

## Commissioner's message

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

The first report from the Women's Safety Justice Taskforce, containing 89 recommendations, was released in December 2021. The QPS welcomes reform and is committed to continuous learning and improvement and will be working with the Queensland Government to implement the recommendations to improve policing responses to domestic and family violence. The second report from the Taskforce was released on 1 July 2022 and contains 188 recommendations.

The QPS Service Alignment Program, which has since transitioned to the Service Delivery Program, commenced implementing the recommendations arising out of the QPS Strategic Review, released in 2020. Among other things, the review highlighted the significant increase in demand for policing services and QPS resources being stretched across large geographical areas is not sustainable. This resulted in the establishment of the Regional Alignment Project which examined regional boundaries, identified benefits and opportunities and optimised service delivery to meet the demands of a growing Queensland. On 1 July 2021, the Service created the North Coast and Far Northern Regions to gain longer term efficiencies in terms of capacity, people, and performance where service delivery is aimed at prevention, disruption, response and investigation.

The QPS continued to deliver outstanding frontline policing services and accomplish significant achievements that showcased the exceptional work and dedication of our members throughout 2021-22. 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 2021-22 included:

- the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command delivering various bodies of work including:
  - the development and release of a High Risk, High Harm Dashboard to provide officers with analytics to identify and target high risk, high harm perpetrators
  - partnering with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to introduce legislative changes to limit the trauma involved in the criminal justice process and allow officers to use body worn cameras to obtain victim statements
  - collaborating with DJAG to trial and evaluate a co-responder model involving joint responses between QPS and domestic violence specialists
  - continuing to support and enhance policing responses to mental health
- QPS referring over 78,000 people to various support services
- establishment of the Youth Justice Unit within the Crime and Intelligence Command to deliver the QPS-specific work of the Youth Justice Taskforce. The existing Youth Justice Taskforce will focus on multi-agency collaboration and whole-of-government responses and reform to target youth offending in Queensland
- launching the *Sexual Violence Response Strategy 2021-2023* to enhance the QPS's capacity to prevent, disrupt, respond to, and investigate sexual violence and to hold perpetrators to account
- leveraging technology and providing a more agile policing response through the rollout of 10 mobile police beats to various locations across the state
- celebrating 25 years of civilian call centre operators which represents more than half of the total communication centre workforce
- getting tough new laws and harsher penalties to protect police dogs and horses who work alongside our frontline officers to protect the community
- commissioning the Queensland Police Vessel (QPV) *Sally Urquhart* in honour of fallen police officer Sally Urquhart to honour Sally's life and ensure her service to the QPS and community is never forgotten

- supporting and promoting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer+ pride within the QPS through the QPS Pride Network
- QPS being formally reaccredited as a White Ribbon workplace for a further three years in October 2021
- continuing to promote the 'Our People Matter' Strategy to support QPS members and delivering initiatives based on four pillars of *Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Safe Workplaces, Fair and Positive Workplaces*
- conducting road policing operations to target the Fatal Five, curb negative road user behaviour and reduce Queensland's road toll
- continuing to engage and improve communications with the community through various social media platforms.

Since early 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was first declared, the QPS provided a first-class policing response to reduce the spread and severity of COVID-19, while largely maintaining business-as-usual policing operations, including:

- standing up and deploying resources to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) and Taskforce Sierra Linnet
- conducting border patrols at the state's road border entries and at domestic and international airports including passenger screening
- conducting home quarantine checks and supporting Queensland Health's contact tracing activities
- providing a security overlay at quarantine hotels
- the development and implementation of the border pass system that facilitated entry into Queensland
- rapid response planning and coordination to contain outbreaks of COVID-19.

In 2022, various restrictions were eased by the Queensland Government resulting in the stand down of the SDCC and closure of Taskforce Sierra Linnet with COVID-related response activities transitioning to business-as-usual functions. I am grateful to all Queenslanders who worked with police and complied with directions during this challenging time.

The staff and functions from the disestablished Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) transitioned to the QPS and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) on 1 July 2021. I welcomed the former PSBA staff that transitioned to the QPS and to the staff that transitioned to QFES, I offered my well wishes for their future careers.

We also farewelled former Assistant Commissioners Brian Wilkins and Mike Condon in 2021-22. They had long-standing careers with the QPS spanning over 35 years each. They collectively delivered invaluable services to the community of Queensland, and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

I am honoured to have led the QPS in 2021-22. I would like to thank the QPS Executive Leadership Team and our 17,000 plus members, police and staff alike, for their exceptional service, extraordinary dedication and commitment to our values of integrity, professionalism, community and respect and fairness 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.



**Katarina Carroll**  
Commissioner