WANDING TRIAL (2020–2021) STATUS REPORT 1

Griffith Criminology Institute (GCI) evaluation of the QPS trial of handheld scanners (wands) in prescribed areas

About this report

This is a brief update on the Griffith Criminology Institute (GCI) evaluation of the QPS trial of handheld scanners (wands) in prescribed areas. This update reports on progress to date based on our review of QPS documents, preliminary administrative data and preliminary field observations. This project has been approved by the Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (2021/865) and the QPS Research Committee (09/12/2021). Team members are Janet Ransley, Nadine Connell, Shannon Walding and Margo van Felius.

- ¹ Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000
- ² Safe Night Precincts as defined in the Liquor Act 1992 ³ s791 PPRA

Equipment and training

The wanding devices secured for the trial are <u>Garrett THD devices</u> described as four inches long, which vibrate and show a red LED light when triggered. Officers are provided with access to written instructions on use, and a Youtube video.

All officers deployed to wanding are required to first view a training module on the process and officer safety. For each shift during an authorised wanding operation officers are briefed and have the opportunity to ask questions.

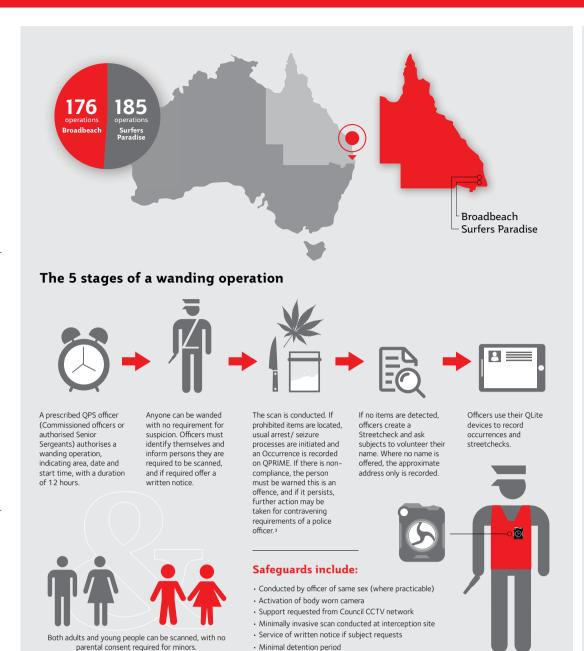




Contact information

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Why a wanding trial?

The carrying of knives in public places can lead to escalating violence with tragic outcomes.

In April 2021 the PPRA¹ was amended to allow authorised wanding operations in two trial areas, the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach SNPs². The overall aim of the trial is to minimise the risks of harm from the unlawful possession of knives in the two trial areas by enabling improved detection and increased deterrence.

The trial will assess the impact on offences, fairness of operations, and community views on safety.

This will involve:

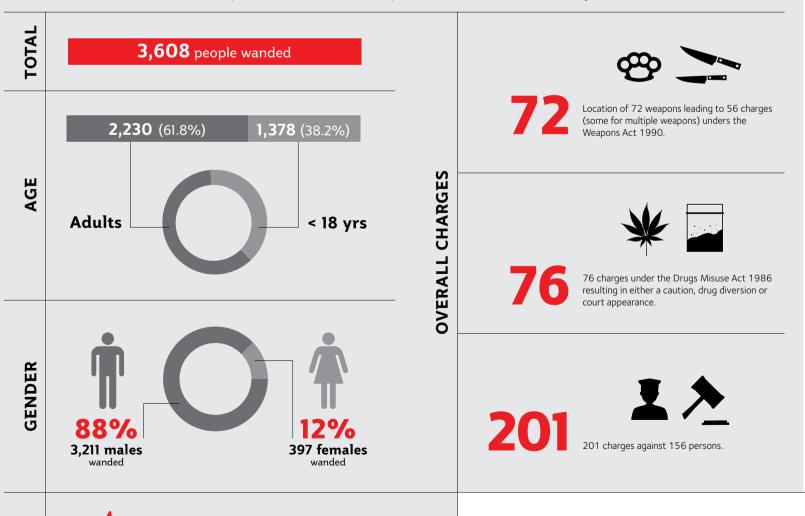
- . Reviews of administrative data and documents.
- . Interviews of officers and stakeholders
- . Operations observations.
- . An online community survey.

The project concludes in August 2022.



USAGE - 27 APRIL 2021 TO 17 JANUARY 2022

QPS data shows that the first authorised operation was conducted on 27 April 2021. Between then and 17 January 2022 there have been:



What we have observed so far

We observed operations on two dates in January, covering 3 separate shifts in afternoons and evenings.

Further systematic observations are still to be conducted but initially we observed:

- Interactions appear polite, with officers either reading or paraphrasing the required verbal notice and responding to any questions. Only once did a subject request the written notice.
- Most stops are of young men with officers indicating various identifiers they looked for in deciding who to stop. Some young people indicated they had been stopped more than once.
- Efforts are made to observe the same sex requirement, to the extent that in shifts lacking female officers no females were stopped.
- Most people stopped did not object, indeed we observed young people asking to be wanded. Most also voluntarily produced identification for streetcheck recording.
- The wand deployment seemed straightforward and involved no physical contact. Wands were also used inside subjects' bags, and if activated subjects were asked to empty the bag for a visual check.



OPERATIONS

Most detections to date relate to the Surfers Paradise trial site.

Next stages of the project

01

02

03

04

Secure QPRIME offence data extract (to test for impact).

Conduct another round of observations.

Finalise and deploy the community perceptions survey.

Provide another status report by 31 March 2022 or as agreed.