



One of the kids caught on CCTV inside the club.

Teens' Miami vice forces clubs to hire guard

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A COMMUNITY tennis club has been forced to hire a \$1400-a-week security guard after 12 break-ins in only three weeks.

The not-for-profit Miami Tennis Club and Miami Seniors Tennis Club have been terrorised by a gang of teenagers smashing windows and doors to steal alcohol and food.

The sister clubs will share the cost of the security guard but the extra expense, plus the recent costs to repair windows and doors, will take their toll.

Miami Tennis Club coach



Nick Watkins hopes a new DNA spray will identify offenders.

Nick Watkins said the offenders were becoming more brazen.

"We have CCTV cameras that have captured offenders ranging in age from about 15 to 40," he said.

"One night they filled a bin with alcohol from the seniors' club and sat on our outdoor furniture drinking it.

"We have increased the deci-

bels on our alarm and reported every burglary but nothing seems to help. The kids know they're only going to get a slap on the wrist.

"The last option has been to hire a security guard."

Seniors club president Rob Newton said the unprotected clubhouse was about to be deced out with cameras and a new crime-fighting tool.

"Burleigh MP Michael Hart is helping us with CCTV cameras for our clubhouse and a new DNA spray," he said.

"The spray is being trialled in Australia. It sprays a fine, odourless film on an offender as they enter and it stays on

the skin for up to six weeks. "It's been terrible for the club and the constant break-ins and stock replacement have cost a lot.

"We hope the new measures and guard will stop this."

Mr Hart has asked Justice Minister Jarrod Blejje to fast-track tougher penalties.

"I have always been an advocate for a strong tough-on-crime stance," he said.

"In my electorate criminals are continuously smashing windows, spraying graffiti, stealing alcohol, food and supplies from local clubs that can't continue with the financial burden these crimes put on them."