



DISAFFILIATING OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

Key findings



Social bonds emerged as the key factor for disaffiliation.

The bonds of brotherhood that drew many to join OMCGs also became the reason for leaving when those bonds broke down. This included a negative change in club leadership or culture (e.g. toxicity, crime, lack of brotherhood), and/or the importance of other relationships related to their partner/family taking precedence.



The three main reasons for leaving were

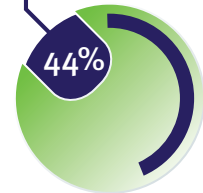
- Club leadership/culture (67%)
- Partner/family (54%)
- Internal club factors (42%)

AGE 35+

Participants who were older when recruited were significantly more likely to leave due to club leadership/negative culture.



44% did not leave earlier due to loyalty, to fulfil a membership goal (e.g. to leave on good terms with the club), or fear/threats.



Participants were significantly more likely to leave the club due to partner/family relationships if they: joined after 2013, experienced a crisis/significant event prior to joining, had prior mental health issues, or experienced more crime and violence in their club culture.

Key findings – Post-Disaffiliation

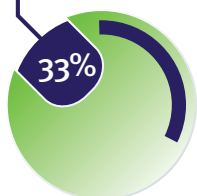
50% of participants experienced threats and/or violence when leaving the club.

46% experienced financial/property loss, ranging from \$600 to \$250,000.

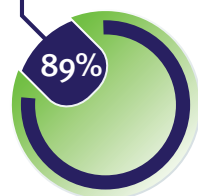
73% of participants were employed prior to leaving the club, however, 44% experienced employment difficulties after leaving due to their OMCG affiliation.

Other factors include police attention, tattoo removal, and trying to mend the negative impacts of OMCG membership on family/relationships.

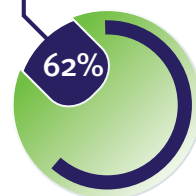
33% of participants were approached for recruitment by other OMCGs



89% of participants would not consider re-joining the club. 77% have none or limited contact with other club members since disaffiliation.



62% of the participants reported less alcohol consumption and positive changes in relationships.



69% took positive steps to improve their life by - obtaining work, moving away, studying or learning a new skill, receiving psychological counselling, and overcoming substance abuse issues



These findings are based on a collaborative research project between the Queensland Police Service (QPS) (Organised Crime Gangs Group and Strategy and Tactics) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC). Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 52 former OMCG (Outlaw Motorcycle Gang) members. This is the first Australian study to explore reasons why individuals join and leave OMCGs by speaking directly to former club members.