

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Contents

PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW	1
General	1
Youth Justice trends summary.....	2
Childrens Court Committee.....	3
Court Case Management Committee	4
Activities and Consultations	4
Thanks	6
Final Thoughts	6
EXPLANATORY NOTES.....	8
Definitions	9
Interpreting the data	11
SUMMARY	13
Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants.....	13
Distinct juvenile defendants	14
Indigenous status of distinct juvenile defendants	16
Finalised charges against juvenile defendants	17
Penalties received by juvenile offenders	18
Cautions	19
Youth justice conferencing.....	19
THE COURTS	21
Time elapsed to finalise court proceedings	21
Childrens Court of Queensland.....	21
Applications for sentence review.....	23
Applications for bail	23
Appeals.....	24
Applications for parentage orders	25
Magistrates Court.....	26
Applications for child protection orders under the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>	27
Supreme and District Courts.....	28
SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS	30
Conditional bail.....	33
Community supervision.....	33
Young people in detention (including court-ordered custody in police watchhouses)	35
Remand in custody.....	37
Impact of 17-year olds being dealt with in the youth justice system	39
VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.....	41
APPENDIX.....	43
Detailed tables	43

Tables and graphs

Table 1	Finalised appearances ^(a) of juvenile defendants, by court level ^(b)	13
Table 2	Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by sex, all courts	14
Table 3	Distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts ^(a) ...	15
Table 4	Rate ^(a) of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts ^(b)	16
Table 5	Finalised charges against juvenile defendants, by court level ^(a)	17
Table 6	Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants ^(a) with a guilty finding, by most serious penalty, all courts ^(b)	18
Table 7	Cautions administered to juvenile offenders ^(a) by offence type	19
Table 8	Offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by Youth Justice conference ^(a) , 2017–18	20
Table 9	Average number of days ^(a) to finalise youth justice proceedings, selected courts	21
Table 10	Finalised appearances ^(a) , by age ^(b) , Childrens Court of Queensland	21
Table 11	Finalised charges by offence type, Childrens Court of Queensland	22
Table 12	Finalised appearances ^(a) , by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland	22
Table 13	Applications for sentence review – Youth Justice Act 1992 ^{(a)(b)} , Childrens Court of Queensland	23
Table 14	Applications for bail ^(a) to the Childrens Court of Queensland	23
Table 15	Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, Child Safety Services (DCSYW) as respondent ^{(a)(b)(c)}	24
Table 16	Appeals ^(a) lodged pursuant to s222 of the Justices Act 1886, by court location ..	24
Table 17	Originating applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for Surrogacy Act parentage orders ^{(a)(b)(c)}	25
Table 18	Appearances ^(a) of juvenile defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court	26
Table 19	Finalised charges ^(a) against juvenile defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court	26
Table 20	Charges against juvenile defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court	27
Table 21	Finalised appearances ^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court	27
Table 22	Applications for child protection orders ^(a) , Magistrates Court	27
Table 23	Finalised appearances ^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts	28
Table 24	Finalised charges against juvenile defendants, by offence type, Supreme and District Courts	28
Table 25	Finalised appearances ^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts	29
Table 26	Distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age ..	30
Table 27	Rate ^(a) of distinct juvenile offenders on a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status.....	32
Table 28	Supervised youth justice orders commenced ^(a) , by order type.....	32
Table 29	Court-ordered conditional bail ^(a) commenced by juvenile offenders	33
Table 30	Supervised youth justice orders commenced ^(a) in 2016–17: type of order by completion status as at 30 June 2018.....	33
Table 31	Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2012–13 to 2016–17: type of order by completion status as at 30 June of the following period ^(a)	34
Table 32	Rate ^{(a)(b)} of young people in detention/court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status	36
Table 33	Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing	38
Table 34	Distinct young people in court ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, February to June 2018, by age.....	38
Table 35	Length of watchhouse stay episodes ^(a) during 2017–2018	39

Table 36	Age at finalisation of distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence ^(a) , 2017–18	39
Table 37	Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 17 years ^(a) at date of offence, 2017–18	40
Table 38	Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 10–16 years at date of offence, 2017–18 ^(a)	40
Figure 1	Ten-year comparison ^(a) of finalised appearances ^(b) of juvenile defendants, all courts ^(c)	13
Figure 2	Number of distinct juvenile defendants ^{(a)(b)} with a finalised appearance, all courts ^(c)	14
Figure 3	Percentage of proven offences ^(a) by juvenile offenders, all courts ^(b) , 2017–18 ^(c) ..	15
Figure 4	Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status ^(a) , all courts ^(b)	16
Figure 5	Ten-year comparison ^(a) of finalised charges ^(b) against juvenile defendants, all courts ^(c)	17
Figure 6	Distinct juvenile offenders ^(a) commencing a supervised youth justice order ^{(b)(c)} ..	30
Figure 7	Proportion of distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex	31
Figure 8	Proportion of distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status ^(a)	31
Figure 9	Average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody ^(a) ...	35
Figure 10	Average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody, by sex	35
Figure 11	Proportion of average daily number of young people in youth detention/court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status	36
Figure 12	Total daily number of young females in youth detention/court-ordered custody ^(a) ..	37
Figure 13	Average daily number of young people in youth detention/court-ordered custody, by legal status	37
Figure 14	Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status ^(a) , by age ^{(b)(c)}	40
Figure 15	Victims of acts intended to cause injury ^(a) by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18	41
Figure 16	Victims of sexual assault and related offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18	42
Figure 17	Victims of robbery and extortion offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18	42

PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

General

The figures in this year's annual report include matters involving 17 year olds after the amendment to the definition of "child" came into effect on 12 February 2018. Thus there was just over four months of the reporting period where 17 year olds were dealt with as children. The figures are therefore incapable of direct comparison with earlier reports.

As a result of the detention centres being beyond capacity, the disposition of 17 year olds was addressed by the *Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018*. That regulation (with a two year lifespan) authorised the detention of 17 year olds, who were sentenced to detention for offences for which proceedings were commenced before 12 February, to be held in adult prisons until an administrative decision is made to transfer to a youth detention centre. This is, in my view, undesirable.

The over capacity of the detention centres, has had another impact. A number of juveniles, remanded in relation to alleged offences have been, irrespective of their age, held in police watch houses for extended periods of time. Table 34 sets out the number of distinct young people held in police watch houses by month from February to June 2018. The figures indicate a large number of children, some as young as 11 being held in watch houses across the State. Some of that detention exceeded 15 days (Table 35). Whilst I am aware that much effort is being undertaken by Youth Justice Services to move these children into youth detention centres as quickly as possible, the position is unacceptable. To have children as young as 11 being held in police watch houses is a travesty and a burden on the police service. Although I hesitate to recommend increasing the capacity of youth detention centres (as they will fill as a matter of course), the Government needs to urgently address the situation, particularly in relation to children held on remand.

The statistics in this year's report also introduce the term "finalised appearance" rather than the cumbersome (and sinister) "defendants disposed of" used in previous reports.

There was a 16.1% increase in finalised appearances across all courts from the previous year (from 6,654 to 7,726) (Table 1). In 2017-2018, 77.3% of finalised appearances by juvenile defendants were either findings or pleas of guilty. There was a 28.5% increase in the number of charges finalised (from 25,727 to 33,000) (Table 5). Again these figures includes charges where acquittals were entered or charges were withdrawn. In 2017-18 there were 4,367 distinct young persons with a finalised appearance compared with 3,696 in 2016-17. The increase in numbers including in the 10 year trend graphs (Figures 1 and 2) is substantially attributable to the inclusion of 17 year olds. For example, 606 distinct juveniles who were 17 at the date of offence are included in the 4,367. In relation to finalised appearances 18.1% were aged 17 (Appendix Table 12).

Again, a relatively small number of juvenile offenders were responsible for a large number of offences. In 2017-18 10% of juveniles were responsible for 44% of all proven offences (Figure 3).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders continue to be grossly over represented. In 2017-18, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 46% of young people with a finalised appearance. This was a slight decrease from previous years (Figure 4). That overrepresentation is again more evident in relation to juveniles held in detention. 72% of young people in detention on an average day were indigenous. This is a slight increase from 2017-18 (Figure 11). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants continue to be substantially over represented in the younger age groups between 10 and 12 years (Figure 14). Although the percentage has dropped in 2017-18, this is a function of the inclusion of 17 year olds. The demographics of the 17 year olds have a lower than average proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders compared with 10-16 year olds (Tables 37 and 38).

In 2017-18, the average daily number of young people in youth detention was 210 compared with 183 in 2016-17 (Figure 9). This was a significant increase and demonstrates that the detention centres were over capacity. Again, the majority of young people in detention are on remand. In 2017-18, 82% of young people were on remand on an average day (Figure 13). This was two percentage points higher than the previous year. As noted above, the overrepresentation of indigenous youth in detention continued. In 2017-18 indigenous youth were 31 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth detention (Table 32). Again, a result of this time in remand detention, has been that 48% of all finalised appearance in 2017-18, where a detention order was made, resulted in the juvenile being released with no time remaining to serve in custody (Table 33). The Government has introduced a number of “supervised bail houses” to address the problem. In my view, this needs to be expanded to provide more alternatives to remand in detention. Many of these juveniles are subject to child safety orders where the State is their guardian. Detention centres should not be treated as appropriate accommodation for such children where suitable alternatives can be found.

An alternative to remand custody is a conditional bail order where the juvenile is subject to intensive supervision in the community. In 2017-18 758 such orders commenced compared to 450 in 2016-17 (Table 29). Another demonstration of the impact of the lack of capacity in the detention centres is the increase in bail applications being made to the Childrens Court of Queensland. In 2017-18, 110 such applications were made compared to 55 in 2016-17.

The Childrens Court of Queensland Committee continues to address systemic issues with the youth justice system.

The Queensland Government is developing a Queensland Youth Strategy with significant community consultation taking place. Roundtables which included legal stakeholders took place as a part of the consultation. In February 2018 Mr R. Atkinson AO APM was asked to examine and report on youth justice matters. On 8 June 2018 his report was presented to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Mr Atkinson proposed “four pillars” as the policy position for youth justice framed by two fundamental principles: that public safety is paramount and that community confidence is critical. The Four Pillars are:

1. Intervene early
2. Keep children out of court
3. Keep children out of custody, and
4. Reduce reoffending.

I was consulted by Mr Atkinson in the course of his examination.

Youth Justice trends summary

As noted above, there was an overall increase in the number of juveniles whose cases were finalised in all Queensland Court in 2017-18. From 6,654 in 2016-17 to 7,726 (16.1%). That figure includes cases where charges were withdrawn or acquittals were entered. The number of distinct young people dealt with increased from 3,696 to 3,761. There was an overall increase in the number of charges finalised from 25,727 to 33,060 (28.5%). Again those figures include charges which were withdrawn or acquittals entered. The inclusion of 17 year old from 12 February 2018 has substantially contributed to the increase.

That increase has also contributed to the 10 year comparison figures and so makes correlation difficult.

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 1,986 charges against 398 defendants in 2017-18 which was an increase of 2.1% in the number of charges and 4.5% in the number of defendants. The Childrens Court when constituted by a magistrate finalised 30,945 charges

(an increase of 30.5%) against 7,305 defendants (an increase of 16.9%). There were 400 defendants committed to a higher court (an increase of 42.9%). The Magistrates Court dealt with 94.6% of finalised appearances in 2017-18. The Childrens Court of Queensland accounted for 5.2% (Table 1).

For charges finalised in 2017-18 it took an average of 52 days to finalise proceedings before the Childrens Court when constituted by a magistrate. This was the same average as in 2016-17. The average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 348 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court, an average of 21 days less than 2016-17 (Table 9). That time encompasses the period taken to hold a committal in the Magistrates Court, the period taken for the DPP to present an indictment in the Childrens Court of Queensland (up to 6 months) and the time taken for the court to resolve the matter after the presentation of the indictment.

In 2017-18, 107 (or 1.8%) of those juveniles who were found guilty of offences were sentenced to detention, and a further 396 (6.6%) received immediate/conditional release orders.

In 2017-18, 1,956 distinct juvenile offenders commenced a supervised youth justice order. This was an increase of 21% from the previous year. The majority of community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2016-17 were successfully completed by the end of 2017-18 (70% of probation orders and 70% of community service orders). In relation to court ordered graffiti removal orders, 85% were successfully completed. One quarter of probation orders and community services orders and 36% of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2018.

There was an increase in the number of cautions administered by the Queensland Police Service from 10,988 in 2016-17 to 11,608 in 2017-18 (Table 7). In 2017-18 the Youth Justice Restorative Justice program received a total of 2,273 referrals compared to 2,110 in 2016-17. A total of 1,617 referrals were conferenced in 2017-18 compared to 1,378 conferences in 2016-17. Of the referrals conferenced, 97% resulted in an agreement being reached between the juvenile and the victim. Of those who responded to a satisfaction survey, 95% were satisfied with the process and the outcome.

As noted above, in the Childrens Court of Queensland there were 110 bail applications compared to 55 in 2016-17. There were also 12 applications under the *Surrogacy Act 2010* for parentage orders compared to 18 in 2016-17.

There were 4,527 applications for child protection orders lodged in the Magistrates Court, an increase from 4,255 the previous year. There were 37 appeals to the Childrens Court of Queensland in relation to child protection orders, an increase from 29 the previous year.

Childrens Court Committee

The Committee met monthly though the reporting period to consider systemic change to the youth justice system aimed specifically at reducing delays in the progress of matters and reducing the number of young people held in remand detention. The Committee also considered a wide range of other matters impacting on the youth justice system.

To create more efficiency in the system, and therefore reduce delays, the court computer system was upgraded. The upgrade allows the production of a report which details all matters involving a particular juvenile across different Magistrate Court districts. This will enable the making of a proposed Practice Direction (to be issued by the Chief Magistrate) that all matters relating to a particular juvenile be brought before the one court.

On 6 July 2017 I received a copy of a letter from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice responding to the recommendation of the Committee that a Youth Mental Health Forensic Facility be established to address issues involving youth suffering mental illness or drug-induced conditions who are held in detention. The Government will consider the issue.

The Court Liaison Service of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Department of Health has been attending courts in the South-East Queensland area to perform assessments of children with apparent mental health or intellectual impairment issues. In relation to such issues, the Committee was addressed by Dr D. Shelton on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder with a view to developing a check list for legal practitioners to identify juveniles who may suffer from the disorder as well as other intellectual deficits.

As a result of the invitation to Education Queensland to join the Committee, a representative is now part of the Committee. A pilot project was being developed to enable information sharing between the Department and the Courts when the Government announced, as part of its youth justice reform initiative that funding would be provided for a program based on the Victorian Education Justice Initiative to be run as a pilot in the Brisbane Childrens Court. Such an initiative is to be applauded as a vast majority of juveniles before the Courts have disengaged from education.

The Committee has been consulted by the Queensland Family and Childrens Commission on the development of a joint agency protocol to reduce the criminalisation of young people living in residential care services in relation to minor matters occurring in those facilities.

The Committee has been involved in various education initiatives for the profession including the development of Legal Aid Queensland's Youth Practitioners Guide and articles in Proctor.

The Committee was regularly briefed on the progress of the transition of 17 year olds into the youth justice system including the proposed *Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018*.

The Committee is developing additional Childrens Court of Queensland forms in relation to youth justice matters.

Membership of the Committee includes the Deputy Chief Magistrate, the Director of Public Prosecutions, The Deputy Director-General Youth Justice, the Executive Director, Supreme District and Land Court Services, The Executive Director Magistrates Court Service and representatives from the Bar Association, the Law Society, the Queensland Police Service, Legal Aid Queensland, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, The Youth Advocacy Centre, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health (Forensic Child Youth and Mental Health Services), Queensland Education and various officers from Youth Justice Services, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Magistrates Court. The Committee continues to meet.

Court Case Management Committee

The Court Case Management Committee was reconvened in June 2018 to consider some matters concerning the child protection system. See the annual reports from 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 as to the genesis and constitution of that Committee.

The issues under consideration are consultation on an Exert Assistance Pilot as recommended by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and practical issues arising in the application of Rule 13 of the Childrens Court Rules. The Committee continues to meet.

Activities and Consultations

On 3 August 2017, the Chief Judge and I met with representatives of Protect All Children Today (PACT) for one of the regular liaison meetings.

On 6 September 2017, I met with the Deputy Director-General, Youth Justice and officers of his Department in relation to the transition of 17 year olds, conditional bail orders, pre-sentence reports and other matters.

On 7 September 2017 the Chief Judge and I met with staff of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and officers of Youth Justice Services in consultation about the impact on the courts of the transition of 17 year olds.

From 25-28 September, I attended the 21st annual meeting of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts (SPCYCC) in the Cook Islands. As reported previously, the charter of the council is to support the development of youth justice and child protection systems and the maintenance of law in the region. Details of the Council, its charter and its role can be found at the SPCYCC website. The themes of the meeting included a briefing on the Te Koro Aka'Au Community Youth Court, family group conferences, the Cook Island youth justice system, UNICEF research on diversion, child protection, challenges for Pacific Island countries and jurisdiction updates from the members. The members of the Council attend the headstone unveiling ceremony of the late Senior JP John Kenning (previously a member of the Council) and also a State Funeral for Dame Margaret Karika, Paramount Chief. The attendees came from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and UNICEF. It was resolved that the 2018 meeting would be in Wellington. My attendance at the meeting was funded from my jurisprudential allowance.

In October 2017 I was consulted in relation to the Chief Justice's response to draft amendments to the *Family Law Act* (Cth).

On 27 October 2017 I responded to the Attorney-General (QLD) in relation to a proposal to provide a prosecution election for summary jurisdiction in relation to choking offences.

On 18 January 2018, I met with the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Director-General of her department to discuss various issues concerning the Childrens Court. As a result the Minister attended a meeting of the Childrens Court Committee.

On 2 March 2018 I presented a paper to the Queensland Magistrates' Childrens Court Conference.

On 12 March 2018 I met with Mr Atkinson and his staff in consultation about his review. As a result Mr Atkinson attended a meeting of the Childrens Court Committee.

In March 2018 I consulted with Mr J. McKenna QC, Chairman, Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland in relation to the reporting of Childrens Court Cases on the Queensland Judgements Website.

On 23 May 2018 I met with Adjunct Professor T. Hutchinson of the School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University in relation to a research project about the use of video links for appearances by young persons.

On 22 June 2018 I met with Dr J. Renwick QC, Independent National Security Legislation Monitor and members of his review in relation to the prosecution and sentencing of children for Commonwealth terrorist offences.

On 29 June 2018 I responded in relation to consultation on the *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No.1) 2018* and its impact on the Childrens Court.

In May and June 2018 I was part of a committee of Supreme and District Court Judges to formulate a response to a request from the Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to consider the recommendations in the Criminal Justice Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The response of the Chief Justice was sent on 27 June 2018.

I also wrote the foreword to Legal Aid Queensland's Youth Practitioners' Guide, an electronic resource, which was launched on 16 August 2018.

Thanks

This will be my last annual report. I have advised the Governor that I will resign from the position on 31 December 2018. I have held the position since February 2011.

I would again thank the Judges of the Childrens Court for their assistance in managing the work load of the Court. During 2017-18 Judges Porter, Coker and Jarro were appointed Judges of the Childrens Court.

I again thank the Magistrates for their work in this area. The magistrates across the State perform over 90% of the judicial work in the youth justice system as well as an enormous volume of complex child protection matters.

I particularly wish to thank Deputy Chief Magistrate Leanne O'Shea for her dedication to the work in this area, her participation in both the Childrens Court Committee and the Court Case Management Committee and her sage counsel over the years.

I particularly wish to recognise the work and vision of Mr Sean Harvey, Deputy Director-General, Youth Justice (now retired) for his work in relation to children who come into contact with the youth justice system. The establishment of the Childrens Court Committee was his idea and he should be credited with that initiative and the many successes it has achieved, particularly with getting all relevant parties around the table. I wish him well in his retirement.

Again it is appropriate to recognise the dedication of others involved in the Childrens' Court system, including staff in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (QLD), Legal Aid Queensland particularly Youth Legal Aid under the leadership of Mr David Law, The Youth Advocacy Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, staff of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities (now the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women), the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, the Child Practitioners' Association of Queensland, other youth advocacy workers, the officers and volunteers of PACT as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

I wish to record my thanks to the members of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee for all the work undertaken. In particular I wish to thank Ms Kelly Huston (née Briggs) (Youth Justice) and Ms Danielle Palmer (Legal Officer, Office of the Chief Magistrate) who act as coordinators of the business of each committee. Their work has been, and continues to be, invaluable.

Finally I wish to again thank the officers of the Performance and Reporting Unit, Reform and Support Services (DJAG) and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (Queensland Treasury) for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

Final Thoughts

I have found the work in the Childrens Court rewarding and, in many ways, depressing. To see some young people who have been neglected or abused, have little or no parental support, suffering from intellectual or mental health problems, who may be homeless or have substance abuse issues (or many combinations of the above) before the courts, many as repeat offenders and to realise that without appropriate support, the child may become an adult criminal is a sobering experience.

The criminal courts are a blunt tool for addressing such issues. That is not to say that continued efforts of rehabilitation should not be made. A passage from W.H. Auden's "The Shield of Achilles" perhaps should remind us of the background of some of these children,

"A ragged urchin, aimless and alone,
Loitered about that vacancy; a bird
Flew up to safety from his well-aimed stone:
That girls are raped, that two boys knife a third,
Were axioms to him, who'd never heard
Of any world where promises were kept,
Or one could weep because another wept."

Michael Shanahan AM DCJ
President
Childrens Court of Queensland

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics presented in this report may vary from data published elsewhere, due to differences in the dates administrative data were extracted and frequency of revision, or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. Changes in the scope of the court statistics also occur from time to time. Readers are therefore urged to exercise caution when making comparison between publications.

Reference period

The statistics in this report relate primarily to the 2017–18 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Where possible, data from the previous financial year, and in some cases the previous nine years, are provided for comparison.

Data sources

Statistical information used in this report has been collected and presented by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury.

Finalised appearances and charges data have been sourced from QGSO's Courts Database, which contains operational data sourced from and managed on behalf of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data were extracted in September 2018.

Juvenile cautions and victims of juvenile offenders data were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in July 2018.

Youth justice data, including distinct young offenders, rates, youth justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (Youth Justice Services). Data were extracted in July 2018.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report. Data were extracted in August 2018.

Counting rules

The Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report uses counting rules prescribed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for presenting courts statistics. In contrast, the Magistrates Court Annual Report uses Report on Government Services (RoGS) counting rules as prescribed by the Australian Government Productivity Commission. The differences in the counting rules make these two reports incomparable. The main difference is the counting unit used for RoGS and the Magistrates Court Annual Report is lodgements, which gives a measure of workload, whereas the unit counted by the ABS is finalised appearances, which gives a measure of results.

Further information regarding these counting rules is available from the following websites:

Australian Bureau of Statistics: www.abs.gov.au

Report on Government Services: <https://www.pc.gov.au/>

Symbols used in tables

—	nil
. .	not applicable
r	revised

Definitions

caution	an official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to a charge.
charge	a formal accusation of an offence.
child	see <i>juvenile</i> .
Childrens Court	The Childrens Court is a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving juveniles. (For the purposes of this report, Magistrates Court is the term used.) It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.
Childrens Court of Queensland	an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications under the Surrogacy Act. It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
Childrens Court judge	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i>).
Childrens Court magistrate	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>).
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.
defendant	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
disposition	the finalisation and clearing of matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).
District Court of Queensland	<p>a court constituted by a District Court judge (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>, and s5, <i>District Court of Queensland Act 1967</i>). A District Court Judge who does not have a commission as a Childrens Court Judge has jurisdiction to deal with a juvenile in circumstances where a Childrens Court Judge is not available.</p> <p>Matters involving juveniles can be heard in the adult District Court if the juvenile is charged as an adult, or in other special circumstances, such as when a juvenile is co-accused with an adult, in accordance with guidelines set down in the <i>Childrens Court Act</i> and the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i>.</p>
ex officio indictment	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
finalised appearance	a collection of offences for a single offender that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location.
guilty finding	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.

juvenile	In the context of youth justice, a juvenile is a person aged 10–17 years of age at date of offending. Prior to 12 February 2018, when changes to the Youth Justice Act came into effect, a juvenile in Queensland was aged 10–16 years.
Magistrates Court	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.
offence	any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.
offence type	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification</i> (ANZSOC), 2011 is used in this report.
offender	a juvenile who has been found, or has pleaded, guilty of an offence.
penalty	<p>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.</p> <p><i>detention order</i> a custodial penalty placing a juvenile in a youth detention centre.</p> <p><i>boot camp order</i> an order suspending a detention order upon a child, who is aged 13 years or above, entering a boot camp program for a period of at least three months but not more than six months. Such an order requires one month placement at a boot camp centre and the remainder as a period of community supervision. <i>This penalty was discontinued from 30 September 2015.</i></p> <p><i>boot camp (vehicle offences) order</i> an order made in relation to a child who is aged 13 years or above, who usually resides in an area prescribed by regulation and who is a recidivist vehicle offender. The provisions in relation to a “boot camp order” apply. <i>This penalty was discontinued from 30 September 2015.</i></p> <p><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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><i>community service order</i> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.</p> <p><i>graffiti removal order</i> an order made against a juvenile offender aged 12 years or above who is found guilty of a graffiti offence, to perform graffiti removal service for a specified number of hours.</p>

probation order a penalty allowing an offender freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.

fine a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.

good behaviour order 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.

reprimand a formal reproof given by the court to a juvenile offender upon a guilty finding.

sentence

the determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty.

serious offence

an offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more (s8, Youth Justice Act).

Supreme Court of Queensland

the highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).

trial (criminal)

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.

youth justice conferencing

a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby the police can divert young offenders from the court system. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

Interpreting the data

Breaches of juvenile justice orders

A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (i.e. conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour order) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (Youth Justice Act). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report.

In 2017–18, 361 appearances by juvenile defendants were finalised in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice order compared with 7,726 appearing for criminal offences.

Breaches 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).

Caution

On a crime report, a caution is counted once only for each type of offence committed by an offender. Thus, a person cautioned by police 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.

Classification of offences

This report shows the classification of charges by “offence type”. The offence classification used is based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions using ANZSOC, then the National Offence Index (2018) 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 particular interest.

Miscellaneous offences contain those that involve the breach of statutory rules or regulations that are not explicitly dealt with in any other division, such as: defamation, libel and privacy offences; public health and safety offences; or breaches of commercial/industry/financial regulations.

Finalised appearance versus distinct young person

In this report, the Queensland Courts and Youth Justice Services use different terms to explain volume counts. With Courts data, except in the case of finalised charges, the counting unit is finalised appearances. An individual young person may have one or multiple finalised court appearances during the reference period, and each is counted. By comparison, each distinct young person (defendant) with a finalised appearance is counted by Youth Justice Services only once per reporting period, regardless of how many finalised appearances they had during that time.

Imprisonment

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the Youth Justice Act. 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 Youth Justice Act, s140).

Most serious penalty

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition. 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 counted 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.

Recording of age

Where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth of the young person to the date of offence, or the date of finalised appearance, whichever is applicable.

Please note: On 12 February 2018, changes made to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* came into effect. With the definition of “juvenile” changing from 10–16 year old offenders to include 17–year old offenders, this has resulted in a break in the time series data presented in this report. Direct comparisons can therefore not be made with figures in earlier periods.

SUMMARY

Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants

In 2017–18, there were 7,726 finalised appearances of juvenile defendants in all Queensland courts, an increase of 16.1% from 6,654 in 2016–17. The number of finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court increased by 1,055 (16.9%). Over the same 12-month period in the Childrens Court of Queensland, the number increased by 17 (4.5%). An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

Finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court accounted for 94.6% of the total, the Childrens Court of Queensland 5.2%, and the District and Supreme Courts the remaining 0.3% (Table 1).

Table 1 Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by court level^(b)

Court level	2016–17r		2017–18 ^(c)		Change
	number	%	number	%	%
Magistrates	6,250	93.9	7,305	94.6	16.9
Childrens Court of Queensland	381	5.7	398	5.2	4.5
District	21	0.3	18	0.2	-14.3
Supreme	2	0.0	5	0.1	150.0
Total	6,654	100	7,726	100	16.1

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

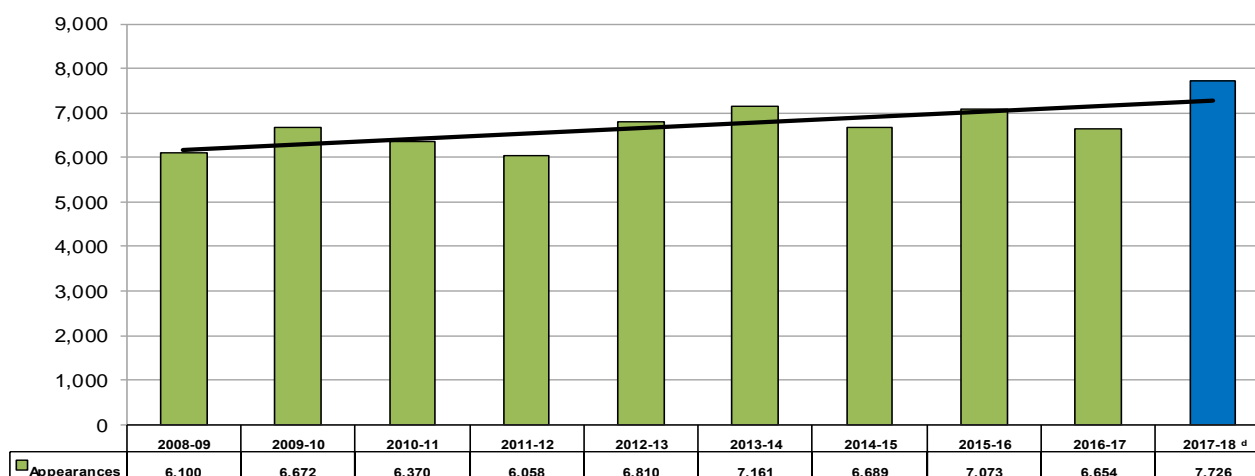
(b) An appearance is finalised when the charges against a defendant are proven or dismissed or withdrawn. Appearances in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in the higher court and are counted here only at that level.

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 72.6% of all finalised appearances by juvenile defendants in 2017–18. Fifteen to sixteen–year old defendants represented 48.6% of the total, with a further 18.1% aged 17 years. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 12).

Figure 1 Ten-year comparison^(a) of finalised appearances^(b) of juvenile defendants, all courts^(c)



(a) Data for all years are as at September 2018, and therefore include revisions.

(b) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An appearance is finalised when the charges against a defendant are proven or dismissed or withdrawn. Appearances for committal to a higher court, or for breaches of juvenile justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to youth justice conferencing.

(c) Includes finalised appearances of juveniles at all court levels — Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.

(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

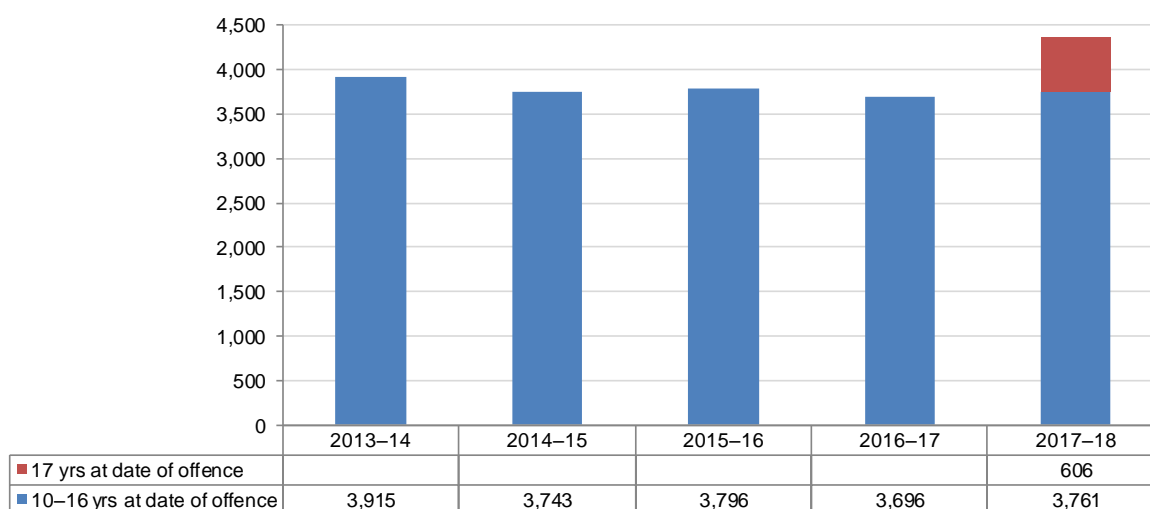
Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Distinct juvenile defendants

Due to the time it takes to have charges heard and finalised in court, there will be a small number of young persons aged 18 years and over who are dealt with as juveniles in the youth justice system. In addition, detention counts include offenders aged 18 years and over who are completing their detention orders in a youth detention centre for offences they committed as juveniles.

In 2017–18, there were 4,367 distinct young persons aged 10 years and over who had at least one finalised appearance in a Queensland court¹. There had been a downward trend in the number of distinct juvenile defendants in Queensland since 2013–14, with a slight increase in 2017–18. The inclusion of 17-year olds as juveniles accounts for the sizable increase in number for 2017–18. (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Number of distinct juvenile defendants^{(a)(b)} with a finalised appearance, all courts^(c)



- (a) For all years prior to 2017–18, juvenile defendants were those aged 10–16 years at the date of offence. To allow for comparison between years, this year's data has been split into distinct young defendants aged 10–16 years, and those aged 17 years, at date of offence.
- (b) Defendants who appeared in 2017–18 for offences committed at both 16 and 17 years old are included in the count of 10–16 year olds. The count of 17-year olds represents those defendants who only appeared for offences committed when they were aged 17 years.
- (c) Count of distinct juvenile defendants across all court levels.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Young males continue to outnumber young females, accounting for three-quarters of all distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised court appearance (Table 2).

Table 2 Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by sex, all courts

Sex	10–16 years old at date of offence					10–17 years old at date of offence
	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2017–18
Female	26%	27%	27%	28%	28%	28%
Male	74%	73%	73%	72%	72%	72%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

¹ These figures are based on first disposition of charges only (i.e. they exclude re-sentenced offences).

Among all distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance in 2017–18, young persons aged 16 years are the largest single age group. This group accounted for more than one-quarter (26 per cent) of those in the 10–17 years cohort, while 15-year olds accounted for 21 per cent and 17-year olds for 20 per cent during the period. (Table 3). It must be remembered, however, that young persons aged 17 years at date of offence have only been counted from 12 February 2018, when the new definition of juvenile was implemented.

Table 3 Distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts^(a)

Age at final appearance ^(b)	10–16 years old at date of offence					10–17 years old at date of offence
	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2017–18
10	19	22	18	18	13	13
11	58	50	69	52	70	70
12	141	159	154	152	156	156
13	305	316	342	345	376	376
14	591	600	649	646	636	636
15	956	870	919	920	917	917
16	1,321	1,233	1,158	1,119	1,129	1,129
17	489	455	430	400	414	888
18	35	38	57	44	50	182
Total	3,915	3,743	3,796	3,696	3,761	4,367

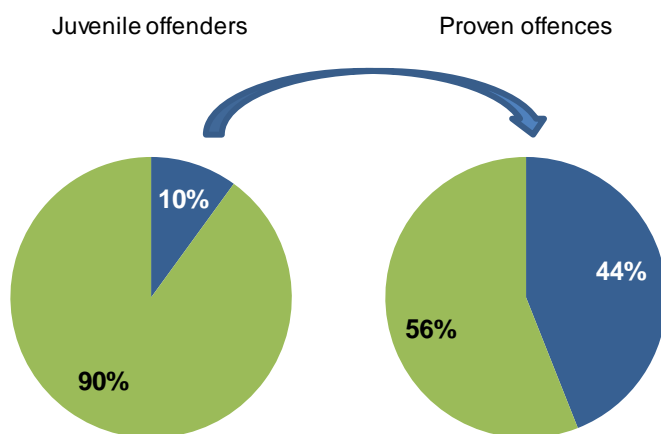
(a) Count of distinct juvenile defendants across all court levels.

(b) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence, and is reported as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

In 2017–18, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences by juveniles (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Percentage of proven offences ^(a) by juvenile offenders, all courts^(b), 2017–18^(c)



(a) A proven offence excludes charges that were dismissed or withdrawn.

(b) Includes counts across all court levels

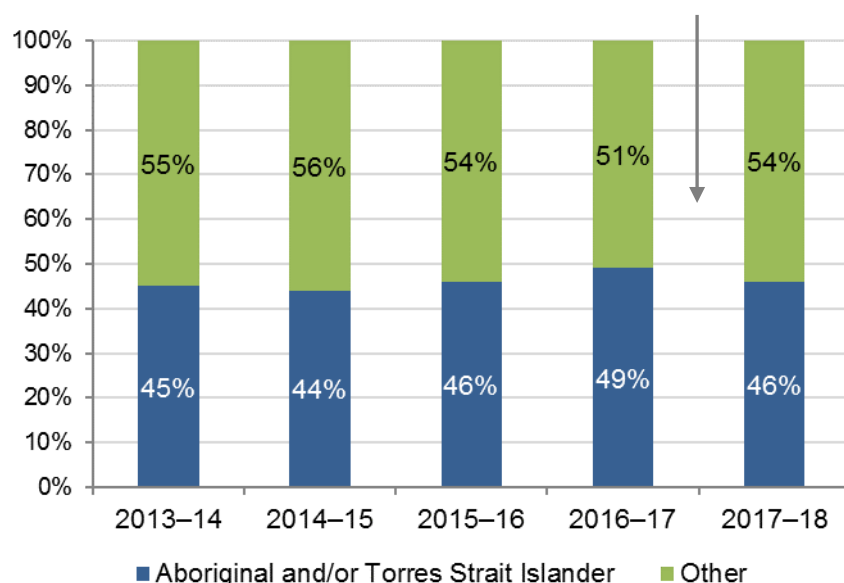
(c) This figure is based on proven offences finalised during 2017–18.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Indigenous status of distinct juvenile defendants

In 2017–18, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons accounted for 46 per cent of all distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance. This proportion is lower than in 2016–17. (Figure 4)

Figure 4 Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status^(a), all courts^(b)



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(a) "Other" includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Includes distinct juvenile defendants across all court levels.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years were 10.6 times as likely as other young people to have had a finalised appearance in a Queensland Court in 2017–18. (Table 4) This is lower than the previous year (11.6 times as likely), and is due largely to the inclusion in the youth justice system of 17-year olds, who have a lower than average proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders compared with 10–16 year olds (Table 37 and Table 38).

Table 4 Rate^(a) of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts^(b)

Indigenous status	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(c)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	48.2	45.5	47.5	48.6	53.7
Other ^(d)	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.2	5.1

(a) Rates were calculated per 1,000 persons aged 10–17 years.

(b) Includes distinct juvenile defendants across all court levels.

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(d) "Other" includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; ABS 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Dec 2017; ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026*

Finalised charges against juvenile defendants

For all court levels, the average number of charges per finalised appearance by a juvenile defendant increased from 3.9 in 2016–17 to 4.3 in 2017–18. In the Magistrates Court, the average number increased from 3.8 to 4.2 charges per finalised appearance over that period, and in the District Court from 3.5 to 6.4. There was a slight drop in average charges in the Childrens Court of Queensland over the same period, from 5.1 to 5.0.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges in 2017–18 were *theft and related offences* with 9,820 charges (29.7%), *unlawful entry with intent* with 6,192 charges (18.7%), *property damage* with 3,668 charges (11.1%) and *public order offences* with 3,348 charges (10.1%). In total, these four offence categories represented 69.7% of all charges finalised against juvenile defendants. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 1)

Table 5 Finalised charges against juvenile defendants, by court level^(a)

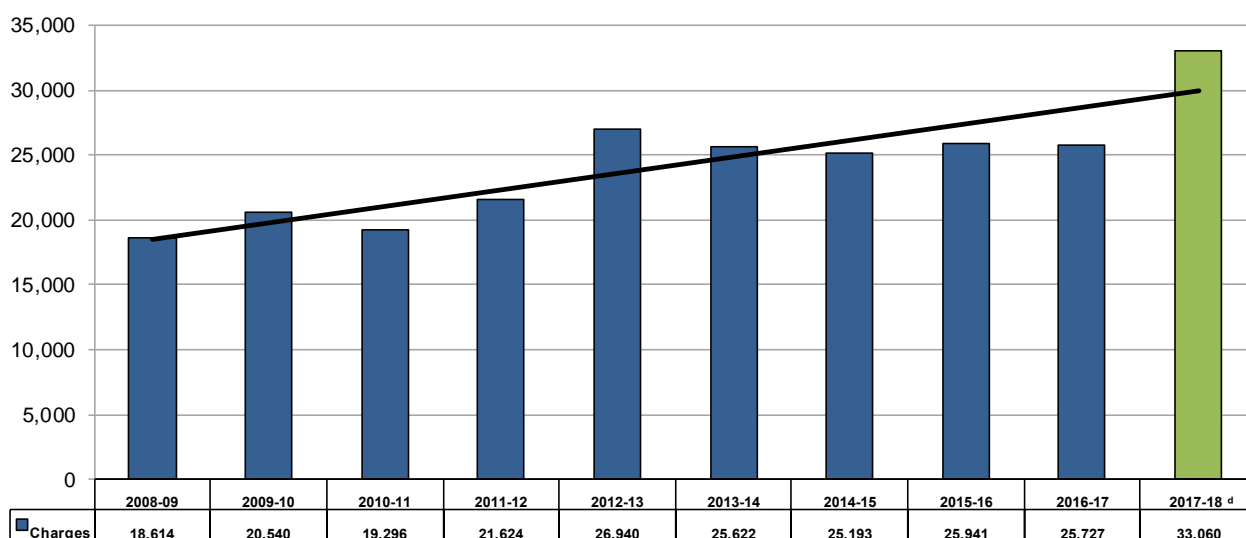
Court level	2016–17 ^r		2017–18 ^(b)		Change
	number	%	number	%	%
Magistrates	23,704	92.1	30,945	93.6	30.5
Childrens Court of Queensland	1,946	7.6	1,986	6.0	2.1
District	74	0.3	115	0.3	55.4
Supreme	3	0.0	14	0.0	366.7
Total	25,727	100.0	33,060	100.0	28.5

(a) Charges against juvenile defendants in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in the higher court and are counted here only at that level.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 5 Ten-year comparison^(a) of finalised charges^(b) against juvenile defendants, all courts^(c)



(a) Figures for all years are as at September 2018, and therefore include revisions.

(b) Charges are counted at court level of final disposition only. Charges for breaches of juvenile justice orders are excluded.

(c) Count is of finalised charges against juveniles across all court levels.

(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2017–18, of the 7,726 finalised appearances by juvenile defendants in Queensland courts 77.3% (5,976) resulted in a guilty finding, including where the defendant pleaded guilty (Table 6).

Table 6 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants^(a) with a guilty finding, by most serious penalty, all courts^(b)

Penalty ^(c)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(g)	Change (%)
Detention ^(d)	91	107	17.6
Immediate / conditional release ^(e)	377	396	5.0
Community service	811	869	7.2
Probation	1,120	1,349	20.4
Treatment orders	31	71	129.0
Fine	58	71	22.4
Compensation	26	29	11.5
Good behaviour	936	976	4.3
Disqualification of drivers licence	12	57	375.0
Reprimand ^(f)	1,882	2,051	9.0
Total	5,344	5,976	11.8

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not distinct defendants.

(b) Counts finalised appearances of juveniles across all court levels

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

(g) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Of those appearances with a guilty finding in 2017–18, 107 (or 1.8%) resulted in detention as most serious penalty imposed, and a further 396 (6.6%) resulted in immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were the most serious penalty imposed in 2,051 appearances (34.3%). Probation was the next most prevalent with 1,349 (22.6%), followed by 976 (16.3%) with a good behaviour order as most serious penalty.

Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 11,608 cautions were administered to juvenile offenders in 2017–18, an increase of 620 or 5.6% since 2016–17 (Table 7). In comparison, there were 7,726 finalised court appearances of juvenile defendants in the same period.

In 2017–18, the greatest number of cautions was administered for *theft and related offences* (3,275 or 28.2% of all cautions). A further 1,816 cautions were given for *other offences* (15.6%), including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc (see table footnote, below) and 1,760 for *illicit drug offences* (15.2%).

Table 7 Cautions administered to juvenile offenders^(a) by offence type

Offence type ^(b)	2016–17 ^r	2017–18 ^(d)	Change %
Acts intended to cause injury	758	977	28.9
Sexual assault & related offences	758	679	-10.4
Robbery & extortion	41	73	78.0
Unlawful entry with intent	1,260	1,249	-0.9
Theft & related offences	3,113	3,275	5.2
<i>(Motor vehicle theft)</i>	582	625	7.4
<i>(Other theft)</i>	2,356	2,413	2.4
<i>(Receiving & handling)</i>	175	237	35.4
Deception & related offences	293	443	51.2
Illicit drug offences	1,557	1,760	13.0
Property damage	1,421	1,319	-7.2
Road traffic offences	10	17	70.0
Other offences ^(c)	1,777	1,816	2.2
Total	10,988	11,608	5.6

(a) Data are a count of cautions administered, not distinct offenders. During the reporting period, an individual may be 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) Other offences = *dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences*, and *inadequate data*.

(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Queensland Police Service, data current as at July 2018.

Youth justice conferencing

Court referrals to the Youth Justice Restorative Justice program, which were discontinued in January 2013, were re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

In 2017–18, the program received a total of 2,273 referrals, with 146 of these for 17-year old offenders (6.0 per cent). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 41 percent (934) of all referrals received in the period.

A total of 1,617 referrals were conferenced in 2017–18. This includes referrals received in 2016–17 that were conferenced in 2017–18.

Of the referrals conferenced, 97 per cent resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants. In addition, of those participants who responded to a participant satisfaction survey, 95 per cent were satisfied with the process and outcome of the conference.

The majority of offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by community conference in 2017–18 were theft and related offences (23.7%), unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter (19.8%), and property damage (11.5%)(Table 8).

Table 8 Offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by Youth Justice conference^(a), 2017–18

Offence type ^(b)	2017–18
Assaults	341
<i>Assault</i>	335
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury^(c)</i>	6
Sexual offences	175
<i>Non-assaultive sexual offences</i>	68
<i>Sexual assault</i>	107
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	66
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	27
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons^(c)</i>	39
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	27
Robbery & extortion	83
Fraud and misappropriation	270
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	113
<i>Other fraud and deception offences^(c)</i>	157
Theft, breaking and entering etc	2,078
<i>Theft / Unlawful use of MV</i>	326
<i>Other theft</i>	692
<i>Receiving, unlawful possession</i>	113
<i>Breaking and entering</i>	947
Property damage	552
Driving, traffic and related offences	226
<i>Licence offences</i>	119
<i>Other traffic offences^(c)</i>	107
Drug offences	337
<i>Possession or use of drugs</i>	91
<i>Deal or traffic illicit drugs</i>	163
<i>Other drug offences^(c)</i>	83
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	44
Public nuisance offences	388
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	120
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	259
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	9
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	147
<i>Breach of community based orders</i>	1
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	7
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	139
Other offences	48
Total	4,782

(a) Data are a count of offences for which conferences were held, not a count of conferences held or juvenile offenders who participated in a conference.

(b) Offence categories and sub-categories correspond to Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), 2011, where possible.

(c) Sub-categories relating to “other” offences include offences which are peripheral to the main offence category.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

THE COURTS

Time elapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2017–18, it took an average of 52 days to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court, the same length of time taken in 2016–17. (Table 9)

In 2017–18, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 348 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court, an average of 21 days less than in 2016–17 (369 days).

Table 9 Average number of days^(a) to finalise youth justice proceedings, selected courts

Court level ^{(a)(b)}	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(d)
Magistrates Court	47	50	49	52	52
Childrens Court of Queensland ^(c)	322	327	349	369	348

- (a) These figures exclude the District Court, Supreme Court and Murri Court due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.
- (b) These figures are based on days elapsed between the date of first mention and date of disposition of each charge, averaged across all charges disposed in the reported financial year.
- (c) Time elapsed for charges disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.
- (d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 1,986 charges in 398 appearances of juvenile defendants in 2017–18. The majority of finalised appearances related to juvenile defendants aged 15 years or older (337 or 84.7%), with those aged 17 years or older accounting for 37.9% of all appearances (Table 10). Only 15.3% of finalised appearances were for juvenile defendants aged less than 15 years.

Table 10 Finalised appearances^(a), by age^(b), Childrens Court of Queensland

Age	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(c)	Change (%)
11	–	3	..
12	3	1	–66.7
13	12	22	83.3
14	50	35	–30.0
15	69	64	–7.2
16	105	122	16.2
17	108	129	19.4
18 & over	34	22	–35.3
Total	381	398	4.5

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.
- (b) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

In 2017–18, the Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2.1% (40) more charges against juvenile defendants than in the previous year (Table 11). However, the average number of charges per finalised appearance has slightly decreased in this period, to 5.0 from 5.1 in 2016–17.

Table 11 Finalised charges by offence type, Childrens Court of Queensland

Offence type ^(a)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(c)	Change (%)
Acts intended to cause injury	205	272	32.7
Sexual assault & related offences	236	154	–34.7
Robbery & extortion	230	306	33.0
Unlawful entry with intent	363	324	–10.7
Theft & related offences	457	492	7.7
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	219	236	7.8
<i>Other theft</i>	199	196	–1.5
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	39	60	53.8
Deception & related offences	40	42	5.0
Illicit drug offences	64	68	6.3
Property damage	183	140	–23.5
Road traffic offences	37	51	37.8
Other offences ^(b)	131	137	4.6
Total	1,946	1,986	2.1

(a) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

(b) Other offences = *dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences, and inadequate data.*

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

Theft & related offences accounted for 492 finalised charges against juvenile defendants in 2017–18, representing 24.8% of all charges finalised, and an increase of 7.7% since 2016–17. Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* decreased 10.7% over the same period, from 363 to 324 finalised charges, 16.3% of the total in 2017–18. *Robbery and extortion* charges increased by 33.0%, from 230 in 2016–17 to 306 in 2017–18 (up to 15.4% of all charges). Charges finalised for *sexual assault & related offences* decreased 34.7% from 236 to 154 charges over the period (down to 7.8% of the total).

Of the 398 juvenile appearances before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2017–18, 77.9% (310) resulted in a guilty outcome (Table 13). Of these, 17 (5.5%) received a custodial sentence as the most serious penalty, with a further 83 (26.8%) given an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty was probation (56.1%).

Table 12 Finalised appearances^(a), by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(f)	Change %
Detention ^(c)	20	17	–15.0
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	64	83	29.7
Community service	35	22	–37.1
Probation	157	174	10.8
Compensation	–	1	..
Good behaviour	7	8	14.3
Disqualification of drivers licence	1	–	–100.0
Reprimand ^(e)	6	5	–16.7
Total	290	310	6.9

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

(f) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

Applications for sentence review

Table 13 Applications for sentence review – Youth Justice Act 1992^{(a)(b)}, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14 ^(b)	2016–17 ^(b)	2017–18
Beenleigh	6	–	–	–	–
Brisbane	62	47	36	25	21
Cairns	2	–	–	–	–
Maroochydore	–	–	–	–	1
Townsville	1	4	–	–	–
Total	71	51	36	25	22

(a) Count is based on originating applications lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland, pursuant to section 119 of the Youth Justice Act, within the reported period.

(b) Sentence review legislation was repealed on 28 March 2014 and was enacted again on 1 July 2016.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at August 2018.

Applications for bail

Table 14 Applications for bail^(a) to the Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)
Beenleigh	1	7	3	7	10	–
Brisbane	50	44	36	35	30	91
Cairns	–	3	2	2	–	6
Hervey Bay	–	–	1	2	–	1
Ipswich	5	12	5	2	6	3
Mackay	–	–	2	1	1	–
Maroochydore	–	–	1	–	1	3
Maryborough	–	–	–	1	–	–
Rockhampton	–	–	–	3	–	2
Roma	–	–	1	–	–	–
Southport	–	2	2	2	3	3
Toowoomba	5	3	5	7	–	–
Townsville	2	–	2	–	4	1
Total	63	71	60	62	55	110

(a) This is a count of bail applications, not defendants, and is based on originating applications lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reporting period.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at August 2018.

Appeals

Table 15 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, Child Safety Services (DCSYW) as respondent^{(a)(b)(c)}

Court location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(d)
Beenleigh	–	–	–	–	–	10
Brisbane	9	8	4	4	21	20
Cairns	–	1	1	2	–	3
Gladstone	–	–	–	–	1	–
Hervey Bay	–	1	–	1	–	–
Ipswich	3	–	–	1	2	–
Mackay	1	–	–	–	–	–
Maroochydore	–	1	–	–	–	1
Maryborough	–	1	–	–	–	–
Rockhampton	–	–	–	–	4	1
Southport	1	6	7	3	1	2
Toowoomba	–	3	–	3	–	–
Townsville	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	14	21	12	14	29	37

- (a) The statistics are a count of appeals from a Magistrates Court to the Childrens Court of Queensland, relating to temporary assessment orders, temporary custody orders, court assessment orders or child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
- (b) Child Safety Services, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women or the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) were either respondents or appellants in each of the matters. The DCPL commenced 1 July 2016.
- (c) The count is based on the originating appeal document lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reporting period.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at August 2018.

Table 16 Appeals^(a) lodged pursuant to s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, by court location

Court location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)
Brisbane	2	5	4	22	–	3
Bundaberg	–	–	–	1	–	–
Cairns	1	–	–	–	–	–
Ipswich	–	–	1	–	–	–
Kingaroy	2	–	–	–	–	–
Maroochydore	1	–	2	–	1	–
Maryborough	–	1	–	–	–	–
Southport	–	–	–	–	1	–
Toowoomba	–	3	1	2	–	–
Townsville	–	–	1	–	–	–
Total	6	9	9	25	2	3

- (a) Under s222 of the Justices Act, if a person feels aggrieved by an order made in the Magistrates Court for an offence, the person may appeal the order to a District Court Judge.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at August 2018.

Applications for parentage orders

Table 17 **Originating applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for Surrogacy Act parentage orders^{(a)(b)(c)}**

Originating court location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Brisbane	8	5	9	14	13	12
Cairns	–	–	–	–	–	–
Maroochydore	–	–	–	–	1	–
Rockhampton	1	–	–	–	–	–
Southport	1	–	–	–	–	–
Total	10	5	9	14	14	12

- (a) Chapter 3, Part 2 of the *Surrogacy Act 2010*, Making a parentage order, facilitates the transfer of children born as a result of a surrogacy arrangement.
- (b) The statistics reflect a count of originating applications for parentage orders made per section 21 of the Surrogacy Act.
- (c) The count is based upon the originating application document lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reporting period.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at August 2018.

Magistrates Court

In 2017–18, there were 7,305 finalised appearances of juvenile defendants in Magistrates Court in Queensland, an increase of 16.9% from 6,250 in the previous year. In addition, 400 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, an increase of 42.9% since 2016–17. Of the 7,305 finalised appearances, 5,651 (77.4%) resulted in a guilty finding and 1,654 (22.6%) were discharged (Table 18).

Table 18 Appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court

Outcome	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(d)	Change %
Committed to a higher court ^(b)	280	400	42.9
Finalised	6,250	7,305	16.9
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,043	5,651	12.1
<i>Discharged</i> ^(c)	1,207	1,654	37.0

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.
(b) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court was the most serious outcome.
(c) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.
(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

The difference between the 400 appearances of juvenile defendants committed to a higher court and the 421 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in 2017–18 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2016–17 but finalised in 2017–18.

In 2017–18, a total of 30,945 charges against juvenile defendants were finalised in the Magistrates Court, 7,241 (30.5%) more than the previous year.

The largest number of finalised charges were for *theft and related offences* (9,314 or 30.1%), followed by *unlawful entry with intent* (5,838 or 18.9%) and *other offences* (5,799 or 18.7%). (Table 19) In total, these three offence types accounted for 67.7% of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2017–18.

Table 19 Finalised charges^(a) against juvenile defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court

Offence type ^(b)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(e)	Change (%)
Homicide & related offences	2	–	–100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1,032	1,507	46.0
Sexual assault & related offences	45	95	111.1
Robbery & extortion	116	195	68.1
Unlawful entry with intent	4,340	5,838	34.5
Theft & related offences	7,488	9,314	24.4
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1,886	2,442	29.5
<i>Other theft</i> ^(c)	4,544	5,574	22.7
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	1,058	1,298	22.7
Deception & related offences	1,223	1,466	19.9
Illicit drug offences	1,363	1,638	20.2
Property damage	2,196	3,516	60.1
Road traffic offences	1,440	1,577	9.5
Other offences ^(d)	4,459	5,799	30.1
Total	23,704	30,945	30.5

- (a) Excludes charges committed to a higher court, and transfers.
(b) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.
(c) Other theft = *theft (except motor vehicles)* + *theft and related offences not further defined*.
(d) Other offences = *dangerous or negligent acts* + *abduction & related offences* + *weapons & explosives offences* + *public order offences* + *justice & government offences* + *miscellaneous offences*, and *inadequate data*.
(e) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

Of the 32,764 charges against juvenile defendants in the Magistrates Court in 2017–18, 30,945 (94.4%) were finalised, while 1,819 (5.6%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence (Table 20).

Table 20 Charges against juvenile defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court

Outcome	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(a)	Change (%)
Committed to a higher court	1,178	1,819	54.4
Finalised	23,704	30,945	30.5
Total	24,882	32,764	31.7

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018.

Of the 7,305 finalised appearances of juvenile defendants in the Magistrates Court in 2017–18, 5,651 (77.4%) resulted in a guilty finding (Table 21). Of these, over one-third (2,046 or 36.2%) received a reprimand as the most serious penalty. A custodial sentence was given in 87 juvenile appearances (1.5%) and 309 (5.5%) received an immediate/conditional release order as the most serious penalty.

Table 21 Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(f)	Change %
Detention ^(c)	71	87	22.5
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	311	309	–0.6
Community service	775	846	9.2
Probation	956	1,170	22.4
Treatment order	31	71	129.0
Fine	58	71	22.4
Compensation	26	28	7.7
Good behaviour	928	966	4.1
Disqualification of drivers licence	11	57	418.2
Reprimand ^(e)	1,876	2,046	9.1
Total	5,043	5,651	12.1

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

(f) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Applications for child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*

Table 22 Applications for child protection orders^(a), Magistrates Court

	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Applications for child protection orders	3,951	3,499	3,570	3,979	4,255	4,527

(a) The unit of measurement of workload used for these applications is lodgements based on the number of cases.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at 7 August 2018

Supreme and District Courts

The Supreme and District Courts finalised 129 charges in 23 appearances of juvenile defendants in 2017–18. The number of finalised appearances in these courts was the same as in 2016–17, whereas the number of finalised charges increased by 67.5% (Table 23 and Table 24). The average number of finalised charges per appearance in the Supreme and District Courts increased from 3.3 in 2016–17 to 5.6 in 2017–18.

In the same period, 19 (82.6%) of the 23 finalised appearances of juveniles in the Supreme and District Courts were for defendants aged 17 years and over, with the remaining 17.4% aged 16 years and under. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 9.)

Table 23 Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts

Age at final appearance	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(b)
14	1	–
15	6	1
16	3	3
17	9	11
18 & over	4	8
Total	23	23

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Of the 129 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts in 2017–18, *sexual assault & related offences* accounted for the largest number, with 31 charges (24.0%), while *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 30 charges (23.3%). *Theft & related offences* accounted for 14 charges (10.9%) (Table 24).

Table 24 Finalised charges against juvenile defendants, by offence type, Supreme and District Courts

Offence type ^(a)	2016–17r	2017–18 ^(c)
Homicide & related offences	–	2
Acts intended to cause injury	29	12
Sexual assault & related offences	25	31
Robbery & extortion	6	4
Unlawful entry with intent	6	30
Theft & related offences	1	14
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1	10
<i>Other theft</i>	–	2
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	–	2
Illicit drug offences	3	13
Property damage	7	12
Other offences ^(b)	–	11
Total	77	129

(a) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

(b) Other offences = *dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences*, and inadequate data.

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Of the 23 finalised appearances of juvenile defendants in the Supreme and District Courts in 2017–18, 15 (65.2%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty (Table 25). Of these, 3 (20%) received detention as the most serious penalty and 4 (26.7%) received immediate/conditional release orders. The most prevalent penalty was probation (33.3%).

Table 25 Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17 ^r	2017–18 ^(e)
Detention ^(c)	–	3
Immediate / conditional release ^(d)	2	4
Community service	1	1
Probation	7	5
Good behaviour	1	2
Total	11	15

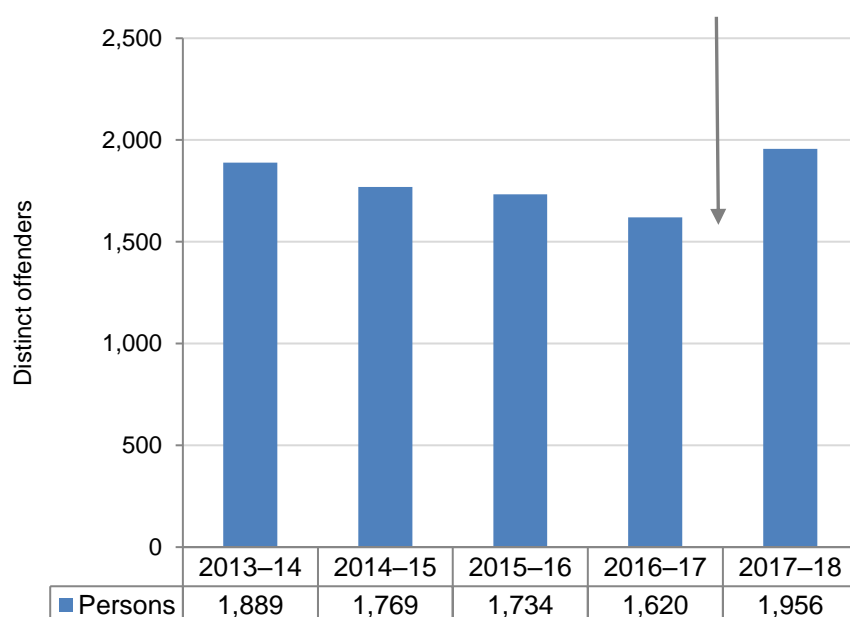
- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness.
- (c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.
- (d) Includes suspended imprisonment.
- (e) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2017–18, 1,956 distinct juvenile offenders aged 10–17 years commenced a supervised youth justice order^{(a)(b)}, an increase of 21 percent from the previous period. (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Distinct juvenile offenders^(a) commencing a supervised youth justice order^{(b)(c)}



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(a) Offenders aged 10–17 years.

(b) A supervised youth justice order may commence at a later date than the date the court made the order.

(c) This count excludes admissions to a supervised release order, the part of a detention order that is completed in the community.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Service, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

In 2017–18, juvenile offenders aged 17 years and over at earliest date of commencement of a supervised youth justice order were the largest age group commencing an order, constituting 27 per cent (529) of the 1,956 distinct offenders. Young offenders aged 16 years made up one-quarter of all juveniles commencing an order (Table 26), followed by 15-year olds at 21.5 per cent.

Table 26 Distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age

Age at commencement of order ^(a)	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)
10	5	4	4	6	1
11	15	19	20	12	25
12	73	72	72	49	41
13	166	168	164	165	177
14	334	292	327	276	270
15	494	430	435	417	421
16	574	557	500	489	492
17+	228	227	212	206	529
Total	1,889	1,769	1,734	1,620	1,956

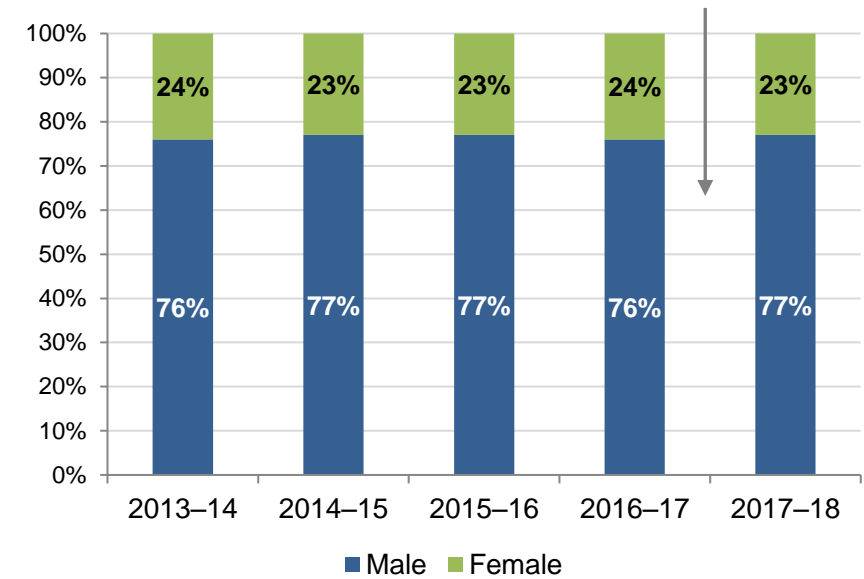
(a) Age represents age of offender as at the earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Service, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Young male offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order continue to outnumber females by three to one. This pattern has remained consistent, with males accounting for approximately 77 per cent of all juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. (Figure 7).

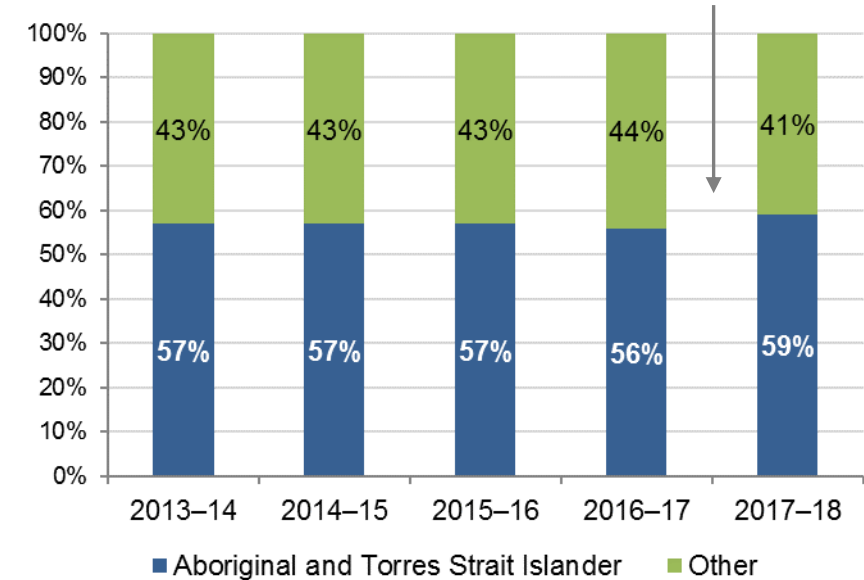
Figure 7 Proportion of distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Service, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

In 2017-18, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders represented 59 per cent of all juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. This pattern has remained relatively stable over the past five years (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Proportion of distinct juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status^(a)



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (a) “Other” includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.
 Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Service, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young persons aged 10–17 years were 17.6 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2017–18 (Table 27).

Table 27 Rate^(a) of distinct juvenile offenders on a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(c)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	29.5	27.5	26.8	24.6	30.6
Other ^(b)	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7

(a) Rates were calculated per 1,000 persons aged 10–17 years.

(b) “Other” includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; ABS 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2017; ABS 3238.0 Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026

The most prevalent order types commenced by juvenile offenders were consistently probation (averaging 49% of orders commenced between 2013–14 and 2017–18) and community service (averaging 27%). Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) on average accounted for 8.7% of orders commenced during the last five periods. (Table 28)

Table 28 Supervised youth justice orders commenced^(a), by order type

Order type	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(h)
Boot camp ^(b)	11	15	2	..	..
Boot camp (vehicle offences) ^(c)	5	48	10	..	..
Community service	1,130	1,008	925	731	872
Conditional release	278	233	251	226	230
Detention ^(d)	314	287	343	272	306
Graffiti removal ^(e)	107	252	198	186	214
Intensive supervision ^(f)	12	13	10	2	13
Probation	1,836	1,591	1,653	1,510	1,958
Restorative justice ^(g)	..	..	..	272	202
Total	3,693	3,447	3,392	3,199	3,795

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders, as an individual offender may commence more than one supervised order during the reference period.

(b) Boot camp orders came into effect in the Cairns area on 31 January 2013 and were temporarily discontinued between April 2013 and December 2013, and discontinued from 30 September 2015. Boot camp (sentenced) order counts exclude boot camp (vehicle offences) order counts.

(c) Boot camp (vehicle offence) orders came into effect in the Townsville area in April 2014 and expanded to the Cairns area in October 2014. They were discontinued from 30 September 2015.

(d) Detention order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order or boot camp order.

(e) Court-ordered graffiti removal orders came into effect on 27 September 2013. These counts exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.

(f) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for juvenile offenders 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.

(g) Restorative justice orders commenced on 1 July 2016.

(h) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced stayed relatively consistent between 2013–14 and 2015–16, after which there was a significant increase. (Table 29)

Table 29 Court-ordered conditional bail ^(a) commenced by juvenile offenders

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)
Conditional bail program	372	379	323	450	758

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2016–17 were successfully completed by the end of 2017–18, including 70% of probation orders and 70% of community service orders, the two most prevalent community-based order types.

Almost one in four probation and community service orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2018. Thirty-six percent of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2018 (Table 30).

Table 30 Supervised youth justice orders commenced^(a) in 2016–17: type of order by completion status as at 30 June 2018

Completion status as at 30 June 2018	Type of order commenced in 2016–17											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Order successfully completed	1,072	70%	166	63%	520	70%	1	50%	160	85%	242	88%
Order remains active	124	8%	1	0%	46	6%	–	0%	3	2%	8	3%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	336	22%	95	36%	175	24%	1	50%	25	13%	25	9%
Total	1,532	100%	262	100%	741	100%	2	100%	188	100%	275	100%

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced in 2016–17, not a count of juvenile offenders.

(b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2018 are reported as “Breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Table 31 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2012–13 to 2016–17: type of order by completion status as at 30 June of the following period^(a)

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	1,231	71%	1,319	71%	1,074	67%	1,186	71%	1,072	70%
Remained active	125	7%	118	6%	81	5%	79	5%	124	8%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	369	21%	429	23%	453	28%	413	25%	336	22%
Total	1,725	100%	1,866	100%	1,608	100%	1,678	100%	1,532	100%
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	160	62%	183	63%	138	52%	165	59%	166	63%
Remained active	3	1%	1	0%	1	0%	2	1%	1	0%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	97	37%	108	37%	125	47%	111	40%	95	36%
Total	260	100%	292	100%	264	100%	278	100%	262	100%
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	713	72%	781	69%	722	71%	652	69%	520	70%
Remained active	59	6%	67	6%	46	5%	48	5%	46	6%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	222	22%	292	26%	254	25%	239	25%	175	24%
Total	994	100%	1140	100%	1022	100%	939	100%	741	100%
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	3	50%	10	83%	8	57%	5	50%	1	50%
Remained active	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	3	50%	2	17%	6	43%	5	50%	1	50%
Total	6	100%	12	100%	14	100%	10	100%	2	100%
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	..	..	94	83%	213	83%	169	84%	160	85%
Remained active	..	..	4	4%	4	2%	3	1%	3	2%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	..	..	15	13%	41	16%	30	15%	25	13%
Total	..	..	113	100%	258	100%	202	100%	188	100%
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced									
	2012–13		2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	242	88%
Remained active	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	9%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3%
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	275	100%

(a) Orders are reported against the financial year in which they commenced. Order status is reported as at 30 June in the following financial year. Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders.

(b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June in the following period are reported as "Breach action initiated", irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June.

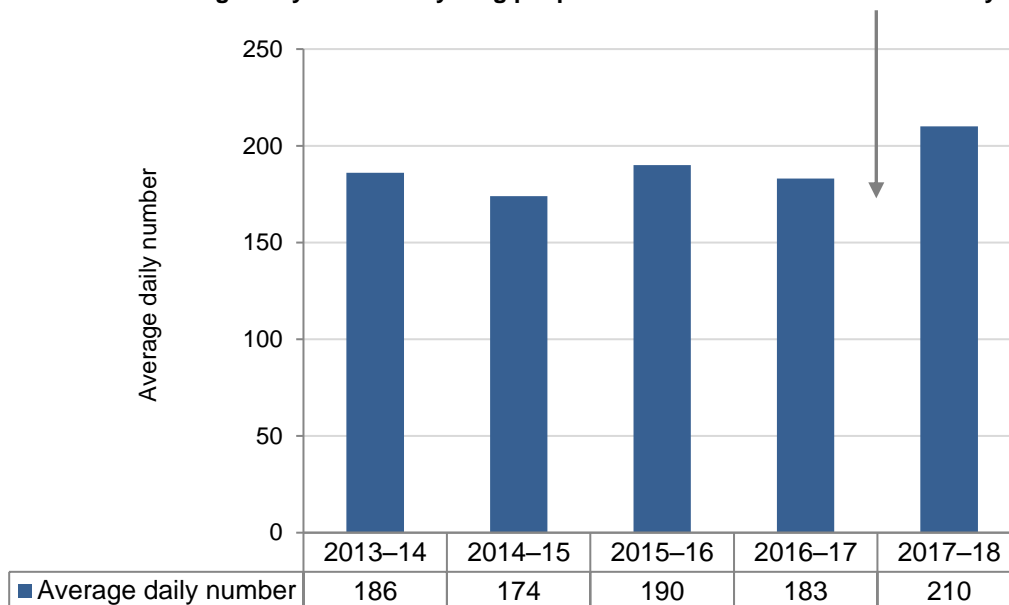
(c) Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Young people in detention (including court-ordered custody in police watchhouses)

The transition of 17-year old offenders into the youth justice system has placed pressure on the system and in particular detention centre capacity. Young people may now spend some time in custody in a police watchhouse following court-ordered remand or sentence until detention capacity permits.

In 2017–18, the average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody was 210, compared with 183 in 2016–17 (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody^(a)



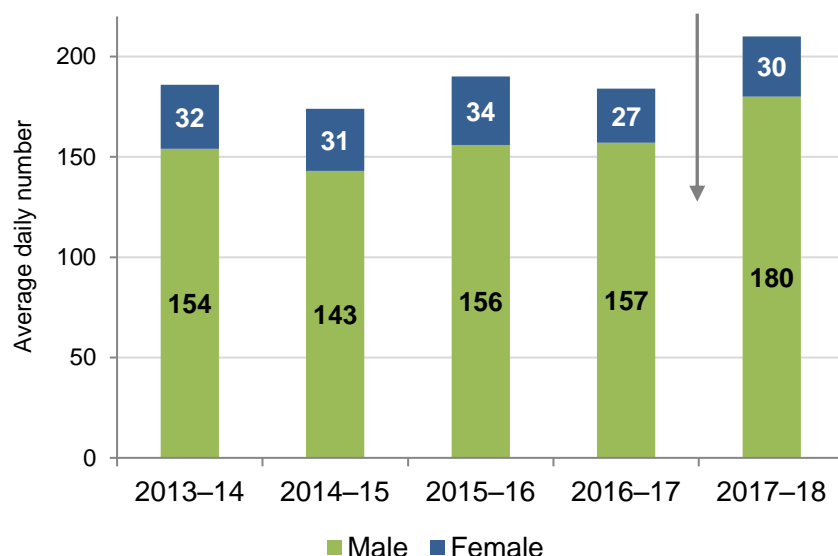
Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(a) The average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody is calculated based on the number of young people who were physically located in a detention centre or a police watchhouse at 6 am on each day during the period. This includes young people held in pre-court custody in a detention centre, but not pre-court custody in a police watchhouse.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in youth detention/court-ordered custody, accounting for more than 80% of young people on average in any given period. The proportion of young females entering youth detention/court-ordered custody was lower in 2017–18 (14%) compared with previous years, where the proportion of females ranged between 15% and 18%.

Figure 10 Average daily number of young people in detention/court-ordered custody, by sex



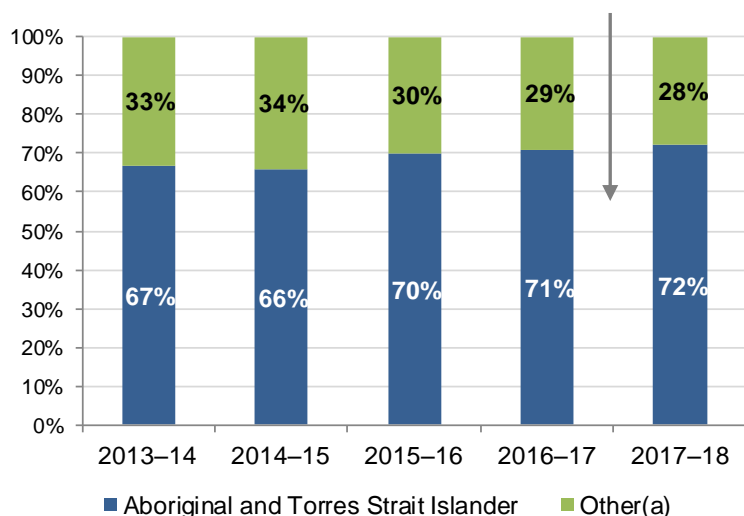
Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals in Figure 9.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention/court-ordered custody, accounting for over 70 percent of young people in custody on an average day (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Proportion of average daily number of young people in youth detention/court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(a) "Other" includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. Data current as at July 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years were 31 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth detention in 2017–18 (Table 32).

Table 32 Rate^{(a)(b)} of young people in detention/court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(d)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	34.4	31.4	36	35	40
Other ^(c)	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3
Total	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.7	4.2

(a) Rates were calculated per 1,000 persons aged 10–17 years.

(b) The rate at which young people were in youth detention per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 years is based on the average daily number of young people in detention, by Indigenous status.

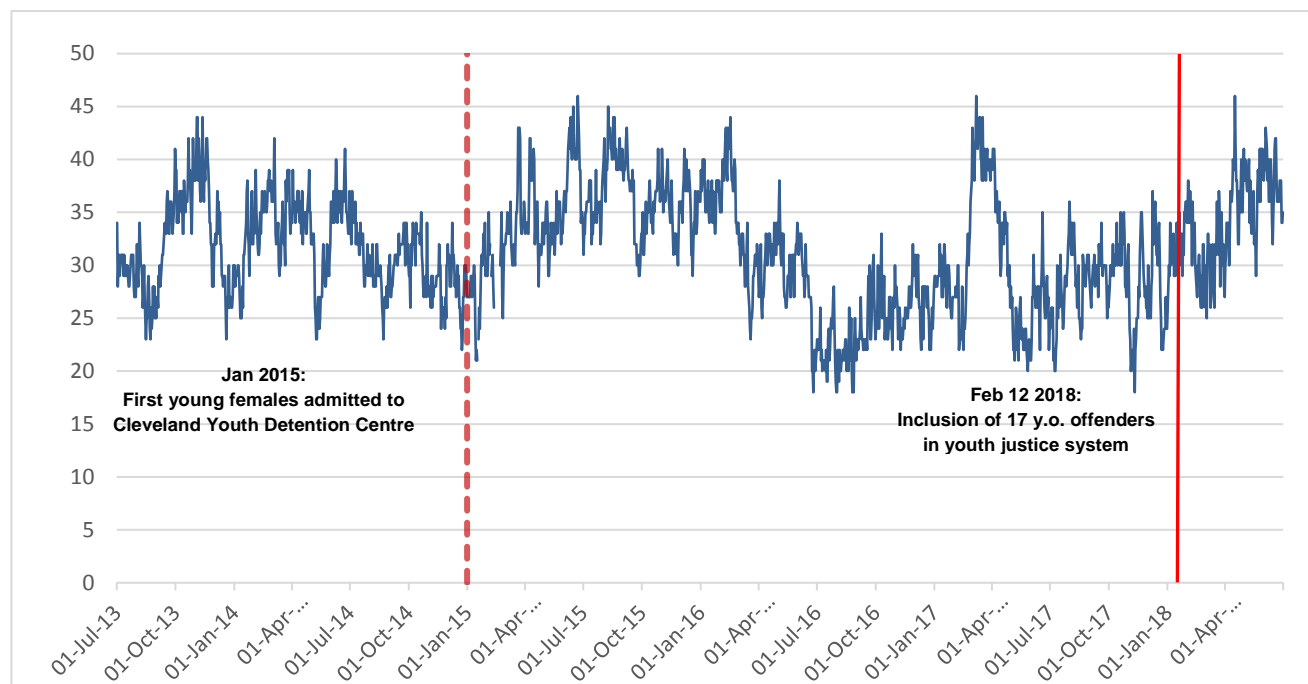
(c) "Other" includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; ABS 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Dec 2017; ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, 2001 to 2026

Figure 12 shows the total daily number of young females in detention/court ordered custody between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2018. Young females were admitted to the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) for the first time on 22 January 2015. Prior to this date, young females who were admitted to detention (either remanded in custody or sentenced) were transferred to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC).

Figure 12 Total daily number of young females in youth detention/court-ordered custody^(a)



Note: Red lines represent breaks in the time series, as labelled.

(a) Data are based on figures reported in the Youth Justice Detention Centre Operational System (DCOIS)

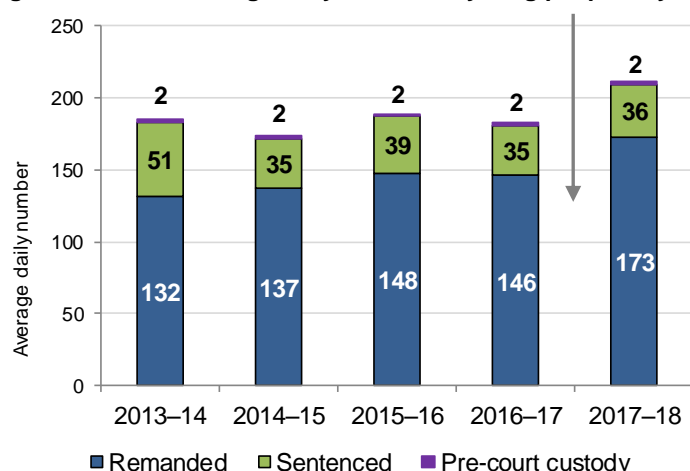
Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Remand in custody

The average daily number of young people in youth detention/court ordered custody on remand² increased to 173 per day in 2017–18 compared with 146 in the previous year. At the same time, the average daily number in sentenced detention increased to 36 young people per day compared to 35 in the previous period (Figure 13).

The majority of young people in youth detention/court ordered custody are held on remand (averaging around 78% over the last five years). In 2017–18, 82% were on remand on an average day, two percentage points higher than the previous year.

Figure 13 Average daily number of young people in youth detention/court-ordered custody, by legal status



Note: The arrow represents a break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

² This excludes all young people held in pre-court custody in a police watchhouse.

In 2017–18, the average length of time young people spent per remand in custody episode was 36 days, compared with an average of 34 days in 2016–17.

Of all finalised appearances in 2017–18 at which a detention order was made, 48% resulted in the young offender being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 26% of all appearances resulting in a detention order, the offender was not required to serve a supervised release order. This reflects the number of detention orders that had been served as pre-sentence custody³. Just over half (52 percent) of all sentencing events resulting in detention orders involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 33)

Table 33 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing

Custody status	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)
Released directly from court following sentencing	33%	37%	44%	42%	48%
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	18%	22%	25%	27%	26%
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	14%	15%	18%	15%	22%
Custodial period to serve following sentencing	68%	63%	57%	59%	52%

(a) Subtotals may not sum to totals due to rounding.

(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17–year old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

As a result of the pressure on detention centre capacity after the inclusion of 17–year olds within the youth justice system, young people, irrespective of their age, have been held in police custody in watchhouses following a court appearance for short periods of time until detention centre capacity becomes available.

Table 34 Distinct young people in court ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, February to June 2018, by age

Age	February	March	April	May	June
10	—	—	—	—	—
11	1	4	3	3	3
12	4	7	7	9	8
13	9	16	19	19	13
14	16	27	37	31	21
15	14	33	36	40	25
16	12	42	38	42	34
17	11	27	24	29	30
18	3	1	1	—	1
Total	70	157	165	173	135

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

³ Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

During 2017–18, a total of 771 distinct young persons spent at least one night in a police watchhouse while remanded or sentenced, for a total of 1,267 distinct stays (Table 35). More than half (59 percent) of stays lasted just one day. Overall, the average length of stay was two days. All but four stays lasted for two weeks or less, with a maximum stay length of 17 days.

Table 35 Length of watchhouse stay episodes^(a) during 2017–2018

Length of watchhouse stay episode (days)	Distinct episodes
1	752
2	282
3–4	136
5–7	55
8–14	38
15+	4
Total	1,267

(a) Figures are counts of distinct episodes in watchhouses, not of distinct persons.

(b) Length of watchhouse stays may be influenced by transit difficulties to remote courts.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Impact of 17-year olds being dealt with in the youth justice system

Introduction of legislation providing for 17-year old offenders to be dealt with under the Youth Justice Act resulted in a total of 4,367 distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance in 2017–18, 606 greater than if the legislation had not been passed. That is, a further 606 distinct defendants who were aged 17 years at date of offence had charges disposed in 2017–18. (Table 36)

In addition to those 606 distinct defendants, among the remainder there were a further 286 who had charges disposed for offences committed when they were aged both 10–16 years old and also as a 17-year old. During the 2017–18 financial year, of the 31,090 proven offences committed by 10–17 year old distinct offenders, offences by 17-year olds accounted for 9 per cent (2,842 offences).

Table 36 Age at finalisation of distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence^(a), 2017–18

Age at date of finalisation	Distinct defendants
17 years old	474
18 years old	132
Total aged 17+	606

Total defendants aged 10–17 years at date of offence	4,367
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(a) Age at date of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the reporting period.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Males accounted for 74 per cent of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance who were aged 17 years at time of offence, two percentage points higher than the average of the 10–16 year old offenders (Table 37). Around one quarter (26 per cent) of the total group were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared with 49 per cent of 10–16 year old offenders (Table 38).

Table 37 Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 17 years^(a) at date of offence, 2017–18

		Indigenous status		
		Other	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Total no. (%)
Sex	Female	103 (17%)	54 (9%)	157 (26%)
	Male	342 (56%)	106 (17%)	448 (74%)
	Total ^{(b)(c)}	446 (74%)	160 (26%)	606 (100%)

(a) Age of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with defendant's first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

(b) Total includes Intersex or indeterminate.

(c) Percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Table 38 Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 10–16 years at date of offence, 2017–18^(a)

		Indigenous status		
		Other	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Total no. (%)
Sex	Female	541 (14%)	522 (14%)	1,063 (28%)
	Male	1,359 (36%)	1,338 (36%)	2,697 (72%)
	Total ^{(b)(c)}	1,901 (51%)	1,860 (49%)	3,761 (100%)

(a) Age at of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with defendant's first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

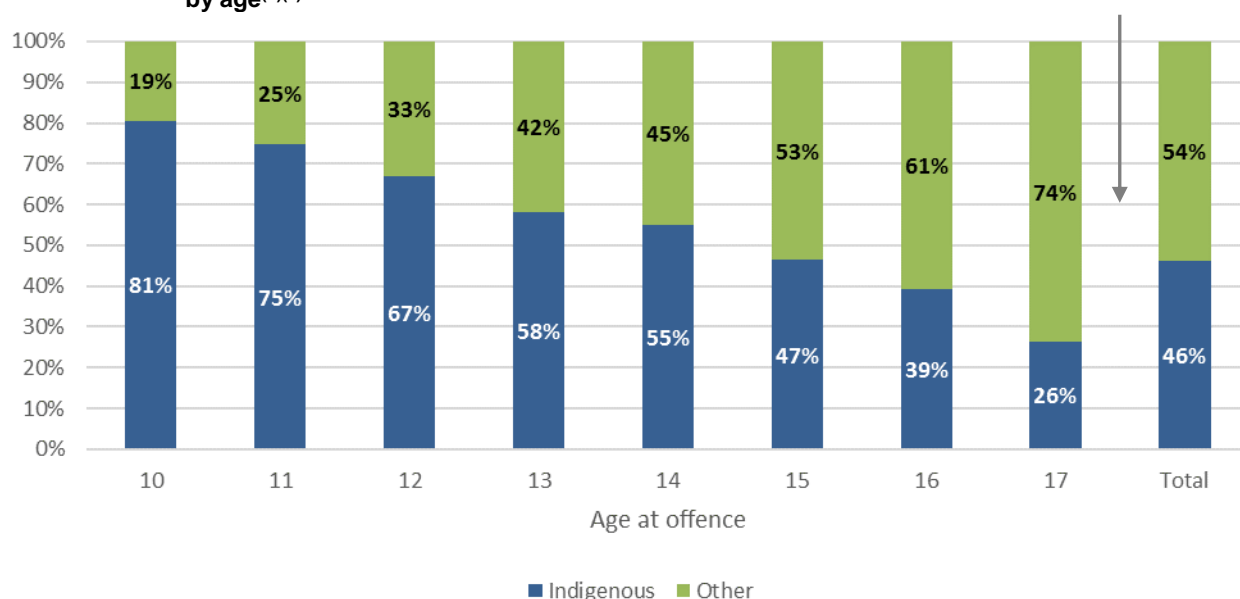
(b) Total includes Intersex or indeterminate sex.

(c) Percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants continue to be substantially over-represented in the younger age groups between 10 and 12 years. (Figure 14)

Figure 14 Proportion of distinct juvenile defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status^(a), by age^{(b)(c)}



(a) "Other" includes non-Indigenous defendants and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Figures include all distinct defendants with a charge disposed who were aged 10–17 years at date of offence.

(c) Age of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person's first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

Source: Youth Justice Performance and Reporting, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

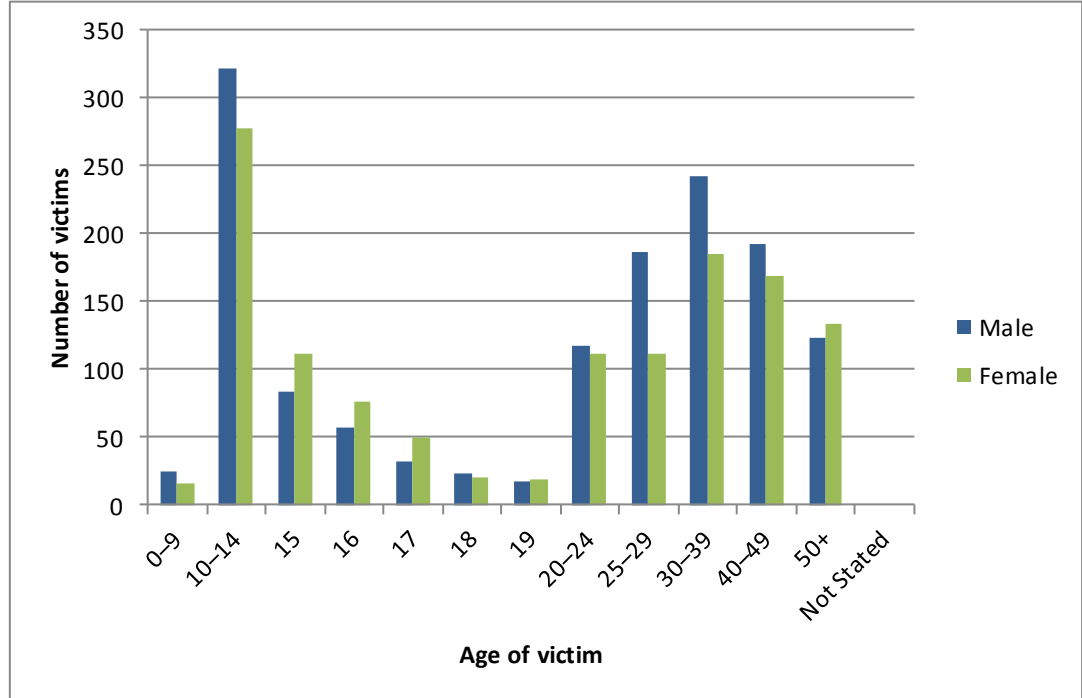
Data relating to the victims of juvenile offenders were extracted from official crime reports in Queensland Police Service’s administrative data, where at least one of the offenders identified was under the age of 17 years up to 11 Feb 2018, and under 18 years from 12 February to 30 June 2018. Offenders were restricted to those involving an offence against the person. This is the context in which all victims data are presented in this report.

Of the 3,806 victims of offences against the person by juvenile offenders in 2017–18, only eight were of unknown age. Half of all victims were under the age of 20 years (50.4%), 25.4% were aged 10 to 14 years, and 20.3% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 8.4% of victims were aged 50 years or over.

For all offences against the person, victims were evenly spread between male and female. However, females comprised 76.1% of victims of *sexual offences* and 47.3% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*, while males comprised 64.3% of *robbery and extortion* victims and 52.6% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*.

Victims of *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 71.0% of all victims of offences against the person by juvenile offenders. Within this offence group, 26.8% of victims were aged between 25 and 39 years, 22.3% aged between 10 and 14 years, and a further 22.9% aged 40 years and over. (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Victims of acts intended to cause injury^(a) by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18

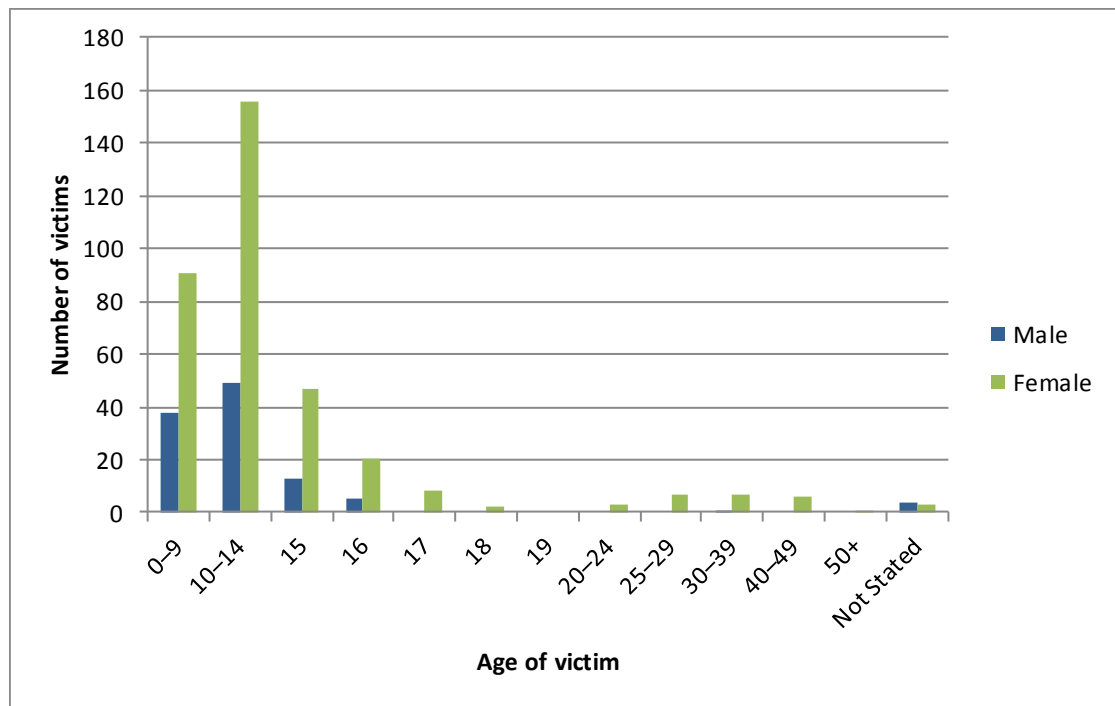


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service unpublished data; current as at July 2018

In 2017–18, victims of *sexual assault and related offences* accounted for 12.1% of all offences against the person by juvenile offenders. Within this offence group, victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 45.2%, and a further 28.4% of victims were under 10 years of age. (Figure 16)

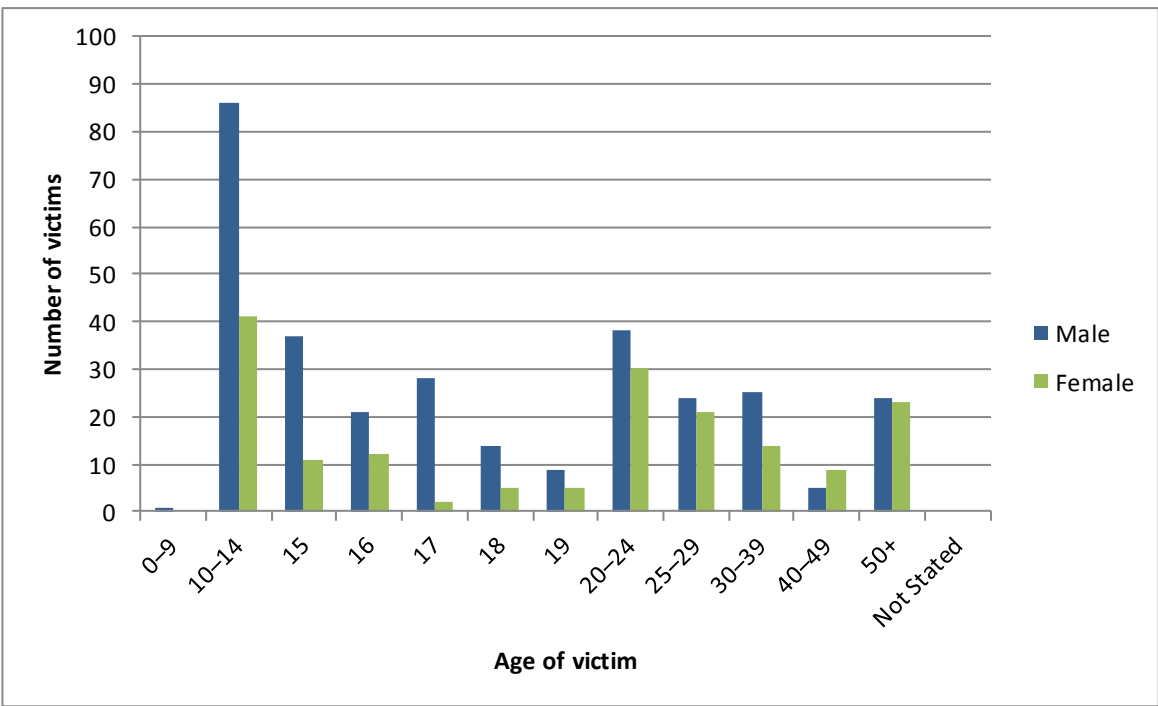
Figure 16 **Victims of sexual assault and related offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18**



Source: Queensland Police Service unpublished data; current as at July 2018

Victims of robbery and extortion offences accounted for a further 12.7% of offences against the person by juvenile offenders in 2017–18. Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 26.2% of those, and a further 29.7% were between 15 to 19 years of age. (Figure 17)

Figure 17 **Victims of robbery and extortion offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2017–18**



Source: Queensland Police Service unpublished data; current as at July 2018

APPENDIX

Detailed tables

All tables represent data for Queensland only, for both 2016–17 and 2017–18.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Summary

Table 1 All Courts: Finalised charges against juvenile defendants, by offence type and court

Magistrates Court (committals)

Table 2 Juvenile appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial by statistical area level 4 (SA4)

Magistrates Court (dispositions)

Table 3 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

Figure 1 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age

Table 4 Finalised appearances and charges against juvenile defendants, by SA4

Table 5 Finalised juvenile appearances by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 2 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty

Childrens Court of Queensland

Table 6 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

Figure 3 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age

Table 7 Finalised appearances and charges against juvenile defendants, by SA4

Table 8 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 4 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty

District and Supreme Courts

Table 9 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

Figure 5 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age

Table 10 Finalised appearances and charges against juvenile defendants, by SA4

Table 11 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 6 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty

All Courts

Table 12 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

Figure 7 Finalised appearances of juvenile defendants, by age

Table 1 All courts: Finalised charges against juvenile defendants^(a), by offence type and court level

Offence type	2016–17 ^r				2017–18 ^(e)			
	Magistrates Court ^(b)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court ^(b)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	2
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Acts intended to cause injury	1,032	205	29	1,266	1,507	272	12	1,791
Assault	1,021	203	29	1,253	1,493	267	12	1,772
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	11	2	—	13	14	5	—	19
Sexual assault & related offences	45	236	25	306	95	154	31	280
Sexual assault	22	196	24	242	61	132	27	220
Non-assaultive sexual offences	23	40	1	64	34	22	4	60
Dangerous or negligent acts	261	19	—	280	384	19	1	404
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	126	11	—	137	183	11	1	195
Other dangerous or negligent acts	135	8	—	143	201	8	—	209
Abduction & related offences	81	31	—	112	60	18	2	80
Abduction and kidnapping	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Deprivation of Liberty	10	11	—	21	9	6	—	15
Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour	69	20	—	89	51	12	2	65
Robbery & extortion	116	230	6	352	195	306	4	505
Robbery	101	226	6	333	176	300	2	478
Blackmail & extortion	15	4	—	19	19	6	2	27
Unlawful entry with intent	4,340	363	6	4,709	5,838	324	30	6,192
Theft & related offences^(c)	7,488	457	1	7,946	9,314	492	14	9,820
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,886	219	1	2,106	2,442	236	10	2,688
Other theft & related offences	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,058	39	—	1,097	1,298	60	2	1,360
Theft (except motor vehicles)	4,544	199	—	4,743	5,573	196	2	5,771
Deception & related offences	1,223	40	—	1,263	1,466	42	—	1,508
Obtain benefit by deception	432	8	—	440	499	20	—	519
Forgery & counterfeiting	7	—	—	7	23	—	—	23
Deceptive business/government practices	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other fraud and deception offences	783	32	—	815	944	22	—	966
Illicit drug offences	1,363	64	3	1,430	1,638	68	13	1,719
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	140	29	1	170	116	21	4	141
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	20	—	—	20	22	2	—	24
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	478	15	—	493	633	30	5	668
Other illicit drug offences	725	20	2	747	867	15	4	886
Weapons & explosives offences	242	10	—	252	344	5	2	351
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	23	1	—	24	28	—	2	30
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	219	9	—	228	316	5	—	321
Property damage	2,196	183	7	2,386	3,516	140	12	3,668
Property damage	2,195	183	7	2,385	3,514	140	12	3,666
Environmental pollution	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Public order offences	2,621	34	—	2,655	3,290	53	5	3,348
Road traffic offences	1,440	37	—	1,477	1,577	51	—	1,628
Justice & government offences	1,213	37	—	1,250	1,675	41	1	1,717
Breach of justice order ^(d)	80	5	—	85	123	2	—	125
Offences against government operations	102	10	—	112	122	13	—	135
Offences against government security	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Offences against justice procedures	1,031	22	—	1,053	1,429	26	1	1,456
Miscellaneous offences	41	—	—	41	46	1	—	47
Total	23,704	1,946	77	25,727	30,945	1,986	129	33,060

(a) Data are a count of charges disposed, not defendants.

(b) Charges are finalised at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal, transfer or referral to youth justice conference.

(c) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

(d) Includes offences such as breach of bail, breach of domestic violence protection order, and escape custody.

(e) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 2 **Magistrates court: Juvenile appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by statistical area level 4**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)		
	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	39	125	3.2	93	314	3.4
Brisbane East	4	18	4.5	17	66	3.9
Cairns	49	248	5.1	49	294	6.0
Central Queensland	20	55	2.8	25	72	2.9
Darling Downs–Maranoa	8	15	1.9	9	32	3.6
Gold Coast	39	71	1.8	49	109	2.2
Ipswich	28	118	4.2	57	151	2.6
Logan–Beaudesert	31	191	6.2	37	184	5.0
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	2	2	1.0	11	34	3.1
Moreton Bay–North	27	133	4.9	32	126	3.9
Moreton Bay–South	3	18	6.0	4	15	3.8
Queensland–Outback	12	38	3.2	5	29	5.8
Sunshine Coast	16	33	2.1	30	67	2.2
Toowoomba	9	24	2.7	12	25	2.1
Townsville	33	55	1.7	40	200	5.0
Wide Bay	17	34	2.0	25	101	4.0
Total	337	1,178	3.5	495	1,819	3.7

(a) Appearances by juvenile defendants comprise those resulting in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether or not this was the most serious outcome. An individual defendant may have one or multiple such appearances within the reporting period.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 3 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

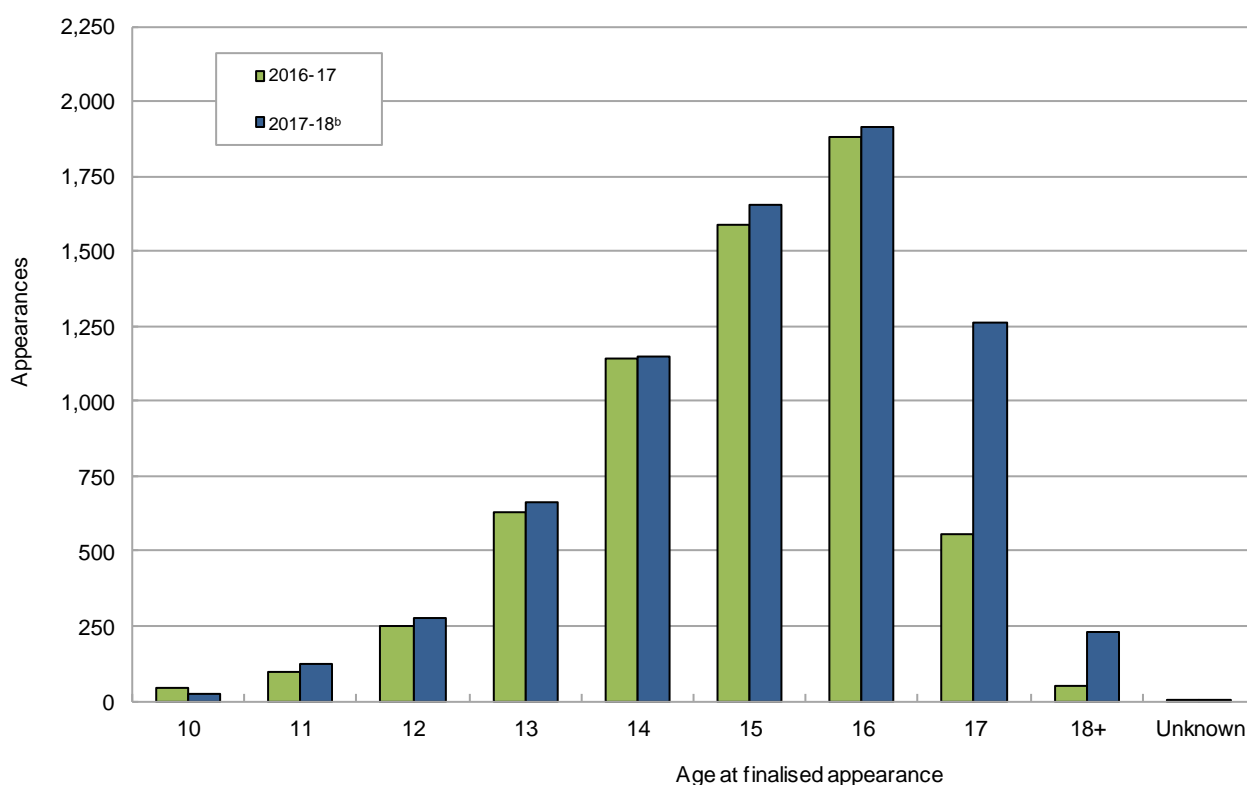
Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total
10	43	2	45	22	1	23	-48.8	-50.0	-48.9
11	83	14	97	113	11	124	36.1	-21.4	27.8
12	208	45	253	223	57	280	7.2	26.7	10.7
13	424	203	627	451	213	664	6.4	4.9	5.9
14	789	353	1,142	757	390	1,147	-4.1	10.5	0.4
15	1,134	455	1,589	1,169	484	1,653	3.1	6.4	4.0
16	1,365	516	1,881	1,419	495	1,914	4.0	-4.1	1.8
17	420	139	559	952	308	1,262	126.7	121.6	125.8
18+	44	9	53	169	62	231	284.1	588.9	335.8
Unknown	3	1	4	6	1	7	100.0	—	75.0
Total	4,513	1,737	6,250	5,281	2,022	7,305	17.0	16.4	16.9

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reporting period.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) Includes two appearances by 17-year old defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 1 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges against juvenile defendants by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	602	2,276	3.8	827	4,205	5.1
Brisbane–East	148	720	4.9	159	705	4.4
Brisbane–North	—	—	..	1	21	21.0
Brisbane–South	4	8	2.0	3	4	1.3
Cairns	688	2,668	3.9	747	3,389	4.5
Central Queensland	414	1,563	3.8	438	1,781	4.1
Darling Downs–Maranoa	134	628	4.7	251	1,127	4.5
Gold Coast	331	1,250	3.8	454	1,403	3.1
Ipswich	675	2,316	3.4	776	3,077	4.0
Logan–Beaudesert	588	2,417	4.1	516	2,390	4.6
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	142	597	4.2	121	570	4.7
Moreton Bay–North	362	1,690	4.7	403	2,059	5.1
Moreton Bay–South	144	765	5.3	195	702	3.6
Queensland–Outback	513	1,742	3.4	597	2,156	3.6
Sunshine Coast	251	788	3.1	363	1,380	3.8
Toowoomba	323	1,020	3.2	375	1,424	3.8
Townsville	501	1,819	3.6	621	2,568	4.1
Wide Bay	430	1,437	3.3	458	1,984	4.3
Total	6,250	23,704	3.8	7,305	30,945	4.2

(a) An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 5 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty and sex

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(f)			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(g)	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	60	11	71	76	11	87	26.7	—	22.5
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	254	57	311	262	47	309	3.1	-17.5	-0.6
Community service	577	198	775	684	162	846	18.5	-18.2	9.2
Probation	699	257	956	863	307	1,170	23.5	19.5	22.4
Treatment Order	21	10	31	55	16	71	161.9	60.0	129.0
Fine	53	5	58	62	9	71	17.0	80.0	22.4
Compensation	16	10	26	23	5	28	43.8	-50.0	7.7
Good behaviour order	682	246	928	644	322	966	-5.6	30.9	4.1
Disqualification of licence	10	1	11	47	10	57	370.0	900.0	418.2
Reprimand ^(e)	1,273	603	1,876	1,375	669	2,046	8.0	10.9	9.1
Total	3,645	1,398	5,043	4,091	1,558	5,651	12.2	11.4	12.1

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment, intensive correction and boot camp orders.

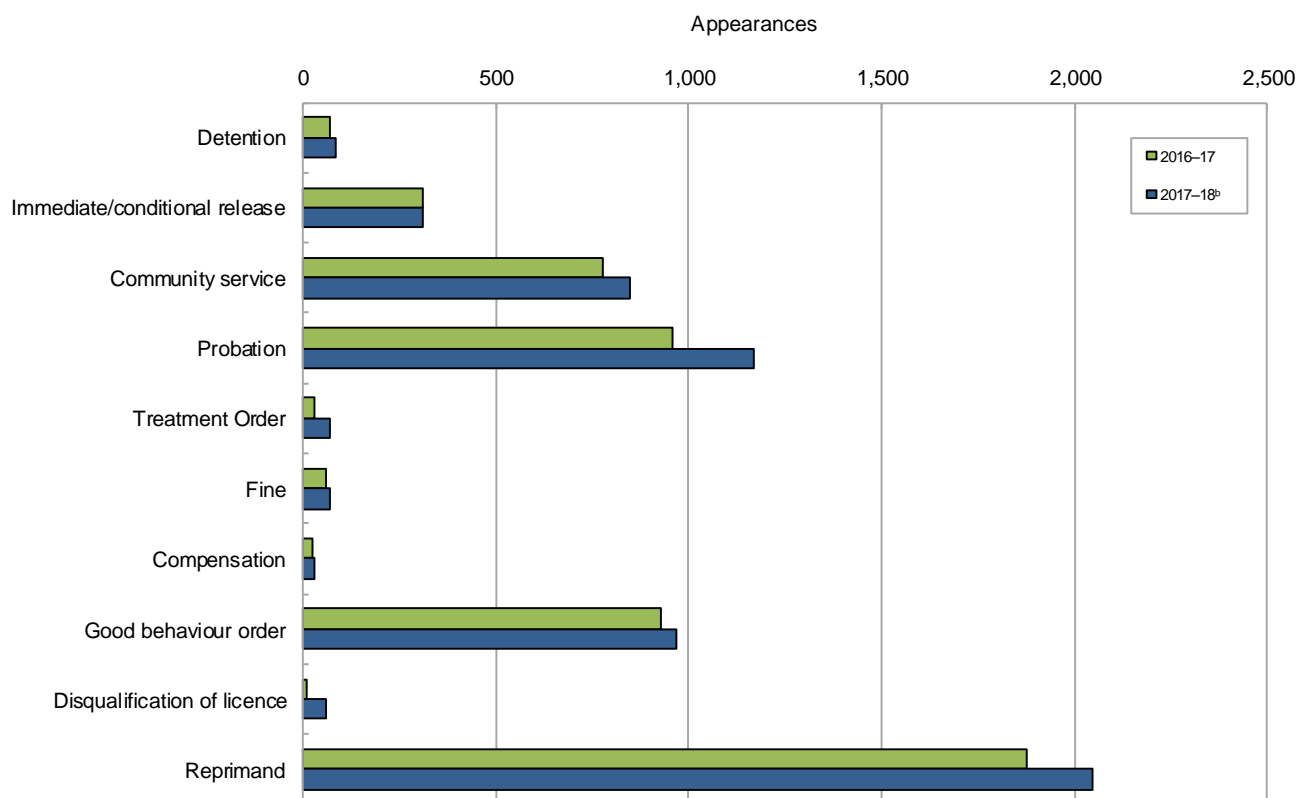
(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

(f) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(g) Includes two appearances by juvenile defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 2 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

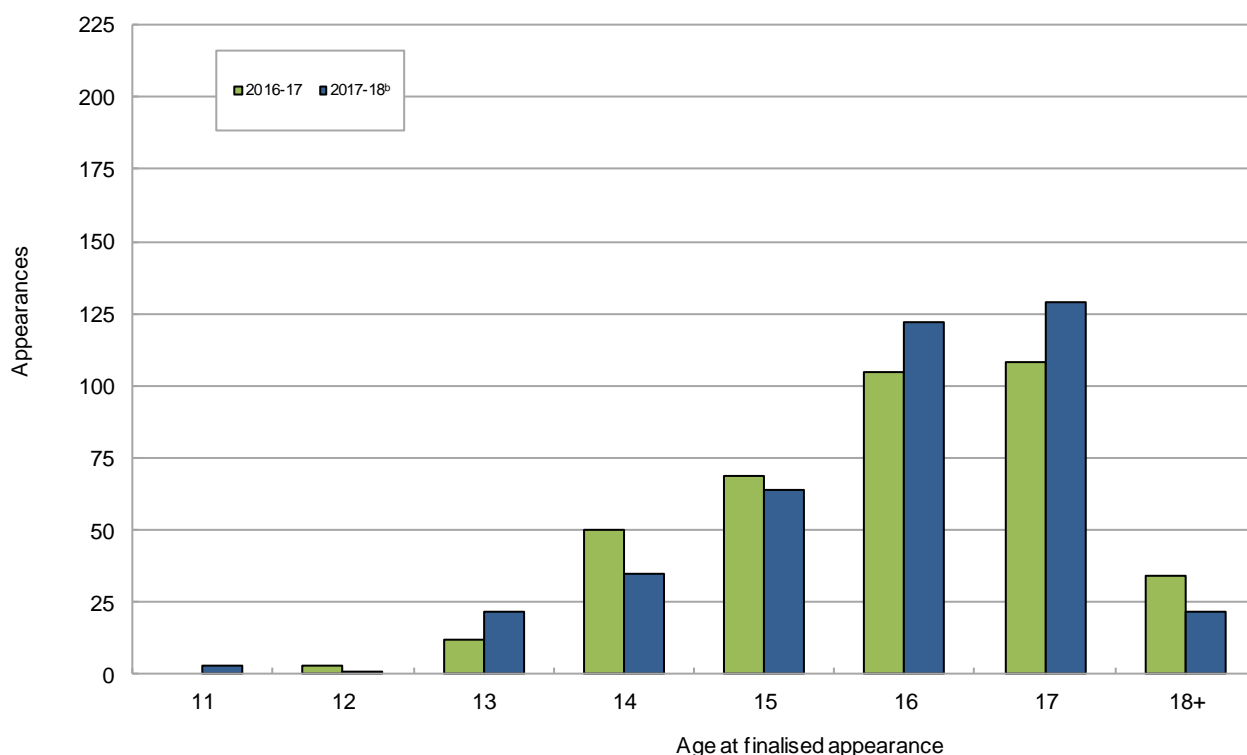
Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	0	0	..	3	0	3	..	—	..
12	3	0	3	0	1	1	–100.0	..	–66.7
13	10	2	12	16	6	22	60.0	200.0	83.3
14	35	15	50	23	12	35	–34.3	–20.0	–30.0
15	54	15	69	43	21	64	–20.4	40.0	–7.2
16	92	13	105	97	25	122	5.4	92.3	16.2
17	91	17	108	106	23	129	16.5	35.3	19.4
18+	31	3	34	18	4	22	–41.9	33.3	–35.3
Total	316	65	381	306	92	398	–3.2	41.5	4.5

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 7 **Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges against juvenile defendants, by statistical area level 4**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	108	583	5.4	152	685	4.5
Cairns	52	442	8.5	45	440	9.8
Central Queensland	11	28	2.5	23	70	3.0
Darling Downs–Maranoa	9	26	2.9	6	22	3.7
Gold Coast	63	195	3.1	34	93	2.7
Ipswich	30	92	3.1	25	139	5.6
Logan–Beaudesert	27	167	6.2	25	95	3.8
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	4	27	6.8	6	18	3.0
Queensland–Outback	2	7	3.5	5	64	12.8
Sunshine Coast	18	57	3.2	13	36	2.8
Toowoomba	20	50	2.5	10	23	2.3
Townsville	27	247	9.1	41	238	5.8
Wide Bay	10	25	2.5	13	63	4.8
Total	381	1,946	5.1	398	1,986	5.0

(a) An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Table 8 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty and sex

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17r			2017–18 ^(c)			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	20	1	21	14	3	17	–30.0	200.0	–19.0
Immediate/conditional release	50	13	63	72	11	83	44.0	–15.4	31.7
Community service	33	2	35	14	8	22	–57.6	300.0	–37.1
Probation	130	27	157	126	48	174	–3.1	77.8	10.8
Compensation	0	0	0	1	0	1	..	0.0	..
Good behaviour order	6	1	7	3	5	8	–50.0	400.0	14.3
Disqualification of drivers licence	1	0	1	0	0	0	–100.0	0.0	–100.0
Reprimand	4	2	6	2	3	5	–50.0	50.0	–16.7
Total	244	46	290	232	78	310	–4.9	69.6	6.9

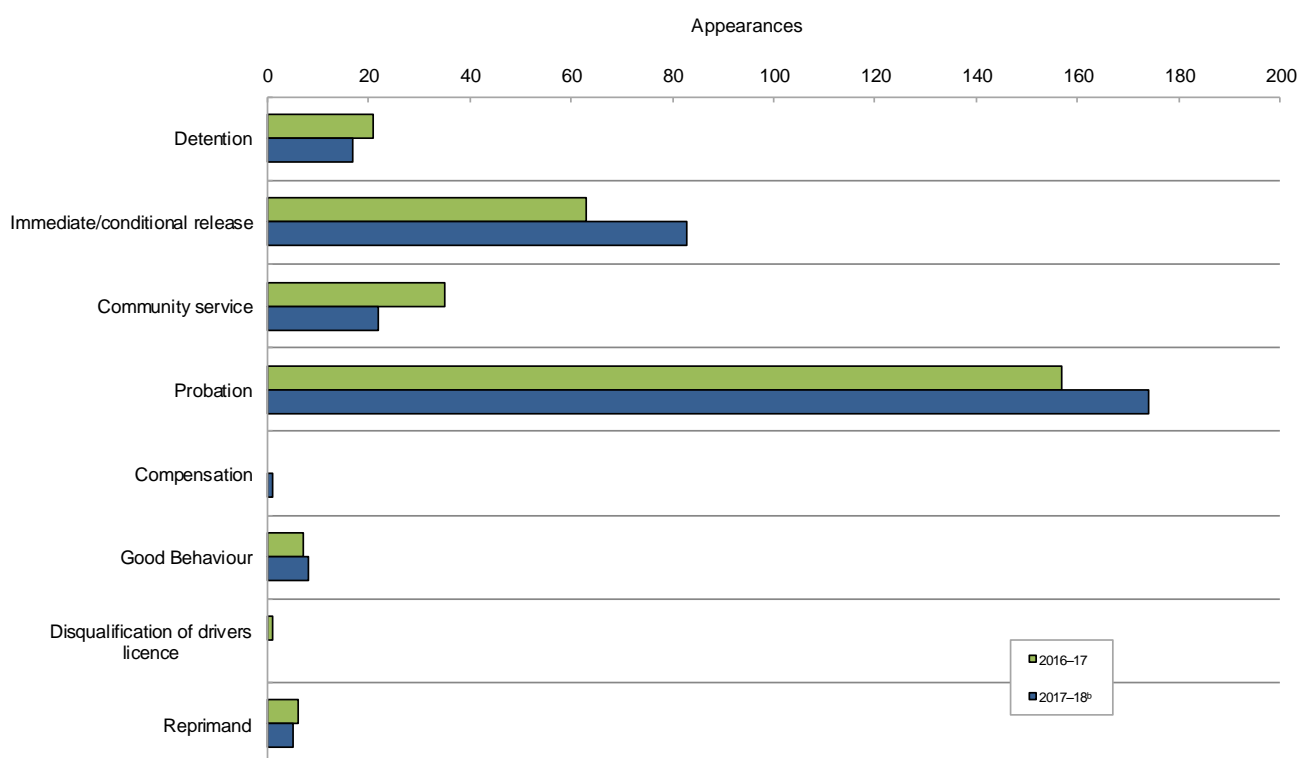
(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 4 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Table 9 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

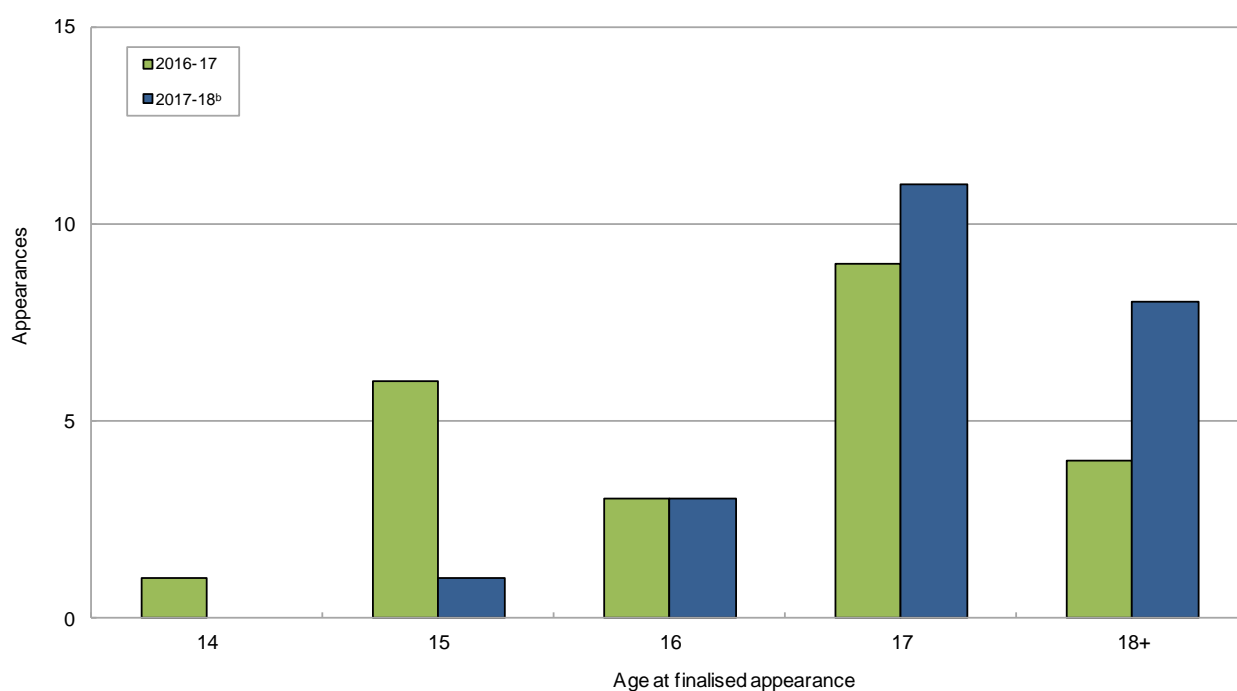
Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	—	1	1	—	—	—
15	6	—	6	1	—	1
16	2	1	3	2	1	3
17	9	—	9	9	2	11
18+	4	—	4	7	1	8
Total	21	2	23	19	4	23

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Figure 5 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) 17–year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Table 10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges against juvenile defendants, by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(d)		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	13	31	2.4	6	11	1.8
Cairns	2	12	6.0	3	19	6.3
Central Queensland ^(b)	1	1	1.0	2	9	4.5
Gold Coast	1	2	2.0	1	2	2.0
Logan–Beaudesert	3	6	2.0	2	34	17.0
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday ^(c)	1	2	2.0	—	—	..
Queensland–Outback	1	3	3.0	3	19	6.3
Toowoomba ^(c)	—	—	..	1	2	2.0
Townsville	1	20	20.0	4	30	7.5
Wide Bay	—	—	..	1	3	3.0
Total	23	77	3.3	23	129	5.6

(a) An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reporting period.

(b) Central Queensland includes Supreme and District courts. All other locations, except where indicated, are District Court only.

(c) Supreme Court only.

(d) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Table 11 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty and sex

Penalty ^(b)	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(c)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	—	—	—	3	—	3
Immediate/conditional release	2	—	2	4	—	4
Community service	—	1	1	—	1	1
Probation	6	1	7	4	1	5
Good behaviour	1	—	1	1	1	2
Total	9	2	11	12	3	15

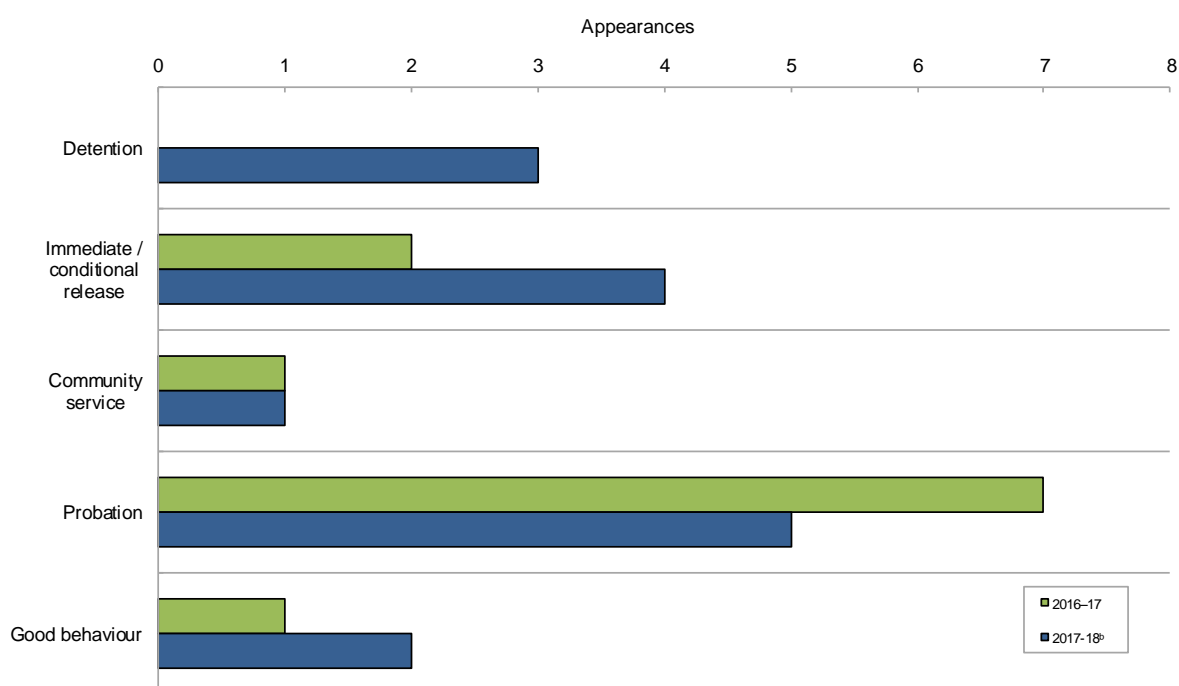
(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Figure 6 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by most serious penalty



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018

Table 12 All Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age and sex

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 ^r			2017–18 ^(b)			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total
10	43	2	45	22	1	23	-48.8	-50.0	-48.9
11	83	14	97	116	11	127	39.8	-21.4	30.9
12	211	45	256	223	58	281	5.7	28.9	9.8
13	434	205	639	467	219	686	7.6	6.8	7.4
14	824	369	1,193	780	402	1,182	-5.3	8.9	-0.9
15	1,194	470	1,664	1,213	505	1,718	1.6	7.4	3.2
16	1,459	530	1,989	1,518	521	2,039	4.0	-1.7	2.5
17	520	156	676	1,067	333	1,402	105.2	113.5	107.4
18+	79	12	91	194	67	261	145.6	458.3	186.8
Unknown	3	1	4	6	1	7	100.0	—	75.0
Total^(d)	4,850	1,804	6,654	5,606	2,118	7,726	15.6	17.4	16.1

(a) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference period.

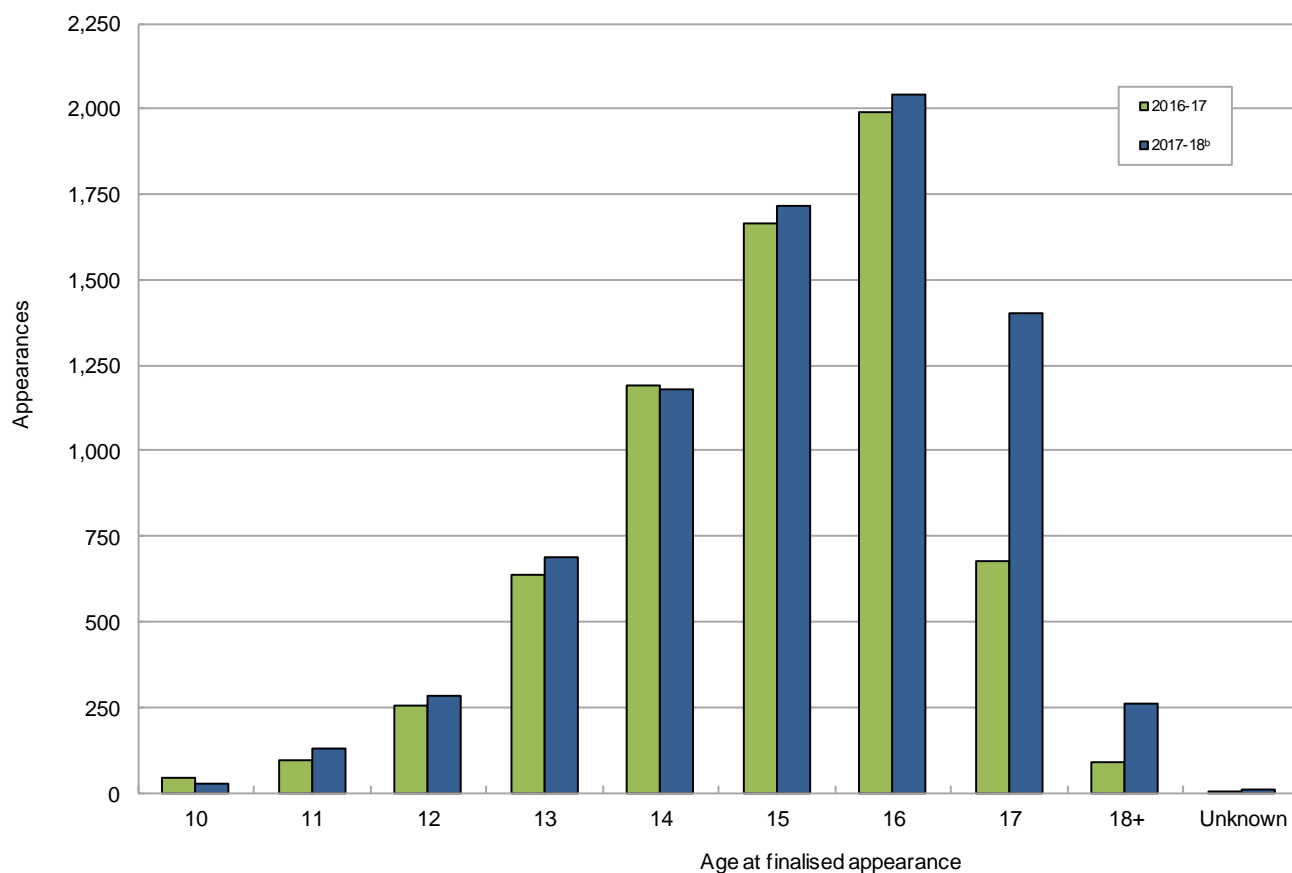
(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) Includes two appearances by juvenile defendants with an unknown gender.

(d) Includes appearances finalised at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal, transfer or referral to conference.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2018

Figure 7 All Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) of juvenile defendants, by age



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants.

(b) 17-year old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, data current as at September 2018