QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
MEDIA RELEASE

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Annual Statistical Review 2015/16 – South West District

South West District overall crime increases

South West District Officer Superintendent Maurice Poiner today welcomed the release of the Queensland Police Service's Statistical Review which demonstrated a reduction in stolen vehicles 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 South West District from 2014/15 to 2015/16 increased by 13 percent to 14,825 offences.

Over the 10 year period from 2006/07 to 2015/16, South West 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 21.5 percent and offences against property decreased by 1.1 percent," Superintendent Poiner said.

In 2015/16 unlawful use of motor vehicles decreased by 0.4 percent and unlawful entry into shops decreased by 6.7 percent and unlawful entry into houses increased by 5.8 percent.

Superintendent Poiner urges the community to be vigilant with the security to their houses, vehicles and other property items, with 4,227 offences against property reported in the past year.

"A lot of break-ins and property thefts are opportunistic and are preventable," Superintendent Poiner 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 South West 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 4.1 percent. Identity fraud decreased by 96.1 percent, while computer fraud increased by 0.3 percent, cheque fraud increased by 160.9 percent, credit card fraud increased by 10.2 percent and other fraud increased by 23.5 percent.

“The decline in overall fraud offences can be attributed to the proactive initiatives implemented in the South West District over 2015/16 which educated the community and raised awareness on these offences,” Superintendent Poiner said.

“It is extremely important that people protect their identity and not give their details to unverified third parties, and to destroy bank statements and personal documentation rather than simply throwing them in the bin.”

In the South West District, the number of Domestic and Family Violence Applications increased from 722 in 2014/15 to 913 in 2015/16, or 27 percent in the rate of applications per 100,000 person.

“In 2015/16, approximately 81 percent of applications were police initiated,” Superintendent Poiner 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 573 in 2014/15 to 681 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 Poiner 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.