

Childrens Court of Queensland
Annual Report
2000-2001

Childrens Court of Queensland

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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Juvenile Justice Trends	5
Restorative Justice	6
Activities of the President	7
Griffith Adolescent Forensic Assessment and Treatment Centre	8
Juvenile Justice Bill 2001	8
Statistical Tables and Analysis	9

Introduction

Section 22 of the *Childrens Court Act* 1992 provides that the President must report to the Attorney-General no later than three months after the end of the financial year as to the administration and operation of the Court during the previous year.

In the Seventh Annual Report I reported that compliance with s.22 was impossible because of delays in producing and analysing statistics from both Departments. I recommended that the time limit be extended to five months. This report is approximately 10 months after the end of the financial year, and its lateness not only reduces the effectiveness of the report; it also seriously compromises the utility of reporting to the Attorney who in turn reports to the Legislative Assembly. Not surprisingly, there has always been a considerable amount of public interest in juvenile crime. The public interest is not served if the President of the Court is not able to report as required by law because of on-going problems in the gathering of statistics.

When my predecessor, the late Judge Fred Maguire A.M., published the first report of the President of the Childrens Court he elected to present the relevant statistics in a form that was helpful to both public commentators (such as the media) and the academic community including students. To do this, he commissioned the Government Statistician to analyse and comment on the raw data produced by the Departments of Family Services and Justice. The statistics produced in the annual reports of the Supreme and District Courts are not produced in that form. When I was appointed President in 1999, I elected to continue with the approach of Judge Maguire, although the statistical information and analysis in the report was somewhat truncated.

The response to the reports since has convinced me that the public appreciate the depth of analysis in the reports which assists in the understanding of trends in juvenile crime. In my opinion, the detailed nature of the statistical analysis enables commentators to assess for themselves the trends in juvenile crime and punishment.

As I noted in last year's report, the professional analysis of the raw data by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) (formerly the Government Statistician) is only as good as the accuracy of that data. Disturbing trends emerged in 2000 which are the subject of comment in the Seventh Annual Report at pages 1-2.

The difficulties in 2001 seem to have multiplied. So much so, that for reasons I will touch on later in this introduction, the accuracy of the statistical information contained in previous

reports is, at best, questionable. I have not reported until now because it was not until the 5th April 2002 that I received the final report from OESR. That office has kept me informed of a series of difficulties encountered by it in collecting the raw data from the relevant Departmental agencies. I am completely satisfied that the delay in producing the statistical report attached to this Report is not in any way due to the actions of OESR. On the other hand, I do not intend to lay blame for this quite intolerable situation as I am simply unable to ascertain where the blame lies with appropriate accuracy. I am assured it will not happen again. That remains to be seen.

My concern about the overall integrity of the data can be demonstrated by a number of specific examples. In the Seventh Annual Report I reported about some alarming variations in appearance numbers between the two Departmental collections. In other words, depending on which collection one used, the number of juveniles appearing before the Court was either 120 or 85 for the 1998-1999 year. I reported last year that according to the DFYCC statistics 192 young people appeared before the Court in the 1999-2000 year, an increase of 126 per cent on the previous year. If on the other hand, one used the Department of Justice figures, the increase was more modest from 120 to 192. After a comprehensive audit, the report for this year has the figure for 1999-2000 at 183 (not 192) and the number of children appearing before the Court in the year under review at 119, that is a 35% decrease (if you use the 183 figure) from the previous year. There has also been a very substantial decrease in the number of young people appearing before the District Court from 722 to 557, or a 23% decrease. To a small extent, the decrease in the superior Courts was offset by a 5.5% increase in the Magistrates Court. However, when one considers that there has been a slight increase (of 1.9%) in the number of juvenile defendants before all Courts, the statistical reduction in appearances before the Childrens Court of Queensland and the District Court is difficult to reconcile. It may be that the data from previous years was not accurate at its source.

All this means that if the President of the Court is to report in a meaningful way, that will assist understanding of juvenile crime, and in policy development, it is axiomatic that the collection of raw data must be done in a professional and consistent manner to ensure that it is accurate. This will involve more constructive liaison between those involved administratively in the collection of source data on behalf of both Departments involved, and will probably mean more resources. I am assured that this is occurring, and that the problems of this and past years will not occur in the 2001-2002 year.

The figures do not support any suggestion of a significant increase in juvenile offending. There has been a significant increase in the use of community conferencing based on restorative justice principles which is the subject of specific comment later in the report.

Juvenile Justice Trends

- 7,865 juveniles had their cases disposed in Queensland, a small increase of 1.9% from 1999–2000.
- The large decreases in juveniles disposed in Childrens Court of Queensland (down 35%) and District Court (down 23%) were offset by a 5.5% increase in the Magistrates Court.
- The majority of juveniles are disposed in the Magistrates Court (91% in 2000–01). The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed 1.5%, the District Court 7.0% and the Supreme Court 0.1%.
- The 23% decrease in the number of defendants before the Childrens Court of Queensland (to 119) followed a large increase in 1999–2000, and brought the numbers back to a similar level to 1998–99 (120 defendants).
- 214 children were sentenced to actual terms of detention in 2000–01 (down 11%), and a further 121 received immediate release orders (suspended sentences of detention) (down 37%).
- The main penalties used were good behaviour orders (1,416), community service orders (1,244) and probation (972), making up 57% of penalties imposed. Reprimands were ordered for 1,879 children.
- Compliance rates were lowest for immediate release orders (53%), compared with 69% compliance for community service and probation.
- 13,669 police cautions were administered to children for offences committed in 2000–01, a decrease of 449 (3%).
- The most common offence types were unlawful entry and theft related offences, representing 48% of all charges against children.
- The proportion of boys to girls before the courts in 2000–01 was 82% boys to 18% girls. The proportion of girls has increased steadily over ten years (from 13% in 1989–90).
- The largest offending age groups were 16 year olds (2,874) and 15 year olds (1,926). Together they made up 61% of defendants.
- Of the victims of juvenile crime the majority (61%) were under 20 years of age. Only 3% were aged 55 years or over.
- There has been a substantial increase in the use by Courts of the restorative justice options for sentence contained in Part 5 Division 1A of the Act.
- The statistics do not support any significant increase in juvenile crime, indeed the substantial decrease in the number of defendants appearing before the Childrens Court of Queensland and the District Court suggest a reduction in more serious crime by juveniles.

Restorative Justice

The statistics indicate a substantial increase in the use of community conferencing as an option under the Act. Referrals can be by way of indefinite referral (s.119A(2)(b)(i)) or by way of pre-sentence referral (s.119A(2)(b)(ii)). I have used the pre-sentence referral option on a number of occasions. On two occasions, the victim has not consented, and the matter has then proceeded as an ordinary sentence. In all cases there has been a positive outcome and the report of the conference convenor has been of considerable assistance to the Court. I have set out a summary of two of the cases to demonstrate the process. These cases are not exceptional.

Case A

The defendant was a 16 year old boy. He suffered from a distressing genetic disorder which affected his appearance. He had always been teased and bullied. He was with a group of boys on school property after hours and at the urging of some other boys he set fire to the contents of a wheelie bin. He then pushed the flaming bin under a school building where it fell over and caught on some posts. From there, the fire spread rapidly and destroyed a block of three classrooms causing \$250,000 in damage. He had never been in trouble before; even so, arson of school buildings is a serious and prevalent crime and a detention order was a definite option. As a pre-sentence option, a community conference was ordered and held. The boy attended with his mum. The school was represented by the headmaster, the school registrar and some of the teachers of the classes directly affected. The boy heard of the trauma to the children who lost art work and personal property, and the staff who had lost years of preparation work. He was deeply remorseful. He wrote an apology which was read out at school and performed unpaid community work. The feedback from the school community was extremely positive. They felt that their loss and pain was important to the justice process and they felt justified in having contributed to the resolution.

Case B

Two 15 year old Aboriginal girls in a Queensland city attempted to rob a shopkeeper at around 6.00pm as he was closing his shop. One had a knife, the other was armed with a baseball bat. The shopkeeper resisted by arming himself with a weapon he kept handy for such an eventuality. At the conference, the girls were shocked to learn that their victim and his wife, both in their 60's, had been robbed 12 months earlier. This crime was the final straw, and they had closed their business. Both victims expressed their trauma and sense of violation. They learnt that both girls were alienated from their families and "on the streets", and the motive for the robbery was to obtain money to buy food. Again, the feedback was extremely positive. The girls' Solicitor had never heard of restorative justice. He spoke of the powerful effect on his clients of meeting their victims face to face. He said that in his opinion the positive effect on them was much greater than could ever be achieved by a

lecture from a Judge or Magistrate, or even a harsh sentence. The victims felt a sense of closure. They contrasted their experience with the criminal justice process on this occasion, with their previous experience where their only contact was with the police. They were not told of the final outcome until they enquired.

In 2001, during a visit to New Zealand, I attended a family group conference conducted under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989*. The New Zealand model is different. Specially trained Youth Advocates (who are paid out of the Youth Court budget) appear for the young person.

The availability of conferencing is still not Queensland-wide which has implications for equality of justice. Not surprisingly, the further one goes from the main centres of population, it becomes more difficult to access programmes and options available to other young offenders who happen to commit their crimes in big cities.

It has been held that attendance at a community conference by a young offender should receive “significant recognition” in the sentencing process. In *Re LTC (a child)*, An application for sentence review, Childrens Court of Queensland, Brisbane 27.9.2001, Judge Shanahan reduced a sentence of detention of 11 months to 5 months to more adequately reflect the young person’s participation and co-operation in the conference which indicated “perhaps a change in his attitude towards offending”.

Activities of the President

I have continued to speak regularly about juvenile justice issues in a range of fora. By way of example, at the March 2001 Legal Symposium at Surfers Paradise I delivered a paper entitled “Young People – As Offenders, As Witnesses, As Victims” and in May 2001 I delivered a paper to the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland entitled “Suffer the Children – When Health and Juvenile Justice Systems Collide”. I have continued to speak positively about restorative justice initiatives which are now reflected in the greater use by the Courts of community conferencing as an option on sentence. Copies of some of my papers are available on the Queensland Courts Web Site at www.courts.qld.gov.au. In July 2001, I attended the Heads of Youth Courts Conference in Adelaide which followed the Biennial Conference of District and County Court Judges in that city. The programme included a visit to the Cowan Training Centre in Adelaide, and papers on the Home Detention Programme conducted from that centre.

Griffith Adolescent Forensic Assessment and Treatment Centre

In the Sixth Annual Report, I recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a sexual offender treatment programme for young offenders along the lines of the Mary Street Clinic in Adelaide. As I reported in the Seventh Annual Report, in the 2000-2001 Budget recurrent annual funding of \$250,000 was allocated for this purpose. The Griffith Centre is located within the Psychology Clinic of the School of Applied Psychology at the Mount Gravatt campus of Griffith University. Individual, group and family counselling is provided by the Centre to adolescents found guilty of sexual offences. Specialised assessment by the Centre occurs after the young person has been found guilty of the offence, but before sentencing. The Centre provides reports to the Court regarding the potential risk the young person poses to the community. As at the 18th July 2001, when I met with representatives from the Department and the Centre, there had been 13 referrals to the Centre. From my many years of experience, I am convinced that many adult sex offenders began their sexually aberrant behaviour as juveniles. My experience is born out by research (see for example the research referred to on page 1 of the Introduction to “Juveniles who have sexually offended” – a review of the Professional Literature by Rightland and Welch for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, March 2001).

Any proper evaluation of the Griffiths programme can only be undertaken over a period of years. What is vital is that the programme continues to receive adequate funding. If, as a result of intervention at a young age, a person is thereby diverted from sexual offending as an adult, the programme will be worthwhile.

Juvenile Justice Bill 2001

The Bill is presently being considered by interested parties. A submission was made by me on behalf of the Court to the Attorney in 2001, and I have had a number of meetings with the Attorney to discuss the Bill generally, and matters to do with the Court. It would be inappropriate for me to comment at present on specific provisions in the Bill, as these provisions may change as a result of the review. It is no secret that a primary thrust of the proposed new law is to abolish the right of election to the District Court. This reform has been recommended by me and by my predecessor, the late Judge Fred Maguire A.M. in every Annual Report. If this proposal does proceed, it will appropriately recognise the specialist nature of the Court; at the same time producing more consistency in approach particularly to the difficult task of sentencing.

Statistical Tables and Analysis

CONTENTS

Introduction

Explanatory notes

Definitions

Data issues

Summary

Cautions

Offences before the courts

Childrens Court of Queensland

Magistrates Courts

District and Supreme Courts

Compliance with court orders

Victims of juvenile offenders

Community conferencing

Detailed tables

Summary, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

*Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 1999–2000
and 2000–01*

*Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 1999–2000
and 2000–01*

*District and Supreme Courts Queensland, 1999–2000 and
2000–01*

All Courts, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

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 and the classification of offences are 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.

Commencing in this annual report, the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) has been adopted. This system will allow for comparison with national data. Comparison with data by offence type in earlier reports should be done with caution. In particular, dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle, which was previously included in road traffic offences, is now included in dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Reference period

The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. 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) from data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland.

Data used in the 1999–2000 Childrens Court of Queensland annual report were provided by the Department of Families. Due to differences in collection methods and the order of seriousness applied for penalty tables, comparisons should not be made to data published in that report.

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.

<i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i>	an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences. It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge.
<i>committal</i>	referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<i>Community conference</i>	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.
<i>Court of Appeal</i>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<i>defendant</i>	a juvenile charged with a criminal offence. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed more than once during the reference period.
<i>disposal</i>	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).
<i>District Court of Queensland</i>	a court constituted by a District Court judge (see Right of Election, p. 9 ; 4 th annual report).
<i>ex officio indictment</i>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
<i>guilty finding</i>	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<i>juvenile</i>	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.)
<i>Magistrates Court</i>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a stipendiary magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two justices of the peace.
<i>offence</i>	an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment.
<i>offence type</i>	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.
<i>offender</i>	a juvenile who has been found or has pleaded guilty of an offence.

<i>penalty</i>	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>immediate 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>community service order</i> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.
	<i>probation order</i> a penalty allowing freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.
	<i>fine</i> a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.
	<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 reoffends during the period of the order.
	<i>reprimand</i> a formal reproof given by the court to a juvenile offender upon a guilty finding.
<i>sentence</i>	the determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty.
<i>Serious offence</i>	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).
<i>Supreme Court of Queensland</i>	the highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).
<i>trial (criminal)</i>	a hearing (in a District or Supreme Court) before a judge sitting with a jury or (in the Childrens Court of Queensland) by a judge alone to determine the guilt of a defendant charged with an offence.

Data Issues

The change over of the magistrates court to the new (QWIC) Queensland Wide Interlinking Courts System has caused delays.

Offence Coding may differ from previous reports as a result of the change to the new national offence classification (ASOC) Australian Standard Offence Classification.

Recording of ages

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

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 the most serious offence with which they have been charged. 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. An ancillary order (ie. compensation, restitution or licence disqualification) is made in association with another order (including reprimands) and defendants will therefore be counted with the most serious main 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 (ASOC). Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions shown in 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 cannot be classified elsewhere, for example environmental regulation and immigration regulation offences.

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 7,865 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2000–01, an increase of 1.9% from 7,718 in 1999–2000. Decreases in the number of defendants of 35% in the Childrens Court of Queensland and 23% in the District Courts were offset by a 5.5% increase in the Magistrates Courts.

In 2000–01, Magistrates Courts disposed 91% of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 1.5%, the District Court 7.0% and the Supreme Court 0.1%.

Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Court level	1999–00		2000–01		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	6,813	88.3	7,189	91.4	5.5
Childrens Court of Queensland	183	2.4	119	1.5	-35.0
District	715	9.3	549	7.0	-23.2
Supreme	7	0.1	8	0.1	14.3
Total	7,718	100.0	7,865	100.0	1.9

(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.

Males accounted for 81% of all defendants in 2000–01. Some 37% of defendants were 16 years of age with a further 24% aged 15 years. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

Charges against juveniles by court level

The number of charges heard in the Childrens Court of Queensland and the District Court decreased in 2000–01 by 39% to 669 and by 29% to 2,520 respectively, in line with the decreases in numbers of defendants in both courts. Charges against juveniles in the Magistrates Court decreased 8.4% to 16,202 despite the increased number of defendants.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were theft (except motor vehicles) with 3,357 charges (17%), unlawful entry with intent 3,248 charges (17%) and motor vehicle theft 1,884 charges (10%). In total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry offences represented almost half of all charges against juveniles (48%). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)

Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Court level	1999–00		2000–01		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	17,693	79.1	16,202	83.5	-8.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	1,101	4.9	669	3.4	-39.2
District	3,554	15.9	2,520	13.0	-29.1
Supreme	18	0.1	14	0.1	-22.2
Total	22,366	100.0	19,405	100.0	-13.2

(a) Charges against juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed at a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 7,865 defendants, 85% (6,651) were either found guilty or pleaded guilty in 2000–01 compared with 87% of defendants in 1999–2000.

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Detention	240	214	-10.8
Immediate release	193	121	-37.3
Community service	1,269	1,244	-2.0
Probation	1,083	972	-10.2
Fine	652	592	-9.2
Compensation	139	188	35.3
Good behaviour order	1,332	1,416	6.3
Disqualification of licence	14	25	78.6
Reprimand ^(b)	1,803	1,879	4.2
Total	6,725	6,651	-1.1

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Including other penalties such as return property and forfeiture of property or drug utensils.

Of those found guilty in 2000–01, 214 (or 3.2%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 121 (or 1.8%) received an immediate release order.

Reprimands were ordered for 1,879 juveniles (or 28%). The next largest group of 1,416 (21%) received good behaviour orders as their most serious penalty and 1,244 (19%) received community service orders.

CAUTIONS

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 14,462 juvenile offenders were administered cautions in 2000–01 compared with 14,306 in 1999–2000, an increase of 1.1%. In comparison, in 2000–01 19,405 charges were disposed against juveniles in court.

Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Offence type ^(b)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Homicide, etc.	—	1	..
Assaults (inc. Sexual offences), etc.	837	839	0.2
Robbery & extortion	27	26	-3.7
Fraud & misappropriation	433	260	-40.0
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	7,828	8,239	5.3
[Motor vehicle theft]	366	367	0.3
[Other theft]	5,700	5,920	3.9
[Receiving, unlawful possession]	329	358	8.8
[Breaking & entering] ^(c)	1,433	1,594	11.2
Property damage	1,880	1,850	-1.6
Driving, traffic & related offences	40	33	-17.5
Other offences	3,261	3,214	-1.4
[Drug offences] ^(d)	1,757	1,691	-3.8
Total	14,306	14,462	1.1

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

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

(d) Drug offences = *possession or use of drugs + dealing and trafficking in drugs + manufacturing and growing drugs + other drug offences*

Source: Queensland Police Service

The majority of cautions were administered for theft, breaking and entering, etc., 8,239 (or 57% of all cautions) in 2000–01. Other theft (5,920 or 41% of all cautions) and breaking and entering (1,594 or 11% of all cautions) were the main components within this category.

A large number of juveniles were proceeded against by caution for property damage (1,850 or 13% of all cautions) and drug offences (1,691 or 12% of all cautions).

The total number of cautions administered to juveniles showed little change from 1999–2000 to 2000–01 (up 1.1%). The largest increases from 1999–2000 occurred for breaking and entering (up 11%) and receiving, unlawful possession (up 8.8%). Cautions for fraud & misappropriation decreased by 40%.

OFFENCES BEFORE THE COURTS

CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

The Childrens Court of Queensland, comprising courts at Brisbane, Ipswich, Southport, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns, disposed 669 charges against 119 defendants in 2000–01, a decrease of 35% in defendants from the 1999–2000 level. This decrease followed an increase of 65 juveniles from 120 in 1998–99.

DEFENDANTS IN THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

The majority of defendants were aged 15 or 16 years (57 or 48% of defendants). Another 30 defendants were aged 17 years or over, and were appearing for offences committed before they reached the age of 17.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Age	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
10	—	—	..
11	2	—	-100.0
12	2	—	-100.0
13	9	4	-55.6
14	14	15	7.1
15	40	26	-35.0
16	58	31	-46.6
17 & over ^(a)	45	30	-33.3
Unknown	13	13	—
Total	183	119	-35.0

(a) 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 CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 669 charges in 2000–01.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Offence type ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Homicide & related offences	1	—	-100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	58	27	-53.4
Sexual assault & related offences	29	10	-65.5
Robbery & extortion	73	33	-54.8
Unlawful entry with intent	377	291	-22.8
Theft & related offences	402	148	-63.2
[Motor vehicle theft]	222	77	-65.3
[Other theft]	167	64	-61.7
[Receiving & handling]	13	7	-46.2
Deception & related offences	3	7	133.3
Illicit drug offences	1	—	-100.0
Property damage	74	60	-18.9
Road traffic offences ^(b)	6	—	-100.0
Other offences ^(c)	77	93	20.8
Total	1,101	669	-39.2

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

(b) *Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle* is included *other offences* (previously included in *road traffic offences*).

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

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for the largest number of charges in 2000–01, representing 43% of the total Childrens Court of Queensland charges. Theft and related offences accounted for a further 22% with motor vehicle theft (12%) and other theft (10%) representing almost all charges within this group.

PENALTIES RECEIVED BY JUVENILE OFFENDERS BEFORE THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

Of the 119 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2000–01, 111 (or 93%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 12 juvenile offenders (or 11%) received detention as their most serious penalty, with a further 15 (14%) receiving an immediate release order. Other penalties included community service (45 or 41%), probation (29 or 26%) and good behaviour orders (5 or 5%). Four juvenile offenders received reprimands.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Detention	20	12	-40.0
Immediate release	23	15	-34.8
Community service	59	45	-23.7
Probation	50	29	-42.0
Fine	1	—	-100.0
Compensation	—	1	..
Good behaviour order	6	5	-16.7
Disqualification of licence	—	—	..
Reprimand ^(b)	2	4	100.0
Total	161	111	-31.1

(c) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(d) Including other penalties such as return property and forfeiture of property or drug utensils.

Magistrates Courts

JUVENILE DEFENDANTS IN MAGISTRATES COURTS

In 2000–01, 7,727 juvenile defendants were finalised in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, an increase of 1.6% from 7,616 in the previous year. Of these, 538 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 7,189 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (6,076 or 85%) or by discharge (1,113 or 15%).

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Method of finalisation	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Committed	803	538	-33.0
Disposed	6,813	7,189	5.5
Found guilty	5,944	6,076	2.2
Discharged ^(a)	869	1,113	28.1
Total	7,616	7,727	1.5

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

The difference between the 538 defendants committed to the higher court and the 676 disposed in the Childrens, District and Supreme Courts in 2000–01 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and committals to the higher court made in 1999–2000 and being disposed in 2000–01. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2000–01 being disposed in 2001–02.

Charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts

Of the 18,025 charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts in 2000–01, 16,202 (90%) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts and the remaining 1,823 (10%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Method of finalisation	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Committed	3,549	1,823	-48.6
Disposed	17,693	16,202	-8.4
Total	21,242	18,025	-15.1

CHARGES AGAINST JUVENILES DISPOSED IN MAGISTRATES COURTS

In 2000–01, 16,202 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft (except motor vehicles) (2,999 or 19%), unlawful entry with intent (2,283 or 14%) and road traffic offences (1,652 or 10%).

In total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent accounted for 45% of all charges disposed in the

Magistrates Court.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Offence type ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Homicide & related offences	10	6	-40.0
Acts intended to cause injury	690	662	-4.1
Sexual assault & related offences	41	37	-9.8
Robbery & extortion	79	81	2.5
Unlawful entry with intent	2,346	2,283	-2.7
Theft & related offences ^(b)	5,308	5,070	-4.5
[Motor vehicle theft]	1,461	1,384	-5.3
[Other theft]	3,062	2,999	-2.1
[Receiving & handling]	766	677	-11.6
Deception & related offences	1,235	700	-43.3
Illicit drug offences	1,118	1,038	-7.2
Property damage	1,301	1,273	-2.2
Road traffic offences ^(c)	1,742	1,652	-5.2
Other offences ^(d)	3,823	3,400	-11.1
Total	17,693	16,202	-8.4

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

(b) Includes 15 charges in 1999–20 and 10 charges in 2000–01 with insufficient information to classify further.

(c) *Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle* is included in *other offences* (previously included in *road traffic offences*).

(d) 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 7,189 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2000–01, 6,076 (or 85%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 118 offenders (or 1.9% of the total) received detention as the most serious penalty, with a further 46 receiving an immediate release order. Almost a third of juveniles received reprimands (31%) as their most serious penalty, 23% received good behaviour orders and 17% community service orders.

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Detention	133	118	-11.3
Immediate release	76	46	-39.5
Community service	973	1,028	5.7
Probation	869	822	-5.4
Fine	648	591	-8.8
Compensation	136	186	36.8
Good behaviour order	1,308	1,395	6.7
Disqualification of licence	14	25	78.6
Reprimand ^(b)	1,787	1,865	4.4
Total	5,944	6,076	2.2

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Including other penalties such as return property and forfeiture of property or drug utensils.

District and Supreme Courts

In 2000–01, District and Supreme Courts disposed 2,534 charges against 557 juveniles. This was a decrease of 23% in the number of defendants from 1999–2000.

THE SUPREME COURT DISPOSED A SMALL PROPORTION OF THE CHARGES AND DEFENDANTS. IN 2000–01, THERE WERE 14 CHARGES AGAINST 8 DEFENDANTS DISPOSED IN THE SUPREME COURT, COMPARED WITH 2,520 CHARGES AGAINST 549 DEFENDANTS DISPOSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT.

DEFENDANTS IN DISTRICT AND SUPREME COURTS

In 2000–01, 56% of juvenile defendants before the District and Supreme Courts were aged 15 or 16 years, with a further 28% aged 17 or over.

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Age	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
10	—	—	..
11	5	2	-60.0
12	12	5	-58.3
13	34	26	-23.5
14	73	37	-49.3
15	142	106	-25.4
16	255	205	-19.6
17 & over ^(a)	175	157	-10.3
Unknown	26	19	-26.9
Total	722	557	-22.9

(a) 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 2,534 charges before District and Supreme Courts, unlawful entry with intent accounted for the largest number with 674 charges or 27% of the total. Within theft and related offences, the largest numbers of charges were for motor vehicle theft (423) and other theft (284). Property damage accounted for 254 charges.

District and Supreme Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Offence type ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Homicide & related offences	4	3	-25.0
Acts intended to cause injury	309	199	-35.6
Sexual assault & related offences	76	44	-42.1
Robbery & extortion	169	107	-36.7
Unlawful entry with intent	975	674	-38.9
Theft & related offences	1,071	813	-24.1
[Motor vehicle theft]	575	423	-26.4
[Other theft]	399	284	-28.8
[Receiving & handling]	80	96	20.0
Deception & related offences	82	46	-43.9
Illicit drug offences	23	21	-8.7
Property damage	254	254	—
Road traffic offences ^(b)	70	49	-30.0
Other offences ^(c)	539	324	-39.9
Total	3,572	2,534	-29.1

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

(b) *Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle* is included in *other offences* (previously included in *road traffic offences*).

(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 557 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2000–01, 464 (83%) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 84 (or 18%) received detention as their most serious penalty, 60 (13%) received an immediate release order, 171 (37%) received community service orders and 121 (26%) received probation.

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Detention	87	84	-3.5
Immediate release	94	60	-36.2
Community service	237	171	-27.9
Probation	164	121	-26.2
Fine	3	1	-66.7
Compensation	3	1	-66.7
Good behaviour order	18	16	-11.1
Disqualification of licence	—	—	..
Reprimand ^(b)	14	10	-28.6
Total	620	464	-25.2

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Including other penalties such as return property and forfeiture of property or drug utensils.

COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDERS

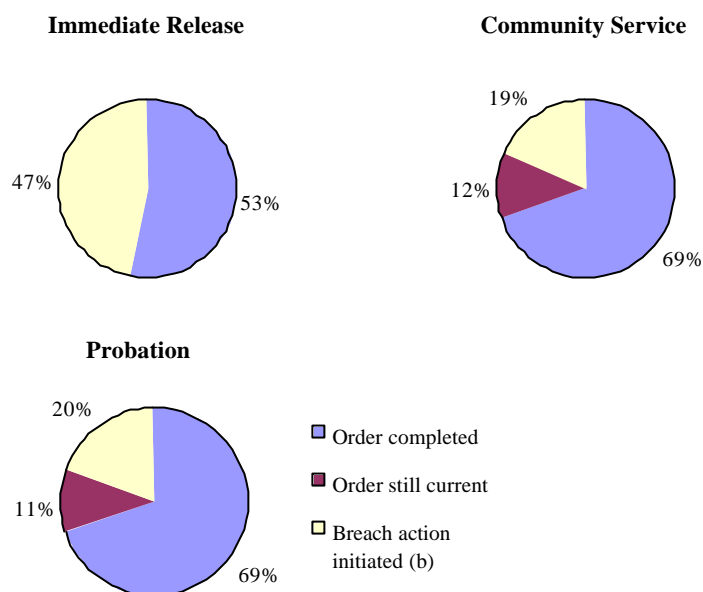
The Juvenile Justice Program, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care supervises juveniles on community correction orders (i.e. probation, immediate release and community service orders). The following information has been extracted from their Families and Youth Justice Information System.

In 1999–2000 there were 3,808 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 2,012 (52.8%) were probation, 1,564 (41.1%) were community service orders and 232 (6.1%) were immediate release orders.

Orders breached

Probation and immediate release 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.

Admissions to orders against juveniles in 1999–00: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2001, Queensland



Source: *Families and Youth Justice Information System, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care*

The majority of orders made in 1999–2000 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2001, with community service and probation orders having the compliance rates of almost 70%. The largest non-compliance rate (where a breach action had been initiated and/or finalised) was for immediate release orders (47.2%), compared with 19.7% for probation orders and 18.7% for community service orders.

Of community service orders from 1999–2000, 11.9% were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 11.2% 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, but longer periods may be due to subsequent variations to the original order, including extension of orders or those which are not administratively closed after the specified date. Immediate release orders are a maximum of three months in duration.

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 was under the age of 17 years. The incidents 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 2,362 victims of juvenile offenders, the majority were aged under 20 years (1,433 or 61%). There were 839 (or 36%) aged under 15 years and 594 (25%) aged 15 to 19 years. Only 67 (2.8%) of victims were aged 55 years or over.

Victims aged under 20 years accounted for 88% of victims of sexual offences and 75% of armed robbery victims.

For offences committed by juveniles, 59% of victims were male. These males comprised 63% of victims of assault and 78% of victims of robbery, whereas 78% of victims of sexual offences were female.

As in previous years, the majority of victims aged under ten years were female (60% in 2000–01). Male victims predominated in all other age groups except for those aged 55 years or over.

COMMUNITY CONFERENCING

Community conferencing was introduced into Queensland with the 1996 amendments to the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*. A community conference is a meeting between an offender and the victim of his or her offence. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the offence and negotiate an agreement satisfactory to both parties. The young person's parents or caregivers usually attend the conference. Support people for the victim may also attend.

From any conference there may be several outcomes included in the agreement, such as verbal or written apologies, commitments not to re-offend, direct restitution, work for the victim, voluntary work in the community, or counselling and treatment.

The pilot programs have been reviewed, with the outcome that various conferencing service providers ceased operations and were replaced by a Department of Families service in April 2001. The change should increase the consistency of conferencing practice and maximise the use of the regionally located departmental infrastructure. Conferencing services are now available in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

In 2000–01, conferences were held for 219 young people for a total of 376 offences, an increase in the number of offenders of 22% from the previous year. The majority of conferences resulted from police referrals (187 or 85%). There were also 19 Indefinite Court Referrals (where the matter need not go back to court), and 13 Pre-sentence Court Referrals. Of young people attending conferences 85% were males and 13% identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The conferencing program continued to record very high participant satisfaction rates on evaluation forms completed by all participants in conferences. For example, results from victims of crime who participated in conferences in the 2000–01 year, indicate that 100% believed the conference was fair, 99% were satisfied with the agreement reached and 90% would advise a friend to proceed via a conference.

Offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by community conference, by offence type, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Offence type ^(a)	1999–00	2000–01	Change %
Homicide, etc.	—	—	..
Assaults (inc. sexual offences), etc.	22	38	72.7
[Major assault]	12	18	50.0
[Minor assault]	9	12	33.3
Robbery & extortion	3	1	-66.7
Fraud and Misappropriation	23	10	-56.5
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	148	154	4.1
[Motor vehicle theft]	24	29	20.8
[Other theft]	60	73	21.7
[Receiving, unlawful possession]	4	5	25.0
[Breaking and entering] ^(b)	60	47	-21.7
Property damage	59	123	108.5
Driving, traffic & related offences	9	5	-44.4
Other offences	34	45	32.4
[Drug offences] ^(c)	17	30	76.5
Total	298	376	26.2

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

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

(c) Drug offences = *possession or use of drugs + dealing and trafficking in drugs + manufacturing and growing drugs + other drug offences.*

Source: Youth Justice Program, Department of Families

DETAILED TABLES

TABLE 1

Summary, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court

TABLE 2

Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location

TABLE 3

Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 1

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

TABLE 4

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

FIGURE 2

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

TABLE 5

District and Supreme Courts, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 3

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

TABLE 6

Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location

TABLE 7

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

FIGURE 4

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

TABLE 8

All Courts, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 5

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 1

**All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type,
Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01**

Offence type	1999–2000				2000–01			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	10	1	4	15	6	—	3	9
Murder	6	—	1	7	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Attempted murder	4	—	—	4	5	—	—	5
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Driving causing death	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acts intended to cause injury	690	58	309	1,057	662	27	199	888
Assault	690	58	309	1,057	661	27	199	887
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Sexual assault & related offences	41	29	76	146	37	10	44	91
Sexual assault	40	29	73	142	36	10	44	90
Non-assaultive sexual offences	1	—	3	4	1	—	—	1
Dangerous or negligent acts	241	6	56	303	239	6	35	280
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	144	6	40	190	139	5	27	171
Other dangerous or negligent acts	97	—	16	113	100	1	8	109
Abduction & related offences	9	4	9	22	13	—	6	19
Robbery & extortion	79	73	169	321	81	33	107	221
Robbery	73	68	164	305	76	33	107	216
Blackmail & extortion	6	5	5	16	5	—	—	5
Unlawful entry with intent	2,346	377	975	3,698	2,283	291	674	3,248
Theft & related offences^(b)	5,308	402	1,071	6,781	5,070	148	813	6,031
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,461	222	575	2,258	1,384	77	423	1,884
Other theft & related offences	3,062	167	399	3,628	2,999	64	284	3,347
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	766	13	80	859	677	7	96	780
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	4	—	1	5	—	—	2	2
Deception & related offences	1,235	3	82	1,320	700	7	46	753
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	1,179	—	52	1,231	589	—	19	608
Dishonest conversion	51	3	28	82	104	7	27	138
Bribery	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other deception offences	4	—	2	6	7	—	—	7
Illicit drug offences	1,118	1	23	1,142	1,038	—	21	1,059
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	61	—	6	67	41	—	4	45
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	34	—	—	34	25	—	—	25
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	544	1	10	555	487	—	10	497
Other illicit drug offences	479	—	7	486	485	—	7	492
Weapons & explosives offences	204	3	3	210	114	—	2	116
Property damage	1,301	74	254	1,629	1,273	60	254	1,587
Property damage	1,301	74	254	1,629	1,272	60	254	1,586
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Public order offences	1,693	1	31	1,725	1,597	3	24	1,624
Road traffic offences	1,742	6	30	1,778	1,652	—	22	1,674
Justice & government offences	1,512	36	249	1,797	1,335	29	133	1,497
Breach of justice order	683	32	206	921	501	28	107	636
Other offences against justice	773	4	41	818	794	1	23	818
Offences against government	56	—	2	58	40	—	3	43
Miscellaneous offences	143	—	16	159	98	1	8	107
Inadequate data provided	21	27	215	263	4	54	143	201
Total	17,693	1,101	3,572	22,366	16,202	669	2,534	19,405

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

Table 2

Magistrates courts: Juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Statistical division and court location ^(a)	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane City								
Brisbane Childrens Court	94	461	4.90	91	329	3.62	-3.2	-28.6
Holland Park	40	163	4.08	13	20	1.54	-67.5	-87.7
Inala	38	134	3.53	32	136	4.25	-15.8	1.5
Sandgate	8	32	4.00	7	10	1.43	-12.5	-68.8
Wynnum	31	100	3.23	15	142	9.47	-51.6	42.0
Remainder of Brisbane								
Beenleigh	36	199	5.53	25	88	3.52	-30.6	-55.8
Caboolture	21	173	8.24	13	50	3.85	-38.1	-71.1
Cleveland	5	24	4.80	3	21	7.00	-40.0	-12.5
Ipswich	87	236	2.71	45	107	2.38	-48.3	-54.7
Petrie	12	60	5.00	13	38	2.92	8.3	-36.7
Redcliffe	16	55	3.44	24	75	3.13	50.0	36.4
Moreton								
Beaudesert	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Gatton	2	10	5.00	2	7	3.50	—	-30.0
Maroochydore	42	239	5.69	23	158	6.87	-45.2	-33.9
Noosa	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
Southport	39	114	2.92	23	83	3.61	-41.0	-27.2
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg	13	40	3.08	10	14	1.40	-23.1	-65.0
Childers	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Gympie	2	5	2.50	3	3	1.00	50.0	-40.0
Hervey Bay	15	47	3.13	4	6	1.50	-73.3	-87.2
Kingaroy	2	3	1.50	3	10	3.33	50.0	233.3
Maryborough	11	68	6.18	5	8	1.60	-54.5	-88.2
Murgon	5	17	3.40	3	6	2.00	-40.0	-64.7
Nanango	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Darling Downs								
Chinchilla	2	6	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Dalby	10	81	8.10	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Goondiwindi	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Oakey	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
Stanthorpe	3	23	7.67	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-95.7
Toowoomba	25	104	4.16	17	49	2.88	-32.0	-52.9
Warwick	5	27	5.40	2	2	1.00	-60.0	-92.6
South West								
Charleville	7	21	3.00	2	6	3.00	-71.4	-71.4
Cunnamulla	2	2	1.00	6	6	1.00	200.0	200.0
Mitchell	2	3	1.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Roma	4	10	2.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Fitzroy								
Blackwater	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Biloela	—	—	..	2	13	6.50	..	..
Emerald	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Gladstone	16	53	3.31	7	10	1.43	-56.3	-81.1
Rockhampton	34	176	5.18	19	76	4.00	-44.1	-56.8
Yeppoon	1	5	5.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Central West								
Longreach	2	21	10.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mackay								
Clermont	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
Mackay	16	51	3.19	14	25	1.79	-12.5	-51.0
Proserpine	1	1	1.00	1	2	2.00	—	100.0
Northern								
Ayr	2	3	1.50	4	4	1.00	100.0	33.3
Charters Towers	6	25	4.17	4	16	4.00	-33.3	-36.0
Ingham	4	13	3.25	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville	74	478	6.46	41	162	3.95	-44.6	-66.1

Table 2

Continued

Statistical division and court location ^(a)	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Far North								
Atherton	2	27	13.50	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-96.3
Aurukun	7	28	4.00	9	13	1.44	28.6	-53.6
Cairns	32	150	4.69	19	72	3.79	-40.6	-52.0
Cooktown	2	7	3.50	2	4	2.00	—	-42.9
Innisfail	1	1	1.00	3	3	1.00	200.0	200.0
Mareeba	—	—	..	4	4	1.00	..	..
Mossman	1	7	7.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Tully	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Weipa	2	5	2.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
North West								
Burketown	—	—	..	2	2	1.00	..	..
Cloncurry	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Dajarra	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Doomadgee	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Kowanyama	2	5	2.50	3	6	2.00	50.0	20.0
Mount Isa	9	21	2.33	10	22	2.20	11.1	4.8
Normanton	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Pormpuraaw	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Total	803	3,549	4.42	538	1,823	3.39	-33.0	-48.6

(a) Magistrates courts not shown did not commit any juveniles during the relevant years.

Table 3 Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Age	1999–2000			2000–2001			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total ^(a)	Male	Female	Total
10	12	2	14	36	—	36	200.0	-100.0	157.1
11	72	7	79	48	5	53	-33.3	-28.6	-32.9
12	150	16	166	176	24	200	17.3	50.0	20.5
13	394	103	497	427	92	519	8.4	-10.7	4.4
14	789	232	1,021	888	232	1,122	12.5	—	9.9
15	1,355	332	1,687	1,432	361	1,794	5.7	8.7	6.3
16	2,237	436	2,673	2,123	516	2,639	-5.1	18.3	-1.3
17+	555	83	638	654	136	791	17.8	63.9	24.0
Unknown	33	5	38	28	6	35	-15.2	20.0	-7.9
Total	5,597	1,216	6,813	5,812	1,372	7,189	3.8	12.8	5.5

(a) Includes persons with sex not recorded (one in 1999–00 and 5 in 2000–02).

Figure 1 Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

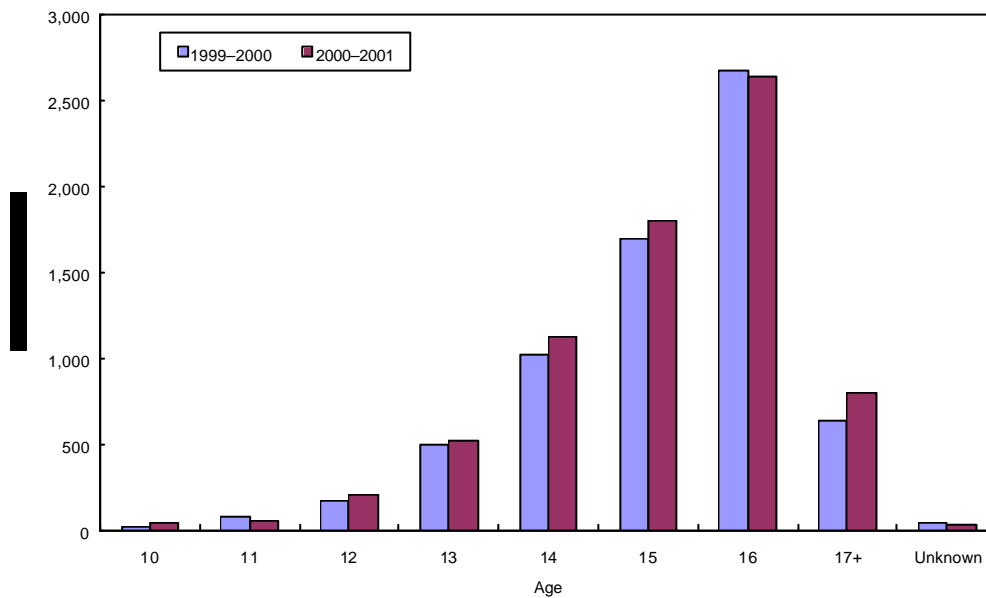


Table 4

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–00			2000–01			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
Detention	117	16	133	105	13	118	-10.3	-18.8	-11.3
Immediate release order	70	6	76	43	3	46	-38.6	-50.0	-39.5
Community service	874	99	973	888	140	1,028	1.6	41.4	5.7
Probation	683	186	869	661	161	822	-3.2	-13.4	-5.4
Fine	584	64	648	526	65	591	-9.9	1.6	-8.8
Compensation	116	20	136	128	57	186	10.3	185.0	36.8
Good behaviour order	1,045	263	1,308	1,075	319	1,395	2.9	21.3	6.7
Disqualification of licence	14	—	14	20	5	25	42.9	..	78.6
Reprimand	1,363	424	1,787	1,451	412	1,865	6.5	-2.8	4.4
Total	4,866	1,078	5,944	4,897	1,175	6,076	0.6	9.0	2.2

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.
 (b) Includes offenders with sex not recorded.

Figure 2

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

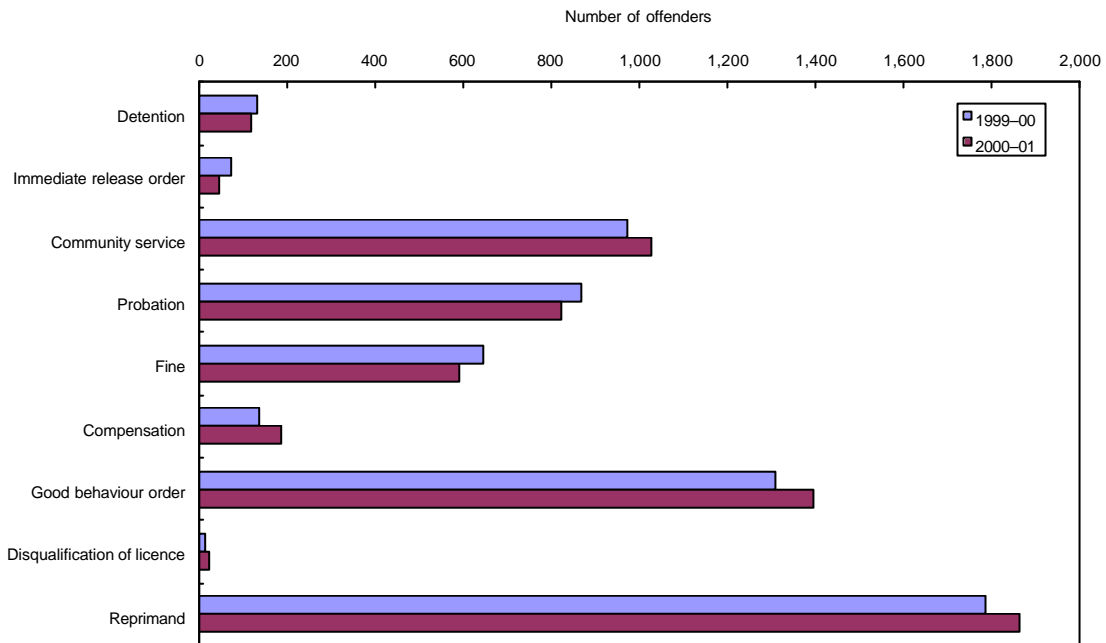


Table 5 District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Age	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	..
11	4	1	5	1	1	2	-75.0	—	-60.0
12	12	—	12	5	—	5	-58.3	..	-58.3
13	30	4	34	24	2	26	-20.0	-50.0	-23.5
14	63	10	73	33	4	37	-47.6	-60.0	-49.3
15	122	20	142	89	17	106	-27.0	-15.0	-25.4
16	224	31	255	175	29	204	-21.9	-6.5	-20.0
17+	155	20	175	142	15	157	-8.4	-25.0	-10.3
Unknown	25	1	26	19	1	20	-24.0	—	-23.1
Total	635	87	722	488	69	557	-23.1	-20.7	-22.9

Figure 3 District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

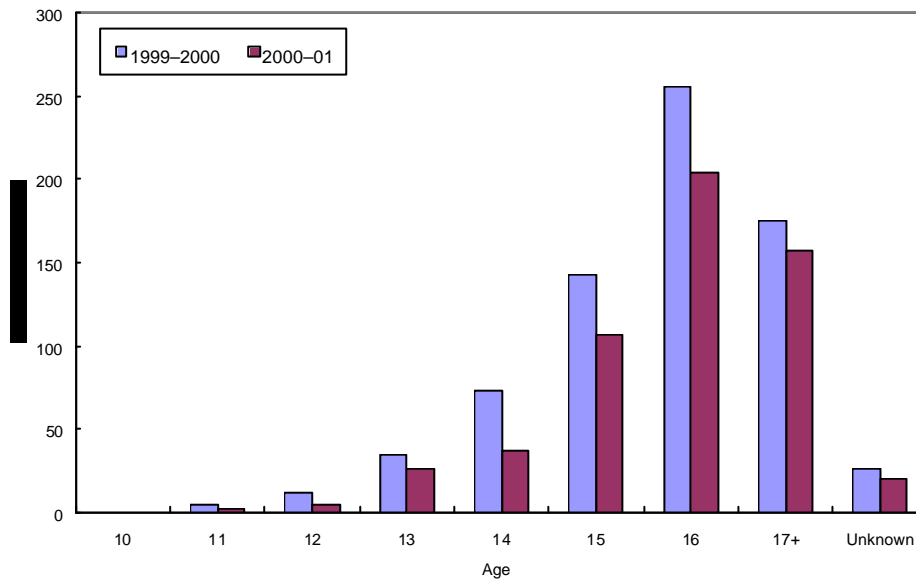


Table 6

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Statistical division and court location ^(a)	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane Supreme	6	15	2.50	6	11	1.83	—	-26.7
Brisbane	257	1,304	5.07	201	982	4.89	-21.8	-24.7
Beenleigh	39	418	10.72	19	162	8.53	-51.3	-61.2
Ipswich	34	102	3.00	27	103	3.81	-20.6	1.0
Moreton								
Maroochydore	35	262	7.49	28	207	7.39	-20.0	-21.0
Southport	29	94	3.24	16	82	5.13	-44.8	-12.8
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg Supreme	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Bundaberg	18	73	4.06	5	17	3.40	-72.2	-76.7
Gympie	5	10	2.00	4	13	3.25	-20.0	30.0
Kingaroy	29	193	6.66	18	77	4.28	-37.9	-60.1
Maryborough	28	106	3.79	7	18	2.57	-75.0	-83.0
Darling Downs								
Dalby	10	52	5.20	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Goondiwindi	2	7	3.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Stanthorpe	3	15	5.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Toowoomba	11	54	4.91	5	71	14.20	-54.5	31.5
Warwick	1	4	4.00	4	5	1.25	..	..
South West								
Charleville	4	7	1.75	1	9	9.00	-75.0	28.6
Cunnamulla	4	14	3.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Roma	1	15	15.00	4	8	2.00	300.0	-46.7
Fitzroy								
Emerald	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..
Gladstone	25	100	4.00	41	262	6.39	64.0	162.0
Rockhampton	36	125	3.47	35	103	2.94	-2.8	-17.6
Mackay								
Clermont	1	14	14.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mackay Supreme	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mackay	18	74	4.11	11	27	2.45	-38.9	-63.5
Northern								
Bowen	2	5	2.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Charters Towers	3	18	6.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville Supreme	—	—	..	1	1	..	..	..
Townsville	28	215	7.68	44	232	5.27	57.1	7.9
Far North								
Cairns	75	331	4.41	60	217	3.62	-20.0	-34.4
Innisfail	6	9	1.50	2	3	1.50	-66.7	-66.7
North West								
Hughenden	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mount Isa	10	30	3.00	15	29	1.93	50.0	-3.3
Normanton	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Total	722	3,672	5.09	557	2,645	4.75	-22.9	-28.0

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

Table 7

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Penalty ^(a)	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	79	8	87	75	9	84	-5.1	12.5	-3.4
Immediate release	86	8	94	53	7	60	-38.4	-12.5	-36.2
Community service	214	23	237	153	18	171	-28.5	-21.7	-27.8
Probation	133	31	164	102	19	121	-23.3	-38.7	-26.2
Fine	3	—	3	1	—	1	-66.7	..	-66.7
Compensation	3	—	3	1	—	1	-66.7	..	-66.7
Good behaviour order	15	3	18	14	2	16	-6.7	-33.3	-11.1
Disqualification of licence	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	..
Reprimand ^(b)	13	1	14	7	3	10	-46.2	200.0	-28.6
Total	546	74	620	406	58	464	-25.6	-21.6	-25.2

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

Figure 4

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

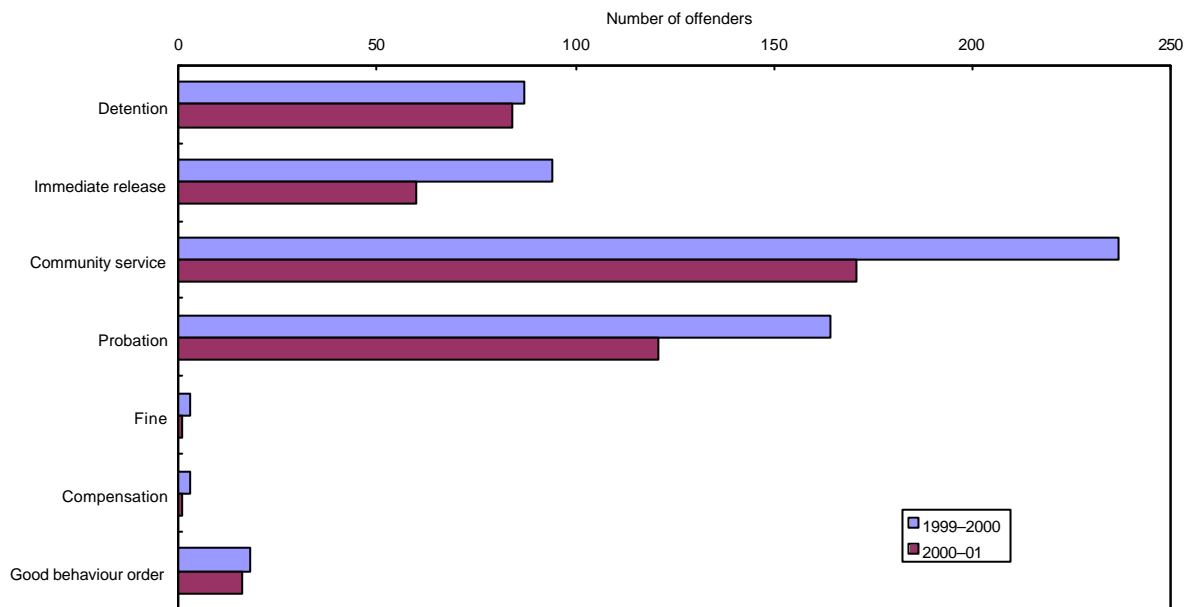


Table 8 All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

Age	1999–2000			2000–01			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	12	2	14	36	—	36	200.0	-100.0	157.1
11	78	8	86	49	6	55	-37.2	-25.0	-36.0
12	164	16	180	181	24	205	10.4	50.0	13.9
13	433	107	540	455	94	549	5.1	-12.1	1.7
14	863	245	1,108	935	237	1,174	8.3	-3.3	6.0
15	1,507	362	1,869	1,546	379	1,926	2.6	4.7	3.0
16	2,510	476	2,986	2,325	549	2,874	-7.4	15.3	-3.8
17+	750	108	858	824	153	978	9.9	41.7	14.0
Unknown	71	6	77	58	9	68	-18.3	50.0	-11.7
Total	6,388	1,330	7,718	6,409	1,451	7,865	0.3	9.1	1.9

Figure 5 All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 1999–2000 and 2000–01

