QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Sunshine Coast District

Sunshine Coast District Police Crime Report

Sunshine Coast District Officer Superintendent Darryl Johnson today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in assaults, robberies 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 Sunshine Coast District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by one percent to 24,494 offences.

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

"The overall crime rate of offences against the person over the past 10 years has decreased by 35 percent and offences against property has decreased by 27.4 percent," Superintendent Johnson said.

"Sunshine Coast Police make no apologies for the targeting of those people who commit crime with a focus centred upon those people using and supplying dangerous drugs which then leads to the commission of serious crimes including break and enters and armed robberies."

The rate of robberies across the district decreased by 1.5 percent in the past year, with a decreased rate of 20.6 percent over the past 10 years. Armed robbery offences fell by 14.2 percent in 2015/16.

"There were 49 reported robberies in the year 2015/16, compared to 52 in 2006/07," Superintendent Johnson said.

The number of assaults across the district fell by 75 in the past year, with a decreased rate of 11.7 percent.

"It is positive to see assaults decline in the district, and I commend our community for the changing of behaviours, especially in our entertainment precincts," Superintendent Johnson said.

“Anti-social behavior cannot be accepted and even one incident is still too high and police will continue to provide a high visibility response at locations where these offences occur.”

In 2015/16 unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 8.8 percent, while unlawful entry into houses decreased by 1.1 percent and unlawful entry into shops decreased by 9.8 percent.

Superintendent Johnson urges the community to remain vigilant with the security to their houses, vehicles and other property items, with 11,070 offences against property reported in the past year.

“A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable,” Superintendent Johnson 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 Sunshine Coast 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 34.1 percent. Computer fraud decreased by 49.2 percent, cheque fraud decreased by 11.4 percent and other fraud decreased by 55.9 percent, while credit card fraud increased by 13.6 percent.

“The decline in fraud offences can be attributed in part to the proactive initiatives implemented in the Sunshine Coast District over 2015/16 which educated the community and raised awareness on these offences,” Superintendent Johnson 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 Sunshine Coast District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 1,368 in 2014/15 to 1,660 in 2015/16, or 19 percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 70 percent of applications were police initiated,” Superintendent Johnson 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 733 in 2014/15 to 1,018 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 Johnson 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.