

Commissioner's

Foreword



I am pleased to present the results achieved by the Queensland Police Service during 2006-07. Twenty years on from the Fitzgerald Inquiry, I believe the Service has developed into a highly professional and effective organisation. While this Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on our positive achievements, it is equally important to ensure the organisation does not become complacent and maintains a focus on the future. As a result, the theme for this year's Annual Report is *Building Policing for the Future*.

Sustained population growth across the State continues to drive demand for policing services and presents a significant challenge for the future. In response, the Police Service is working closely with other agencies and local government to advance the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026 and other regional planning activities. These plans will inform strategic decision making, planning for infrastructure and staffing levels, and ensure the Service is well positioned to respond to future social, demographic and technological changes.

A strong focus on performance management has been maintained in 2006-07 through the Operational Performance Review process. All members of the Service are encouraged to strive towards best practice in the delivery of the policing services that fall under the Service's four operational outputs of Community Safety and Engagement, Crime Management, Traffic Management and Professional Standards and Ethical Practice. This approach has directly contributed to the positive results described in the Annual Report.

Most categories of reported crime in Queensland continued to decrease in 2006-07. Decreases were recorded in the categories of robbery (9%), overall property offences (5%) and unlawful use of a motor vehicle (5%).

Staff numbers have increased throughout 2006-07 and at 30 June, the Service employed 9,618 police officers, 284 police recruits and 3,646 staff members. During 2006-07, the Police Service recruited and trained 774 new officers. This is an increase of 28% on the previous financial year.

Significant investment in new infrastructure and facilities has included the introduction of Phase 2.1 of the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (QPRIME), a replacement police station and watchhouse in Gympie and replacement police stations at Southport, Oakey and Kirwan.

Queensland continues to be a national leader in the area of DNA matching and analysis. The model for inter-jurisdictional matching developed by the Service is being adopted by the Commonwealth, South Australia and Tasmania. This builds on the existing DNA matching arrangements Queensland already has in place with the Northern Territory and Western Australia. To date, interstate suspects have been linked to 109 Queensland crime scenes through this database.

The Queensland road toll for the financial year totalled 365 fatalities, representing an increase of 13 per cent in comparison with the previous five-year average. Road safety continues to be a strategic priority for the Queensland Government and the Police Service will maintain a strong focus on traffic enforcement and reducing road incidents in Queensland.

The Service remains committed to working in partnership with the community, business and other government agencies to reduce crime and provide a safe and secure environment for all Queenslanders. In 2006-07, ten new Police Beat areas were established, and support and security were provided for a number of Queensland-based Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forums.

Successful initiatives that supported our Indigenous and multicultural communities were also undertaken including the successful expansion of the Community Activity Program through Education (CAPE) Project. This project, managed by the Police Service, is directed towards early intervention and support for young people. The Service also provided considerable support to a research project which will result in an education and training package for serving officers focused on a greater understanding of Islamic issues.

Policing continues to be actively promoted as a career for Indigenous people and I am pleased to report that there has been an increase in the number of Indigenous officers joining the Service. In November 2006, 19 Indigenous people commenced the Justice Entry Program which qualifies them for entry to the Queensland Police Academy.

On Friday 29 September 2006, Queensland police officers, relatives and friends joined similar groups from other jurisdictions at the official dedication of the National Police Memorial in Canberra. This Memorial honours those police officers who have been killed whilst on duty, and serves as a reminder to us all of the dangers inherent in the day to day delivery of policing services. The dedication was an historical and moving event and reflected the immense pride we have in our member's achievements and their sacrifices. It was particularly pleasing to share this special time in our history with the families of deceased officers.

A number of Executive Officers announced their retirement from the Service during 2006-07. Assistant Commissioner Ron Vincent retired in November 2006 and Mr Bob Carson, Director, Administration Division retired in June 2007. Assistant Commissioner George Stolz and Assistant Commissioner John Banham will be retiring in July 2007. I would like to formally acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by these officers to the Police Service and sincerely thank them for their dedication, commitment and support over many years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Atkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Atkinson APM
Commissioner