

GRAFFITI

NO CAN DO



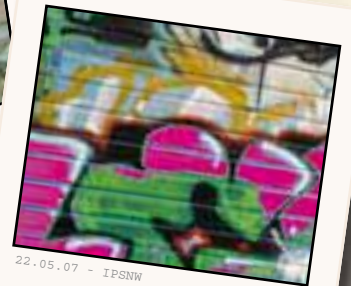
02.12.05 - TRACKS BNETH



07.11.06 - CABSE



31.10.03 - BNETH



22.05.07 - IPSNW

"It costs our community millions of dollars a year..."

Tough new anti-graffiti laws that prohibit the sale of spray paint to anyone under 18 years of age came into place in Queensland last month.

The new laws have been welcomed by police who are actively engaged in combating both graffiti offences and the chronically harmful practice of chroming (paint sniffing) which may cause heart failure, liver and kidney damage, central nervous system damage, memory loss, hearing loss and even death.

"Retailers have an opportunity to assist the police by putting training and supervisory support strategies in place in the workplace to ensure the new laws are effective," said Railway Squad

Specialist Services Coordinator, Inspector Donna Sturgess.

Police now have the power to stop, detain and search persons and vehicles and to seize property that may provide evidence of the unlawful sale of spray paint to minors. They also have the power to ask suspected minors who are sold spray paint to show acceptable evidence of age and to produce the spray paint that may be subsequently seized in designated circumstances as evidence of the unlawful sale of spray paint.

Police Minister Judy Spence said, "Graffiti is an eyesore in our community and unfortunately it is young people who typically participate in this activity. Spray

paint is usually their weapon of choice and it costs our community millions of dollars a year. By preventing the initial sale of spray paint to underage buyers, we hope to prevent the further spread of graffiti in our cities and towns."

Employers are required to instruct their staff not to sell spray paint to minors under any circumstances, even if the sale is claimed to be for an adult.

Shop owners and their employees are required to request proof of age before selling spray paint to a person, unless satisfied the buyer is an adult.

Sellers who are not employees who are convicted of selling spray paint

to minors face a maximum penalty of \$10,500 for a first offence, \$21,000 for a second and for a third or later offence \$31,500. Employees convicted of this offence may be fined up to \$3,000.

Businesses that employ persons to sell spray paint to the public are now required to display a prohibition sign at each point of sale at their retail outlets.

An information sheet and a prescribed Prohibition Sign are available in a folder titled "New Spray Paint Legislation" on the Queensland Police Service's Internet Homepage at www.police.qld.gov.au.