

Vision of the Queensland Police Service

'We are determined to be a professional police service, dedicated to excellence and committed to working in partnership with the people of Queensland to enhance the safety and security of our community.'

© Queensland Police Service, 2003

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photographic, recording or otherwise - without prior permission of the Commissioner, Queensland Police Service.

ISSN 1441-4589

Produced by:
Statistical Services
Information Resource Centre
Information Management Division
Queensland Police Service

The Queensland Police Service web address is "www.police.qld.gov.au".
This and past Annual Statistical Reviews are available at
"www.police.qld.gov.au/statsnet.htm".

Commissioner's Foreword



Bob Atkinson APM, Commissioner of Police

I am pleased to present the Queensland Police Service *Annual Statistical Review* for the 2002/03 financial year. This is the latest in a series of such reviews, which commenced in 1991. The reviews provide an invaluable source of information on crime statistics and trends, and other key policing issues.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to reducing the level of crime and disorder in the Queensland community. In order to do so, the Service must continue to develop and utilise best-practice, evidence-based policing strategies.

It is often said that, along with our people, information is one of our most important resources. Certainly the Operational Performance Reviews (OPRs) that were introduced two years ago have demonstrated how accurate and relevant information can help shape operational and organisation priorities, to produce better outcomes for the Queensland community. These Reviews are based on statistical information drawn from a range of sources, which enable the Service to monitor, analyse and respond to the trends they reveal.

In introducing last year's *Annual Statistical Review*, I reported on the positive impact of the Operational Performance Reviews, some 12 months on. OPRs underpin the Service's problem-oriented approach, focussing on the analysis of data at the local level, to examine the causes of crime and develop solutions.

OPRs are a key modern management tool, ensuring the Service continues to build on its performance and deliver professional policing services.

Performance and Professionalism are the themes of the Service's 2003 *Annual Report*, to which this *Review* forms a companion document. They comprise two of the four key areas of *Performance, Professionalism, People and Partnerships*.

The crime statistics for 2002/03 reveal downward trends in a number of crime categories.

Overall, there was virtually no change in the total number of Offences Against the Person reported in 2002-03 compared with the number reported in the previous year. A 2% increase in Assaults was offset by a 9% decrease in Sexual Offences and an 8% decrease in Robbery. While there was no change in the number of reported Homicides (Murder), the number of Other Homicides decreased by 16%.

Total Offences Against Property decreased by 5%, a continuation of last year's decline. Reductions occurred in all property offence categories except Fraud and Handling Stolen Goods. Of particular note is the 7% decrease in Unlawful Entry offences and a 6% decrease in Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles.

Other Offences increased by 14% as a result of increases across most of the major offence categories under this aggregate. Offences in this category are generally detected by police officers rather than reported to police by members of the community. Thus, a rise in the number of offences may well indicate an increase in police activity.

This year's *Annual Statistical Review* reflects the efforts of the Queensland Police Service to perform a professional service in order to reduce crime and provide *Safer and More Supportive Communities*. It also serves to further highlight the importance of information in ensuring those efforts are directed to the areas where they can be most effective.

I would like to thank those people who prepared the 2002/03 *Annual Statistical Review*. I am confident it will prove useful for many researchers, private and public agencies, community groups and individuals.

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

Bob Atkinson APM.
COMMISSIONER

Contents

- Queensland Crime _____ 1
- Crime 2002/2003 _____ 9
- Monthly Crime Trends _____ 17
- Annual Crime Trends _____ 35
- Regional Comparisons _____ 45
- Victims of Crime _____ 63
- Offenders _____ 73
- Offender/Victim Relationships _____ 91
- Crime Locations _____ 101
- District Crime _____ 105
- Traffic _____ 135
- Personnel _____ 139
- Summary Table _____ 144
- Map of Police Boundaries _____ 145
- Explanatory Notes _____ 147
- Glossary _____ 151

