

Commissioner's Overview

The *Queensland Police Service Annual Report* for 2005-06 focuses on *Enhancing Community Protection through Partnerships* and highlights some key initiatives progressed by the Queensland Police Service in partnership with other Government agencies, business, and most importantly, the community. The report also focuses on embracing cultural diversity, a priority for the Service in terms of understanding, engaging, and working effectively with Indigenous and multicultural communities throughout the State.



This report showcases the results achieved by the Service in 2005-06. One key indicator of police performance is the level of crime in the community and I am pleased to report that, for the fourth consecutive year, Queensland's overall crime rate has fallen. A more detailed breakdown of crime statistics is provided in the Service's Annual Statistical Review.

While reductions in crime are encouraging, the Service's success can also be measured by the strength of its strategic partnerships and the support provided by other agencies and the community. Through the Service's performance management processes, police managers are encouraged to continuously analyse crime trends in their areas of responsibility, identify the causes of crime and develop appropriate responses in partnership with key stakeholders. Throughout this report, case studies and examples are provided to demonstrate the positive and significant impact of this approach.

The Service has continued to progress the implementation of Government policy during 2005-06. In recognition of increasing demands for policing services, and the rapidly expanding population of Queensland, the Government funded an additional 278 police positions in 2005-06. All of these positions will be filled by October 2006, increasing police numbers to 9,378. This will meet the Government's commitment to maintaining a police to population ratio above the national average.

The Government funded a range of new technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of policing operations. Livescan fingerprint technology has been installed in all major watchhouses in Queensland allowing suspects and offenders to be electronically fingerprinted. During 2005-06 the Service commenced implementation of the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange project (QPRIME). The project will replace 234 existing police computer systems and will continue to be rolled out during 2006-07.

As part of an enhanced capital works program, the Service has replaced or upgraded many stations and acquired additional police housing. The purchase of a residential facility in Cairns now provides accommodation for officers on rotational duty to isolated communities in Far Northern Region. Other police facilities opened this year include new stations at Tin Can Bay, Sarina and Mackay. During the reporting period, five Neighbourhood Police Beats were established at Burpengary, Tewantin, Seaforth, Mooroolool, and Yorkeys Knob while two new Police Beat Shopfronts became operational at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Grand Central Shopping Centre at Toowoomba.

Strong Government investment in people, technology and infrastructure assisted the Service to focus its efforts on improving public safety and reducing crime. The Service continued to focus on key strategic issues including the enhancement of its counter terrorism capacity, and responding to illicit drug use with innovative strategies including specially trained drug detection dogs.

I continue to be encouraged by the positive results being achieved through DNA matching. The Service has been able to take a leading role nationally in implementing DNA matching and was the first State to go live on the national DNA database.

Despite our ongoing commitment to reducing road crashes in Queensland, 20 people lost their lives on Queensland roads over the 2005 Christmas holiday period. In response, a Road Safety Summit was held to generate new ideas and inform the development of Government policy. As a key stakeholder in this process, the Service is responsible for implementing 11 initiatives including new powers for police to impound the vehicles of repeat drink drivers, new laws for policing drug driving, and the introduction of fixed digital speed cameras.

Another important focus for the Service is the promotion and enhancement of effective relationships with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and multicultural communities throughout Queensland based on open communication, mutual understanding, respect and trust.

As part of a Whole-of-Government initiative, I am privileged to be appointed as the Community Champion for Wujal Wujal and Mornington Island. In this role I have welcomed the opportunity to visit, interact and support both communities on a number of occasions this year, and am very encouraged by their positive approach to addressing issues of concern and building community capacity.

Throughout this report, there are more detailed examples which demonstrate how the Service is working with and supporting all Queensland communities by embracing cultural diversity and community engagement.

The good work carried out on a day-to-day basis by members of the Service is what drives positive performance and it is gratefully acknowledged. It is an honour to lead an organisation of such highly skilled and dedicated people, and I commend and thank every member of the Service for their efforts and contributions.

Mr John Just, Deputy Chief Executive, Resource Management retired from the Service on 7 July 2006. I would like to formally acknowledge his outstanding contribution to the Service and sincerely thank him for his dedication, commitment and support over many years.



R ATKINSON APM
COMMISSIONER