QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Far North District

Far North District overall crime increases

Far North District Officer Acting Chief Superintendent Brett Schafferius today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in armed robberies, fraud and liquor offences across the district.

The Statistical Review represents a comprehensive insight into the level and nature of crime reported for each police district throughout Queensland.

The overall crime rate across the Far North District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by 5 percent to 40,452 offences.

Over the 10 year period from 2006/07 to 2015/16, Far North District recorded a decrease in the rate of offences against the person.

"When adjusted for population growth, the overall crime rate of offences against the person over the past 10 years decreased by 20.8 percent, while offences against property has increased by 0.5 percent," Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

The rate of robberies across the district increased by 24.2 percent in the past year though has decreased over the past 10 years by 19 percent.

"There were 99 reported robberies in 2015/16, compared to 107 in 2006/07," Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

In 2015/16, unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 11.3 percent, unlawful entry into houses increased by 15.4 percent and unlawful entry into shops increased by 2.2 percent.

Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius urges the community to be vigilant with the security to their houses, vehicles and other property items, with the rate of offences against property increasing by 4.9 percent in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

“We urge the community to use all available security options on their property to prevent opportunistic thefts as a result of unlocked or unsecured property.

“In addition to proactive and intelligence-led patrols, police will continue with proactive policing and community programs, such as the Far North myPolice blog and Neighbourhood Watch groups to remind the community to be actively participating in crime prevention methods.”

The number of liquor offences across the district decreased by 1.7 percent.

“It is positive to see offences involving liquor decline in the district, however 1,396 in the past year is still too high and police will continue to provide a large presence in those areas,” Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

Fraud offences also fell with a decreased rate of 5.3 percent. Computer fraud decreased by 26.6 percent, cheque fraud decreased by 78.8 percent and identity fraud decreased by 91.6 percent, while credit card fraud increased by 11.3 percent.

“Over the past 10 years fraud offences have decreased by 25.5 percent, however with ongoing advancements in technology, fraudulent activity continues to be prevalent in our community with 1,009 offences reported in the Far North District over the past 12 months,” Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

“This is a timely reminder to the community of the importance of adopting preventative measures and behaviours such as not providing personal information to unverified organisations or individuals, to ensure they are protected against fraud.”

In the Far North District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 2,571 in 2014/15 to 2,810 in 2015/16, or eight percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 83 percent of applications were police initiated,” Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

“Domestic and Family Violence Orders are civil orders and not a criminal matter, however if the respondent breaks conditions in the order they are committing a criminal offences”.

The number of breaches to Domestic and Family Violence Protection Orders increased from 2,113 in 2014/15 to 2,370 in 2015/16.

“The increase in reporting of domestic and family violence can be attributed to the proactive work being done by police in the district and from the community gaining more confidence in reporting incidents to police,” Acting Chief Superintendent Schafferius said.

“The QPS is committed to working in partnership with the people of Queensland to provide professional policing services that will, over time, prevent and reduce the incidents of domestic violence in Queensland.”

The Annual Statistical Review 2015-16 is available on the QPS website.

Note: All percentages used in this release relate to the number of reported offences per 100,000 people. Media seeking regional and district crime statistics from the Queensland Police Service 2015/16 Annual Statistical Review can locate details on the QPS website at www.police.qld.gov.au.