

## About this report

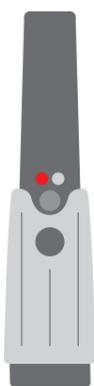
This is the second brief update on the Griffith Criminology Institute (GCI) evaluation of the QPS trial of handheld scanners (wands) in prescribed areas. This update reports on progress to date based on our review of QPS documents, preliminary administrative data and preliminary field observations. This 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 Professor Janet Ransley, Associate Professor Nadine Connell, Ms Shannon Walding and Ms Margo van Felius.

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

## Equipment and training

The wands used in the trial are [Garrett THD devices](#) 4 inches long, vibrating and show a red LED light when triggered.

During observations, the wands appeared easy and efficient to use. They appeared effective in identifying metal objects. The wands are small and light and fit easily on the utility belt of the officers.

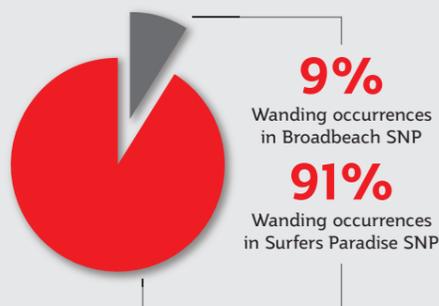


### Contact information

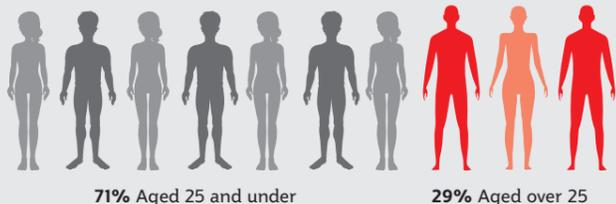
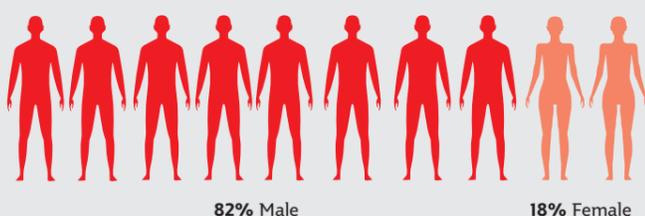
For more information about the QPS Wanding Trial contact Professor Janet Ransley, Director, Griffith Criminology Institute:

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[www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-institute](http://www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-institute)

## Total number of wanding occurrences (MAY 2021 TO APRIL 2022)

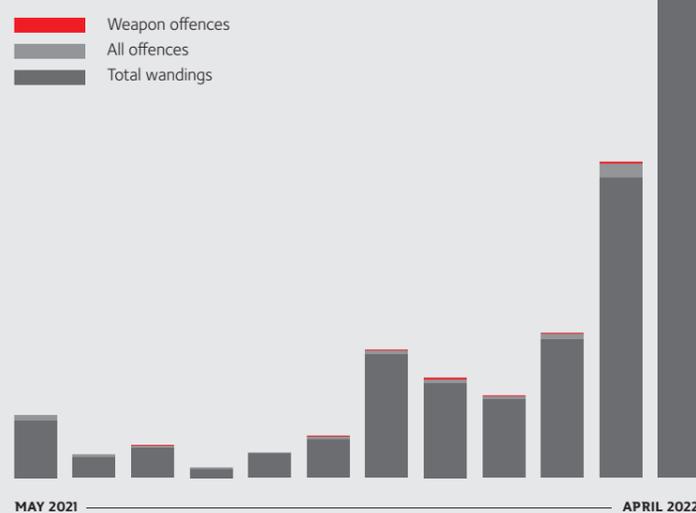


## Breakdown of those who have been wanded

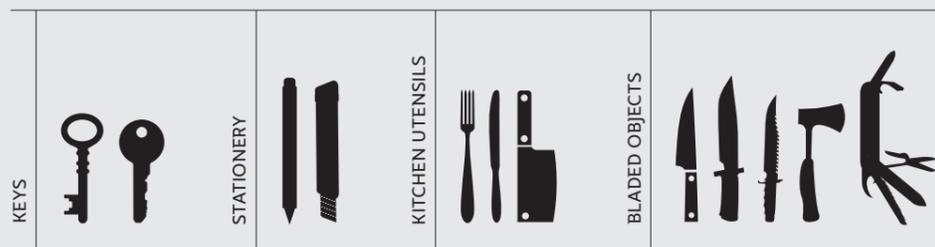


This data has been provided by QPS Entertainment Precinct group and is still subject to verification by the Griffith University Evaluation Team.

## Total number of Wandings and Offences



## PROPERTY SEIZED FROM WANDING



## OFFENDER AGE GROUP (WANDERED OFFENDERS THAT WERE IN POSSESSION OF A WEAPON)



## CHARGES LINKED WITH WANDING



## WANDERED PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF KNIVES



## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Focus groups with operational police officers scheduled to be finalised between **9th and 17th May 2022**.
- Interviews with senior police inside and outside the Wanding trial area, and stakeholders are currently underway.
- Obtained and currently analysing QPRIME data to ascertain impact on offences and offenders in trial and adjacent areas.
- Community perceptions survey currently deployed for visitors, residents and those employed in the Gold Coast area.
- The community survey went live on **11 April 2022**, it has been advertised on Facebook and Twitter, as well as around various locations in the Surfers Paradise SNP.
- The current number of responses is 82, and promotion of participation in the survey is continuing.

## New findings

**We observed operations on 3 dates, two in January and one in April.**

School holiday periods were selected for the observations, given the likelihood there would be larger numbers of visitors generally and young people specifically in the observation areas at those times. Four separate shifts during authorised wanding operations were observed, occurring in afternoons and evenings. Observations were conducted in both Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. We noted:

- Interactions with police appear polite, officers either reading or paraphrasing the required verbal notice and responding to any questions. Questions about the wanding device were answered.
- As is also apparent in the administrative data, there appear to be some patterns in who is stopped for wanding.
- Most stops are of young men with officers indicating various identifiers they looked for in deciding who to stop.
- Some people who were wanded indicated that they had been stopped, wanded and searched before.
- Most people stopped did not object and most voluntarily produced identification for street check recording and/or volunteered other information when asked.
- People wanded who indicated that they were homeless or in need of other services, were generally offered referrals to a homeless centre or other appropriate services.
- The wanding process seems straight forward and easy to apply, and does not require physical contact. Wands were also used inside people's bags, and when activated subjects were asked to empty their bag for a visual check.

## Next stages of the project

