QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 - Darling Downs District

Darling Downs District overall crime increases

Darling Downs District Officer Superintendent Mark Kelly today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in robberies 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 Darling Downs District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by nine percent to 24,373 offences. A significant part of this increase included a rise in drug detection and traffic related offences, with drug offences increasing at a rate of 16.9 percent and traffic and related offences increasing 40.3 percent.

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

"When adjusted for population growth, the overall crime rate of offences against the person over the past 10 years decreased by 8.6 percent and offences against property decreased by 21 percent," Superintendent Kelly said.

In 2015/16 the rate of unlawful use of motor vehicles increased by 6.2 percent and unlawful entry rose 1.6 percent.

Superintendent Kelly urges the community to be vigilant with the security of their property with 8,585 offences against property reported in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and vehicle and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Superintendent Kelly said.

"We urge the community to use all available security options of 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 Darling Downs 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 54 incidents, with a decreased rate of 20.6 percent.

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

In the Darling Downs District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 1,164 in 2014/15 to 1,275 in 2015/16, or nine percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 68 percent of applications were police initiated,” Superintendent Kelly said.

The number of breaches to Domestic and Family Violence Protection Orders increased from 741 in 2014/15 to 890 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, the work done by many community organizations in supporting victims and from the community gaining more confidence in reporting incidents to police,” Superintendent Kelly 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.