

Commissioner's message



During 2015-16, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) continued to progress work in the areas of child protection, domestic and family violence, drugs and alcohol, counter-terrorism, mental health and road safety, contributing to the safety and security of the communities of Queensland.

Highlights for the year include:

- the appointment of an additional 294 police officers. As at 30 June 2016, there were 11,877 police officers
- the launch of the *Amber Alert* system to help locate abducted or high-risk missing children in imminent danger. From the system's launch in August 2015, seven *Amber Alerts* have been issued (to 30 June 2016), with the safe recovery of all these children
- the establishment of the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit to support the implementation of the QPS-led recommendations from the *NOT NOW, NOT EVER* report into domestic and family violence
- the launch of a new referral process that enables police at an incident scene to refer a person in need to an appropriate support service for assistance via their mobile QLITE device (a suite of QPS developed Applications available on an iPad mini) or back at the station
- the priority rollout of 300 body-worn video cameras for police officers on the Gold Coast and the commencement of associated training
- the development of the Security and Counter-Terrorism Network to strengthen QPS' capability statewide. The network provides a platform for enhanced community engagement, reporting, investigations and intelligence-sharing
- the establishment of at least one Community Policing Board in each of the 15 police districts, providing the opportunity for local organisations and individuals to work together with police on strategies to address crime and safety issues.

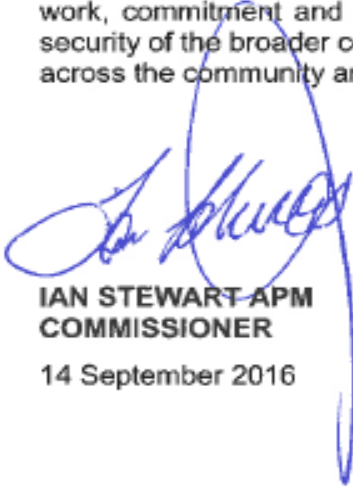
Also, for the first time in 20 years, Queensland recorded a zero fatality rate during the Easter period. This is significant considering there was an alarming increase in the Easter road toll in 2015. During the 2016 Easter period, QPS focused on high risk road user behaviour with more than 95,000 random breath tests and roadside saliva tests conducted and more than 6,000 infringement notices issued. The QPS operations assisted in ensuring the safety of drivers and their passengers.

In late 2015, the QPS celebrated 50 years of women in policing for the period 1965 to 2015. In 1965, eight plain clothes policewomen were sworn into the Service. There are now more than 3,000 female police officers in Queensland. In addition, the first two Queensland female officers qualified to become police motorcycle officers.

We also farewelled former Deputy Commissioner Ross Barnett after a long and distinguished career in the QPS spanning almost 40 years. Mr Barnett was appointed to the role of Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner in February 2016. I wish Mr Barnett all the best in his future endeavours.

As always I was honoured to lead the QPS during the year and I am committed to continuing to work with members of the Service and the community to stop crime and make Queensland safer.

The business of policing continues to increase in complexity and I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work, commitment and dedication of all QPS members in maintaining our focus on the safety and security of the broader community. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the exceptional effort to engage across the community and to maintain the confidence of the public in their police service.



**IAN STEWART-APM
COMMISSIONER**

14 September 2016