



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE



April 6, 2009

Issued at:

Taser rollout hits the three month mark

The Queensland Police Service rollout of Tasers has hit the three month mark, with more than 1900 officers now trained in Taser use across the State, Deputy Commissioner Kathy Rynders said.

"The Statewide rollout of a significant piece of equipment such as the Taser is a massive undertaking, when you consider the comprehensive training each officer receives," Deputy Commissioner Rynders said.

"The QPS has put in place robust training, policy and accountability frameworks for the rollout based on the lessons we learned from the Taser trial.

"Every officer has to complete an online training module before they receive the full day's operational training in Taser use. They will also need to be recertified in Taser use each year.

"The training focuses very heavily on appropriate use of Tasers. Tasers are just one of 11 uses of force that officers are trained in, and the training emphasises the need to constantly evaluate a situation, and respond accordingly," Deputy Commissioner Rynders said.

"Every Taser use is heavily scrutinised by senior officers, and the deployments since the rollout began have shown just how responsibly our officers are using this new tool.

"Statewide, since training began on January 5, there have been 142 occasions when Tasers have been taken from their holsters.

"Of those, on 113 occasions (80 percent) just presenting the Taser has been enough to diffuse the situation. This shows how beneficial the Tasers are to first response police.

"Tasers have been activated in probe mode on 23 occasions, and in stun drive mode just six times.

"Tasers are a serious use of force option, and our officers have shown professionalism and restraint in their use," Deputy Commissioner Rynders said.

Issued by Police Media
Media and Public Affairs Branch
Phone – 07 3015 2444
www.police.qld.gov.au

