

# **Childrens Court of Queensland**

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

**2006-2007**

22 November 2007

The Honourable K. Shine MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
GPO Box 149  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Attorney,

In accordance with the requirements of s24 of the *Childrens Court Act 1992*, I am pleased to present the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2006-2007.

Yours sincerely,

Judge J.M. Dick SC  
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland

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Judges of the Childrens Court
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During the year under the report the Judges were:

**President** Her Honour Judge Julie Dick SC

**Judge** His Honour Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker  
His Honour Judge Kerry John O'Brien  
His Honour Judge John Elwell Newton  
His Honour Judge Peter John White  
His Honour Judge Philip Grahame Nase  
His Honour Judge John Mervyn Robertson  
His Honour Judge Clive Frederick Wall R.F.D., E.D  
His Honour Judge Robert Douglas Pack  
His Honour Judge Nicholas Samios  
His Honour Judge Grant Thomas Britton SC  
Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards  
Her Honour Judge Sarah Bradley  
His Honour Judge Michael John Shanahan  
His Honour Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC  
His Honour Judge Walter Henry Tutt  
His Honour Judge Milton Griffin SC  
Her Honour Judge Fleur Kingham  
His Honour Judge Anthony Rafter SC  
His Honour Judge Terence Martin SC

## Introduction

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Children's Court of Queensland. I was appointed President of the Children's Court of Queensland on the 28 February 2007. As part of my statutory responsibilities, I am required to report annually to the Parliament on the operation of the Court in the preceding financial year.

It should be noted that following a decrease from 2004-05 to 2005-06, there has been a slight increase of 2.6% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland from 6,173 in 2005-06 to 6,333 in 2006-07. This dip and slight rise is not evidence of any significant increase in the rate of juvenile offending.

There has been a 9% increase in youth justice conferences and the pleasing results are referred to in the general report.

## Juvenile Justice Trends

- Following a decrease from 2004-05 to 2005-06, there was an overall increase of 2.6% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland from 6,173 in 2005-06 to 6,333 in 2006-07.
- There was a 9% increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2006-07, with the state-wide expansion program for Youth Justice Conferencing now fully implemented. Fifty-two percent of conferences were as a result of police referral, 33% were indefinite court referrals, and 15% were pre-sentence court referrals.
- There was an 18.5% increase in the number of young people coming before the Childrens Court of Queensland. There was a 15.2% increase in the number appearing before the District Court and a 200% increase in those appearing before the Supreme Court, resulting in an overall increase across the higher courts of 19.8%.
- There was an overall increase in the number of charges against young people from 14,077 to 16,500 or 17.2%.
- Overall males accounted for 78.8%, while 15 to 16 year olds represented 58.3% of juvenile defendants. Young people appearing before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 16 years or older in 92.3% of cases.
- As in the previous year, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent offences accounted for 39.6% of all charges against juveniles. These offences saw a combined increase of 2.8% since 2005-06.
- Detention orders increased from 145 in 2005-06 to 171 in 2006-07, an increase of 17.9%, while detention orders with immediate/conditional release orders increased 25.4% from 142 to 178. These most serious of penalties were awarded in only 6.6% of cases. Detention orders in the Childrens Court of Queensland decreased 16% from 50 to 42, however immediate/conditional release orders in that court saw an increase of 14.6% since 2005-06, from 41 to 47.
- Cautions administered by police increased this year, from 13,668 to 14,988 following an increase in the previous year.
- The Magistrate's Courts disposed of 91.8% of juvenile cases in 2006-07.
- As in previous years, the majority of victims of juvenile offenders were aged under 20 years of age (61.7% of those where age was recorded) and only 2.6% were aged 55 years or over. Assault victims accounted for 70.6% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 29.7% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years.

## General

Earlier this year it was announced there was to be conducted a review of the *Juvenile Justice Act* 1992. The review is to be considered an opportunity to assess the current legislation to ensure it is providing a best practice youth justice system for Queensland.

In August 2007 the Chief Judge of the District Court, Judge Shanahan and I met with the Honourable Warren Pitt MP to discuss the review and, in particular, matters of concern to the Court which may be raised in the review, including the question of whether present sentencing options might be expanded.

I note that in the Court's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, that the former President of the Children's Court recommended that consideration should be given to amending the Act such that the age of a child, for the purposes of the Act, should be increased to 18 years. He pointed out that as from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2005, the relevant age was increased in Victoria from 17 years to 18 years and that Queensland now remains the only mainland jurisdiction in Australia which adheres to a 17 year limit for juvenile offenders. He pointed out that Australia is the signatory to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child which, as noted above, considers a person a child until that person reaches the age of 18. I take this opportunity to again urge that this matter should receive careful consideration and that the present Review of the *Juvenile Justice Act* maybe a convenient time for such consideration.

I note with some disappointment that there appears to have been little result from the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report in respect of sentence reviews under Div 9, pt 6 of the Act. The Report pointed out that the Division provided a relatively quick and inexpensive means of reviewing a sentence order without the formality of an Appeal under the provisions of the Justices Act. It pointed out that there was significant delay attributable apparently to the difficulty of obtaining transcripts of the proceedings in the Magistrate Court. The former President of the Childrens Court, His Honour Judge O'Brien, pointed out that the situation with the provision of these transcripts needed to be addressed. During my short time as President, this is a matter which has been raised more than any other matter in relation to the workings of the Court. As recently as this week the delay in obtaining transcripts relating to Sentence Reviews has been raised as the only reason for adjourning the Hearing of a Review when a Judge was available to do so. Early this year, I was asked to urgently convene the Court which on circuit in Mackay in respect of a number of sentences relating to youths in far North Queensland. The transcripts were not available. However, and fortunately, the Prosecutor dealing with the matter conceded in respect of each of the matters that the sentence should be reviewed and the matters were able to proceed without delay. If that concession had not been made then the youths who had been sentenced to detention would have been left to languish for weeks until their Sentence reviews were heard. Attention needs to be given to the timely provision of transcripts in sentence review matters.

On a similar note, Judge Bradley has raised with me the question of remand levels, especially in Far North Queensland, where children remanded in custody are presently housed in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre at Townsville, if there is accommodation available, or otherwise in Brisbane. The Cairns Youth Services group believes there is a need for low security, culturally appropriate facilities in or close to Cairns to avoid isolating the young people from their families and exposing them to high security facilities in Townsville or Brisbane.

I am also concerned with the possibility of investigating a system which would allow for the diversion from the criminal justice system in appropriate circumstances, of child sex offenders, for example, where there is no significant age gap between the child and the victim and where there is no threat or violence and where the potential charge involves an apparent misunderstanding of proper sexual boundaries and appropriate behaviours. Representatives of the Youth Advocacy Centre have pointed out that the excellent facilities at the Griffith Adolescent Forensic Assessment and Treatment Centre are only available on conviction/plea of guilty and that there are no specialised low cost facilities available to parents who may identify inappropriate behaviours to any charges being laid.

A recent research paper published by the Crime and Misconduct Commission, “Breaking the Cycle” published July 2007, pointed out that the study’s findings draw attention to “the importance of schools as socialising institutions for youth, as well as the importance of parental support – in particular, support from a father figure. Past research has demonstrated the unique role of attachment to school for academic reasons in preventing delinquency and in reducing longer-term offending outcomes. Strategies that keep youth in school, and at the same time enhance the attachment and commitment by youth to school for academic reasons, should help to minimise offending outcomes for youth, whether or not they have a history of abuse.” This study should not be overlooked by those who deal with children in a professional capacity, in particular, the Education Department.



## Youth Justice Conferencing

The statistics provided include a significant statistic related to Youth Justice Conferencing. Youth Justice Conferencing in Queensland is a restorative justice process that provides for an alternative to the traditional Court system for young people aged between 10 and 16 at the time of an offence being committed. The Department of Communities, Youth Justice Conferencing Programme has continued to experience an increase in demand over 2006/2007 resulting in the receipt of 2,510 referrals resulting in 2,040 Conferences, an increase of 9 per cent from 2005/2006. Of the 2,040 Youth Justice Conferences held in 2006/2007, 98 per cent resulted in an agreement being reached between the parties.

Every person who attends a Conference has the opportunity to provide feedback of their experience. The responses received including those from victims who attended Conferences in 2006/2007 indicated that 98.7 per cent (6,972 responses) thought that the process was fair, 98.3 per cent (6,940 responses) were satisfied with the agreement made and 97.7 per cent (5,819 responses) would tell a friend in the same position as them to go to a Conference. These responses indicate an overwhelmingly positive response from parties to Conferences. It should be remembered, however, that Youth Justice Conferencing will require continued commitment to appropriately trained staff at appropriate levels being provided for the purpose. It should also be noted that in relation to indigenous offenders it is desirable and necessary that indigenous Conference Support Officers be available and properly trained to assist in providing appropriate programmes for indigenous youths.

## Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank his Honour Judge O'Brien for his contribution as President. Shortly after my appointment as President of the Court I was required to take six weeks special leave. Judge O'Brien attended the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts held in Wellington, New Zealand in February 2007, and I thank him for doing so.

In conclusion, in the short time since I was appointed I have had the opportunity to speak to some of the agencies involved in the operation of the Court, including the Youth Advocacy Centre. I have also had the opportunity to speak as President of the Children's Court. On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 I gave the opening address at the Department of Community Statewide Court Officers' Network Training at the Yungabar Conference Centre at Kangaroo Point.

I took the opportunity to remind the participants that the main justification for the existence of the *Juvenile Justice Act* is not that children are somehow morally different to adults but because there is a recognition that children are different to adults in relation to judgment, foresight and control and I pointed to an article written by Rob Allen from the Centre of Justice and Legal Studies at Kings College in London in which the author who was Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies at Kings College said 'we have seen an increase in pre-occupation with protecting the public from young people and a growing intolerance of teenage misbehaviour of all kinds ...'. I pointed out that there is a tendency when children are convicted of terrible crimes to think that the crime is worse because it is committed by children. It is not, the facts are the same. It may be more shocking and unexpected and therefore emotive but the crime is the same. When a juvenile commits a heinous crime, there is a real inclination to demonise the child, to take the view that the fact that the child has exhibited this sort of behaviour at an early age is evidence of irretrievably depraved character on the part of the child. It overlooks the fact that the child is still struggling to find it's identity and is subject to the particularly vulnerabilities which are that children have a stronger preference for risk, tend to be more impulsive and more concerned with short term rather than long term consequences and are more susceptible to peer pressure. The fact that the child is subject to these vulnerabilities means that a greater possibility exists that a juvenile's character deficiency will be reformed with the passage of time. Accordingly, the rehabilitation of the child must remain an important aspect in the sentencing process.

Finally, I would like to thank all those involved in Juvenile Justice including, but not only, the officers from the Director of Prosecutions, legal Aid, youth advocacy workers, officers from the Department of Families and child care workers.

## Statistical Tables and Analysis

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## **Introduction**

For a proper understanding of this section, reference should be made to *A Case Restated for the Third Time* (p. 9 in the third annual report), where the court structure is explained. It may also be helpful to refer back to the first annual report under the rubric *Statistical Tables* (pp. 128–46) for some of the underlying assumptions and general principles which govern the compilation of the statistical data. It should be borne in mind that an unknown number of crimes committed by children are not reflected in this report. This is because these crimes are either not reported or not detected.

There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in previous reports. Defendants appearing for resentencing due to breach of juvenile justice orders have been excluded from the data, as such breaches are not criminal offences according to the Juvenile Justice Act. However, breaches of justice orders from other legislation have been included (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or Domestic Violence Protection Orders).

## **Explanatory Notes**

### ***Reference period***

The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. Where possible, data from the previous financial year are provided for comparison.

### ***Data collection***

Statistical information used in this report has been collected and prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR), Queensland Treasury, from operational data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland.

### ***Symbols used in tables***

— nil  
. . not applicable

## **Definitions**

### ***caution***

an official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to charging.

### ***charge***

a formal accusation of an offence.

### ***child***

see juvenile.

### ***Children's Court of Queensland***

an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences. It is presided over by a Children's Court judge.

### ***committal***

referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.

### ***Court of Appeal***

the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.

<b><i>defendant</i></b>	a juvenile charged with a criminal offence. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
<b><i>disposal</i></b>	the ultimate finalisation and clearing of all matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by transfer to another court).
<b><i>District Court of Queensland</i></b>	a court constituted by a District Court judge (see <i>Right of Election</i> , p. 9; 4 <sup>th</sup> annual report).
<b><i>ex officio indictment</i></b>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
<b><i>guilty finding</i></b>	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<b><i>juvenile</i></b>	a person who has not turned 17 years. (A person who has attained 17 years of age may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.)
<b><i>Magistrates Court</i></b>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two justices of the peace.
<b><i>offence</i></b>	an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment.
<b><i>offence type</i></b>	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the Queensland extension of the Australian Standard Offence Code is used in this report.
<b><i>offender</i></b>	a juvenile who has been found, or has pleaded guilty, of an offence.
<b><i>penalty</i></b>	a term of imprisonment or detention, fine or other payment, community service or supervision, surrender of licence or other imposition ordered by the court as part of the punishment of an offender after a guilty finding.
	<i>detention order</i> a custodial penalty placing a juvenile in a youth detention centre.
	<i>conditional release order</i> suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a juvenile offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.
	<i>intensive supervision order</i> is a sentencing option for young people who have been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make them liable to imprisonment
	<i>community service order</i> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.

	<p><i>probation order</i> a penalty allowing freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.</p> <p><i>fine</i> a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.</p> <p><i>good behaviour order</i> a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the juvenile re-offends during the period of the order.</p> <p><i>reprimand</i> a formal reproof given by the court to a juvenile offender upon a guilty finding.</p>
<b>sentence</b>	The determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty.
<b>serious offence</b>	An offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more ( <i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> , s. 8).
<b>Supreme Court of Queensland</b>	the highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).
<b>trial (criminal)</b>	a hearing (in a District or Supreme Court) before a judge sitting with a jury or (in the Children’s Court of Queensland) by a judge alone to determine the guilt of a defendant charged with an offence.
<b>Youth Justice Conferencing</b>	a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby firstly the police can divert young offenders from the court system, and then the court can either divert or order a pre-sentence conference or indefinite referral as a method of dealing with a charge. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.
<b>Data Issues</b>	There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics in recent years, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in early reports.
<b>Breach of juvenile justice orders</b>	A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (ie conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour orders) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made ( <i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> sections 129, 135, 154 and 185). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report. Earlier reports of the Children’s Court of Queensland have included such breaches.

In 2006–07, 138 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 6,720 appearing for criminal offences.

Breach of justice orders which are criminal offences have been included in the court statistics (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or Domestic Violence Protection Orders).

***Recording of ages***

Where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth of the defendant to the date of finalisation.

***Most serious penalty***

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty. Tables in this report show the number of offenders by their most serious penalty. For example, a person ordered to be detained and also placed on probation is placed in the “Detention” row only, because it is the more serious penalty.

***Percentage totals***

In tables in this report constituent percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.

***Classification of offences***

This report shows the classification of charges by “Offence type”. The offence classification used is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC). Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions using QASOC **then the National Offence Index is applied to establish an order of seriousness**. These divisions are further broken down into offence types.

Detailed tables contain figures for all offence types. Summary tables in the body of the text give figures for all categories at the higher level and those at the lower level that are of significant interest.

Miscellaneous offences contains those that involve the breach of statutory rules or regulation that are not explicitly dealt with in any other division, for example harassment, public health and safety offences, or commercial regulations.

***Cautions***

Only one caution is counted for each different offence type on a crime report. Thus a person cautioned for three property damage offences will only be counted once for that offence type, and a person cautioned for one burglary offence and one property damage offence will be counted twice, once for each offence type.

The total number of cautions recorded is therefore less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned.

### ***Imprisonment***

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*. In rare cases, however, the power of imprisonment exists. For example, if a person commits a crime as a child, absconds and is arrested pursuant to warrant after attaining the age of 18, the court is empowered in an appropriate case to impose imprisonment by way of penalty (see *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, s.105).



## Summary

### *Juvenile defendants by court level*

There were 6,333 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2006–07, an increase of 2.6% from 6,173 in 2005–06. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in the Supreme and District Courts increased by 200% and 15.2% respectively.

In 2006–07, Magistrates Courts disposed 91.8% of juvenile defendants, the Children’s Court of Queensland 7.2%, the District Court 0.8% and the Supreme Court 0.2%.

### **Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Court level	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>		2006–07		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	5,739	93.0	5,813	91.8	1.3
Children’s Court of Queensland	384	6.2	455	7.2	18.5
District	46	0.7	53	0.8	15.2
Supreme	4	0.06	12	0.2	200.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,173</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>

- (a) A defendant is disposed when all the charges against him or her are proved or dismissed or withdrawn. Juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed at a higher court and are counted here only at that level. Similarly, those defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are also not counted here.
- (b) Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 78.8% of all finalised defendants in 2006–07. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 58.3% of juvenile defendants, with a further 17.3% aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

### *Charges against juveniles by court level*

The number of defendants in the Children’s Court of Queensland increased 18.5% in 2006–07, charges heard also increased by 13.4%. The number of charges per defendant decreasing by 4.4%, from 4.5 to 4.3. The number of defendants in the District Court increased by 15.2%, whereas the number of charges decreased by 19.6%. Both defendant and charge numbers increased in the Supreme and Magistrates Courts in 2006-07.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were property damage with 2,842 charges (17.2%), unlawful entry with intent with 2,547 charges (15.4%), theft (except motor vehicles) with 2,032 charges (12.3%), road traffic offences with 1,695 charges (10.3%) and motor vehicle theft and related offences with 1,458 charges (8.8%). In total, property damage, theft and related offences and unlawful entry offences represented over half of all charges against juveniles (56.9%). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)

**Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Court level	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>		2006–07		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	12,125	86.1	14,339	86.9	18.3
Children’s Court of Queensland	1,741	12.4	1,975	12.0	13.4
District	194	1.4	156	0.9	-19.6
Supreme	17	0.1	30	0.2	76.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,077</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>

(a) Charges against juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed at a higher court and are counted here only at that level. Similarly, those defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are also not counted here.

(b) Revised.

***Penalties received by juvenile offenders***

In 2006-07, 83.8% (5,304) of the 6,333 juvenile defendants in Queensland’s courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

**Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	145	171	17.9
Immediate/Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	142	178	25.4
Community service	812	864	6.4
Probation	967	951	-1.7
Fine	361	328	-9.1

Compensation	96	108	12.5
Good behaviour	993	926	-6.7
Disqualification of licence	30	40	33.3
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,675	1,738	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>1.6</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Of those found guilty in 2006–07, 171 (or 3.2%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 178 (or 3.4%) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,738 juveniles (32.8%). The next largest group of 951 (17.9%) received probation as their most serious penalty with 926 receiving good behaviour orders (17.5%), followed by 864 (16.3%) receiving community service orders.

## Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 14,988 juvenile offenders were given cautions in 2006–07, an increase of 9.7% from 2005–06. In comparison 16,500 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2005-06, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (5,336 or 35.6% of all cautions) in 2006–07. Another 3,138 juveniles received cautions for other offences (20.9%) and 2,456 for property damage (16.4%).

### Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(c)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Homicide & related offences	—	—	..
Acts intended to cause injury	849	958	12.8
Sexual assault & related offences	219	258	17.8
Robbery & extortion	41	40	-2.4
Unlawful entry with intent	1,640	1,643	0.2

Theft & related offences	4,996	5,336	6.8
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	829	710	-14.4
<i>[Other theft]</i>	3,903	4,307	10.4
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	264	319	20.8
Deception & related offences	269	224	-16.7
Illicit drug offences	960	907	-5.5
Property damage	2,190	2,456	12.1
Road traffic offences	30	28	-6.7
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	2,474	3,138	26.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,668</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>9.7</b>

- (a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if he or she has been cautioned for more than one type of offence, or for offences against more than one victim, or for offences during more than one incident.
- (b) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level.
- (c) Revised.
- (d) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

## Offences before the courts

### *Children's Court of Queensland*

The Children's Court of Queensland disposed 1,975 charges against 455 defendants in 2006–07, an increase of 18.5% defendants since 2005–06.

#### **Defendants in the Children's Court of Queensland**

The majority of defendants in 2006–07 were aged 15 years or older (407 or 89.5%), with 44% of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 10.5% of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

#### **Children's Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Age	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
11	1	1	..
12	6	2	-66.7
13	17	7	-58.8
14	37	38	2.7
15	53	73	37.7
16	92	134	45.7
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	178	200	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>18.5</b>

(a) Revised

(b) A person may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.

## Charges against juveniles in the Children's Court of Queensland

The Children's Court of Queensland dealt with 1,975 charges in 2006–07, an increase of 13.4% from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant decreased from 4.5 in 2005–06 to 4.3 in 2006–07.

### Children's Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(c)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Homicide & related offences	—	—	..
Acts intended to cause injury	203	214	5.4
Sexual assault & related offences	197	201	2.0
Robbery & extortion	183	195	6.6
Unlawful entry with intent	591	484	-18.1
Theft & related offences	314	537	71.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	161	261	62.1
<i>[Other theft]</i>	116	193	66.4
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	33	30	-9.1
Deception & related offences	15	14	-6.7
Illicit drug offences	5	3	-40.0
Property damage	130	208	60.0
Road traffic offences	15	31	106.7
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	88	88	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>13.4</b>

(a) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.

(b) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(c) Revised.

(d) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

Theft and related offences accounted for 27.2% of all charges, with motor vehicle theft representing 48.6% and other theft

representing 35.9% of these offences.

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 24.5% of all charges, a decrease since 2005-06.

### Penalties received by juvenile offenders before the Children's Court of Queensland

Of the 455 juveniles before the Children's Court of Queensland in 2006–07, 336 (73.8%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 42 juvenile offenders (12.5%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 47 (14%) receiving an immediate/conditional release sentence. The most common penalties were probation (36.9%) and community service orders (31.8%).

### Children's Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	50	42	-16.0
Immediate/Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	41	47	14.6
Community service	95	107	12.6
Probation	102	124	21.6
Fine	1	3	200.0
Disqualification of licence	1	—	-100.0
Good behaviour	5	5	..
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	8	8	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>10.9</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

### Magistrates Courts

#### Juvenile defendants in Magistrates Courts

In 2006–07, 6,200 juvenile defendants were dealt with in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, an increase of 1.1% from 6,131 in the previous year. Of these, 387 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 5,813 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (4,930 or 79.5%) or by discharge (883 or 14.2%).



**Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Method of finalisation	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Committed	392	387	-1.3
Disposed <sup>(b)</sup>	5,739	5,813	1.3
<i>Found guilty</i>	4,886	4,930	0.9
<i>Discharged</i> <sup>(c)</sup>	853	883	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>1.1</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.

(c) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

The difference between the 387 defendants committed to the higher court and the 455 disposed in the Children’s Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2006–07 is accounted for by *ex officio* indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2005–06 and being disposed in 2006–07. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2005–06 being disposed in 2006–07.

**Charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts**

Of the 15,457 charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts in 2006–07, 14,339 (92.8%) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts and the remaining 1118 (7.2%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

**Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Method of finalisation	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Committed	1,226	1,118	-8.8
Disposed(b)	12,125	14,339	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,351</b>	<b>15,457</b>	<b>15.8</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) Charges of defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.

**Charges against juveniles disposed in Magistrates Courts**

In 2006–07 14,339 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (3,437 or 24%), followed by property damage (2,617 or 18.3%) and unlawful entry with intent (2,022 or 14.1%).

In total, theft and related offences, property damage and unlawful entry with intent accounted for 56.3% of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court.

**Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Homicide & related offences	—	8	800.0
Acts intended to cause injury	590	642	8.8
Sexual assault & related offences	63	79	25.4
Robbery & extortion	90	95	5.6
Unlawful entry with intent	1,982	2,022	2.0
Theft & related offences	3,355	3,437	2.4
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	1,151	1,184	2.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	1,826	1,834	0.4
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	370	410	10.8
Deception & related offences	288	260	-9.7
Illicit drug offences	327	378	15.6
Property damage	1,092	2,617	139.7
Road traffic offences	1,485	1,664	12.1
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	2,853	3,137	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>14,339</b>	<b>18.3</b>

(a) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(b) Revised.

(c) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

**Penalties received by juvenile offenders before Magistrates Courts**

Of the 5,813 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2006–07, 4,930 (84.8%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 117 offenders (2.4%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 125 (2.5%) receiving

immediate/conditional release orders. Over one third of juveniles (1,730 or 35.1%) received a reprimand, 919 (18.6%) received a good behaviour order, 814 (16.5%) received probation and 752 (15.3%) received a community service order as their most serious penalty.

**Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	90	117	30.0
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	98	125	27.6
Community service	706	752	6.5
Probation	856	814	-4.9
Fine	360	325	-9.7
Compensation	95	108	13.7
Good behaviour	988	919	-7.0
Disqualification of licence	29	40	37.9
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,664	1,730	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,886</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>0.9</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

***District and Supreme Courts***

In 2006–07, District and Supreme Courts disposed 186 charges against 65 juveniles. This was an increase of 30% in the number of defendants from 2005–06. In comparison, defendants and charges dealt with in the Children’s Court of Queensland showed a smaller increase.

The Supreme Court disposed a small proportion of the charges and defendants. In 2006–07, there were 30 charges against 12 defendants disposed in the Supreme Court, compared with 156 charges against 53 defendants disposed in the District Court.

**Defendants in District and Supreme Courts**

In 2006–07, 92.3% of juvenile defendants before the District and Supreme Courts were aged 16 years and older, with a further 6.2% aged 15 years. The majority of defendants were male (92.3%). (For more detail refer to Table 5.)

**District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Age	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
13	2	1	-50.0
14	4	—	-100.0
15	6	4	-33.3
16	9	8	-11.1
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	29	52	79.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>30.0</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) A person may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.

**Charges against juveniles in District and Supreme Courts**

Of the 186 charges before District and Supreme Courts, acts intended to cause injury accounted for the largest number with 54 charges (29%), while unlawful entry with intent accounted for 41 charges or 22% of the total. Within theft and related offences (10.2% of the total), the largest number of charges were for motor vehicle theft (13 or 68.4 %) and other theft (5 or 26.3%). Illicit drug offences accounted for 19 charges (10.2%).

**District and Supreme Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Homicide & related offences	1	6	500.0
Acts intended to cause injury	10	54	440.0
Sexual assault & related offences	46	8	-82.6
Robbery & extortion	5	10	100.0
Unlawful entry with intent	79	41	-48.1
Theft & related offences	38	19	-50.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	21	13	-38.1
<i>[Other theft]</i>	13	5	-61.5
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	4	1	-75.0
Deception & related offences	3	—	-100.0
Illicit drug offences	14	19	35.7
Property damage	9	17	88.9
Road traffic offences	—	—	..
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	6	12	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-11.8</b>

(a) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(b) Revised.

(c) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

**Penalties received by juvenile offenders before District and Supreme Courts**

Of the 65 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2006–07, 38 (58.5%) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 13 (34.2%) received probation as their most serious penalty, 12 (or 31.6%) received detention, 6 (15.8%) received an immediate/conditional release order and 5 (13.2%) received a community service order.

**District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	5	12	140.0
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	3	6	100.0
Community service	11	5	-54.5
Probation	9	13	44.4
Fine	—	—	..
Compensation	1	—	-100.0
Good behaviour	—	2	..
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	3	—	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18.8</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

**Compliance with court orders**

The Juvenile Justice Program, Department Communities, supervises juveniles on community correction orders (i.e. probation, conditional release, community service and intensive supervision orders). The following information has been extracted from the Families and Youth Justice Database.

In 2005–06 there were 2,618 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1,536 (58.7%) were probation, 903 (34.5%) were community service orders, 173 (6.6%) were conditional release orders and 6 (0.2%) were intensive supervision orders.

**Orders breached**

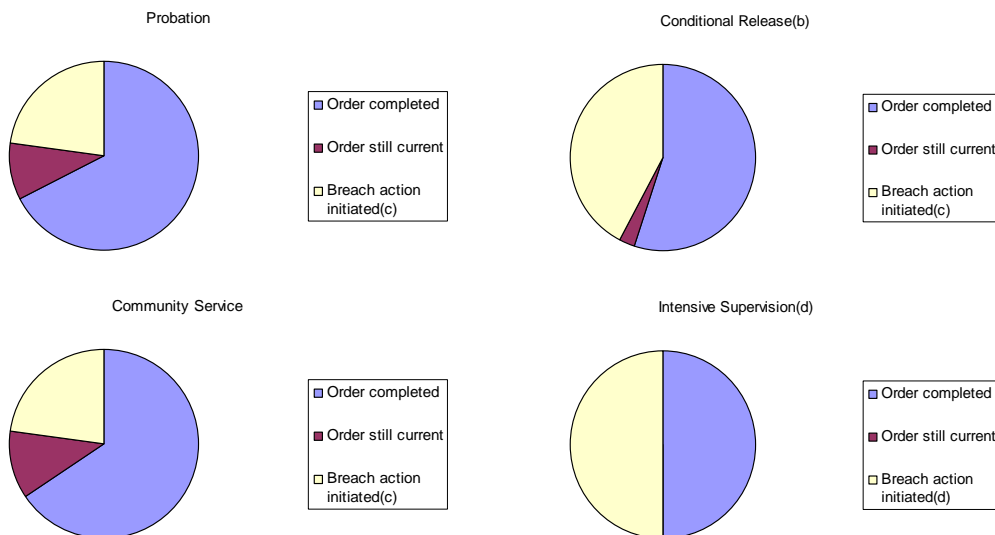
Orders can be breached either by the juvenile re-offending during the period of the order or by not meeting other conditions of the order.

The majority (65.9%) of orders made in 2005–06 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2007.



Of community service orders from 2005–06, 11.6% were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 9.7% were still in effect. Probation orders may be up to three years in length. The length of time within which community service orders should be completed is twelve months. Longer periods may be due to subsequent variations to the original order, including extension of orders and those which are not administratively closed after the specified date. Immediate release orders are a maximum of three months in duration.

**Admissions to orders against juveniles in 2005–06: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2007, Queensland <sup>(a)</sup>**



- (a) Admissions orders are counted once for each type of order made in the same court on the same day. Admissions to combined orders are counted under the main order category (e.g., a probation/community service order is counted as a probation order).
- (b) Formerly "Immediate Release Orders".
- (c) Intensive Supervision Orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for young people aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases where the young person has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make the adult liable to imprisonment.
- (d) If an order has had a breach action initiated, it will not be counted as being completed or still current, even if the order had been completed or was still current (at 30 June 2006) as a result of the action.

*Source: Families and Youth Justice Database  
Department of Communities, preliminary data current  
as at September 2007.*

## **Victims of juvenile offenders**

The Queensland Police Service provided information about the victims of juvenile offenders. Data was extracted from the statistical system for incidents where at least one of the offenders identified was under the age of 17 years. The incidents extracted were restricted to those involving an offence against the person and where the age and sex of the victim were recorded and the age of the offender was known.

Of the 3,910 victims of juvenile offenders in 2006–07, the majority were aged under 20 years (61.7% of those where age was recorded), with 31.4% aged 10 to 14 years and 30.4% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 2.6% of victims were aged 55 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 70.6% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 29.7% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 20% aged between 25 and 39 years.

Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 47.4% of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 29.5% were under 10 years of age.

For offences committed by juveniles, 57.6% of victims were male. Males comprised 73.1% of assault victims and 12.3% of robbery victims, while females comprised 67.1% of assault victims and 21.6% of sexual offences victims.

## **Youth Justice Conferencing**

The Department of Communities, Youth Justice Conferencing Program has continued to experience an increase in demand over 2006-2007 resulting in the receipt of 2,510 referrals resulting in 2,040 conferences. This figure represents an increase of 211 referrals (9%) from 2005-06.

In 2006-07, Courts referred 817 (33%) indefinite and 384 (15%) before sentence matters and police made 1,309 (52%) diversionary referrals. Of these, Indigenous young people accounted for 31% of all referrals received during the period. Male offenders comprised 77% of all referrals.

During 2006-2007 the department implemented a trial of Indigenous Conference Support Officer positions. These officers will be deployed permanently in key locations in 2007-2008 with the intent of improving conference outcomes for Indigenous young people, victims and families, including those in regional and remote areas.

The restorative justice approach of youth justice conferencing continues to successfully assist young people and victims to reach agreement about how young people can make amends for the offence(s) committed. Of the 2,040 youth justice conferences held in 2006-07, 98% resulted in an agreement being reached between the parties. Referrals not proceeding to conference are returned to either police or the courts for further action.

Every person who attends a conference has the opportunity to provide feedback of their experience. The responses received including those from victims who attended conferences in 2006-07, indicated that 98.7% (6,972 responses) thought that the process was fair, 98.3% (6,940 responses) were satisfied with the agreement made and 97.7% (5,819 responses) would tell a friend in the same position as them to go to a conference.



**Offences for which young people were conferenced, by offence type, in Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07\***

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2005-06	2006-07	Change %
Assaults <sup>(b)</sup> .	465	575	23.7
<i>[Major assault]</i>	172	236	37.2
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	220	247	12.3
Sexual Offences	51	87	70.6
<i>[Rape]</i>	8	8	..
<i>[Other sexual offences]</i>	43	79	83.7
Robbery & extortion	29	41	41.4
Fraud and Misappropriation	169	463	174.0
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	2,011	2,443	21.5
<i>[Theft / Unlawful Use of MV]</i>	353	481	36.3
<i>[Other theft]</i>	801	788	-1.6
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	77	97	26.0
<i>[Breaking and entering]<sup>(c)</sup></i>	780	1077	38.1
Property damage	1,509	1230	-18.5
<i>[Arson]</i>	17	32	88.2
<i>[Other property damage]</i>	1492	1198	-19.7
Driving, traffic & related offences	137	238	73.7
<i>[Licence offences]</i>	71	135	90.1
<i>[Driving under the influence]</i>	10	19	90.0
<i>[Dangerous or negligent driving]</i>	14	14	..
<i>[Other traffic offences]</i>	42	70	66.7
Drug offences	56	56	..
<i>[Possession or use of drugs]</i>	27	22	-18.5
<i>[Other drug offences]<sup>(d)</sup></i>	29	34	17.2
Public nuisance offences	229	282	23.1
<i>[Trespassing and vagrancy]</i>	218	249	14.2

<i>[Offensive behaviour]</i>	11	33	200.0
Other offences <sup>(e)</sup>	390	329	-15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,741</b>	<b>13.8</b>

\*NB: all data valid as at 20 September 2007

(a) Queensland Offence Classification. Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level.

(b) Major assault includes = Assault occasioning bodily harm + Assault occasioning bodily harm in company + other. Minor assault includes = Common assault + Resist and Obstruct police + other.

(c) Breaking and entering = *burglary and housebreaking + other breaking and entering.*

(d) Other drug offences = *Dealing & trafficking in drugs + Manufacturing & growing drugs + Other drug offences.*

(e) Other offences = Drunkenness + weapons offences + Environmental offences + Liquor offences + Gambling + Other.

NB – Total offences (5,741) differs from the number of conferences held (2,040) as multiple offences may be handled in one conference.

*Source: Youth Justice Operations Unit,  
Department of Communities*

**Detailed Tables****Summary, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

<i>Table 1</i>	All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court
<b>Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07</b>	
<i>Table 2</i>	Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location
<b>Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07</b>	
<i>Table 3</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
<i>Figure 1</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age
<i>Table 4</i>	Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex
<i>Figure 2</i>	Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty
<b>District and Supreme Courts, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07</b>	
<i>Table 5</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
<i>Figure 3</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age
<i>Table 6</i>	Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location
<i>Table 7</i>	Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex
<i>Figure 4</i>	Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty
<b>All Courts, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07</b>	
<i>Table 8</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
<i>Figure 5</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age



Table 1

## All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07

Offence type	2005–06 <sup>(b)</sup>				2006–07			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide &amp; related offences</b>	—	—	1	1	8	—	6	14
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	7	—	2	9
Manslaughter	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	590	203	10	803	642	214	54	910
Assault	582	203	9	794	633	213	54	900
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	8	—	1	9	9	1	—	10
<b>Sexual assault &amp; related offences</b>	63	197	46	306	79	201	8	288
Sexual assault	56	189	40	285	68	179	7	254
Non-assaultive sexual offences	7	8	6	21	11	22	1	34
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	130	22	1	153	142	23	2	167
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	89	14	—	103	92	18	—	110
Other dangerous or negligent acts	41	8	1	50	50	5	2	57
<b>Abduction &amp; related offences</b>	10	13	—	23	12	7	—	19
<b>Robbery &amp; extortion</b>	90	183	5	278	95	195	10	300
Robbery	81	179	5	265	84	194	10	288
Blackmail & extortion	9	4	—	13	11	1	—	12
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	1,982	591	79	2,652	2,022	484	41	2,547
<b>Theft &amp; related offences<sup>(c)</sup></b>	3,355	314	38	3,707	3,437	537	19	3,993
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,151	161	21	1,333	1,184	261	13	1,458
Other theft & related offences	1,826	116	13	1,955	1,834	193	5	2,032
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	370	33	4	407	410	30	1	441
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
<b>Deception &amp; related offences</b>	288	15	3	306	260	14	—	274
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	262	3	3	268	202	9	—	211
Dishonest conversion	22	12	—	34	55	5	—	60
Bribery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other deception offences	4	—	—	4	3	—	—	3
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	327	5	14	346	378	3	19	400
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	22	—	10	32	21	—	3	24
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	8	—	—	8	14	—	1	15
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	151	2	3	156	165	1	9	175
Other illicit drug offences	146	3	1	150	178	2	6	186
<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	112	1	—	113	114	3	2	119
<b>Property damage</b>	1,092	130	9	1,231	2,617	208	17	2,842
Property damage	1,091	130	9	1,230	2,617	208	17	2,842
Environmental pollution	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
<b>Public order offences</b>	1,357	22	1	1,380	1,634	29	4	1,667
<b>Road traffic offences</b>	1,485	15	—	1,500	1,664	31	—	1,695
<b>Justice &amp; government offences</b>	1,188	25	3	1,216	1,184	23	4	1,211
Breach of justice order <sup>(d)</sup>	446	13	—	459	375	9	3	387
Other offences against justice	722	12	3	737	804	14	1	819
Offences against government	20	—	—	20	5	—	—	5
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	56	5	1	62	51	3	—	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>14,077</b>	<b>14,339</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>16,500</b>

(a) Charges are disposed at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to Youth Justice Conference.

(b) Revised

(c) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

(d) Includes offences such as breach of bail, breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order, and escape custody.

<b>Table 2 Magistrates courts: Juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07</b>								
Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>			2006–07			Percentage change	
	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges
<b>Brisbane</b>								
<b>Brisbane City</b>								
Brisbane Childrens Court	56	146	2.61	74	168	2.27	32.1	15.1
Holland Park	2	16	8.00	2	4	2.00	—	-75.0
Inala	53	119	2.25	31	82	2.65	-41.5	-31.1
Sandgate	9	72	8.00	8	24	3.00	-11.1	-66.7
Wynnum	8	69	8.63	1	22	22.00	-87.5	-68.1
<b>Remainder of Brisbane</b>								
Beenleigh	55	185	3.36	42	125	2.98	-23.6	-32.4
Caboolture	25	50	2.00	25	38	1.52	—	-24.0
Cleveland	3	8	2.67	7	22	3.14	133.3	175.0
Ipswich	31	79	2.55	30	74	2.47	-3.2	-6.3
Petrie	3	7	2.33	8	14	1.75	166.7	100.0
Redcliffe	5	7	1.40	12	20	1.67	140.0	185.7
<b>Moreton</b>								
Beaudesert	2	16	8.00	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-93.8
Caloundra	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
Maroochydore	13	22	1.69	10	31	3.10	-23.1	40.9
Noosa	—	—	..	2	3	1.50	..	..
Southport	22	126	5.73	22	60	2.73	—	-52.4
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Bundaberg	9	17	1.89	6	6	1.00	-33.3	-64.7
Gympie	1	1	1.00	3	4	1.33	200.0	300.0
Hervey Bay	2	3	1.50	7	25	3.57	250.0	733.3
Maryborough	5	16	3.20	5	10	2.00	—	-37.5
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Chinchilla	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Dalby	—	—	..	2	10	5.00	..	..
Stanthorpe	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Toowoomba	10	39	3.90	4	9	2.25	-60.0	-76.9
Warwick	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
<b>South West</b>								
Charleville	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Cunnamulla	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Emerald	1	2	2.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	—
Gladstone	5	21	4.20	1	1	1.00	-80.0	-95.2
Rockhampton	10	30	3.00	8	21	2.63	-20.0	-30.0
<b>Central West</b>								
<b>Mackay</b>								
Longreach	1	1	1.00	1	2	2.00	—	100.0
Mackay	12	29	2.42	11	48	4.36	-8.3	65.5
Moranbah	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
<b>Northern</b>								
Bowen	2	3	1.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Great Palm Island	1	1	1.00	3	3	1.00	200.0	200.0
Ingham	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville	21	39	1.86	25	178	7.12	19.0	356.4

Table 2

Continued

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2005-06 <sup>(a)</sup>			2006-07			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
<b>Far North</b>								
Atherton	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Aurukun	—	—	..	6	7	1.17	..	..
Cairns	31	64	2.06	26	52	2.00	-16.1	-18.8
Innisfail	—	—	..	3	6	2.00	..	..
Lockhart River	2	7	3.50	1	17	17.00	-50.0	142.9
Mareeba	1	2	2.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	—
Normanton	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Thursday Island	1	1	1.00	1	2	2.00	—	100.0
Tully	1	1	1.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	100.0
Yarrabah	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
<b>North West</b>								
Cloncurry	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
Kowanyama	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mount Isa	8	18	2.25	8	15	1.88	—	-16.7
Pormpuraaw	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-8.8</b>

(a) Revised

(b) Magistrates courts not shown did not commit any juveniles during the relevant year(s).

(c) Defendants here include those whose appearance resulted in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether or not this was their most serious outcome.

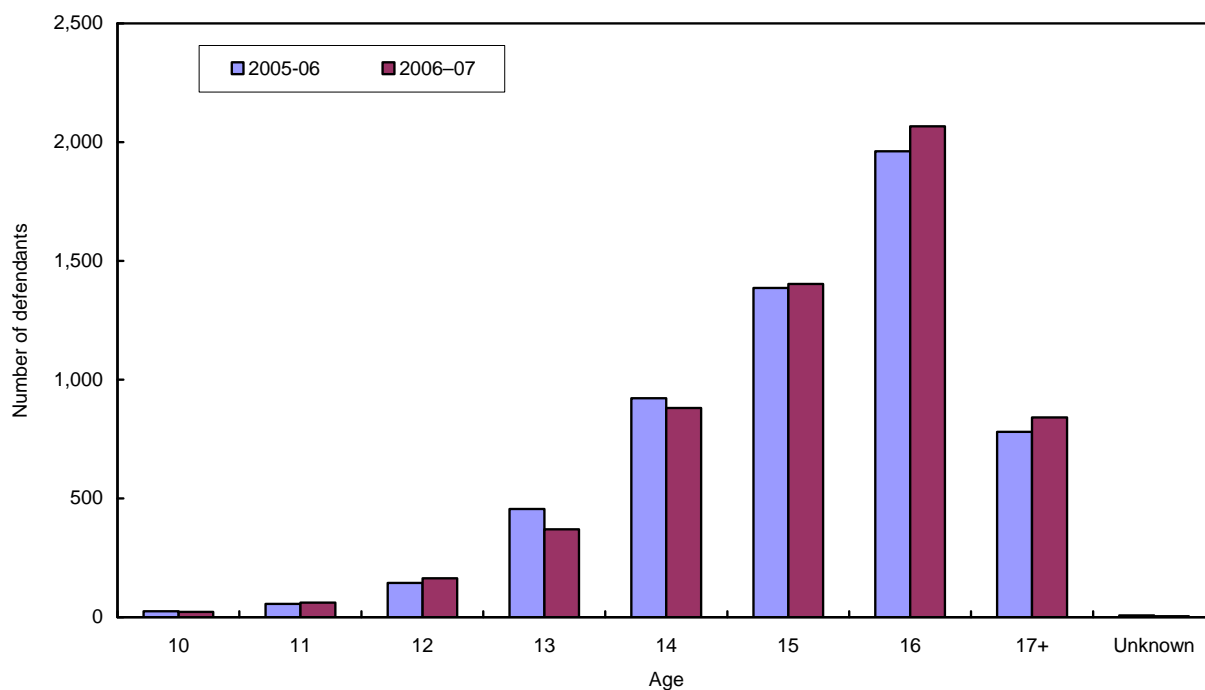
**Table 3** Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07

Age	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>			2006–07			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
10	24	1	25	15	7	22	-37.5	600.0	-12.0
11	46	10	56	49	12	61	6.5	20.0	8.9
12	123	21	144	134	30	164	8.9	42.9	13.9
13	347	108	455	293	77	370	-15.6	-28.7	-18.7
14	665	257	922	656	225	881	-1.4	-12.5	-4.4
15	1,042	342	1,386	1,070	333	1,403	2.7	-2.6	1.2
16	1,555	404	1,962	1,622	442	2,067	4.3	9.4	5.4
17+	656	124	781	690	151	841	5.2	21.8	7.7
Unknown	7	1	8	4	—	4	-42.9	-100.0	-50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>5,739</b>	<b>4,533</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06 and 3 in 2006-07).

**Figure 1** Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07



**Table 4**

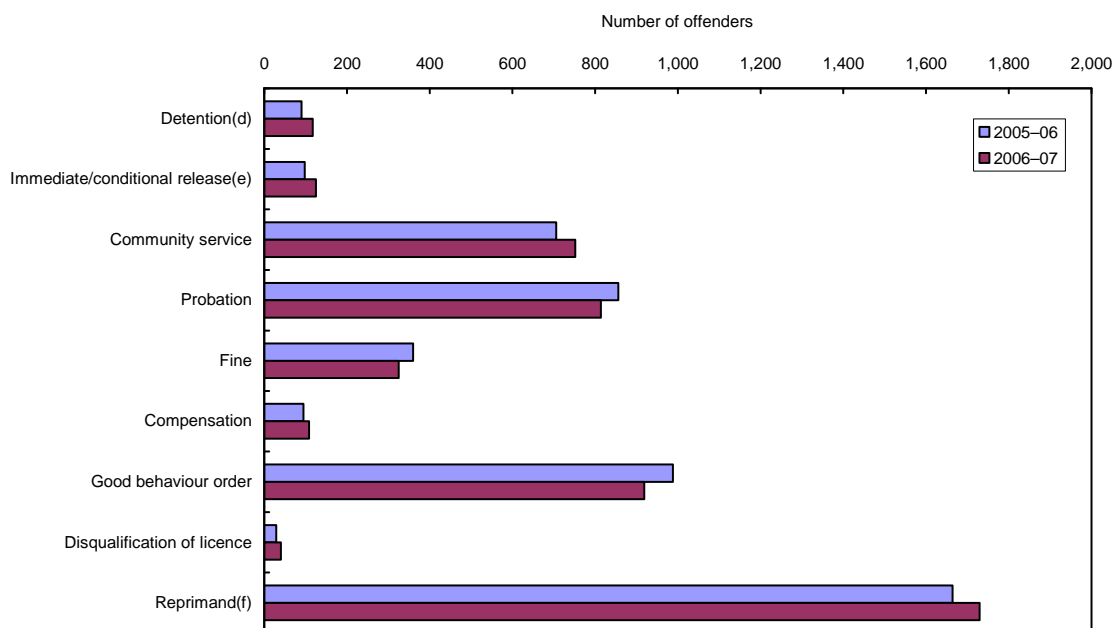
**Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005-06 <sup>(b)</sup>			2006-07			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	83	7	90	109	8	117	31.3	14.3	30.0
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	89	9	98	113	12	125	27.0	33.3	27.6
Community service	610	96	706	621	131	752	1.8	36.5	6.5
Probation	653	203	856	604	210	814	-7.5	3.4	-4.9
Fine	316	43	360	288	36	325	-8.9	-16.3	-9.7
Compensation	77	18	95	82	26	108	6.5	44.4	13.7
Good behaviour order	716	271	988	689	230	919	-3.8	-15.1	-7.0
Disqualification of licence	22	7	29	32	8	40	45.5	14.3	37.9
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	1,224	436	1,664	1,296	433	1,730	5.9	-0.7	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,790</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>4,886</b>	<b>3,834</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>

- (a) In decreasing order of seriousness.
- (b) Revised.
- (c) Includes offenders with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06 and 2 in 2006-07).
- (d) Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment and intensive correction order.
- (e) Includes suspended imprisonment (1 in 2005-06).
- (f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

**Figure 2**

**Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07**

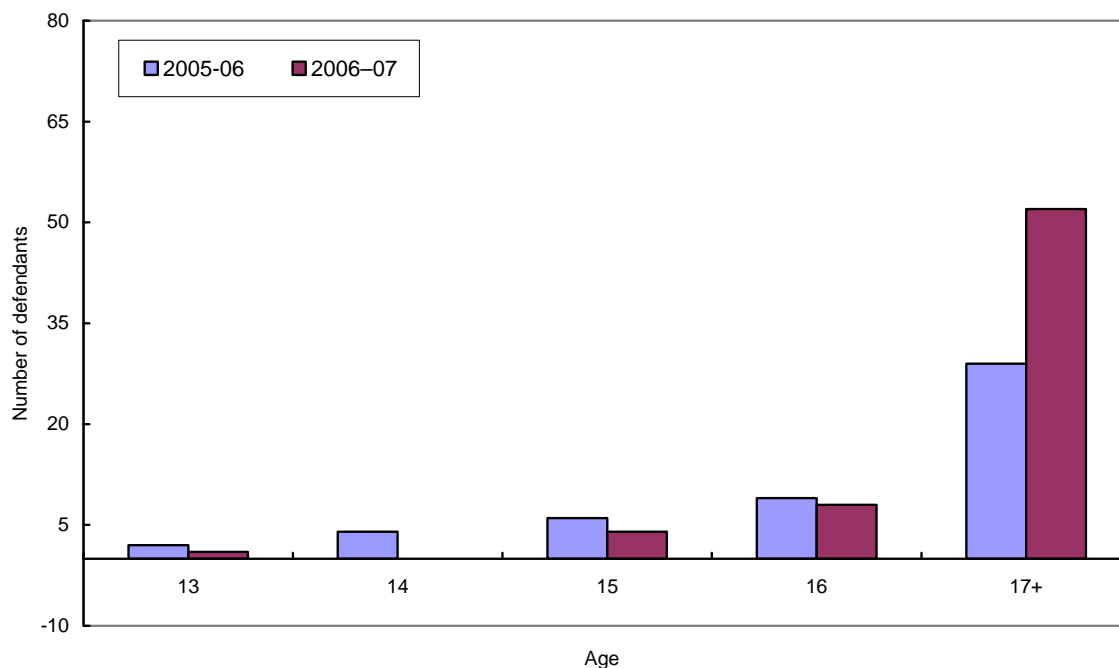


**Table 5** District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Age	2005-06(a)			2006-07			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
13	2	—	2	1	—	1	-50.0	..	-50.0
14	4	—	4	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
15	6	—	6	4	—	4	-33.3	..	-33.3
16	6	3	9	7	1	8	16.7	-66.7	-11.1
17+	28	1	29	48	4	52	71.4	300.0	79.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>

(a) Revised.

**Figure 3** District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07



Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>			2006–07			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
<b>Brisbane</b>								
Brisbane Supreme	2	13	6.50	7	23	3.29	250.0	76.9
Brisbane	5	16	3.20	17	46	2.71	240.0	187.5
Beenleigh	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Ipswich	14	66	4.71	3	12	4.00	-78.6	-81.8
<b>Moreton</b>								
Maroochydore	4	17	4.25	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Southport	2	10	5.00	2	11	5.50	—	10.0
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Bundaberg Supreme	1	2	2.00	1	1	1.00	—	-50.0
Maryborough Supreme	—	—	..	1	1	..	..	..
Bundaberg	1	11	11.00	1	2	2.00	—	-81.8
Gympie	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Hervey Bay	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Kingaroy	—	—	..	1	8	8.00	..	..
Maryborough	1	2	2.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	—
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Toowoomba Supreme	—	—	..	2	4	2.00	..	..
Toowoomba	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>South West</b>								
Charleville	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Gladstone	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Rockhampton	2	3	1.50	14	33	2.36	600.0	1,000.0
<b>Mackay</b>								
Mackay Supreme	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Mackay	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Northern</b>								
Townsville Supreme	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville	—	—	..	5	8	1.60	..	..
<b>Far North</b>								
Cairns	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
<b>North West</b>								
Mount Isa	10	55	5.50	6	31	5.17	-40.0	-43.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>-11.8</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) District Courts unless otherwise indicated. Courts not shown did not dispose any juveniles during the relevant year(s).

**Table 7**

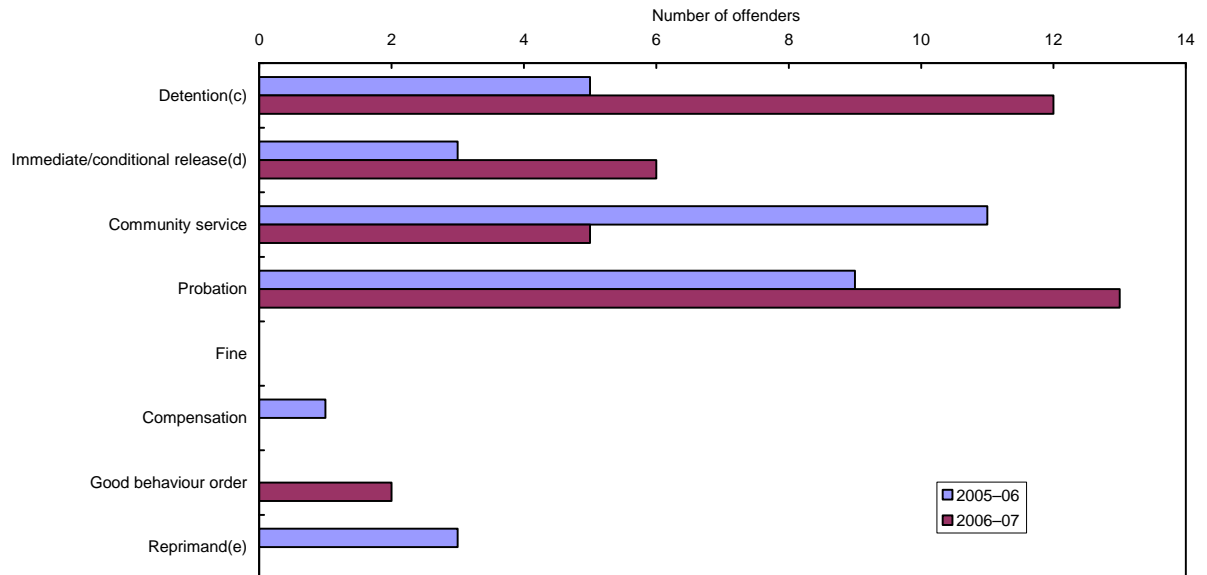
**District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2005-06 <sup>(b)</sup>			2006-07			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	4	1	5	12	—	12	200.0	-100.0	140.0
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	3	—	3	5	1	6	66.7	..	100.0
Community service	10	1	11	5	—	5	-50.0	-100.0	-54.5
Probation	7	2	9	12	1	13	71.4	-50.0	44.4
Fine	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	..
Compensation	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Good behaviour order	—	—	—	1	1	2	..	..	..
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	3	—	3	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>-25.0</b>	<b>18.8</b>

- (a) In decreasing order of seriousness.
- (b) Revised.
- (c) Includes imprisonment.
- (d) Includes suspended imprisonment.
- (e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

**Figure 4**

**District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2005-06 and 2006-07**





**Table 8**

**All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

Age	2005–06 <sup>(a)</sup>			2006–07			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
10	24	1	25	15	7	22	-37.5	600.0	-12.0
11	47	10	57	50	12	62	6.4	20.0	8.8
12	129	21	150	136	30	166	5.4	42.9	10.7
13	366	108	474	299	79	378	-18.3	-26.9	-20.3
14	703	260	963	686	233	919	-2.4	-10.4	-4.6
15	1,095	348	1,445	1,135	345	1,480	3.7	-0.9	2.4
16	1,636	424	2,063	1,742	464	2,209	6.5	9.4	7.1
17+	843	144	988	923	170	1,093	9.5	18.1	10.6
Unknown	7	1	8	4	—	4	-42.9	-100.0	-50.0
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>6,173</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>6,333</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>

(a) Revised

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06 and 3 in 2006-07).

(c) Includes charges disposed at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to conference.

**Figure 5**

**All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2005–06 and 2006–07**

