

Liquor store store headache



Shopkeepers near Dan Murphy's are upset by increased violence in the area.

MIKE PEETERS

SHOPKEEPERS near the Dan Murphy's liquor megastore on Great Eastern Highway, Midland are up in arms about the rise in violence and unprovoked attacks in the area.

A local pizza and kebab shop co-owner – known to everyone as Betty – was bashed on her way to work last month by two women who had earlier tried to steal a bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey from nearby Dan Murphy's.

Betty said she was

walking to her shop through the Eastern Hotel car park when two women approached her for money.

"I did nothing to provoke them and just said no but then they asked me for cigarettes and when I again refused, they began pushing me, hitting me and pulling my hair," said Betty.

"Luckily a passerby saw what happened and called the police but by then the women had walked off towards Centrepoint."

The incident left Betty with cuts and abra-

sions to her face, arms and legs.

The police caught the women but local shop owners are fed up with what they say are vagrants hanging around, drinking and causing trouble.

Another local business owner – Garry Mitchell of Midland Picture Framers – said there was no community strategy to deal with the problem.

"I have noticed that most of the trouble seems to have begun since the opening up

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