

# Service: Public order and safety



## Strategic objective

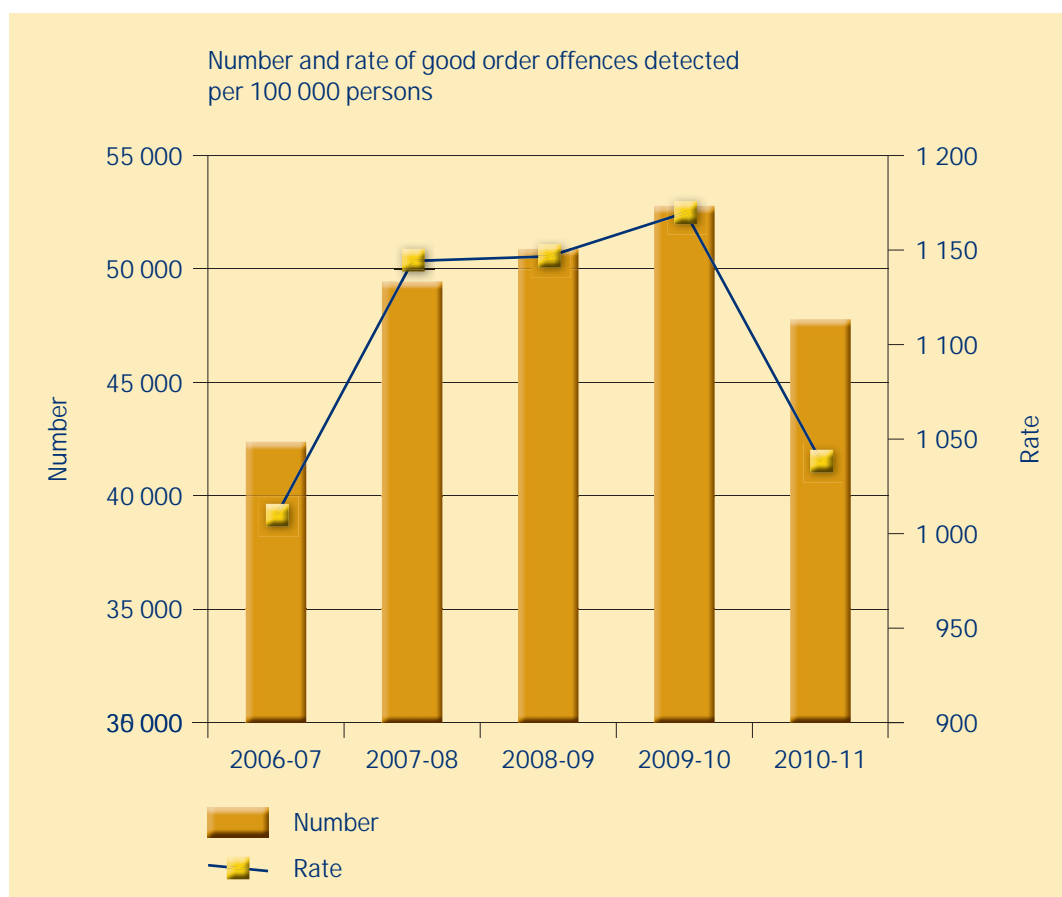
**Strengthen Queensland's capacity to plan for, respond to, and recover from disaster and major events.**

This section deals with activities undertaken to maintain public order and safety during major events and natural disasters—from planning to recovery. Public order issues include those related to public space enjoyment, street and nuisance offences, liquor licensing issues and environmental design to reduce crime including alcohol fuelled violence.

## 2010-11 priorities

Improve disaster planning, recovery and response across agencies and regions.

Improve public safety including by reducing alcohol and/or drug fuelled violence and disorder.



Public order offences include offences relating to public nuisance, obstruct police, fare evasion and other offences against good order. An increase in public order offences generally indicates an increase in policing activity around public spaces and major events, and a range of related proactive policing activities, often centred upon liquor-related enforcement. The number of public order offences detected decreased from 52 678 to 47 809 in 2010-11. The rate per 100 000 population also decreased from 1 167 to 1 039.

## Key strategic priority—disaster management

This year the QPS' ability to maintain public order and safety during major events and natural disasters—from planning to recovery—has been tested to the extreme.

### Flood relief operations

Between late November 2010 and February 2011, Queensland experienced extreme and violent weather conditions which affected most of the State. The flood and cyclone events resulted in almost all parts of the State being declared as disaster situations. Queensland police officers were on the frontline working around the clock to assist Queenslanders in need.

The assistance provided by the QPS was far wider in scope than might be imagined, including specialist, logistic and administrative support. For example, the Diving Squad undertook a significant number of dive related activities. The management of public order, traffic and emergency responses was strongly supported by the Public Safety Response Team, Railway Squad, Water Police, Special Emergency Response Team and the State Traffic Support Branch. Specialist Operations also had strong links to external agencies such as the Australian Federal Police and Australian Defence Force to assist with search and rescue, recovery operations and crime prevention.

Operation Safeguard, an interagency property security taskforce, was one of the major crime prevention strategies employed in the flood affected areas. It provided highly visible 24-hour proactive policing patrols as a strong deterrent to looting. Operation Safeguard ran for three weeks and resulted in the arrest of 81 people on 225 charges.

In many ways, these natural disasters have led to a series of firsts for the QPS. Following amendments to the *Disaster Management Act 2010* which came into effect on November 1, the QPS has taken on a number of new roles at both district and state level. Significantly, the functions of Executive Officers to District Disaster Management Groups and the State Disaster Management Group are now held by QPS officers. Additionally, Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) Ian Stewart was appointed Queensland's first State Disaster Coordinator.

### Review of the flood crisis

An internal Flood Crisis Review Group was established after the flood events and Tropical Cyclone Yasi. The Group:

- documented the QPS response to the flooding and associated events
- facilitated a strategic debrief for the events

- assisted in the development of the QPS response to the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the State's flood disaster
- coordinated issues of significance regarding coronial investigations
- overviewed honours and awards arising from the events.

Many strategic, whole of service short, medium and long term objectives were determined and are currently being progressed.

### Disaster management review

In response to the Forster review of disaster management, the QPS amended its relevant internal policies and developed and delivered two disaster management training courses for over 70 QPS officers on District Disaster Management Groups prior to the commencement of the amendments to the Disaster Management Act. Additionally, a three day workshop for District Disaster Management Group Executive Officers was provided to 75 officers in May 2011.

### Responding to international disasters

Officers from the Disaster Victims Identification Squad were deployed to New Zealand to assist with post-mortem activities as a result of the Christchurch earthquake. They were joined by a contingent of 11 officers who assisted with high visibility policing patrols and provided community reassurance in response to the earthquake.

### Countering terrorism

During 2010-11 a range of activities were held across Queensland with State and local government agencies and non-government stakeholders aimed at enhancing a broad range of counter-terrorism capabilities. For example, in partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads the QPS delivered security awareness training to operators in the State's surface transport system.

The QPS also strengthened its internal counter-terrorism capabilities through testing equipment, specialist techniques and interoperability. An example of this was seen through Exercise Parlez which comprised a two day workshop on current global threats and culminated in a one day interoperability exercise between Negotiators, the Explosive Ordnance Response Team and the Specialist Emergency Response Team.

The QPS also tested the Terrorist Incident Reception Centre Framework through Exercise Ice Capture. This exercise helped the QPS to understand issues which may arise from a terrorism incident in relation to

managing the vast number of potential witnesses and assisting affected persons to access support services.

Exercising is a key mechanism used to develop our counter-terrorism arrangements. To allow for more regionally based drill style exercises, the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch has developed the Exercise Development and Management Course, which provides participants with the necessary skills to develop, construct, manage and evaluate training exercises.

On a National level, the QPS actively participates as part of the National Counter Terrorism Committee to enhance Australia's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from multiple threats or acts of terrorism. As part of this involvement QPS participated in Mercury 2010, a national exercise to test our interoperability arrangements. Queensland activated the State Crisis and Communication Centre as part of the exercise, with the Commissioner and Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services participating to test the State Security Committee arrangements.

The QPS continues to ensure its counter-terrorism equipment remains contemporary and adaptable. In April 2011 the QPS took delivery of a state-of-the-art Armoured Response Vehicle (ARV). Special Emergency Response Team officers designed the internal layout and configuration, providing significant operational advances on previous models.

The ARV will be utilised primarily to recover injured persons, as a negotiation platform, and as a delivery platform during counter terrorist and high risk operations.

## Queensland Counter Terrorism Strategy

To ensure our capabilities and arrangements remain agile and align with the contemporary risk environment, the Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy for 2011-13 was approved by Cabinet in April 2011.

This is the third Strategy for Queensland, and sets the direction for the development and implementation of counter-terrorism initiatives across government for the next three years.

In 2011-13 the QPS will lead Queensland Government agencies in strengthening counter-terrorism capabilities and arrangements in relation to countering violent extremism, mass gatherings, infrastructure protection, public information and modern media, and interoperability.

## Suspicious activity reporting

It is important for the QPS to ensure Queensland is well placed to analyse the current security environment. Consequently a priority for 2010-11 was to promote suspicious activity reporting for critical infrastructure and priority sites. The Security Intelligence Branch made significant developments in this area during the year, and will continue to develop and drive this priority in partnership with internal and external stakeholders.

## Dignitary protection

The federal election campaign was conducted from 17 July to 21 August 2010. The Security Intelligence Branch (SIB), in conjunction with the Australian Federal Police, provided protection for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Queensland received a significant number of visits as part of the election campaign and hosted the campaign launch for both parties in Brisbane. A significant security response was required by the SIB Protection and Intelligence Teams to ensure the safety of both leaders, members of the parties and the public.

Between 19 and 21 March 2011, His Royal Highness Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge visited Brisbane, southern and northern Queensland. The visit involved the largest deployment of Close Personal Protection (CPP) officers since the Pacific Island Forum hosted in Cairns in 2009.

The CPP operation involved members drawn from across seven QPS regions and involved coordination of activities with numerous internal and external stakeholders to ensure the safety and security of the Prince and members of the public.

There are 156 officers across the State qualified to provide dignitary protection services.

## Specialist dogs

The QPS has a number of specialist dogs which are used state-wide. These include cadaver trained dogs whose skills support policing operations by locating buried victims of crime or natural disasters and by clearing areas suspected of having been used to bury victims of homicide offences. There are also dogs specially trained in the detection of explosives. In addition, police dog tracking skills are used to assist in the search for missing people.

Brisbane Dog Squad featured on Channel 9's program *Send in the Dogs – Australia*. The program highlighted the work our police dogs and their handlers deal with on a daily basis including tracking down criminals, missing persons, illegal drugs, explosives and weapons.

## Key strategic priority—public safety

Public safety issues include those related to public space enjoyment, street and nuisance offences, liquor licensing issues and environmental design to reduce crime including alcohol fuelled violence.

### Addressing anti-social behaviour in public spaces

The Queensland Government released its response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Alcohol Related Violence on 30 August 2010.

The recommendations included a focus on community safety and preventative measures to reduce levels of alcohol-related violence and its ramifications.

The QPS was nominated as responsible agency for three recommendations:

- increasing staffing in the key entertainment precincts of Surfers Paradise, Townsville and Fortitude Valley
- banning powers (with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
- promotion of Party Safe.

### Drink safe precincts

A central component of the Government's response to alcohol-related violence is a place-based management approach of entertainment precincts to provide a coordinated management strategy similar to those in place for major sporting events and concerts. High visibility policing, proactive patrols and early intervention are all elements of this approach that contribute to a safe and secure environment where people could enjoy themselves with as little interference as possible.

Amendments to the *Liquor Act 1992* came into force in December 2010 allowing the creation of three drink safe precincts in Townsville, Fortitude Valley and Surfers Paradise. Increased police numbers during peak times, better supervised taxi zones, more support services and the creation of special safe zones have all featured in the new precincts.

The trial commenced on 1 December 2010 and is being piloted for two years. As at 30 June 2011 9 397 additional police hours have been worked in the precincts and 2 289 arrests made. Police also intervened on over 1 090 occasions to prevent conflict and issued 1 269 move-on directions.

### Banning powers

On 1 December 2010 legislation was amended to allow courts to ban individuals from licensed

premises and public places, in the vicinity of licensed premises. Within the three drink safe precincts, a total of 31 banning orders have been issued during the months of December 2010 to June 2011.

### Party Safe

The Party Safe initiative has continued to provide a process for the community to register parties with their local police. This reduces potential harms associated with parties and assists police by alerting them to potential problem areas.

The initiative includes a party registration form, information brochure on conducting safe parties, non-reusable numbered wrist bands for those attending a registered party and Party Safe posters so registered parties are easy to identify. During this reporting period over 6 700 parties have been registered with police.

In 2010 an independent external review of the Party Safe initiative was undertaken by the University of Queensland. The Review was released in January 2011 and presented a number of recommendations for improving the efficacy of Party Safe. These recommendations are currently being considered.

### One Punch Can Kill campaign

Youth violence and the need to educate young people about the dangers and consequences of engaging in this anti-social behaviour is a serious issue for the Queensland community.

The successful One Punch Can Kill campaign continued this year, and included an online advertising competition where members of the public provided input to the next round of One Punch Can Kill advertisements. The winning entries have formed the basis of state-wide cinema, bus back and radio advertising.

Radio advertising commenced on 19 September, cinema advertising began airing in cinemas around the State on 7 November, and bus back advertisements were seen on buses from 21 November 2010. Advertising ceased at the end of April 2011. An evaluation of the campaign and advertising was then conducted.

### Know Your Limits campaign

Channel Nine in partnership with the QPS has produced a television commercial that will air throughout 2011, aimed at raising awareness of alcohol fuelled violence and its effect on personal safety. The *Know Your Limits* campaign is targeting people in South-east Queensland with the message to be responsible when they drink, keep an eye out for each other and stay safe.

The *Know Your Limits* campaign is regarded as being valuable if its message can make a difference to one group of friends, to one family, to one life.

## Queensland Early Intervention Pilot Project (QEIPP)

QEIPP is an initiative funded under the National Binge Drinking Strategy. It is designed to address the increasing level of binge drinking among young Australians under 18 by providing an early intervention. The first intervention component of QEIPP is triggered when a young person has been detected committing an offence related to alcohol. Police post out an alcohol information package to the young person and their parent/guardian. They are offered the opportunity to attend a free confidential alcohol education awareness session with a qualified health professional.

QEIPP has established partnerships with Department of Education and Training, Department of Communities and school nurses who also refer clients into QEIPP. There is also the option of self referral into QEIPP.

Since October 2010 QEIPP has been piloted in selected divisions of the Rockhampton Police District and the Sunshine Coast Police District. QEIPP will also commence in Cherbourg by the end of July 2011.

As at the end of June 2011 QEIPP has posted out 879 alcohol information packages and 81 young people and or parent/guardians have taken up the opportunity to attend the alcohol education awareness session. In addition QEIPP has distributed 5 400 QEIPP and alcohol information brochures.

## Youth violence

The QPS has been proactive in addressing youth violence and issues emanating from the activities of street gangs through enforcement, preventative, and problem solving strategies including targeted operations, bail enforcement, CRYPAR early intervention, School Based Police Officer student programs and Police Liaison Officer community engagement.

## Street Gang Project

The Street Gang Project was established as an outcome of the QPS Youth Violence Forum held in August 2008 and ran for twelve months, coming to a close in December 2010.

The project's principal objective was to enhance the QPS' strategic approach to street gangs and associated youth violence. The Project sought to improve coordination of QPS activities by introducing a state-wide working definition for the term 'Street Gang', along with implementation of improved intelligence recording features to better capture street gang information for analysis.

The project's initiatives have helped set a baseline to enable district responses to be evaluated as part of

the QPS' Operational Performance Review Process and will help identify a cost to the State for this crime type.

Another project initiative was to implement a preventative resource for frontline officers by expanding the QPS CRYPAR program to include street gang involvement as a referral option for early intervention and diversion. The project was able to demonstrate that while there is no evidence to suggest Queensland has the same level of problems apparent in some overseas jurisdictions, some early warning signs were present in some areas.

The project is currently under review by the Review and Evaluation Unit, Ethical Standards Command with a final report due in coming months.

## CRYPAR Program

CRYPAR is a whole of government initiative which aims to assist young people and families in addressing issues which are often identified as contributing factors in the development of criminal and self-harming tendencies and anti-social behaviour. The program allows police officers in the field to refer young people, with their consent, to an appropriate support agency that has agreed to respond within 48 hours. In early 2010, CRYPAR replaced its old fax-back system with an electronic-referral system. The expansion of the program allows police across Queensland to refer a wider range of issues to support agencies through the enhanced referral system. These changes have already resulted in a 34% increase in referral activity between the first two quarters of 2011.

The Board of Xstrata Coal has agreed to provide \$5 million over three years to allow for the expansion of CRYPAR across Queensland.

Referrals have increased from 1 284 referrals in the period 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 to 1 724 referrals during the period 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011.

## Police drug diversion

The Police Drug Diversion Program aims to modify behaviour of persons found in possession of up to 50 grams of cannabis and/or utensils and with little or no past contact with the criminal justice system. The offer to attend a drug diversion assessment and education program is available only once to an offender, regardless of whether they accept it or not. During 2010-11, diversion was accepted by over 6 860 people throughout Queensland.

A compliance rate of about 80% for those attending assessment and education programs has consistently been achieved since the commencement of the program in 2001.

## Public nuisance infringement notices

During 2009, a trial of issuing tickets for public nuisance offences was undertaken in South Brisbane and Townsville police districts. An independent evaluation of the trial by Griffith University found that ticketing provided an appropriate and effective option for police in dealing with public nuisance offences. The state-wide rollout of public nuisance infringement notices commenced on 8 November 2010.

Since rollout and up to the end of June 2011 26 834 infringement notices for public nuisance offences have been issued.

## Operation Unite

Operation Unite is a joint initiative of Police Commissioners across Australia and New Zealand. It demonstrates the united determination of police to challenge alcohol misuse, crime, violence and anti-social behaviour and achieve significant change in Australia and New Zealand. Three two-day campaigns were conducted in 2010-11. All QPS regions were involved in the operations, with close to 1 100 uniformed and plain-clothed police officers proactively involved, patrolling liquor precincts across Queensland.

During the three campaigns, police arrested 844 people and issued 824 Notices to Appear for a total of 1 774 charges. Of those charges, 65 related to offences committed by juveniles.

More than 31 000 random breath tests were conducted, with 422 drivers detected drink driving.

Police also took 1 544 people to a place of safety, issued 514 move-on directions and conducted 5 098 street checks.

## Policing Queensland's rail networks

The Railway Squad provides a dedicated visible uniform police presence on the Queensland Rail City Network.

Railway Squad officers operate daily from five purpose built offices at railway stations located at Roma Street, Manly, Beenleigh, Redbank and Petrie railway stations.

The squad also services major event arenas including Skilled Park, Suncorp Stadium, Metricon Stadium, the Gabba, Brisbane Entertainment Centre, Queensland Sports and Athletic Centre, and Brisbane Turf Club.

In 2010-11, the Railway Squad was involved in 180 focussed operations targeting criminal offences and good order behaviour. During this period, the squad conducted 37 798 hours of network patrols and intercepted 14 154 people of interest, issued 3 213 infringement notices and arrested 1 677 people on 2 689 charges.

Some examples of how the Railway Squad contributes to crime detection and prevention include the squad's Electronic Crime Stoppers Bulletin, Firearms Explosive Detection Dog capability and the Project Car Smart and Student Saferail initiatives.

## Policing Queensland's waterways

Water Police officers provide a policing presence, both proactive and reactive, on and around Queensland waterways. There are 11 full time water police stations throughout the State, in addition to 13 general duties stations in isolated areas which have small vessels. The QPS has a fleet of 70 vessels of various sizes.

Water Police officers work in conjunction with other government agencies such as Maritime Safety Queensland and the Boating and Fisheries Patrol to improve maritime safety for recreational and commercial users.

Significant enforcement operations are conducted during holiday periods and in connection with major events such as the Brisbane Riverfire and the Gladstone Harbour Festival.

Water Police are also responsible for conducting search and rescue operations with the assistance of volunteer organisations. During 2010 there were 1 068 search and rescue incidents of various types that required a police response.

Water Police capabilities were further strengthened during 2010-11 through the construction of two 11 metre replacement patrol boats for Brisbane and Gladstone. During the 2011-12 financial year the QPS will commence construction of one 18 metre and two 22 metre patrol catamarans.

**More on page 69.**

## Crowd management

The Mounted Police Unit, along with other areas of the QPS, continued to provide high visibility patrols throughout police operations and at major events. This acts as a significant deterrent to offenders and provides patrons at events with a very visible police presence to enhance overall safety and security.

Major events serviced throughout the year included: ANZAC Day, Brisbane Riverfire, Gold Coast V8 Supercar Carnival, Police Remembrance Day, Schoolies Celebrations, the Royal Queensland Show, and the Woodford Folk Festival.

The Public Safety Response Team deploys throughout the State in response to major events, public order incidents and as first response to natural and environmental disasters. The unit also delivers training state-wide in relation to crowd management, shield

training and street policing, with the unit recently receiving a State Silver Award for Excellence in the development of its Street Policing training package.

During 2010–11 the unit deployed in excess of 300 times, and delivered in excess of 13 000 hours of training to members throughout the State.

### Community safety and crime prevention

The QPS is committed to protecting all members of the community and working with at-risk people to divert them from the criminal justice system where appropriate and effective. The QPS provides funding for crime prevention projects across the State through the Community Crime Prevention Fund. The Fund supports partnerships between the QPS and community groups to develop local responses to local problems. In 2010–11 a diverse range of projects were funded including:

- *Activate Doomadgee Youth*, a community project aimed at reducing property crime and steering young people away from anti-social behaviour and criminal tendencies.
- *Street Violence Intervention Project* – Ipswich. An intensive case managed process providing individual young people with an opportunity to change their behaviours and to be supported in this change process.
- *Project JUST – Brisbane CBD*. The JUST (Joined Up Street Team) project patrols aim to provide a timely response to young people at risk through referrals to youth homeless support services. The project brings together operational police officers, PLOs and non government youth workers to deliver after hours outreach for young people in the city area.
- *Redcliffe Seniors' Project* which aims to address safety concerns from senior citizens at various retirement villages in the Redcliffe division.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the primary crime prevention initiatives of the Queensland Police Service. It encourages interaction and a shared sense of responsibility between individuals, neighbours and communities for preventing and reducing crime.

There are currently 573 active Neighbourhood Watch areas in Queensland. Crime Bulletins continue to be published in each police district. Copies of the Bulletins are available online at <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/Regional+Policing/>.

The annual Neighbourhood Watch State Conference was held on 2 October 2010 and gave approximately 300 delegates the opportunity to network, engage and participate with key stakeholders to problem solve the challenges that Neighbourhood Watch faces.

### 2010 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards

Metropolitan North Region's Project Patch won the National Meritorious Police Award at the 2010 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.

Project Patch develops comprehensive approaches to the affordable housing community including implementation of community-based policing strategy for Kelvin Grove Urban Village where each building has an appointed local police officer and personal, consistent service. Interagency domestic violence and child safety meetings and joint safety reviews/audits are just a few of the benefits of the program.

As a result of the program, police calls for service were reduced by 57 percent, domestic violence incidents were reduced by 70 percent and residents are now part of an inclusive, safe community.

### Key future initiatives

#### Critical infrastructure and priority sites

A business process is being formalised to make it easier for stakeholders at critical infrastructure and priority sites to report suspicious activity direct to Policelink. This business process will become operational in 2011 and will be supported by a strong communication/awareness strategy delivered to critical infrastructure and priority sites stakeholders and QPS counter terrorism liaison officers. It is envisaged this streamlined process will significantly increase intelligence holdings, allowing an intelligence led approach in preventative investigations.

#### Banning orders

A twelve month trial of the electronic distribution of banning orders will be undertaken with the aim of improving stakeholder engagement and reducing alcohol related violence and improving QPS harm minimisation strategies relating to alcohol and other drugs.

The trial distribution will ensure that any legal or privacy issues can be identified and rectified before the process is rolled out state-wide.

This trial will also identify any potential misuse issues which could lead to criticism of the QPS.