non-emergency calls to better facilitate the reporting of non-urgent matters, the handling of enquiries, community convenience and ultimately police response.

At present, Victorians seeking police assistance telephone Triple Zero (000) or contact a police station – either by phone or in person. The PAL will allow the public to access police assistance for non-urgent enquiries 24 hours a day.

The PAL will have a dedicated, publicly available phone number for non-urgent reporting. These calls will be answered and triaged by a call centre, staffed by employees under police supervision. It is anticipated that the PAL will be rolled out in stages and fully implemented by 2019.

Victoria is currently the only jurisdiction without a non-emergency point of contact for the community and the introduction of the PAL will allow members of the community to request services at a time and location convenient to them.

- 2. Please provide a list of the 10 top local government areas (or PSAs) where ice drug labs have been located in 2016-17 so far, including the number of instances in each.**

*(Page 25 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

The top 10 LGAs where ice drug labs were located between 1 July 2016 and 23 June 2017, and the number of instances in each are<sup>1</sup>:

LGA	No. of labs
Brimbank	7
Melbourne	5
Hume	4
Kingston	4
Wyndham	4
Banyule	3
Casey	3
Greater Dandenong	3
Greater Geelong	3

<sup>1</sup> Data includes all LGAs where three drug labs were discovered as there were eight LGAs identified with the same number of labs.

LaTrobe	3
Port Phillip	3
Whitehorse	3
Whittlesea	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

**3. Provide the Committee with the number of offenders arrested under each of the following offences:**

- a) **Trafficking illicit drugs to anyone or supply illicit drugs to a child at a school or in a public place within 500 metres of a school**
- b) **Using violence or threats to force someone to traffic illicit drugs**
- c) **Possessing instructions for trafficking or cultivating illicit drugs**
- d) **Publishing instructions for trafficking or cultivating illicit drugs**
- e) **Intentionally allowing a property to be used for trafficking or cultivation**

*(Page 26 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

The new offences established under the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Act 2016* commenced operation on 20 October 2016.

The Crime Statistics Agency has provided the following data on the number of persons arrested under each of those offences:

<b>Number of persons arrested for offences established under the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Act 2016</i></b>			
<b>Offence provision</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2016 (20 Oct to 31 Dec)</b>	<b>2017 (1 Jan to 31 Mar)</b>
71AB(2)	Trafficking to a child at or within 500 metres of a school	0	0
71AC(2)	Trafficking at or within 500 metres of a school	0	0
71B(1A)	Supply to a child at or within 500 metres of a school, for the purposes of supply to another person or personal use	≤ 3	≤ 3
71AD	Use of threats or violence to cause trafficking in drug of dependence	0	0
71E	Possession of document containing information about trafficking or cultivating a drug of dependence	0	0
71F	Publication of document containing instruction	0	0
72D	Permitting use of premises for trafficking or cultivation of drug of dependence	0	0

In order to maintain confidentiality, the Crime Statistics Agency displays sensitive offence counts with a value of 3 or less as "≤ 3".

The Crime Statistics Agency data is captured through the use of offence codes. New offence codes were created for use by police in recording the new offences. The Crime Statistics Agency cautions that it can take some time for police to begin recording these offences under the newly created offence codes.

The new specific offences may already be captured by police under existing offence codes and can therefore take some time to be reflected in the data captured by the CSA. For example, the above data does not incorporate the number of persons arrested for offences that existed prior to 20 October 2016, such as trafficking in a drug of dependence to a child

(section 71AB(1) of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*) and trafficking in a drug of dependence (section 71AC(1)).

**4. Please provide a breakdown, in terms of road testing for drugs, on:**

**a) how many occasions drugs have been detected**

*(Page 26 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

In 2016, drugs were detected on 8,944 occasions.

In the year to date to 31 May 2017, drugs were detected on 2,781 occasions.

**b) how many occasions each substance has been detected**

*(Page 26 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

Victoria Police recorded detection of the following drugs as a percentage of total detections in 2016 and 2017 year to date:

Type of drug	2017 YTD (%)	2016 (%)
Meth	61.2	61.7
MDMA	3.2	2.6
THC	16.6	16.1
Multi Drug	19.1	19.5

**5. In relation to illegal brothels in Victoria, please indicate:**

**a) the number of illegal brothels reported to Victoria Police by Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV)**

*(Page 28 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

In 2015-2016, Victoria Police received 10 identified reports with information on 20 suspected illegal brothels.

In 2016-2017, Victoria Police received 14 identified reports with information on 14 suspected illegal brothels.

**b) the number of illegal brothels that have been closed down**

*(Page 28 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

In 2015-2016, one premises was closed down by the Sex Industry Coordination Unit via the proscription process.

In 2016-2017, eight premises were closed down by the Sex Industry Coordination Unit via the proscription process.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> These figures represent the applications made by SICU only. Other work units or Police Stations may have made applications that SICU is not aware of. The most accurate data will be available through the Magistrates' court as they will have records of Proscription Applications made to them. In addition to this, local councils have powers within the Sex Work Act to make applications to the Magistrates' court to have the premises declared an illegal brothel. SICU will not have records of these applications.

**6. How many people are working for the Sex Industry Coordination Unit?***(Page 28 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

As at 31 May 2017, six police officers were working in the Sex Industry Coordination Unit.

**7. Please indicate the actual figure of property crimes resolved (not within 30 days) by type of offending.***(Page 29 of the Police portfolio transcript)*

Data provided by the Crime Statistics Agency confirms the following:

Offence Subdivision	Solved 30 days or more	
	2016	2017 (up to 31 Mar 2017)
Arson	992	328
Property damage	10,441	3,461
Burglary/Break and enter	5,441	1,379
Theft	42,885	11,248
Deception	22,073	6,333
Bribery	19	1

The above figures are in addition to the number of offences under each of the above categories solved within 30 days.