

Commissioner's message

In my second year as Queensland's Police Commissioner, I feel incredibly proud of how the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has responded to a constantly evolving and complex policing environment.

The QPS faced many challenges in 2020-21 including the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to COVID-19, the QPS is continuing to play a critical role in responding to this pandemic and to flattening the curve here in Queensland, including:

- working with various government departments to develop and implement a border pass system to facilitate entry into Queensland
- restricting access to Queensland's most vulnerable communities to prevent potential spread of the virus
- supporting Queensland Health's contact tracing activities and investigations in COVID-19 outbreaks
- continuing to staff the State Police Operations Centre (SPOC) and State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) to plan, prepare and coordinate the QPS's response and contribute to the whole-of-Government response to COVID-19 whilst maintaining business as usual policing activities
- diverting police resources to conduct border patrols at airports, state roads and vehicle checkpoints; quarantine compliance visits; compliance of social distancing through communication, education and enforcement
- changing how we deliver frontline policing services to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the QPS continued to deliver outstanding frontline policing services and accomplish significant achievements that showcased the exceptional work and dedication of our members. I am continually amazed by the tremendous dedication of all members as the Service continues to meet the significant and increasing demands placed on our organisation. Achievements for 2020-21 included:

- establishing a dedicated Youth Justice Taskforce, led by an Assistant Commissioner, to target recidivist behaviour and reduce re-offending. In addition to progressing the implementation of the Youth Justice Five-Point Action Plan, the QPS is developing and implementing various youth justice strategies in partnership with other government departments and the community to reduce youth crime
- establishing a dedicated Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command to protect victims of domestic and family violence, children, Elders, people living with disability and people with mental health issues
- creating the First Nations and Multicultural Affairs Unit to develop culturally responsive strategies and to strengthen the QPS's relationship with First Nations people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- celebrating the 40-year anniversary of the Disaster Victim Identification Squad
- continuing to embed human rights in our reporting and decision-making through education, training and awareness
- launching the QPS Wellbeing Strategy in April 2021 which complements the Our People Matter Strategy and recognises the importance of leadership, culture, wellbeing services, employee lifecycle initiatives and mental health training for current and former employees including their families
- supporting and promoting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex+ pride within the QPS through the QPS LGBTI+ Support Network

- conducting various road policing operations to curb negative road user behaviour
- continuing to improve communications with the community through various social media platforms.

We also farewelled former Assistant Commissioners Peter Crawford, Mike Keating and Clem O'Regan in 2020-21. They had long-standing careers with the QPS spanning over 30 years each. They collectively delivered invaluable services to the community of Queensland and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

In June 2021, the QPS was saddened by the sudden death of Senior Constable David Masters, tragically killed on duty. Senior Constable Masters was a dedicated police officer who served and protected his community to the highest standard. David was valued by his colleagues and the broader QPS community, and will be deeply missed.

In accordance with *Administrative Arrangements (No.1) 2021*, the Public Safety Business Agency was disestablished on 30 June 2021 with the agency functions transitioning to the QPS and Queensland Fire Emergency Services on 1 July 2021.

I am honoured to have led the QPS in 2020-21 and I welcome the former PSBA staff transitioning to the QPS from 1 July 2021. I would like to thank the QPS Executive Leadership Team and our 15,000 plus members, police and staff alike, for their exceptional service, extraordinary dedication and commitment to prevent, disrupt, investigate and respond to make Queensland the safest state.

I also extend my gratitude to all Queenslanders for working in partnership with the QPS to build a safer Queensland for all, particularly as we communicate with compassion and seek compliance in the response to COVID-19.



KATARINA CARROLL APM
COMMISSIONER