QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

September 30, 2016

Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Townsville District

Townsville District overall crime increases

Townsville District Officer Acting Superintendent Joe Kitching today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in 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 Townsville District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by 13 percent to 32,859 offences.

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

"When adjusted for population growth, the overall crime rate of offences against property over the past 10 years has decreased by 19.9 percent, while offences against the person has increased by 8.3 percent," Acting Superintendent Kitching said.

The rate of robberies across the district increased by 24.1 percent in the past year though has decreased over the past 10 years by 27.1 percent.

"There were 75 reported robberies in 2015/16, compared to 89 in 2006/07," Acting Superintendent Kitching said.

In 2015/16, unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 53.6 percent and unlawful entry into houses increased by 29.6 percent, while unlawful entry into shops fell by 6.5 percent.

Acting Superintendent Kitching 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 14 percent in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Acting Superintendent Kitching 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 ‘Lock it or Lose it’ program, the Townsville 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 fell by 400, with a decreased rate of 39.7 percent.

“It is positive to see offences involving liquor decline in the district, however 618 in the past year is still too high and police will continue to provide a large presence in those areas,” Acting Superintendent Kitching said.

The rate of fraud offences also fell with a decreased rate of 2.9 percent. Computer fraud decreased by eight percent, cheque fraud decreased by 43.2 percent, credit card fraud decreased by 16.9 percent and identity fraud decreased by 71.6 percent.

“The decline in fraud offences can be attributed to the proactive initiatives implemented in the Townsville District over 2015/16 which educated the community and raised awareness on these offences, in particular on credit card fraud,” Acting Superintendent Kitching said.

In the Townsville District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 1,919 in 2014/15 to 2,311 in 2015/16, or 20 percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 75 percent of applications were police initiated,” Acting Superintendent Kitching 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 1,591 in 2014/15 to 2,705 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,” Acting Superintendent Kitching 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.