QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Wide Bay Burnett District

Wide Bay Burnett District Police Crime Report

Wide Bay Burnett District Officer Superintendent Mark Stiles 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 Wide Bay Burnett District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by nine percent to 22,684 offences.

Over the 10 year period from 2006/07 to 2015/16, Wide Bay Burnett 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 27.5 percent and offences against property has decreased by 22.3 percent," Superintendent Stiles said.

In 2015/16 unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 8.3 percent and unlawful entry into houses increased by 2.4 percent, while unlawful entry into shops decreased by 22.3 percent.

Superintendent Stiles urges the community to be vigilant with the security to their houses, vehicles and other property items, with 8,498 offences against property reported in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Superintendent Stiles 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 local myPolice blogs 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 4.1 percent. Computer fraud decreased by 60.2 percent, cheque fraud decreased by 90 percent and credit card fraud decreased by 7.3 percent, while identity fraud increased by 12 offences.

“The decline in fraud offences can be attributed to the proactive initiatives implemented in the Wide Bay Burnett District over 2015/16 which educated the community and raised awareness on these offences,” Superintendent Stiles 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.”

The number of liquor offences across the district fell by 43, with a decreased rate of 29.3 percent.

“It is positive to see offences involving liquor decline in the district, however even one incident is still too high and police will continue to provide a large presence in those areas,” Superintendent Stiles said.

In the Wide Bay Burnett District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 1,534 in 2014/15 to 2,033 in 2015/16, or 32 percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 70 percent of applications were police initiated,” Superintendent Stiles 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 849 in 2014/15 to 1,421 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 Stiles 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.