QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

September 30, 2016

Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Mount Isa District

Mount Isa District overall crime increases

Mount Isa District Officer Superintendent Kevin Guteridge today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in house break-ins and fraud 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 Mount Isa District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by 13 percent to 9,756 offences.

Over the 10 year period from 2006/07 to 2015/16, Mount Isa District recorded a decrease in the rate of offences against property.

"The overall crime rate of offences against property over the past 10 years decreased by 5.3 percent, while offences against the person has increased by 10.8 percent," Superintendent Guteridge said.

When adjusted for population growth, the rate of robberies across the district increased by 25.9 percent in the past year, with unarmed robberies decreasing by 32.8 percent.

"There were five reported robberies in 2015/16, compared to four in 2006/07," Superintendent Guteridge said.

In 2015/16, unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 41.7 percent and unlawful entry into shops increased by 18 offences, while unlawful entry into houses decreased by 7.7 percent.

Superintendent Guteridge urges the community to remain vigilant with the security to their houses, vehicles and other property items, with 2,288 offences against property reported in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Superintendent Guteridge 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 Mount Isa myPolice blog and Neighbourhood Watch groups, to remind the community to be actively participating in crime prevention methods.”

Fraud offences fell in the past year with a decreased rate of 54.5 percent. Computer fraud decreased by 100 percent, credit card fraud decreased by 66.4 percent and identity fraud decreased by 49.6 percent, while cheque fraud increased from zero offences in 2014/15 to one offence in 2015/16.

“The decline in fraud offences can be attributed to the proactive initiatives implemented in the Mount Isa District over 2015/16 which educated the community and raised awareness on these offences, in particular on online fraud,” Superintendent Guteridge said

“This is still 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 Mount Isa District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 625 in 2014/15 to 811 in 2015/16, or 31 percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 94 percent of applications were police initiated,” Superintendent Guteridge 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 754 in 2014/15 to 962 in 2015/16.

“The increase of reports 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,” Superintendent Guteridge 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.