

# **Childrens Court of Queensland**

**Annual Report 2018 - 19**

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# **PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW**

## **General**

This is my first report as President of the Childrens Court of Queensland. I was honoured to be appointed to the position from 1 January 2019 upon the resignation of the previous president, Judge Michael Shanahan. Judge Shanahan was the President of the Court from 2011 until December of 2018. His contribution to youth justice has been significant in that time. He has worked tirelessly to improve the way that justice is delivered to juveniles in the State and deserves to be recognised for his contribution both to the jurisprudence in this area as well as the running of the court.

This year's report is also the first report where 17 year olds are included in the statistics for the whole financial year. Since 12 February 2018, 17 year olds have been included in the youth justice system. Statistics from 2017-18 reflected 4 months of that change. This is the first full year of that change. The impact of that inclusion can be seen in the overall figures reported. Comparing 2016-17 as the last full year prior to the inclusion of 17 year olds to 2018-19 there has been a 32.9% increase in finalised appearances. An examination of individual children appearing before the court shows that of 5,130 individuals, 1,523 were 17 years old. This should be compared with the number of children aged 10-16 offending which has decreased from 2017 to 2018 from 3,766 to 3,607.(Figure 2).

The trend for relatively small amount of offenders to commit the majority of offences unchanged. In line with last year's figures, 10% of all young offenders committed 44% of offences (Figure 3).

The number of children in custody continues to rise, particularly with the addition of 17 year olds into the Court. The average daily number of children in custody has increased from 206 in 2018 to 250 this year, with the majority (84%) of those on remand awaiting finalisation. A number of programs were expanded to alleviate this issue with new agencies offering bail support programs and supervised accommodation for conditional bail.

Last year's report raised the serious problem of children being kept in watch houses on remand. The problem has continued to plague this jurisdiction, with 294 children staying in the watch houses for periods in excess of 15 days (Table 39). This was compounded by the decision to update security in the youth detention facilities. Whilst remaining a matter of grave concern, numbers are reducing and supports were introduced, with the cooperation of the police, to try to assist the young people in watch house with education officers, mental health workers and Murri Watch attending regularly. On 30 April 2019 the government announced the construction of a new 32 bed youth detention centre at Wacol and the expansion of 16 additional beds at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

As a result of the Report on Youth Justice by Bob Atkinson, the state government released the Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023. That strategy highlights some of the challenges facing the young people in Youth Justice: 31% have a parent that has been held in adult custody, 58% have a mental health or behavioural disorder diagnosed or suspected, 52% were totally disengaged from education, employment and training, 51% have had some involvement with Child Protection.

The focus of the Atkinson Report was upon four main objectives: intervening early, keeping children out of court, keeping children out of custody and reducing reoffending. In that respect it is pleasing to see that cautions are being used more frequently in appropriate situations. Similarly in 2018-19 restorative justice conferencing received 2,863 referrals of which 1,866 were conferenced. Of the conferenced referrals 97% resulted in an agreement being reached. The Restorative Justice Project 12 Month Program Evaluation of 2018 reported that 77% of young people who completed a restorative justice conference either did not reoffend or showed a decrease in reoffending within 6 months of these conferences.

The Legal Aid office and in particular the Youth Legal Aid team are to be congratulated for their work in addressing the need for practitioners state-wide to develop expertise in this

complex area of practice. Their efforts saw the launch of the Youth Justice Practitioners Guide in August 2018 and now the implementation of accreditation courses. Those courses will be run throughout the state and online and from July 2020 it is expected that all practitioners who appear for legally aided children will be accredited.

On 17 May 2019 the government announced the establishment of a separate government department, the Department of Youth Justice to deal with youth justice. That department has begun the task of streamlining services and developing new programs to assist youth and community.

In relation to youth mental health, the court liaison service of the Child Youth Mental Health Service has significant impact in dealing with children in the lower court. Officers attend those courts around the state and make initial assessments of the young person and if necessary refers them on to appropriate services. In the Childrens Court of Queensland however, lengthy delays are experienced in situations where children need formal assessment in relation to capacity issues. The availability of qualified practitioners willing to assess and report on children who often have complex mental health issues remains a significant problem.

## **Youth justice trends summary**

As mentioned previously, there has been a significant increase in matters dealt with since the inclusion of 17 year old offenders into the Childrens Court. In 2018-19, 17 year olds accounted for 28.1% of all child defendants and were the largest group of offenders (Table 3). The picture is the same in relation to proven offences with 23% being committed by 17 year olds.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders continue to be over-represented in the system. In 2018-19 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 44% of all child defendants (Figure 5). That number is significantly higher in the younger group of juveniles. In 2018, 83% of children aged 10 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 73% aged 11 and 68% 12 years old. By the age of 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represented 29% of the cohort (Figure 4). All of these figures remain unacceptably high with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people 9 times more likely than other young people to have had a charge finalised through a Queensland court (Table 7).

When it comes to young people in custody the figures are stark, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continuing to dominate and accounting for over 70% of young people in custody on any average day (Figure 12). They were 28 times more likely to have been in youth detention than other young people in 2018-19 (Table 36).

There was an overall increase in the number of juveniles with cases finalised in all Queensland courts. This is primarily due to the inclusion of 17 year olds in the Childrens Court system. Males accounted for 73.3% of all finalised appearances by young people in 2018-19.

The most prevalent offences dealt with in 2018-19 were theft and related offences with 11,845 charges (30.9%), unlawful entry with intent with 6,793 charges (17.7%), public order offences with 3,402 charges (8.9%) and property damage with 3,345 charges (8.7%). These four offence categories represent 66.2% of all charges finalised in 2018-19 (Appendix Table 1).

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 3,257 charges in 671 appearances in 2018-19. Those appearances largely related to children aged 15 years and older (89.1%) with those aged 17 years and older accounting for 53.2% of all appearances (Table 13). There was a significant increase in 15 year old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland (73.8%) from 2017-18. The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 64% more charges against child defendants than in the previous year (Table 14). Theft and related offences accounted for 24.3% of all charges finalised. Robbery and extortion charges more than doubled over the same period from 306 in 2017-18 to 628. This represents 19.3% of all charges finalised in 2018-19. The average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens

Court of Queensland reduced from 348 days from the date of first mention in the Magistrate's Court to 324. In relation to finalisation of matters in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 75.6% resulted in a guilty outcome with 4.7% receiving a detention order and a further 26.8% receiving an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty imposed continues to be probation (Table 15).

Other matters dealt with by the Childrens Court of Queensland included sentence reviews which increased significantly from 22 in 2017-18 to 60 in 2018-19 and applications for bail increasing from 110 in 2017-18 to 173 in 2018-19. Appeals under the *Child Protection Act 1999* decreased from 37 in 2017-18 to 18 in 2018-19. Applications for parentage orders under the *Surrogacy Act 2010* remain steady at 13.

In the Childrens Court constituted by a magistrate there were 8,332 finalised appearances of young people - an increase of 14.8% from the previous year. A further 581 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence - an increase of 45.3%. Those 8,332 finalised appearances represented 35,057 charges against children in that court (Tables 21 and 23). The number of finalised appearances of children aged 16 years and under decreased by 367 appearances. The biggest decrease for this cohort was in the appearances by 15 year old defendants (this should be contrasted with the Childrens Court of Queensland). The largest number of finalised charges was for theft and related offences (11,047). This represents an increase of 18.6% since 2017-18 following an increase of 16.8% the previous year (Table 23).

92.9% of charges against child defendants were dealt with in the Childrens Court sitting with a magistrate while 7.1% were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence (Table 24). The average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court was 58 days, an increase in the 52 days taken in the previous two years.

There was a substantial increase in applications for child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act* from 4,527 in 2017-18 to 6,069 in 2018-19. These are invariably complex matters which would account for a significant demand on court time.

Supreme and District Courts finalised 59 charges and 17 appearances of young people in 2018-19 (Table 27).

As previously noted in my general comments there has been an increase in cautions administered by the Queensland Police Service in keeping with recommendations of the Atkinson report (Table 10). The Youth Justice Restorative Justice Program received a total of 2,863 referrals compared to 2,273 in 2017-18 and 2,110 in 2016-17

The *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Bill 2019* was introduced by the Honourable Di Farmer MP on 14 June 2019 and dealt primarily with amendments to youth bail and pre-sentence reports. The *Human Rights Act 2019* was introduced by the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP on 31 October 2018 and passed on 27 February 2019 and assented to on 7 March 2019. It will commence on 1 January 2020.

## **Childrens Court Committee**

The Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. It's a large and wide ranging committee and I have been impressed by the collective desire to improve efficiencies and outcomes for young people in the system. The focus of the committee is on raising and monitoring systemic change to the youth justice system.

Input was sought from a large number of the committee members in relation to the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Bill 2019*.

Following an upgrade of the court computer system, on 6 November 2018 the Chief Magistrate issued a Practice Direction enabling all offences in relation to a child to be brought before the one court.

The Queensland education justice initiative was monitored and expanded. It began in Brisbane originally targeting 10 to 13 year olds who had disengaged from the education system. In the face of initial success, it was expanded to Townsville and by May 2019 was expanded to all school aged children with four more areas to follow. Due to the establishment of this initiative it was also possible for two teachers and a teacher's aide to be placed in the watchhouse focusing on literacy and numeracy.

In relation to the children in the watchhouse, numbers were monitored every meeting. At the beginning of the year necessary security upgrades meant fewer beds in the detention centres and an expansion of services were explored. The Child Youth Mental Health Service provided services in the form of daily clinics to the watchhouse. Murri Watch was brought into the watchhouses by May 2019.

The Court Liaison Program continued to provide assessments of young people at the court. They provided physical presence in the Childrens Court on callover days at Brisbane, Childrens Court Ipswich, Redlands, Beenleigh, Maroochydore, Southport, Strathpine, Redcliffe, Toowoomba, Cleveland, Caboolture, Wynnum, Rockhampton, Kingaroy, Woorabinda and telehealth services at Bundaberg, Gladstone and Beaudesert. There are teams as well in Cairns and Townsville that assessed a total of 739 young people in the 2018-19 financial year. 39 were assessed for soundness of mind and 113 assessed for fitness to plead and 589 participating in mental health assessment. This program continues to provide a vital service in the Childrens Court.

The Queensland Police Service is working on increased use of diversions by expanding the cautioning program and training officers in recognising appropriate cases for that program as well as exploring protected admissions which would enable further expansion of cautioning and restorative justice diversion.

The Committee was presented with information in relation to a police-supported intensive community supervision bail program designed to support conditional bail programs. The Legal Aid Office has been rolling out education initiatives for the profession. These initiatives involve the inclusion of a foetal alcohol syndrome checklist to promote early intervention of children with developmental issues.

From 28 February to 1 March 2019 Deputy Chief Magistrate Leanne O'Shea organised a specialist Childrens Court conference in Brisbane for the Childrens Court Magistrates. Topics included papers given by members of the Childrens Court Committee who spoke of their specialities and general developments and services in the youth justice area.

The committee consists of the Director-General, Department of Youth Justice, Director-General, Department of Child Safety Youth and Women, the Director of Public Prosecutions Office and the Executive-Director, Supreme, District and Land Court Services, Executive-Director, Magistrates Court Service, Executive-Director Student Protection and Well-being State Schools/operations and representatives from the Bar Association, the Law Society, Queensland Police Service, Legal Aid (Qld), Youth Advocacy Centre, The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Legal Service, Office of the Public Guardian, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health, Forensic Child Youth and Mental Health Services, Queensland Education and various officers from the Youth Justice Services Department, Justice and Attorney-General and the Magistrates Court. The Committee continues to welcome additional members to report on new developments in the area of youth justice.

## **Court Case Management Committee**

The Court Case Management Committee continues to meet. The expert assistance pilot was introduced into courts in Beenleigh and Cairns and will be available for two years. Its efficacy will be assessed at the end of that period.

Work was completed on the use of a single affidavit to ground applications under the *Child Protection Act 1999*. This is designed to simplify applications before the court and to promote



efficiencies both within the court and in preparation of the applications. Training was needed to ensure that the single affidavits comply with rule 13 of the Childrens Court Rules and the use of single affidavits commenced on 1 July 2019. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of this initiative.

## **Activities and consultations**

From July to December 2018 Judge Shanahan AM remained the President of the Childrens Court.

In August 2018 he circulated draft Parenting Orders under the *Surrogacy Act 2010*. On 16 August 2018 he launched the Youth Justice Practitioners Guide at Legal Aid. On 11 August 2018 he attended the Annual General Meeting of PACT and on 21 August 2018 he met with PACT workers with the Chief Judge of the District Court.

On 21 September 2018 he was consulted in relation to amendments to the Childrens Court Rules. On 28 September 2018 he was consulted in relation to amendments to the *Bail Act* and *Youth Justice Act* in relation to terrorism offences.

In November of 2018 he was consulted relation to the amendment of forms relating to the sentence reviews and bail variation and issued those forms.

From January to July 2019 as President of the Childrens Court I regularly chaired the Childrens Court Committee and the Court Case Management Committee.

On 20 February 2019 I met with the Honourable Di Farmer MP, Mike Smith, Michael Hogan, Director General of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. On 27 February 2019 with the Chief Judge of the District Court I met with the Forensic Disabilities Services Consultation Team. On 28 February 2019 I spoke at the Queensland Magistrate's Childrens Court Conference.

On 28 March 2019 I attended a PACT meeting with the Chief Judge of the District Court. On 9 April 2019 I met with Nicole Drew the Childrens Court program manager and Lisa Nother, the Deputy Principal registrar to discuss the data mapping project. On 11 April 2019 I had a meeting with the Honourable Yvette D'Ath, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

On 2 May 2019 I attended the Cairns Regional Magistrates Conference to speak about sentencing under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. I also attended regional conferences in Brisbane for the same purpose on 9 and 16 May 2019. On 13 May 2019 I met with a delegation from Korea in relation to specialist children's courts. On 30 May 2019 I met with Megan Giles in relation to the Youth Justice Bill to discuss the draft.

On 12 June 2019 I chaired a Human Rights Symposium held in Brisbane. On 19 June 2019 I chaired the Sue Diggles Practice Paper presented on behalf of the Child Protection Practitioner's Association.

## **Thanks**

I would like to thank the Judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the workload of the court. Judges Cash QC, Lory QC and Allen QC were added to the court this year.

Special recognition should be given to the Deputy Chief Magistrate Leanne O'Shea for her tireless work in this area and her participation in both the Childrens Court Committee and Court Case Management Committee. Her proactive efforts to increase efficiencies in the system and to improve the way in which children are dealt with in her court is much appreciated.

I also thank the magistrates for their work in this area. Magistrates perform 90% of the judicial work in the youth justice system as well as dealing with the significantly increased

volume of child protection matters which are often complex and can involve parents who have significant mental health issues of their own.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the work done by Bob Gee the Director of the new Youth Justice Department who has taken on the task of establishing a new department whilst simultaneously trying to overhaul the system to increase the efficient management of young people with increasingly complex needs and issues.

I also acknowledge the hard work of those involved in the Childrens Court system generally including the staff of the Legal Aid Office particularly the youth legal aid team under the leadership of David Law, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Queensland, the staff of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, the Department of Youth Justice, the Registry of the Childrens Court of Queensland, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, the Child Practitioners Association of Queensland, officers and volunteers of PACT as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

In particular I thank the members of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee for all the work undertaken. They are all passionate about improving efficiencies and outcomes for youth in Queensland. In particular I wish to thank Ms Kelly Houston and Alex Smith of Youth Justice as well as Danielle Palmer, Legal Officer, Office of the Chief Magistrate who act as co-ordinators of the business of each of these committees. Their work is invaluable. They are extremely efficient operators.

Finally I wish to thank the offices of the Courts Performance and Reporting Unit and the Queensland Government Statisticians Office for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

Deborah Richards  
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 2018–19 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. 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 August 2019.

Cautions and victims of child offenders data were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in July 2019.

Youth justice data, including distinct offenders, rates, youth justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Youth Justice. Data were extracted in August 2019.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report. Data were extracted in August 2019.

### ***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](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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

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

—	nil
. .	not applicable
r	revised

## Definitions

<b>caution</b>	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
<b>charge</b>	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge is finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal.
<b>child</b>	In the context of youth justice, a child is a person aged between 10 and 17 years of age at date of offence. Prior to 12 February 2018, when changes to the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> came into effect in Queensland, a child was aged 10–16 years.
<b>Childrens Court</b>	The Childrens Court is a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. (For the purposes of this report, Magistrates Court is the term used.) It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.
<b>Childrens Court of Queensland</b>	an intermediate court created to deal with children charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications for parentage orders under the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> . It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
<b>Childrens Court judge</b>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i> ).
<b>Childrens Court magistrate</b>	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i> ).
<b>committal</b>	referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<b>Court of Appeal</b>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<b>defendant</b>	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
<b>disposition</b>	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).
<b>District Court of Queensland</b>	<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 child in circumstances where a Childrens Court Judge is not available.</p> <p>Matters involving child defendants can be heard in the adult District Court if the child is charged as an adult, or in other special circumstances, such as when a child 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</i>.</p>
<b>ex officio indictment</b>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.

<b><i>finalised appearance</i></b>	a collection of offences for a single offender that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location. An appearance is finalised when the charges against a defendant are proven or dismissed or withdrawn.
<b><i>guilty finding</i></b>	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<b><i>Magistrates Court</i></b>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.
<b><i>offence</i></b>	any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.
<b><i>offence type</i></b>	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.
<b><i>offender</i></b>	a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of or pleaded guilty to an offence.
<b><i>penalty</i></b>	<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 child offender 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 older, 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 older, 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 child offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.</p> <p><i>intensive supervision order</i> a sentencing option for a child offender who has 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 child offender aged 12 years or older 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 offender re-offends during the period of the order.

*reprimand* a formal reproof given by the court to a child 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 restorative justice (conferencing)***

a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby a child offender is diverted from the court system to a restorative justice conference – a meeting between a child who has committed a crime and the people most affected by that crime. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

**Interpreting the data**

***Breaches of youth justice orders***

An offender found to have breached the conditions of a youth 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, offenders appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report.

In 2018–19, 453 appearances by child defendants were finalised in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 9,020 appearing for criminal offences.

Breaches of youth 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 may be 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 defendant***

In this report, the Queensland Courts and Department of Youth Justice 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 defendant may have one or multiple finalised court appearances during the reference period, and each is counted.

By comparison, each distinct child defendant with a finalised appearance is counted by Youth Justice 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 exactly 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.

***Recording of age***

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

**Please note:** In February 2018, the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016* and the *Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018* commenced. Implementation of the Act means that, from that date onwards, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with in the youth justice system (previously, the age range was 10–16 years). This has resulted in a break in the time series data presented in this report. Readers are therefore urged to exercise caution, as direct comparison between figures in 2017–18 and those in other periods may not be appropriate.

## SUMMARY

### Appearances

In 2018–19, the first full reporting year since changes to youth justice legislation were implemented in February 2018, there were 9,020 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland courts. Compared with the number of finalised appearances in 2016–17 (6,788), before 17-year-old offenders were dealt with as children, this represents an increase of 32.9% (or 2,232 appearances).

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 73.3% of all finalised appearances by child defendants in 2018–19. (See Appendix Table 12).

**Table 1 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by court level**

Court level <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19	
	number	% of total	number	% of total	number	% of total
Magistrates	6,370	93.8	7,258	94.5	8,332	92.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	392	5.8	398	5.2	671	7.4
District	24	0.4	18	0.2	5	0.1
Supreme	2	0	5	0.1	12	0.1
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>6,788</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,020</b>	<b>100.0</b>

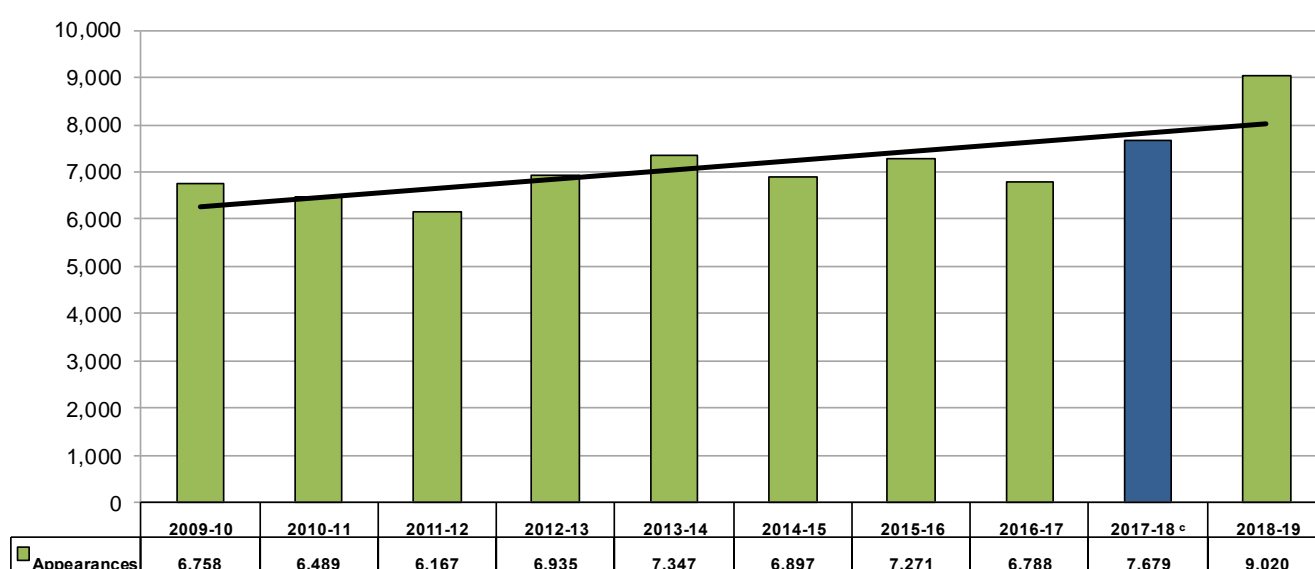
(a) Appearances in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in the higher court and are counted here only at that level.

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 1 Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. Appearances for committal to a higher court, or for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to youth justice conferencing.

(b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019, therefore will include revisions.



## Distinct defendants

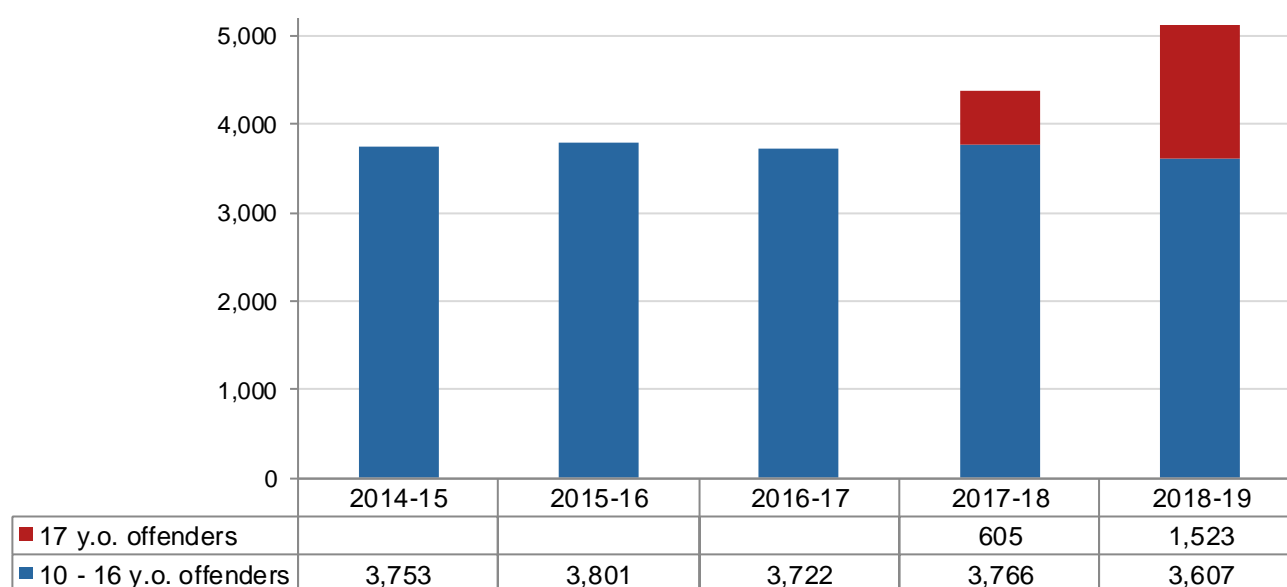
Prior to 12 February 2018, Youth Justice provided services to young people who committed offences aged 10 to 16 years. The 2017–18 period contains approximately four months of data for 10–17 year old offenders, and represents a break in the time series, while the 2018–19 period is the first full year when young offenders aged 17 years were dealt with in the youth justice system.

To enable direct comparisons between 2017–18 and years before and after, distinct defendants have been split into: (1) those with a charge finalised in the reporting period for offending when aged 10–16 years at time of offence (includes those who also offended as a 17-year-old); (2) those who only offended as a 17-year-old. (Figure 2).

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

In 2018–19, there were 5,130 distinct child defendants aged 10 years and over who had a charge finalised in a Queensland court.<sup>1,2</sup> The number of distinct child defendants increased in 2017–18 and 2018–19. The inclusion of 17-year-old offenders within the youth justice system was mainly responsible for these increases.

**Figure 2 Distinct child defendants<sup>(a)(b)</sup> with a finalised appearance, all courts<sup>(c)</sup>**



- (a) For all years prior to 2017–18, only young people who offended at age 10–16 years were dealt with in the youth justice system. To allow for comparison between financial years, the last two financial years have been split into young people who offended aged 10–16 years, and those who offended aged 17 years.
- (b) Young people who offended as both a 16 and 17-year-old are included within the 10–16 year old offenders. The count of 17-year-old offenders in 2017–18 and 2018–19 is of young people who offended only as a 17-year-old in these years.
- (c) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

<sup>1</sup> These figures are based on first disposals of charges only (e.g. they exclude re-sentenced offences).

<sup>2</sup> Charges finalised include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

Young males continue to outnumber young females, accounting for between 71 and 73 per cent of all distinct child defendants with a charge finalised. A slight decrease, within the 10–17 year old offender cohort, was observed in the proportion of offenders who were female in 2018–19 (Table 2).

**Table 2 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by sex, all courts<sup>(a)</sup>**

Sex	10–16 years old at date of offence					10–17 years old at date of offence	
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19	2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19
	Per cent <sup>(c)</sup> (%)					Per cent <sup>(c)</sup> (%)	
Female	27	27	28	28	29	28	27
Male	73	73	72	72	71	72	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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

(c) Percentages exclude child defendants who reported being intersex or where sex was not reported. These accounted for less than 0.05 per cent of defendants per financial year.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, young people aged 17 years were the largest single age group with a charge finalised in a Queensland court. This age group accounted for 28.1% of all child defendants (1,441 of the 10–17 year old offender cohort), while 16-year-olds accounted for 21.2% (1,088 of the 10–17 year offender old cohort) during the period. Around 1 in 10 (519) of all disposed charges were for 18-year-olds.

**Table 3 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts<sup>(a)</sup>**

Age at final appearance <sup>(b)</sup>	10–16 years old at date of offence					10–17 years old at date of offence	
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19	2017–18 <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19
	Defendants					Defendants	
10	23	18	18	13	22	13	22
11	49	70	53	70	59	70	59
12	160	154	154	159	157	159	157
13	317	341	350	375	373	375	373
14	600	652	651	636	611	636	611
15	872	917	919	920	860	920	860
16	1,233	1,156	1,124	1,126	1,088	1,126	1,088
17	457	433	406	415	374	888	1,441
18	42	60	47	52	63	184	519
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>3,722</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>3,607</b>	<b>4,371</b>	<b>5,130</b>

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

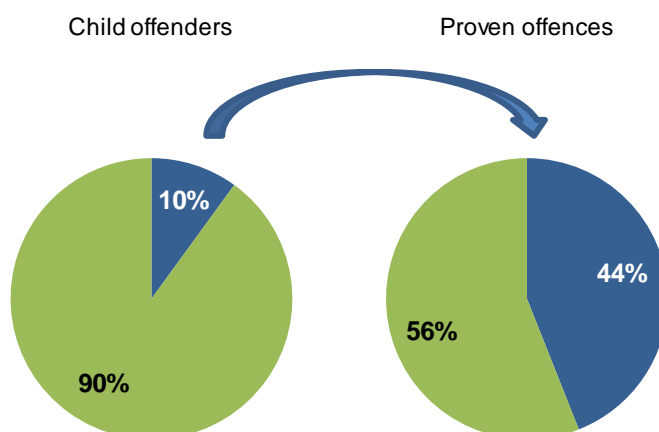
(b) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence, and is reported as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, ten per cent of all young offenders were responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences. This figure was the same in 2017–18, but slightly lower (43%) in 2016–17. (Figure 3).

**Figure 3 Proven offences<sup>(a)</sup> by child offenders, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>, 2018–19<sup>(c)</sup>**



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

(b) Includes counts across all court levels

(c) This figure is based on charges finalised during 2018–19.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

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

The 2018–19 financial year was the first full financial year when 17-year-old offenders were dealt with in the youth justice system.

There were 5,130 distinct child defendants with a charge disposed in 2018–19, 1,523 more than if the legislation had not been passed. That is, they had charges disposed relating to offences that occurred only while they were aged 17 years. (Table 4)

In addition to those 1,523 17-year-old offenders, there were 393 offenders amongst the remaining child defendants who had charges disposed for offences committed both as a 10–16 year old and also as a 17-year-old.

Of the 36,676 proven offences committed by 10–17 year old offenders during the financial year, offences by 17-year-olds accounted for 23 per cent (8,440 offences).

**Table 4 Age at finalisation of distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence<sup>(a)</sup>, 2018–19**

Age at date of finalisation	Distinct defendants
17 years old	1,067
18 years old	456
<b>Total aged 17+</b>	<b>1,523</b>

<b>Total defendants aged 10–17 years at date of offence</b>	<b>5,130</b>
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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: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Males accounted for 77 per cent of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance who were aged 17 years at time of offence, six percentage points higher than the average of those aged 10–16 years. Around three-in-ten (29 per cent) of the 17-year-old offender group were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared with one-half of 10–16 year old offenders (Table 5 and Table 6).

**Table 5 Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 17 years<sup>(a)</sup> at date of offence, 2018–19**

		Indigenous status		
		Other <sup>(b)</sup>	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Total no. (%)
Sex	Female	249 (16.4%)	93 (6.1%)	342 (22.5%)
	Male	838 (55.0%)	342 (22.5%)	1,180 (77.5%)
	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	1,088 (71.4%)	435 (28.6%)	1,523 (100.0%)

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

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

(c) Total includes defendants identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 6 Demographic intersection of distinct defendants aged 10–16 years<sup>(a)</sup> at date of offence, 2018–19**

		Indigenous status		
		Other <sup>(b)</sup>	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Total no. (%)
Sex	Female	523 (14.5%)	540 (15.0%)	1,063 (29.5%)
	Male	1,255 (34.8%)	1,288 (35.7%)	2,543 (70.5%)
	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	1,778 (49.3%)	1,829 (50.7%)	3,607 (100.0%)

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

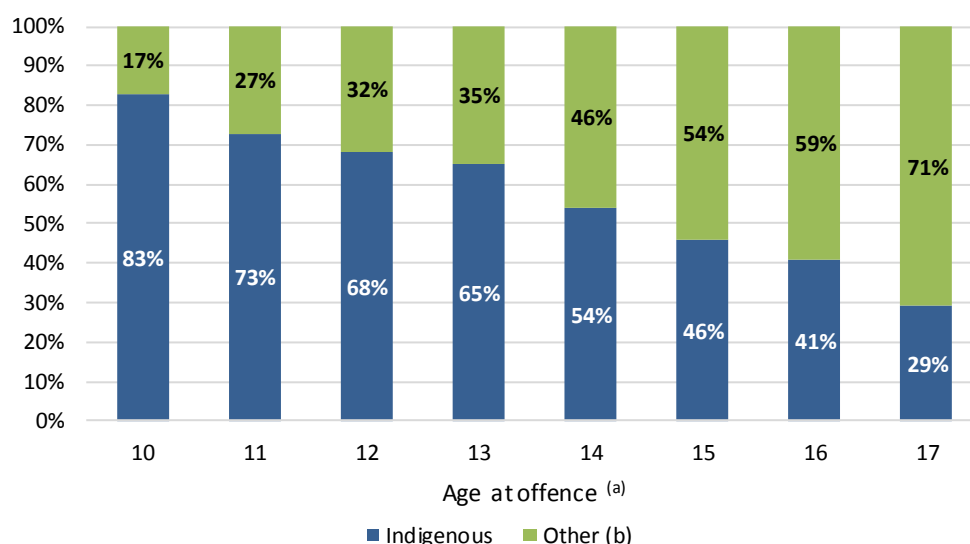
(b) "Other" includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(c) Total includes intersex or indeterminate sex.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants continue to be substantially over-represented in the younger age groups between 10 and 14 years. (Figure 4)

**Figure 4 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, by age, 2018–19**



(a) Includes all distinct defendants with a charge disposed who were aged 10–17 years at date of offence. Age at offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a defendant's first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

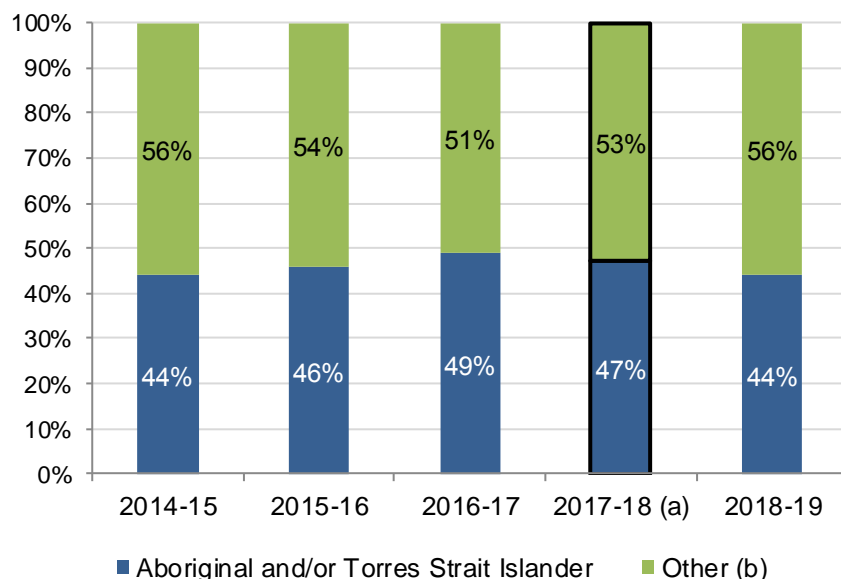
(b) "Other" includes non-Indigenous defendants and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defendants

In 2018–19, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 44 per cent of all child defendants who had a charge finalised. This is a smaller proportion than in 2017–18. (Figure 5)

**Figure 5 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts**



(a) 17-year-old offenders have been included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were nine times as likely as other young people to have had a charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2018–19 (Table 7). This is lower than the previous year (10 times as likely), and is likely due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders within the youth justice system, who have a lower than average proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders (compared with 10–16 year old offenders) (Table 5 and Table 6).

**Table 7 Rate of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts**

Indigenous status	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Rate per 1,000 persons <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	48.4	50.3	51.3	56.6	54.8
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	5.4	5.2	4.7	5.6	6.1

(a) 17-year-old offenders have been included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2014–15 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2017–18.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at August 2019; Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0, *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*, unpublished data; Other population estimates data have been sourced from ABS 3235.0 *Regional population by age and sex, Australia*, 2018.

## Charges

Across all court levels, the average number of charges per finalised appearance by a child defendant remained the same at 4.3 in both 2017–18 and 2018–19. In the Magistrates Court, the average number decreased slightly from 4.3 to 4.2 charges over that period, and in the Childrens Court of Queensland from 5.0 to 4.9. In the District Court, the average number decreased from 6.4 in 2017–18 to 2.6 in 2018–19, and in the Supreme Court over the same period, the average number increased from 2.8 to 3.8 charges per finalised appearance.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges in 2018–19 were *theft and related offences* with 11,845 charges (30.9%), *unlawful entry with intent* with 6,793 charges (17.7%), *public order offences* with 3,402 charges (8.9%) and *property damage* with 3,345 charges (8.7%). In total, these four offence categories represented two-thirds (66.2%) of all charges finalised against child defendants in 2018–19. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table 1.)

**Table 8 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type**

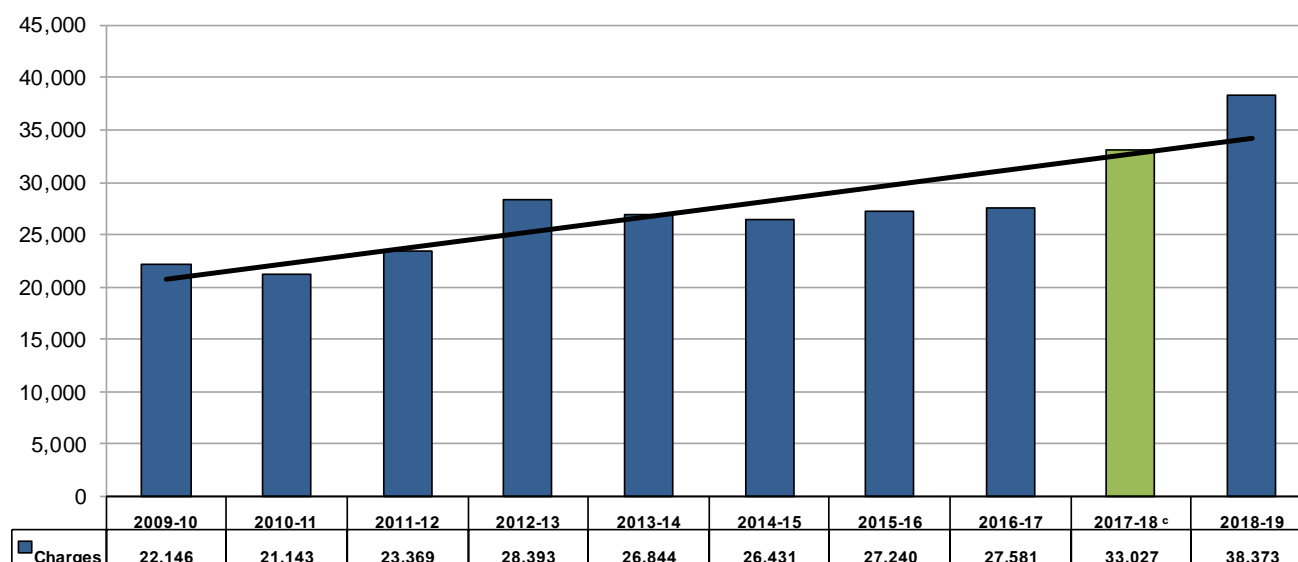
Court type <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17r		2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Magistrates	25,449	92.3	30,912	93.6	35,057	91.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	2,048	7.4	1,986	6.0	3,257	8.5
District	81	0.3	115	0.3	13	0.0
Supreme	3	0.0	14	0.1	46	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,581</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33,027</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38,373</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Charges in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in a 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 6 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges<sup>(a)</sup> against child defendants, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



(a) Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

(b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019 and include revisions.

## Penalties

In 2018–19, of the 9,020 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts 73.8% (6,657) resulted in a guilty finding (conviction), the lowest rate in the three years presented in Table 9. By comparison, convicted appearances accounted for 77.2% of all finalised appearances in 2017–18 and 79.7% in 2016–17.

**Table 9** Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(d)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances		
Detention <sup>(e)</sup>	95	108	90
Immediate / conditional release <sup>(f)</sup>	392	395	588
Community service	828	870	972
Probation	1,148	1,349	1,462
Treatment orders	46	71	106
Fine	58	71	152
Compensation	25	26	26
Good behaviour	929	962	1,129
Disqualification of drivers licence	11	45	126
Reprimand <sup>(g)</sup>	1,877	2,032	2,006
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,409</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>6,657</b>

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

(b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(e) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(f) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

Of those appearances with a guilty finding in 2018–19, ninety (or 1.4%) resulted in detention as most serious penalty, and a further 588 (8.8%) resulted in immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were the most serious penalty imposed in 2,006 convicted appearances (30.1%). Probation was the next most prevalent with 1,462 (22.0%), followed by 1,129 (17.0%) with a good behaviour order.

## Cautions

Queensland Police Service data showed that 12,292 cautions were administered to child offenders in 2018–19, an increase of 433 or 3.7% since 2017–18 (Table 10). In comparison, there were 7,679 finalised court appearances of child defendants in the same period.

In 2018–19, the greatest number of cautions was administered for *theft and related offences* (3,310 or 26.9% of all cautions). A further 2,256 cautions (or 18.4%) were administered for *illicit drug offences* and 1,829 (or 14.9%) for *other offences*, including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc (see table footnote, below).

**Table 10 Cautions administered<sup>(a)</sup> to child offenders, by offence type**

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19
	Cautions		
Acts intended to cause injury	783	977	1,034
Sexual assault & related offences	769	699	595
Robbery & extortion	42	74	116
Unlawful entry with intent	1,310	1,286	1,365
Theft & related offences	3,199	3,341	3,310
(Motor vehicle theft)	630	653	827
(Other theft)	2,393	2,445	2,274
(Receiving & handling)	176	243	209
Deception & related offences	308	453	442
Illicit drug offences	1,592	1,798	2,256
Property damage	1,457	1,356	1,318
Road traffic offences	11	18	27
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	1,813	1,857	1,829
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,284</b>	<b>11,859</b>	<b>12,292</b>

(a) Data are a count of cautions administered, not offenders or offences. 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) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

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

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2019.

## Youth justice conferencing

Court referrals to youth justice restorative justice conferencing, which were discontinued in January 2013, were re-introduced on 1 July 2016.

In 2018–19, restorative justice conferencing received a total of 2,863 referrals, with 473 of these referrals for 17-year-old offenders (16.5%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 40.6% (1,161) of all referrals received in 2018–19. This is similar to the proportion in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, a total of 1,866 referrals were conferenced. This includes referrals that were received in 2017–18 and a small number of referrals received in 2016–17.

Of the referrals conferenced, 97 per cent resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants.

*Theft, breaking and entering etc* was the offence type most conferenced in 2018–19, at 1,326 or 23.0% of the total, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* at 962 or 16.7%, and *property damage* (600 or 10.4%). Together, these three offence types accounted for half of all offences conferenced in the period.



**Table 11 Offences for which offenders were proceeded against by youth justice conference<sup>(a)</sup>, 2018–19**

<b>Offence type<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>2018–19</b>
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>436</b>
<i>Assault</i>	431
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury<sup>(c)</sup></i>	5
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	<b>263</b>
<i>Sexual assault</i>	220
<i>Non–assaultive sexual offences</i>	43
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	<b>108</b>
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	62
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons<sup>(c)</sup></i>	46
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	<b>69</b>
<i>Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment</i>	3
<i>Harassment and threatening behaviour</i>	66
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	<b>173</b>
<i>Robbery</i>	172
<i>Blackmail and extortion</i>	1
<b>Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter</b>	<b>962</b>
<b>Theft and related offences</b>	<b>1,326</b>
<i>Motor vehicle theft and related offences</i>	429
<i>Theft (except motor vehicles)</i>	721
<i>Receive or handle proceeds of crime</i>	176
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	<b>534</b>
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	274
<i>Forgery and counterfeiting</i>	115
<i>Other fraud and deception offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	145
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>346</b>
<i>Deal or traffic in illicit drugs</i>	83
<i>Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs</i>	4
<i>Possess and/or use illicit drugs</i>	128
<i>Other drug offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	131
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	<b>49</b>
<i>Prohibited weapons/explosives offences</i>	7
<i>Regulated weapons/explosives offences</i>	42
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>	<b>600</b>
<i>Property damage</i>	600
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>439</b>
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	287
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	10
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	142
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>	<b>222</b>
<i>Driver licence offences</i>	117
<i>Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences</i>	47
<i>Regulatory driving offences</i>	58
<b>Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations</b>	<b>204</b>
<i>Breach of violence and non-violence orders</i>	11
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	3
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	190
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,777</b>

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

(b) Offence categories and sub-categories correspond to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Offence types with zero values have been excluded.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

## THE COURTS

### Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2018–19, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court was 58 days, which is longer than the 52 days taken in both 2017–18 and 2016–17. (Table 12)

By comparison, in 2018–19, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 324 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court, substantially less than in both 2017–18 (348 days) and in 2016–17 (370 days).

**Table 12 Average number of days to finalise youth justice proceedings, selected courts**

Court level <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(d)</sup>	2018–19
	Days				
Magistrates Court	50	49	52	52	58
Childrens Court of Queensland <sup>(c)</sup>	327	349	370	348	324

(a) District, Supreme and Murri Courts excluded due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.

(b) Figures are based on days lapsed 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 lapsed for charges disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from 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: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

### Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 3,257 charges in 671 appearances of child defendants in 2018–19. The majority of finalised appearances related to defendants aged 15 years and older (598 or 89.1%), with those aged 17 years and older accounting for 53.2% of all appearances (Table 13).

There was a notable increase (73.8%) in the number of appearances of 15-year-old defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2018–19, at 113 appearances compared with 65 in 2017–18. This increase exceeds the increase in appearances of 17-year-olds over the same period.

Defendants aged less than 15 years accounted for 73 finalised appearances in 2018–19, only 10.9% of the total, but an increase of 12 appearances (19.7%) compared with 2017–18.

**Table 13 Finalised appearances, by age, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17r	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>		
11	–	3	1
12	4	1	–
13	12	22	20
14	50	35	52
15	70	65	113
16	110	121	128
<i>Subtotal: 16 years and under</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>314</i>
17	111	130	175
18 & over	35	21	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>671</b>

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, the Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 64.0% (1,271) more charges against child defendants than in the previous year (Table 14). However, the average number of charges per finalised appearance has slightly decreased in this period, to 4.9 from 5.0 in 2017–18.

*Theft & related offences* accounted for 791 finalised charges against child defendants in 2018–19, representing 24.3% of all charges finalised, and an increase of 60.8% compared with 492 in both years prior. *Robbery and extortion* charges more than doubled over the same period, from 306 in 2017–18 to 628, 19.3% of all charges finalised in 2018–19. This offence type has overtaken *unlawful entry with intent* as second-most prevalent offence finalised in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2018–19.

**Table 14 Finalised charges by offence type, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19
	Charges		
Homicide and related offences	2	–	–
Acts intended to cause injury	209	272	320
Sexual assault & related offences	242	154	284
Robbery & extortion	239	306	628
Unlawful entry with intent	385	324	534
Theft & related offences	492	492	791
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	235	236	384
<i>Other theft</i>	213	196	295
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	44	60	112
Deception & related offences	44	42	81
Illicit drug offences	71	68	198
Property damage	188	140	202
Road traffic offences	40	51	56
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	136	137	163
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>3,257</b>

(a) Offences are based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

Of the 671 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2018–19, 507 (75.6%) resulted in a guilty outcome (Table 15). Of these, 24 (4.7%) received a custodial sentence as the most serious penalty, with a further 136 (26.8%) given an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty continues to be probation (55.6%).

**Table 15 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>		
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	21	18	24
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	65	82	136
Community service	35	22	41
Probation	159	174	282
Compensation	–	1	1
Good behaviour	7	8	9
Disqualification of drivers licence	1	–	–
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	6	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>507</b>

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(c) 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.

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

(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

## Applications for sentence review

**Table 16 Applications lodged for sentence review – *Youth Justice Act 1992*<sup>(a)</sup>, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Court location	2012–13	2013–14 <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17 <sup>(a)</sup>	2017–18	2018–19
	Applications <sup>(b)</sup>				
Beenleigh	–	–	–	–	–
Brisbane	47	36	25	21	59
Hervey Bay	–	–	–	–	1
Maroochydore	–	–	–	1	–
Townsville	4	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>60</b>

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

(b) Count is based on originating applications lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland, pursuant to section 119 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, within the reported period.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2019.

## Applications for bail

**Table 17 Applications for bail to the Childrens Court of Queensland**

Court location	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Applications <sup>(b)</sup>				
Beenleigh	3	7	10	–	2
Brisbane	36	35	30	91	140
Cairns	2	2	–	6	4
Hervey Bay	1	2	–	1	1
Ipswich	5	2	6	3	5
Mackay	2	1	1	–	3
Maroochydore	1	–	1	3	5
Maryborough	–	1	–	–	1
Rockhampton	–	3	–	2	3
Roma	1	–	–	–	–
Southport	2	2	3	3	2
Toowoomba	5	7	–	–	1
Townsville	2	–	4	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>173</b>

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2019.

## Appeals

**Table 18 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, Child Safety Services (DCSYW) as respondent**

Court location	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
	Appeals <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>				
Beenleigh	–	–	–	10	–
Brisbane	4	4	21	20	7
Bundaberg	–	–	–	–	1
Cairns	1	2	–	3	–
Gladstone	–	–	1	–	1
Hervey Bay	–	1	–	–	–
Ipswich	–	1	2	–	–
Maroochydore	–	–	–	1	–
Maryborough	–	–	–	–	–
Mount Isa	–	–	–	–	1
Rockhampton	–	–	4	1	–
Southport	7	3	1	2	6
Toowoomba	–	3	–	–	2
Townsville	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>

(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 2019.

**Table 19 Appeals lodged pursuant to s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, by court location**

Court location	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
	Appeals <sup>(a)</sup>				
Brisbane	4	22	–	3	1
Bundaberg	–	1	–	–	–
Hervey Bay	–	–	–	–	1
Ipswich	1	–	–	–	–
Maroochydore	2	–	1	–	–
Maryborough	–	–	–	–	–
Southport	–	–	1	–	–
Toowoomba	1	2	–	–	–
Townsville	1	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

(a) Under s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, 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.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil). Data current as at August 2019.

## Applications for parentage orders

**Table 20 Applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for *Surrogacy Act 2010* parentage orders**

Originating court location	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
	Applications <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>				
Brisbane	9	14	13	12	12
Maroochydore	–	–	1	–	–
Southport	–	–	–	–	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

- (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 2019.

## Magistrates Court

In 2018–19, there were 8,332 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in Queensland, an increase of 14.8% from 7,258 in the previous year. In addition, 581 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, an increase of 45.3% since 2017–18. Of the 8,332 finalised appearances, 6,136 (73.6%) resulted in a guilty finding and 2,196 (26.4%) were discharged (Table 21).

**Table 21 Appearances of child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court**

Outcome	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>		
Committed to a higher court <sup>(c)</sup>	328	400	581
Finalised	6,370	7,258	8,332
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,103	5,604	6,136
<i>Discharged</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	1,267	1,654	2,196

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

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

(c) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court was the most serious outcome.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

The difference between the 581 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court and the 688 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in 2018–19 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2017–18 but finalised in 2018–19.

Table 22 shows the number of finalised appearances of defendants aged 16 years and under decreased in 2018–19 by 367 appearances (or –6.4%) compared with 2017–18. The biggest decrease for this cohort was seen in appearances of 15-year-old defendants, which was 165 fewer in 2018–19 than in 2017–18. Appearances of both 14 year old and 16-year-old defendants have decreased for the past two years. Of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court only 25.3% were for child defendants aged less than 15 years.

**Table 22 Finalised appearances, by age, Magistrates Court**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>		
10	43	23	29
11	98	124	92
12	259	276	281
13	629	663	668
14	1,155	1,143	1,038
15	1,631	1,648	1,483
16	1,916	1,901	1,820
<i>Subtotal: 16 yrs and under</i>	5,731	5,778	5,411
17	582	1,243	2,219
18 & over	55	232	697
Unknown	2	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>8,332</b>

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, a total of 35,057 charges against child defendants were finalised in the Magistrates Court, 4,145 (13.4%) more than the previous year. (Table 23)

The largest number of finalised charges in 2018–19 was for *theft and related offences* (11,047), which also represented an increase of 1,735 (18.6%) since 2017–18, following an increase of 1,342 (16.8%) in the previous year. At 31.5% of all charges, however, the proportion was comparable to 30.1% in 2017–18 and 31.3% in 2016–17.

Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 6,256 or 17.8% of all charges finalised in 2018–19, compared with 18.9% in 2017–18 and 18.3% in 2016–17. When combined with *property damage*, these three offence types accounted for 58.3% of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2018–19, 60.4% in 2017–18, and 59.7% in 2016–17.

The number of charges for *road traffic offences* and *illicit drug offences* experienced substantial increases in 2018–19 compared with 2017–18, increasing by 782 (49.9%) and 735 (44.9%) respectively.

**Table 23 Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court**

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Charges <sup>(c)</sup>		
Homicide & related offences	2	–	3
Acts intended to cause injury	1,108	1,502	1,678
Sexual assault & related offences	50	95	31
Robbery & extortion	128	195	234
Unlawful entry with intent	4,651	5,833	6,256
Theft & related offences	7,970	9,312	11,047
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	2,054	2,441	2,958
<i>Other theft</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	4,799	5,573	6,326
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	1,117	1,298	1,763
Deception & related offences	1,291	1,466	1,641
Illicit drug offences	1,430	1,638	2,373
Property damage	2,581	3,514	3,142
Road traffic offences	1,525	1,568	2,350
Other offences <sup>(e)</sup>	4,713	5,789	6,302
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,449</b>	<b>30,912</b>	<b>35,057</b>

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

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

(c) Excludes charges committed to a higher court, and transfers.

(d) Other theft = *theft (except motor vehicles)* + *theft and related offences not further defined*.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, of the 37,729 charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 35,057 (92.9%) were finalised, while 2,672 (7.1%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence (Table 24).

**Table 24 Charges against child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court**

Outcome	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Charges		
Committed to a higher court	1,437	1,819	2,672
Finalised	25,449	30,912	35,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,886</b>	<b>32,731</b>	<b>37,729</b>

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.



Of the 8,332 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in 2018–19, 6,136 (73.6%) resulted in a guilty outcome (Table 25). Of these, almost one-third (1,992 or 32.5%) received a reprimand as the most serious penalty, a custodial sentence was imposed in 66 appearances (1.1%), and 445 (7.3%) received an immediate/conditional release order. Probation was the most serious penalty imposed in 19.1% of convicted appearances.

**Table 25 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court**

Penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>		
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	74	87	66
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	324	309	445
Community service	792	847	931
Probation	982	1,170	1,173
Treatment order	46	71	106
Fine	58	71	152
Compensation	25	25	25
Good behaviour	921	952	1,120
Disqualification of drivers licence	10	45	126
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	1,871	2,027	1,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>5,604</b>	<b>6,136</b>

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) 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.

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

(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

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

**Table 26 Applications for child protection orders<sup>(a)</sup>, Magistrates Court**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Applications for child protection orders	3,570	3,979	4,255	4,527	6,069

(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 8 August 2019

## Supreme and District Courts

The Supreme and District Courts finalised 59 charges in 17 appearances of child defendants in 2018–19. The number of finalised appearances in these courts has decreased over the past two consecutive years. (Table 27). The average number of charges per appearance in the Supreme and District Courts decreased from 5.6 in 2017–18 to 3.5 in 2018–19.

In the same period, 11 (64.7%) of the 17 finalised appearances of children in the Supreme and District Courts were of defendants aged 17 years and over, with the remaining 35.3% aged 16 years and under. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 9.)

**Table 27 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>		
14	1	–	–
15	6	1	2
16	3	3	4
17	12	11	3
18 & over	4	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

Along with the decrease in number of appearances in the Supreme and District Courts in 2018–19, the number of charges finalised halved (to 59 charges) compared with 2017–18 (129), a decrease of 70 charges (or –54.3%). Of the 59 charges finalised, *illicit drug offences* accounted for the greatest number, with 27 charges (45.8%), while *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 9 (15.3%). *Sexual assault & related offences* charges saw the biggest decrease, with 2 charges in 2018–19 compared with 31 in the previous year. (Table 28).

**Table 28 Finalised charges against child defendants, by offence type, Supreme and District Courts**

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Charges		
Homicide & related offences	–	2	3
Acts intended to cause injury	29	12	9
Sexual assault & related offences	25	31	2
Robbery & extortion	8	4	5
Unlawful entry with intent	8	30	3
Theft & related offences	2	14	7
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	2	10	5
<i>Other theft</i>	–	2	–
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	–	2	2
Illicit drug offences	3	13	27
Property damage	8	12	1
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	1	11	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>59</b>

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

(b) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) 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.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

Of the 17 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts in 2018–19, 14 (82.4%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty (Table 29). Of these, half received immediate/conditional release orders and half received probation as most serious penalty.

**Table 29 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts**

Penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r	2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>		
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	–	3	–
Immediate / conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	3	4	7
Community service	1	1	–
Probation	7	5	7
Good behaviour	1	2	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) 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.

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

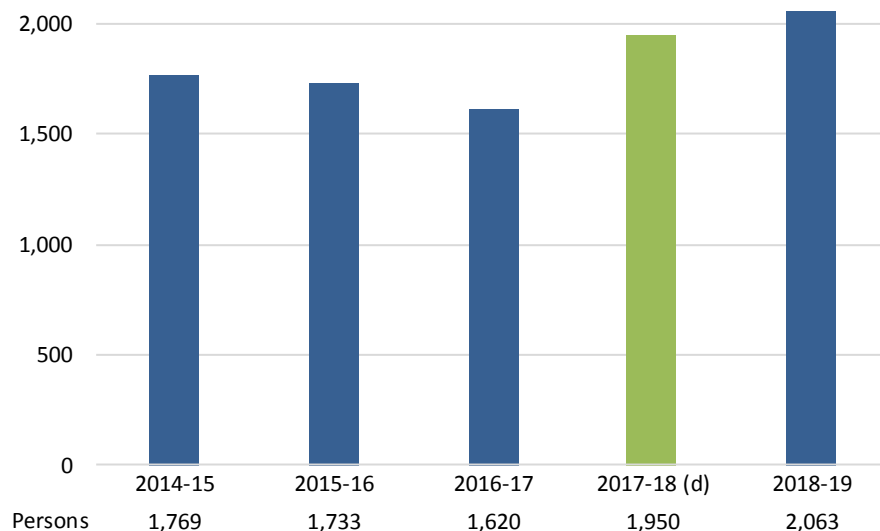
(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

## SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2018–19, a total of 2,063 distinct young offenders commenced a supervised youth justice order. (Figure 7).

**Figure 7 Distinct offenders<sup>(a)</sup> commencing a supervised youth justice order<sup>(b)(c)</sup>**



(a) An offender is counted once only in a reference year, irrespective of the number of supervised orders commenced in that period.

(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.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Young offenders aged 17 years and over represented the largest age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2018–19, constituting 35.2% (726) of the 2,063 distinct offenders commencing an order. Young offenders aged 16 years made up almost one-quarter (23.4%) of all young people commencing an order (Table 30). The number of distinct offenders commencing a supervised order decreased in every age group except for 12-year-olds and those aged 17 years and older in 2018–19.

**Table 30 Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age**

Age at commencement of order <sup>(a)</sup>	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19
	Offenders				
10	4	4	6	1	–
11	19	20	12	25	19
12	71	73	49	40	47
13	170	162	166	175	143
14	291	330	277	265	249
15	430	433	416	425	396
16	557	500	488	492	483
17+	227	211	206	527	726
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2,063</b>

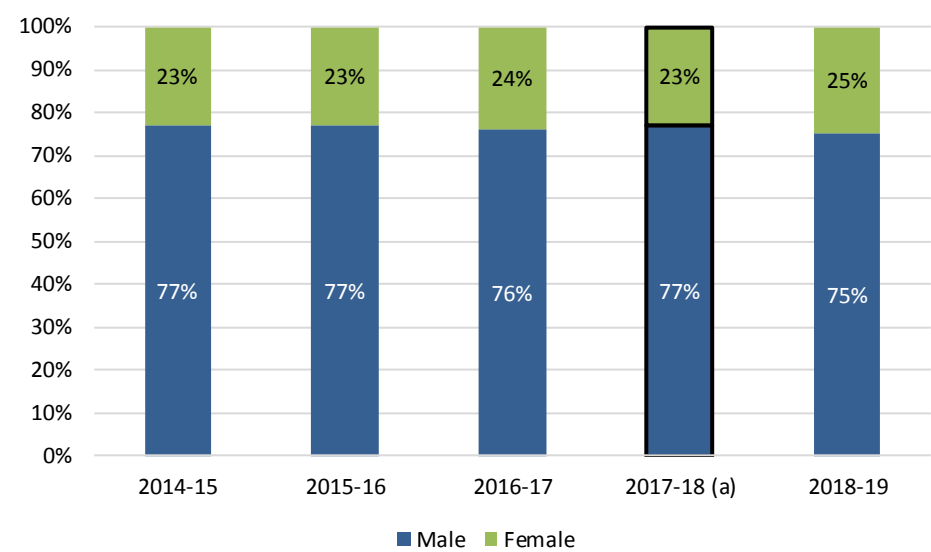
(a) Age represents age of offender as at the earliest commencement of a supervised order within the reference year.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Distinct young males commencing a supervised youth justice order outnumber young females by approximately three to one. This pattern has remained consistent, however in 2018–19 there were slightly more females commencing a supervised order compared with previous years. (Figure 8).

**Figure 8    Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex**

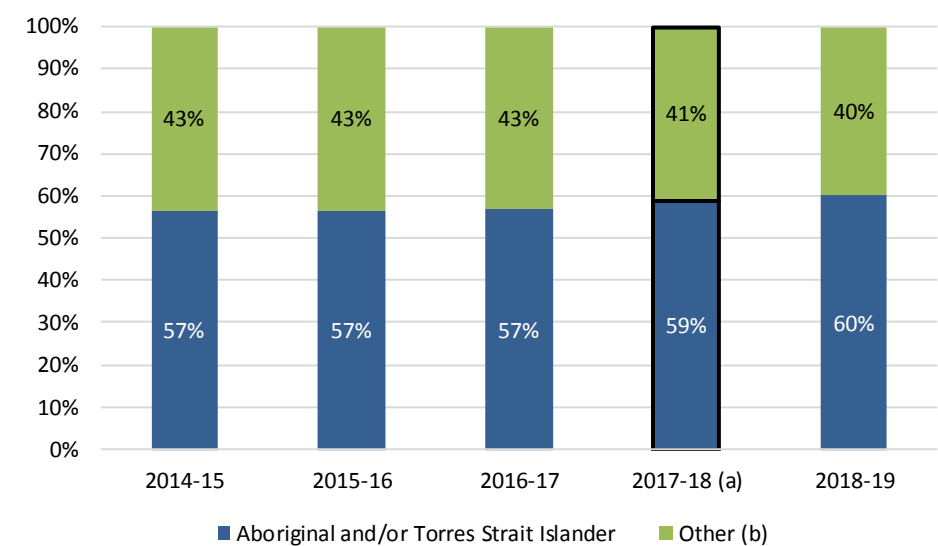


(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

In 2018–19, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for 60 per cent of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. A slight increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders commencing a supervised order was observed in the last two years (Figure 9).

**Figure 9    Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status**



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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 17.2 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2018–19 (Table 31).

**Table 31 Rate of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status**

Indigenous status	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Rate per 1,000 persons <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	29.1	28.4	25.8	32.0	30.0
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.7

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

(b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2014–15 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2017–18.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at August 2019; Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0, *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*, unpublished data; Other population estimates data have been sourced from ABS 3235.0 *Regional population by age and sex, Australia*, 2018

The most prevalent order types commenced by young offenders were consistently probation, averaging around half (48.6% in 2018–19) of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2014–15 and 2018–19. By comparison, community service averaged around one-quarter, with a low of 21.4% in 2018–19. Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) averaged around nine per cent of orders commenced during the last five years. (Table 32)

**Table 32 Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type**

Order type	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Orders <sup>(b)</sup>				
Boot camp <sup>(c)</sup>	15	2	–	–	–
Boot camp (vehicle offences) <sup>(d)</sup>	48	10	–	–	–
Community service	1,009	925	731	871	860
Conditional release	233	251	226	230	316
Detention <sup>(e)</sup>	287	343	272	305	359
Graffiti removal <sup>(f)</sup>	252	198	186	214	222
Intensive supervision <sup>(g)</sup>	13	10	2	13	6
Probation	1,591	1,653	1,512	1,956	1,960
Restorative justice <sup>(h)</sup>	–	–	272	202	287
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>3,201</b>	<b>3,791</b>	<b>4,010</b>

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

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

(c) Boot camp orders came into effect in the Cairns area on 31 January 2013, 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.

(d) 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.

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

(f) 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.

(g) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for 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.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

## Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced shows an increase from 2016–17, continuing to rise in 2018–19. (Table 33)

**Table 33 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by child offenders**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
Conditional bail orders	379	323	450	768	869

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

## Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2017–18 were successfully completed by the end of 2018–19 (71.1% of probation orders and 68.7% 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 2019. Thirty-nine per cent of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2019 (Table 34).

**Table 34 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2017–18: completion status as at 30 June 2019**

Completion status as at 30 June 2019	Type of order commenced <sup>(a)</sup> in 2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Order successfully completed	1,421	71.1	162	60.4	608	68.7	6	42.9	184	82.1	175	85.8
Order remains active	143	7.2	2	0.8	64	7.2	–	–	3	1.3	9	4.4
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	434	21.7	104	38.8	213	24.1	8	57.1	37	16.5	20	9.8
<b>Total <sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

(c) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2019 are reported as “breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June 2019.

(d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 35 Supervised youth justice orders commenced: completion status as at 30 June of the following period**

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	1,317	70.6	1,074	66.8	1,185	70.6	1,077	70.2	1,421	71.1
Remained active	120	6.4	81	5.0	77	4.6	113	7.4	143	7.2
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	429	23.0	453	28.2	416	24.8	344	22.4	434	21.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	183	62.7	138	52.3	166	59.7	165	63.0	162	60.4
Remained active	1	0.3	1	0.4	1	0.4	–	–	2	0.8
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	108	37.0	125	47.3	111	39.9	97	37.0	104	38.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	781	68.5	720	70.5	650	69.2	514	69.4	608	68.7
Remained active	67	5.9	46	4.5	48	5.1	44	5.9	64	7.2
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	292	25.6	256	25.0	241	25.7	183	24.7	213	24.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	10	83.3	8	57.1	5	50.0	1	50.0	6	42.9
Remained active	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	2	16.7	6	42.9	5	50.0	1	50.0	8	57.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	94	83.2	213	82.6	169	83.7	160	85.1	184	82.1
Remained active	4	3.5	4	1.5	3	1.5	3	1.6	3	1.3
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	15	13.3	41	15.9	30	14.8	25	13.3	37	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2013–14		2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	–	–	–	–	–	–	241	87.6	175	85.8
Remained active	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	2.5	9	4.4
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	–	–	–	–	–	–	27	9.8	20	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(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 child offenders.

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

(c) 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.

(d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 in every case due to rounding.

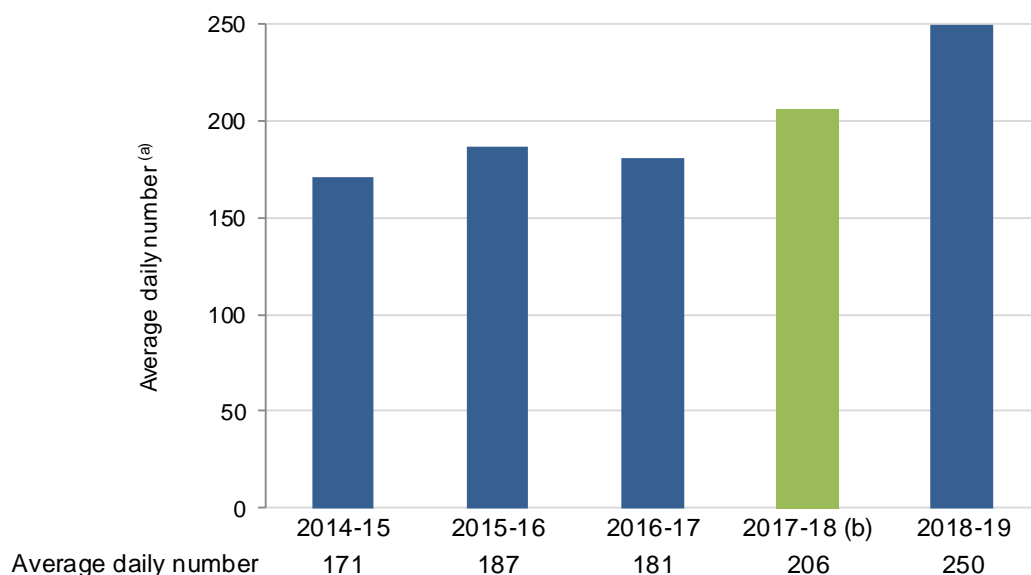
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.



## Young people in custody

“In custody” refers to young people held in youth detention centres on pre-court custody, remand or sentence, young people held in police watchhouses on post-court remand or sentence, or young people in other locations (such as in police transit, Brisbane court cells, or in hospital) on remand or sentence. It excludes pre-court custody in locations other than a youth detention centre. The transition of 17-year-old offenders into the youth justice system has placed pressure on the system and in particular detention centre capacity.

**Figure 10 Average daily number of young people in custody**



Note: Previous financial year custody figures have been updated to reflect new counting rules and therefore may not be the same as presented in previous publications.

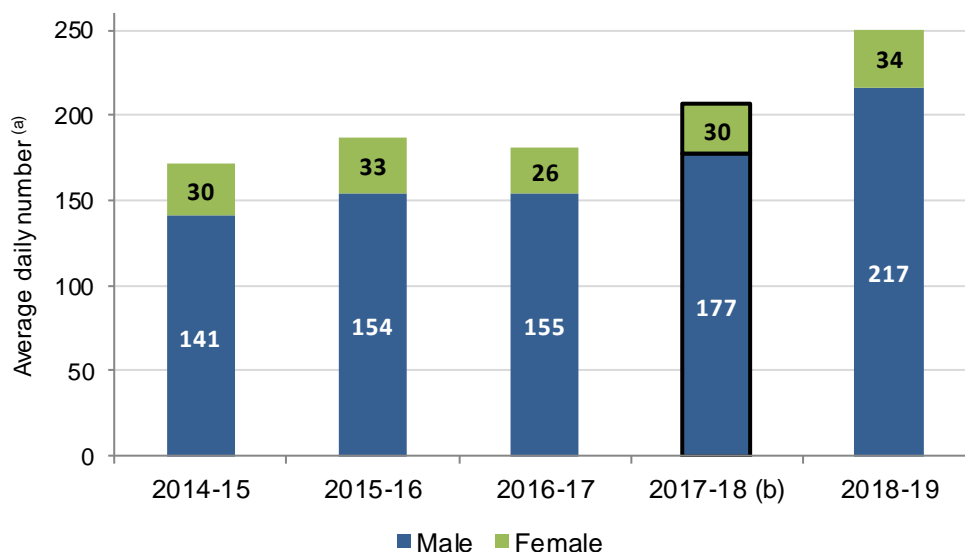
- (a) The average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre or a police watchhouse at 6 am on each day during the period. This includes young people held in pre-court custody in a detention centre, but not pre-court custody in a police watchhouse.
- (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 Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in custody, accounting for between 82 and 86 per cent of young people in custody on average in any given period. In 2018–19, the rate of young males in custody per 10,000 male population was 8.2, compared to that of young females at 1.3 per 10,000 female population.

The proportion of young females in custody was lower in 2018–19 (13.5%) compared with previous years, where the proportion ranged between 14 per cent and 19 per cent.

**Figure 11 Average daily number of young people in custody, by sex**



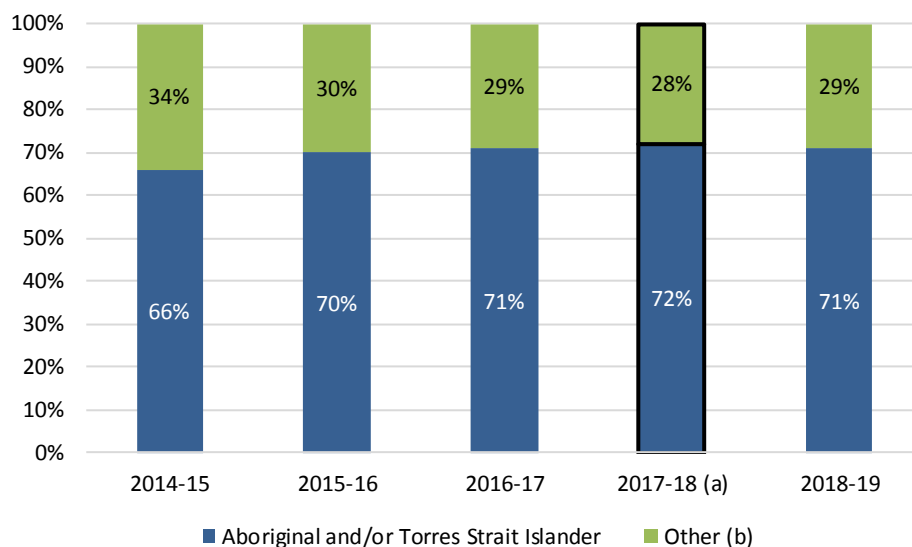
- (a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals in Figure 10.

- (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 Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention / court-ordered custody, accounting for over 70 per cent of young people in custody on an average day (Figure 12).

**Figure 12 Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status**



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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 28 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth custody in 2018–19 (Table 36).

**Table 36 Rate of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status**

Indigenous status	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Rate per 1,000 persons aged 10–17 years <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	32.7	37.5	36.2	41.2	43.0
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>

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

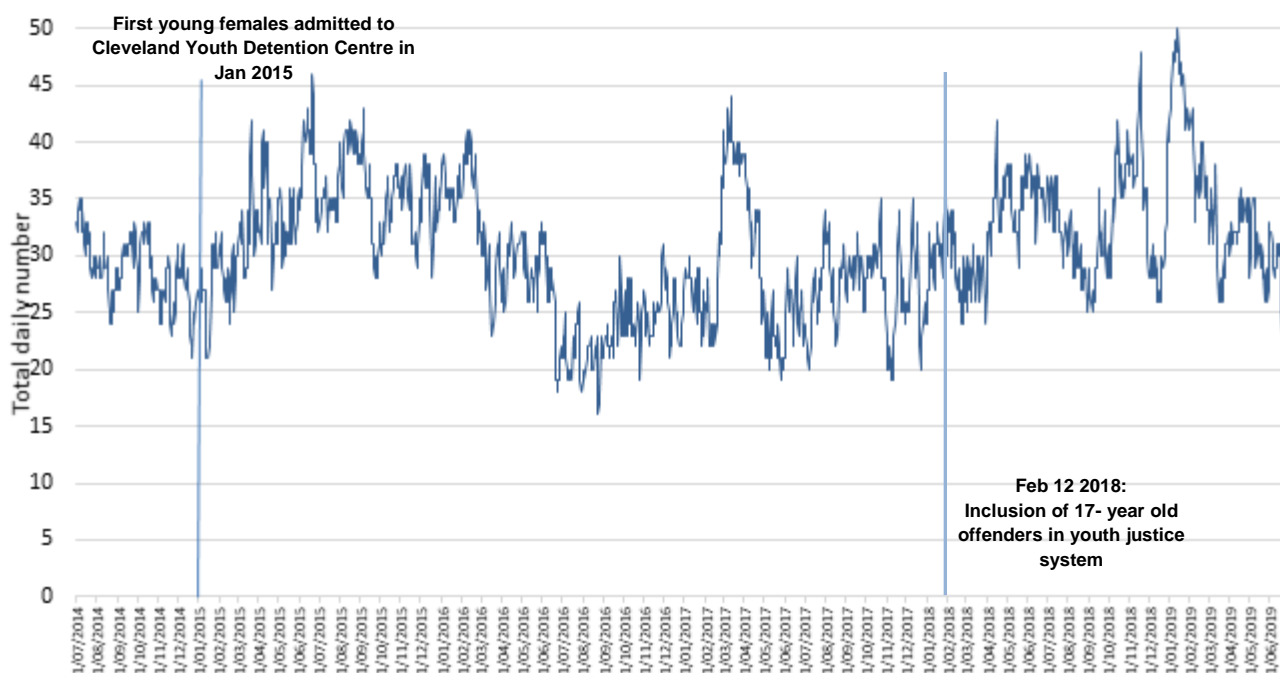
(b) Rate is based on the average daily number in youth detention, by Indigenous status. Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2014–15 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2017–18.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at August 2019; Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0, *Estimates and projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*, unpublished data; Other population estimates data have been sourced from ABS 3235.0 *Regional population by age and sex, Australia, 2018*

Figure 13 shows the total daily number of young females in custody between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2019. 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 13 Total daily number of young females in youth detention / court-ordered custody<sup>(a)</sup>**



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

(a) Data are based on Custody Daily Number and includes young females in pre-court custody, on remand or sentence in youth detention centres and young females on remand or sentence in other locations.

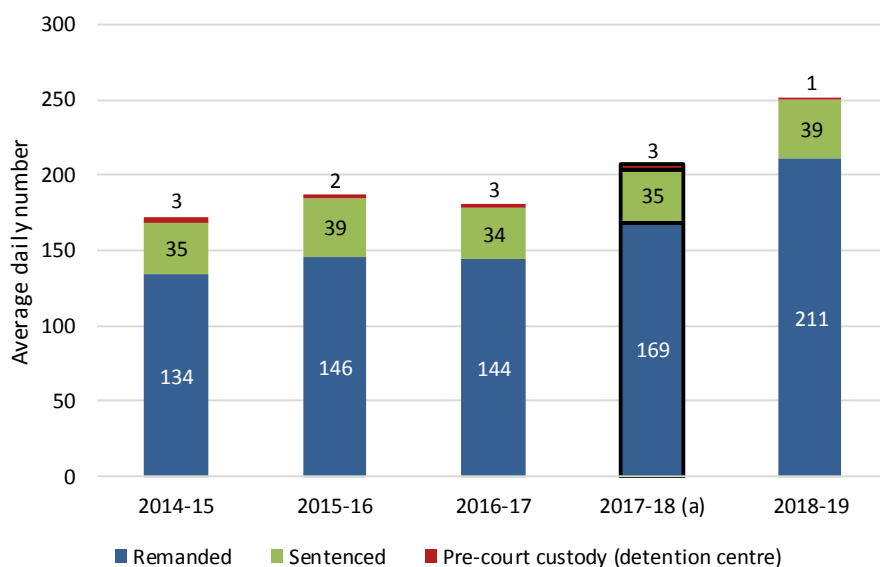
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

## Remand in custody

The average daily number of young people in custody on remand<sup>3</sup> increased to 211 per day in 2018–19 compared with 169 in the previous year. At the same time, the average daily number in sentenced detention increased to 39 young people per day compared to 35 in the previous period (Figure 14).

The majority of young people in custody are held on remand (averaging around 80% over the last five years). In 2018–19, 84% were on remand on an average day, two percentage points higher than the previous year.

**Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by legal status**



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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

<sup>3</sup> This excludes all young people held in pre-court custody.

In 2018–19, the average length of time young people spent per remand in custody episode was 33 days, compared with an average of 31 days in 2017–18. The average length is based on remand episodes that ended in 2018–19.

Of all finalised appearances in 2018–19 at which a detention order was made, 41% resulted in the young offender being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 21% 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 custody<sup>4</sup>. Fifty-nine per cent of all sentencing events resulting in detention orders involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 37)

**Table 37 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing**

Custody status	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19
	Per cent (%) <sup>(b)</sup>				
<b>Released directly from court following sentencing</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	20	25	26	26	21
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	15	18	15	22	20
<b>Custodial period to serve following sentencing</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>

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

(b) Subtotals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

(c) There are a few young people (ten over the past five years) who were transferred to an adult prison after receiving a detention order, these people are counted as 'serving a period of custody following sentencing' even though they did not serve their order in a youth detention centre.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

As a result of the pressure on detention centre capacity with the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders 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 38).

**Table 38 Distinct young persons in court-ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, by age, 2018–19**

Age	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Persons											
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
11	1	1	1	–	2	–	1	–	3	5	2	1
12	4	2	3	9	7	10	10	10	16	13	5	10
13	16	8	10	13	18	20	22	20	21	24	30	17
14	16	19	13	19	26	26	30	34	27	23	28	29
15	29	32	39	47	46	41	43	46	40	40	44	39
16	29	37	37	54	57	34	42	49	45	51	51	46
17	43	34	33	34	49	44	65	52	46	55	61	46
18	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	–	2	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>193</b>

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

During 2018–19, a total of 1,023 distinct young persons spent at least one night in a police watchhouse while on remand or sentenced, for a total of 2,032 distinct stays (Table 39). Just over a quarter (26.8%) of stays lasted just one day. Overall, the average length of stay was 6.5 days, with a median of 3 days. Eighty-six per cent of stays lasted for two weeks or less, with a maximum stay length of 41 days.

**Table 39 Watchhouse stay episodes during 2018–2019**

<b>Length of watchhouse stay episode (days)<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>Distinct episodes<sup>(b)</sup></b>
1	544
2	318
3–4	307
5–7	281
8–14	288
15+	294
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,032</b>

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at August 2019.

# VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

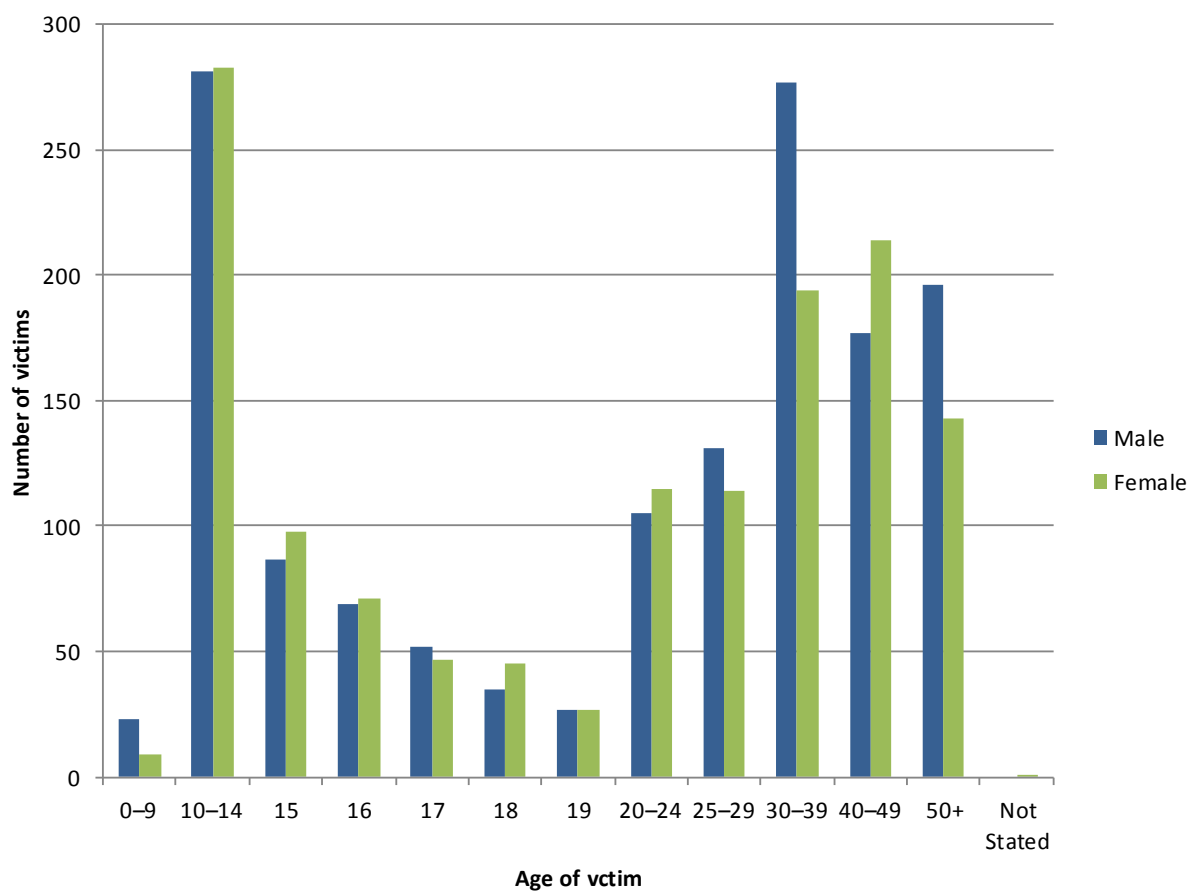
Data relating to the victims of child offenders in 2018–19 were extracted from official crime reports in Queensland Police Service’s administrative data, where at least one of the alleged offenders identified was aged between 10 and under 18 years. Offenders were restricted to those involving an offence against the person. This is the context in which all victims data are presented in this report.

Of the 4,058 victims of offences against the person by child offenders in 2018–19, only three were of unknown age. Almost half (49.2%) of all victims were under 20 years of age, 22.7% were aged 10 to 14 years, and 22.1% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 10.0% of victims were aged 50 years or over.

For all offences against the person, females comprised 50.7% of victims and males 49.3%. However, females comprised 78.1% of victims of *sexual offences* and 48.2% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*, while males comprised 61.7% of *robbery and extortion* victims and 51.8% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*.

Victims of *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 69.6% of all victims of offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, 25.4% of victims were aged between 25 and 39 years, 20.0% aged between 10 and 14 years, and a further 25.9% aged 40 years and over. (Figure 15).

**Figure 15** Victims of acts intended to cause injury<sup>(a)</sup> by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2018–19

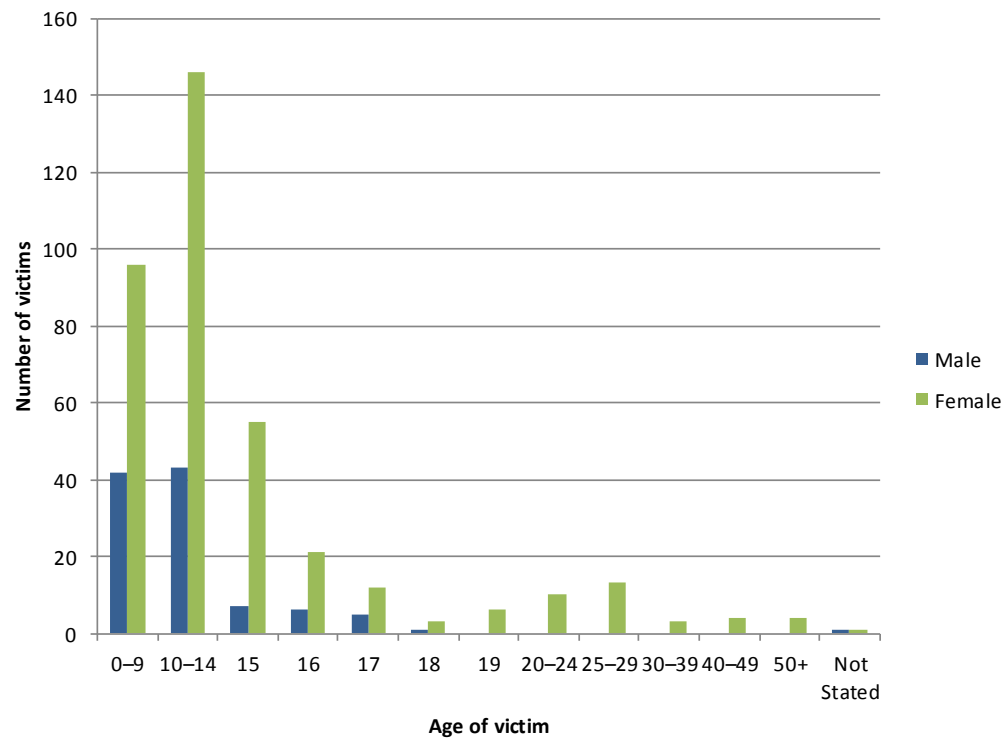


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2019.

In 2018–19, victims of *sexual assault and related offences* accounted for 11.8% of all offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 39.7%, and a further 28.9% of victims were under 10 years of age. (Figure 16)

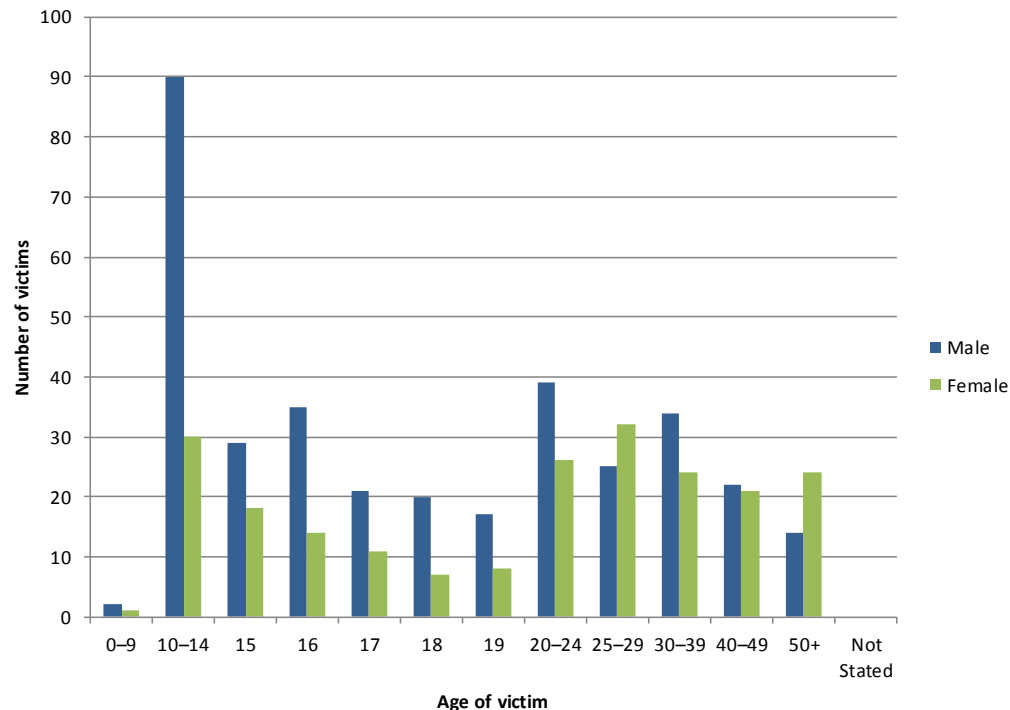
**Figure 16** Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2018–19



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2019.

Victims of *robbery and extortion offences* accounted for a further 13.9% of offences against the person by child offenders in 2018–19. Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 21.3% of those, and a further 31.9% were aged 15 to 19 years. (Figure 17)

**Figure 17** Victims of robbery and extortion offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2018–19



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2019.

# APPENDIX

## Detailed tables

All tables represent data for child defendants, for Queensland only, for 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19.  
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

### Summary

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

### Magistrates Court (committals)

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

### Magistrates Court (dispositions)

Table 3 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 1 Finalised appearances, by age at final appearance

Table 4 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 5 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 2 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### Childrens Court of Queensland

Table 6 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 3 Finalised appearances, by age at final appearance

Table 7 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 8 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 4 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### District and Supreme Courts

Table 9 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 5 Finalised appearances, by age at final appearance

Table 10 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 11 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 6 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### All Courts

Table 12 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 7 Finalised appearances, by age at final appearance



**Table 1 All courts: Finalised charges<sup>(a)</sup>, by offence type and court level**

Offence type	2016–17r				2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>				2018–19			
	Magistrates Court <sup>(c)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court <sup>(c)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court <sup>(c)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide &amp; related offences</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	6
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,007</b>
Assault	1,097	207	29	1,333	1,488	267	12	1,767	1,648	314	7	1,969
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	11	2	—	13	14	5	—	19	30	6	2	38
<b>Sexual assault &amp; related offences</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>317</b>
Sexual assault	27	202	24	253	61	132	27	220	20	255	2	277
Non-assaultive sexual offences	23	40	1	64	34	22	4	60	11	29	—	40
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>546</b>
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	137	12	1	150	180	11	1	192	321	20	—	341
Other dangerous or negligent acts	143	8	—	151	201	8	—	209	197	8	—	205
<b>Abduction &amp; related offences</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>169</b>
Abduction and kidnapping	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deprivation of Liberty	10	11	—	21	9	6	—	15	14	3	—	17
Harassment and Threatening Behaviour	71	20	—	91	51	12	2	65	135	16	—	151
<b>Robbery &amp; extortion</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>867</b>
Robbery	113	235	8	356	176	300	2	478	230	620	5	855
Blackmail & extortion	15	4	—	19	19	6	2	27	4	8	—	12
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,044</b>	<b>5,833</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6,187</b>	<b>6,256</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6,793</b>
<b>Theft &amp; related offences<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>7,970</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8,464</b>	<b>9,312</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9,818</b>	<b>11,047</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11,845</b>
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	2,054	235	2	2,291	2,441	236	10	2,687	2,958	384	5	3,347
Other theft & related offences	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	4
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,117	44	—	1,161	1,298	60	2	1,360	1,763	112	2	1,877
Theft (except motor vehicles)	4,799	213	—	5,012	5,572	196	2	5,770	6,322	295	—	6,617
<b>Deception &amp; related offences</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,722</b>
Obtain benefit by deception	444	9	—	453	499	20	—	519	691	26	—	717
Forgery & counterfeiting	7	—	—	7	23	—	—	23	10	—	—	10
Deceptive business/government practices	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Other fraud and deception offences	839	35	—	874	944	22	—	966	939	54	—	993
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2,598</b>
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	145	29	1	175	116	21	4	141	187	96	12	295
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	20	—	—	20	22	2	—	24	14	1	—	15
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	508	18	—	526	633	30	5	668	945	53	10	1,008
Other illicit drug offences	757	24	2	783	867	15	4	886	1,227	48	5	1,280
<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>488</b>
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	25	1	—	26	28	—	2	30	82	—	—	82
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	228	10	—	238	316	5	—	321	394	12	—	406
<b>Property damage</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>3,514</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,345</b>
Property damage	2,580	188	8	2,776	3,512	140	12	3,664	3,141	202	1	3,344
Environmental pollution	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,402</b>
<b>Road traffic offences</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,406</b>
<b>Justice &amp; government offences</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,793</b>
Breach of justice order <sup>(e)</sup>	82	5	—	87	123	2	—	125	191	2	—	193
Offences against government operations	109	10	—	119	122	13	—	135	98	14	—	112
Offences against government security	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Offences against justice procedures	1,087	25	—	1,112	1,424	26	1	1,451	1,448	37	2	1,487
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,449</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27,581</b>	<b>30,912</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>33,027</b>	<b>35,057</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>38,373</b>

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

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

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

(d) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

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

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17r			2017–18r <sup>(a)</sup>			2018–19		
	Appearances (b)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (b)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (b)	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	48	171	3.6	93	314	3.4	170	663	3.9
Brisbane East	4	18	4.5	17	66	3.9	15	37	2.5
Cairns	62	340	5.5	49	294	6.0	80	374	4.7
Central Queensland	25	70	2.8	25	72	2.9	31	124	4.0
Darling Downs–Maranoa	10	17	1.7	9	32	3.6	10	36	3.6
Gold Coast	46	84	1.8	49	109	2.2	75	157	2.1
Ipswich	30	122	4.1	56	151	2.7	81	203	2.5
Logan–Beaudesert	34	197	5.8	37	184	5.0	62	344	5.5
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	2	2	1.0	11	34	3.1	14	32	2.3
Moreton Bay–North	31	148	4.8	32	126	3.9	56	131	2.3
Moreton Bay–South	7	29	4.1	4	15	3.8	24	58	2.4
Queensland–Outback	15	78	5.2	5	29	5.8	27	60	2.2
Sunshine Coast	18	35	1.9	30	67	2.2	32	68	2.1
Toowoomba	12	27	2.3	12	25	2.1	28	120	4.3
Townsville	36	63	1.8	39	200	5.1	33	93	2.8
Wide Bay	18	36	2.0	25	101	4.0	41	172	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>3.4</b>

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

(b) Appearances by child 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.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 3 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>r(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
10	41	2	43	22	1	23	24	5	29
11	84	14	98	113	11	124	73	19	92
12	213	46	259	220	56	276	227	54	281
13	427	202	629	450	213	663	463	205	668
14	794	361	1,155	754	389	1,143	665	373	1,038
15	1,167	464	1,631	1,170	478	1,648	1,014	469	1,483
16	1,398	518	1,916	1,407	494	1,901	1,310	509	1,820
17	440	142	582	936	305	1,243	1,721	498	2,219
18+	45	10	55	168	64	232	560	137	697
Unknown	1	1	2	4	1	5	5	—	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>6,062</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>8,332</b>

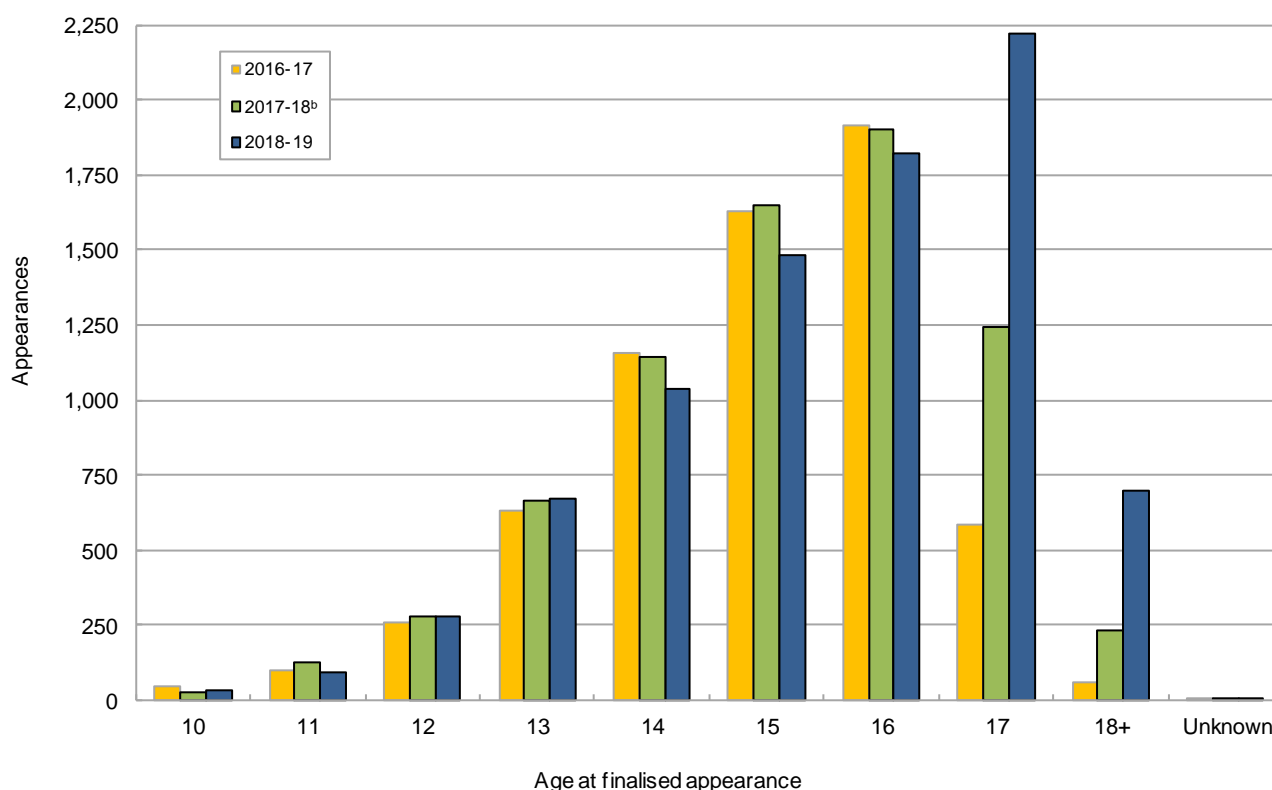
(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reporting period.

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

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

(d) Includes one appearance by a juvenile defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 1 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance**

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by statistical area level 4**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>r(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	633	2,898	4.6	819	4,202	5.1	1,082	5,644	5.2
Brisbane–East	152	750	4.9	156	705	4.5	166	786	4.7
Brisbane–North	—	—	..	1	21	21.0	1	1	1.0
Brisbane–South	4	8	2.0	3	4	1.3	2	4	2.0
Cairns	701	2,816	4.0	741	3,385	4.6	887	3,836	4.3
Central Queensland	426	1,673	3.9	436	1,780	4.1	445	2,033	4.6
Darling Downs–Maranoa	135	630	4.7	251	1,127	4.5	238	700	2.9
Gold Coast	336	1,294	3.9	451	1,400	3.1	723	2,786	3.9
Ipswich	675	2,384	3.5	771	3,075	4.0	895	3,091	3.5
Logan–Beaudesert	595	2,531	4.3	510	2,388	4.7	417	2,062	4.9
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	143	604	4.2	121	570	4.7	143	570	4.0
Moreton Bay–North	370	1,817	4.9	402	2,058	5.1	470	2,358	5.0
Moreton Bay–South	144	796	5.5	195	702	3.6	239	843	3.5
Queensland–Outback	519	1,841	3.5	595	2,154	3.6	709	2,821	4.0
Sunshine Coast	255	816	3.2	362	1,379	3.8	427	1,327	3.1
Toowoomba	324	1,090	3.4	373	1,411	3.8	419	1,770	4.2
Townsville	516	1,979	3.8	617	2,567	4.2	635	2,488	3.9
Wide Bay	442	1,522	3.4	454	1,984	4.4	434	1,937	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>25,449</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>30,912</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>35,057</b>	<b>4.2</b>

(a) An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2016–17r			2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(e)</sup>
Detention <sup>(f)</sup>	62	12	74	76	11	87	59	7	66
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(g)</sup>	266	58	324	262	47	309	393	52	445
Community service	591	201	792	684	163	847	703	228	931
Probation	715	267	982	863	307	1,170	831	342	1,173
Treatment Order	32	14	46	55	16	71	81	25	106
Fine	53	5	58	62	9	71	123	29	152
Compensation	15	10	25	20	5	25	23	2	25
Good behaviour order	675	246	921	634	318	952	791	329	1,120
Disqualification of licence	9	1	10	36	9	45	100	26	126
Reprimand <sup>(h)</sup>	1,275	596	1,871	1,362	663	2,027	1,388	603	1,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,693</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>4,054</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>5,604</b>	<b>4,492</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>6,136</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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.

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

(d) Includes two appearances by child defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.

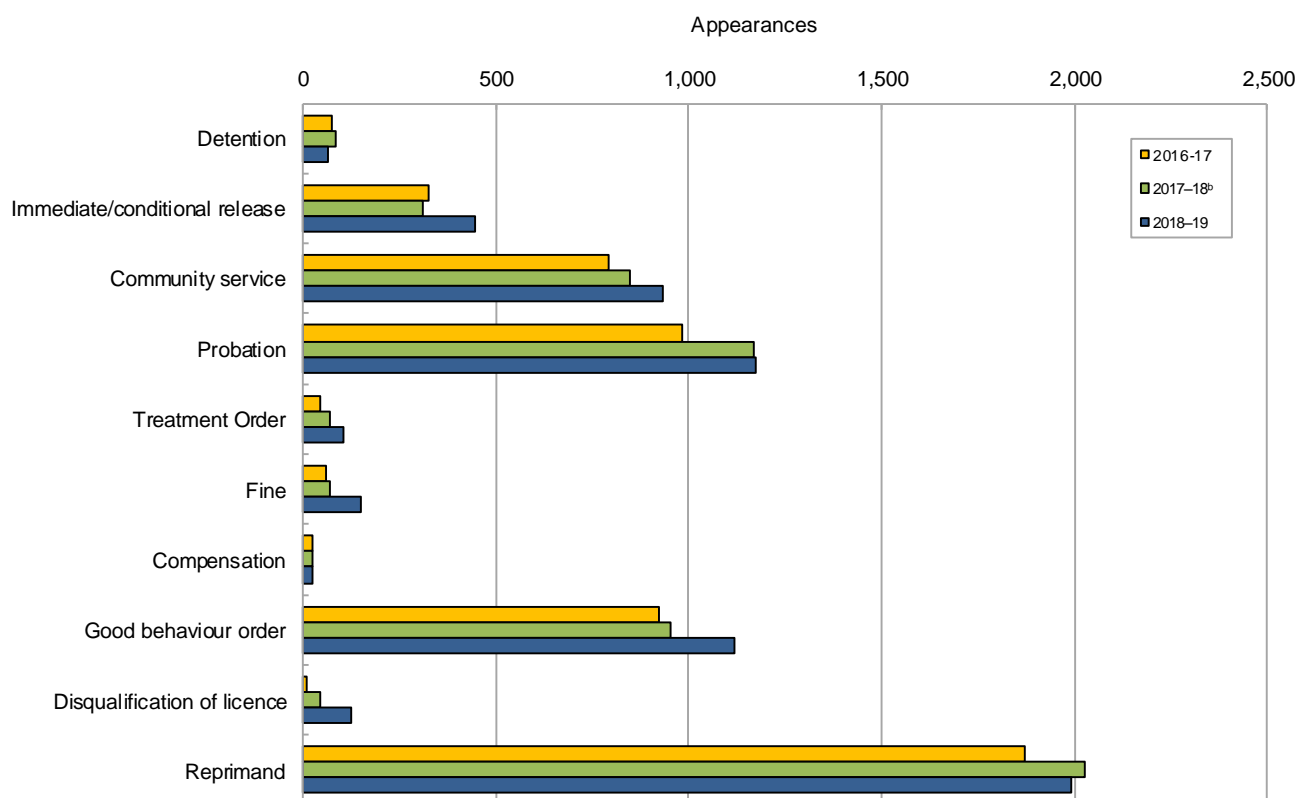
(e) Includes one appearance by a child defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.

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

(g) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 2 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty**

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

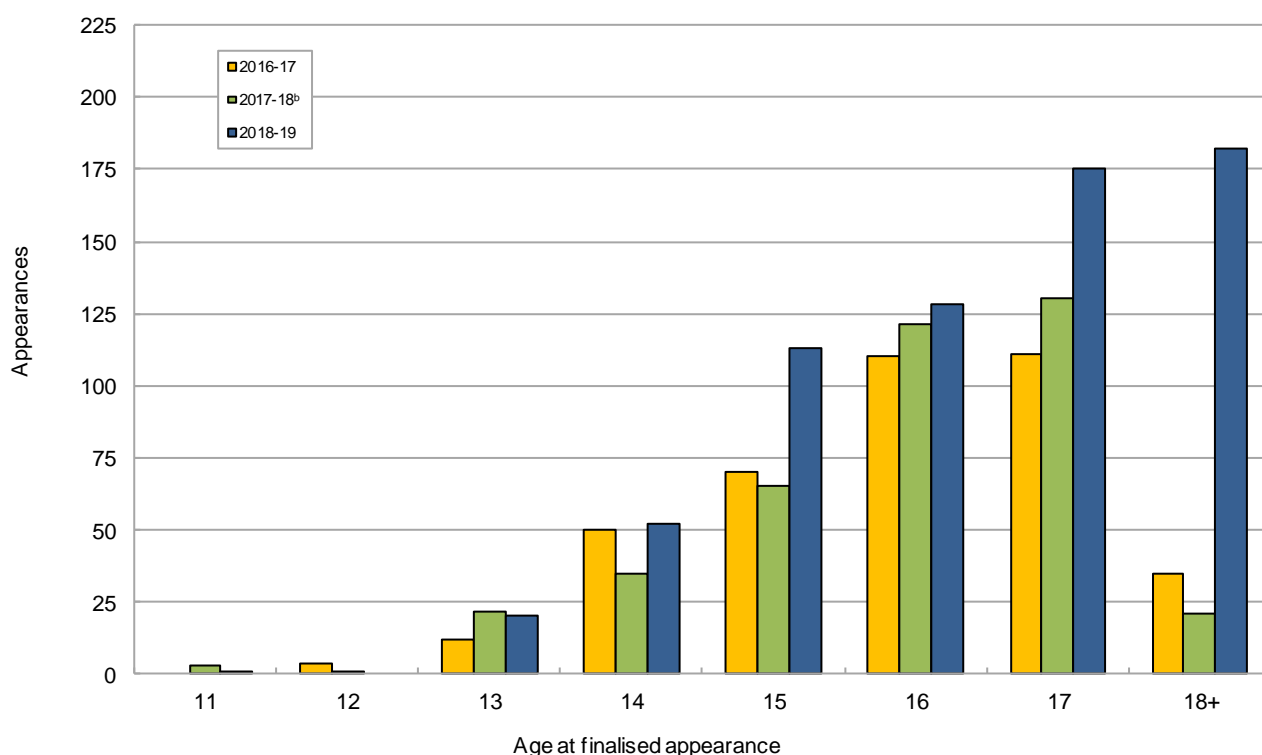
**Table 6** Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17r			2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	—	1
12	4	—	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
13	10	2	12	16	6	22	17	3	20
14	35	15	50	23	12	35	30	22	52
15	55	15	70	44	21	65	83	30	113
16	95	15	110	96	25	121	99	29	128
17	92	19	111	107	23	130	144	31	175
18+	32	3	35	17	4	21	168	14	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>671</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 3** Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 7 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by statistical area level 4**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	112	658	5.9	152	685	4.5	293	1,307	4.5
Cairns	53	449	8.5	45	440	9.8	65	385	5.9
Central Queensland	11	28	2.5	23	70	3.0	33	194	5.9
Darling Downs–Maranoa	9	26	2.9	6	22	3.7	6	44	7.3
Gold Coast	67	203	3.0	34	93	2.7	70	198	2.8
Ipswich	30	92	3.1	25	139	5.6	31	174	5.6
Logan–Beaudesert	30	179	6.0	25	95	3.8	30	202	6.7
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	4	27	6.8	6	18	3.0	8	51	6.4
Queensland–Outback	2	7	3.5	5	64	12.8	14	25	1.8
Sunshine Coast	18	57	3.2	13	36	2.8	38	152	4.0
Toowoomba	19	50	2.6	10	23	2.3	21	156	7.4
Townsville	27	247	9.1	41	238	5.8	35	262	7.5
Wide Bay	10	25	2.5	13	63	4.8	27	107	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>4.9</b>

(a) An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 8** Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex

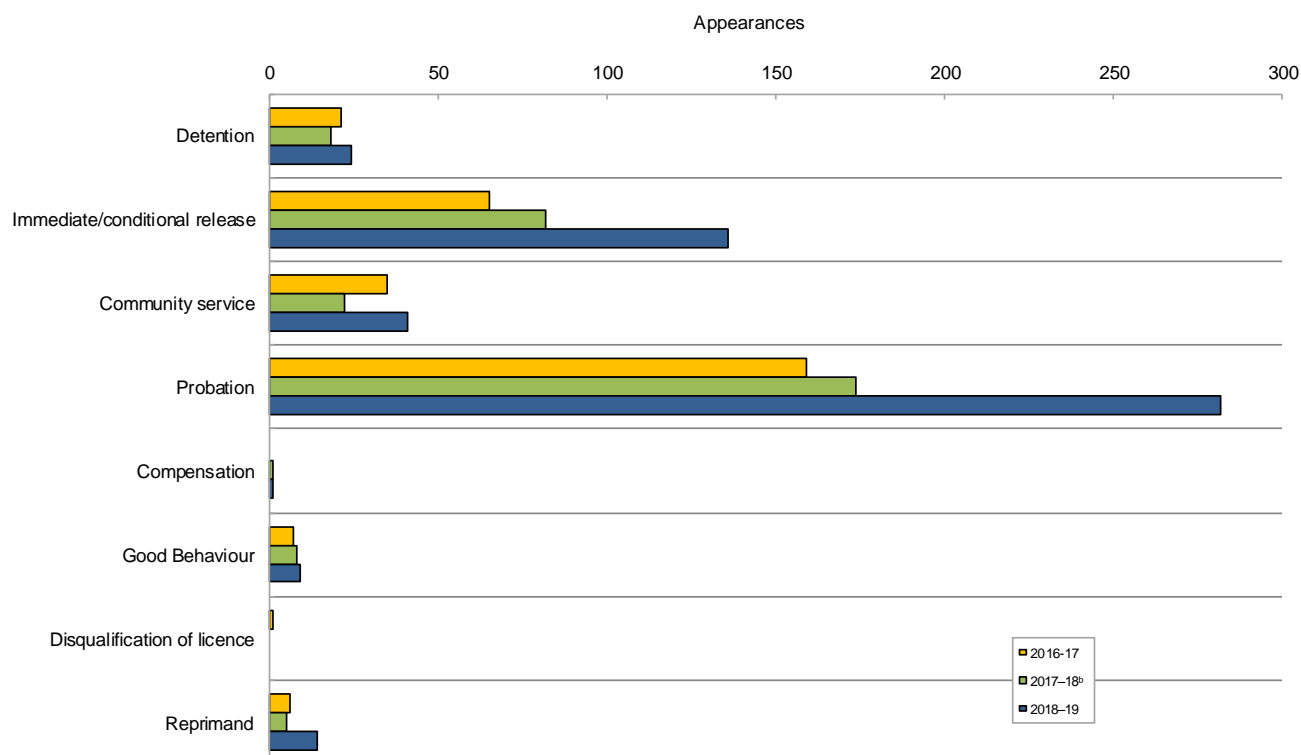
Penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>r(c)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	20	1	21	15	3	18	24	—	24
Immediate/conditional release	52	13	65	71	11	82	121	15	136
Community service	33	2	35	14	8	22	36	5	41
Probation	130	29	159	126	48	174	205	77	282
Compensation	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Good behaviour order	6	1	7	3	5	8	6	3	9
Disqualification of licence	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reprimand	4	2	6	2	3	5	12	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>507</b>

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 4** Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.



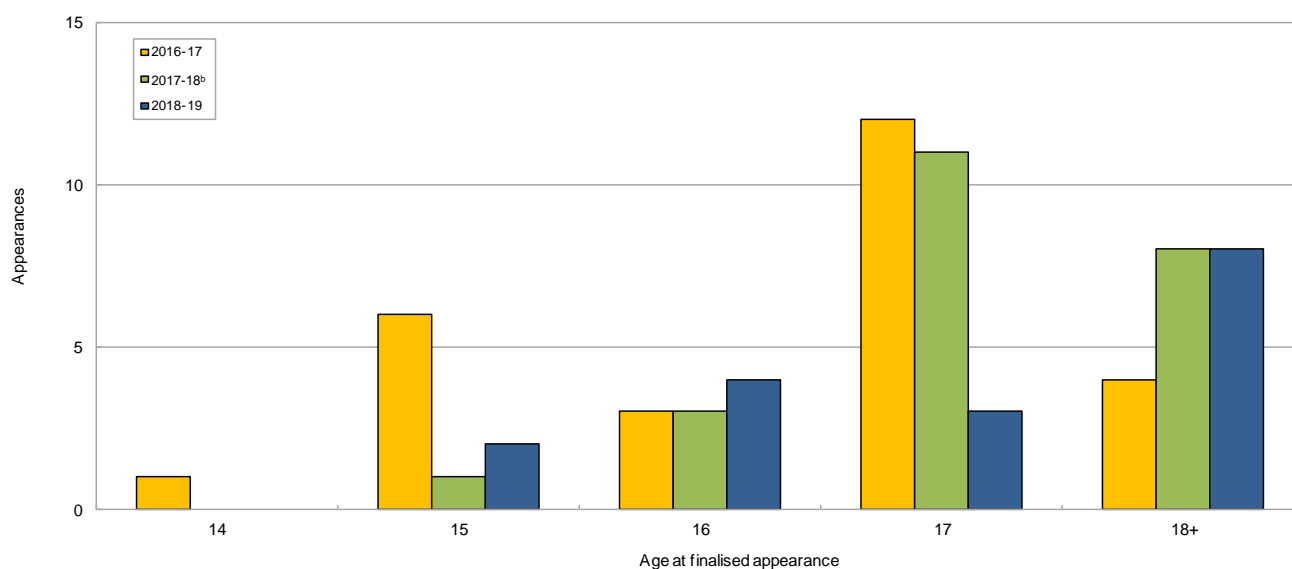
**Table 9 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17r			2017–18r <sup>(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	6	—	6	1	—	1	—	2	2
16	2	1	3	2	1	3	—	4	4
17	12	—	12	9	2	11	3	—	3
18+	4	—	4	7	1	8	3	5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 5 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance**

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by statistical area level 4**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City <sup>(c)</sup>	14	33	2.4	6	11	1.8	9	42	4.7
Cairns <sup>(c)</sup>	2	12	6.0	3	19	6.3	2	2	1.0
Central Queensland <sup>(c)</sup>	1	1	1.0	2	9	4.5	1	3	3.0
Gold Coast	1	2	2.0	1	2	2.0	—	—	..
Logan–Beaudesert	3	6	2.0	2	34	17.0	—	—	..
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday <sup>(c)</sup>	1	2	2.0	—	—	..	1	1	1.0
Queensland–Outback	1	3	3.0	3	19	6.3	—	—	..
Toowoomba <sup>(c)</sup>	2	5	2.5	1	2	2.0	—	—	..
Townsville <sup>(c)</sup>	1	20	20.0	4	30	7.5	4	11	2.8
Wide Bay	—	—	..	1	3	3.0	—	—	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3.5</b>

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

(c) Includes Supreme and District courts. All other locations, except where indicated, are District Court only.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 11 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17r			2017–18r <sup>(c)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—
Immediate/conditional release	3	—	3	4	—	4	3	4	7
Community service	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Probation	6	1	7	4	1	5	3	4	7
Good behaviour	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>

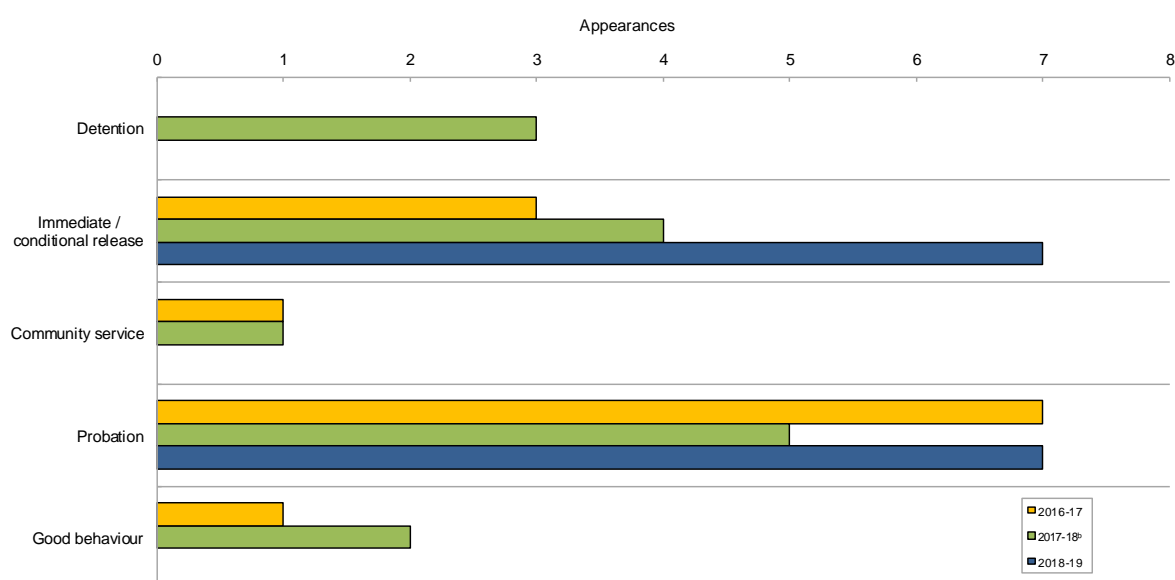
(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 6 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty**



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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Table 12 All Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

Age at finalised appearance	2016–17 <sup>r</sup>			2017–18 <sup>r(b)</sup>			2018–19		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
10	41	2	43	22	1	23	24	5	29
11	84	14	98	116	11	127	74	19	93
12	217	46	263	220	57	277	227	54	281
13	437	204	641	466	219	685	480	208	688
14	829	377	1,206	777	401	1,178	695	395	1,090
15	1,228	479	1,707	1,215	499	1,714	1,097	501	1,598
16	1,495	534	2,029	1,505	520	2,025	1,409	542	1,952
17	544	161	705	1,052	330	1,384	1,868	529	2,397
18+	81	13	94	192	69	261	731	156	887
Unknown	1	1	2	4	1	5	5	—	5
<b>Total<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>4,957</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>6,788</b>	<b>5,569</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>7,679</b>	<b>6,610</b>	<b>2,409</b>	<b>9,020</b>

(a) 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.

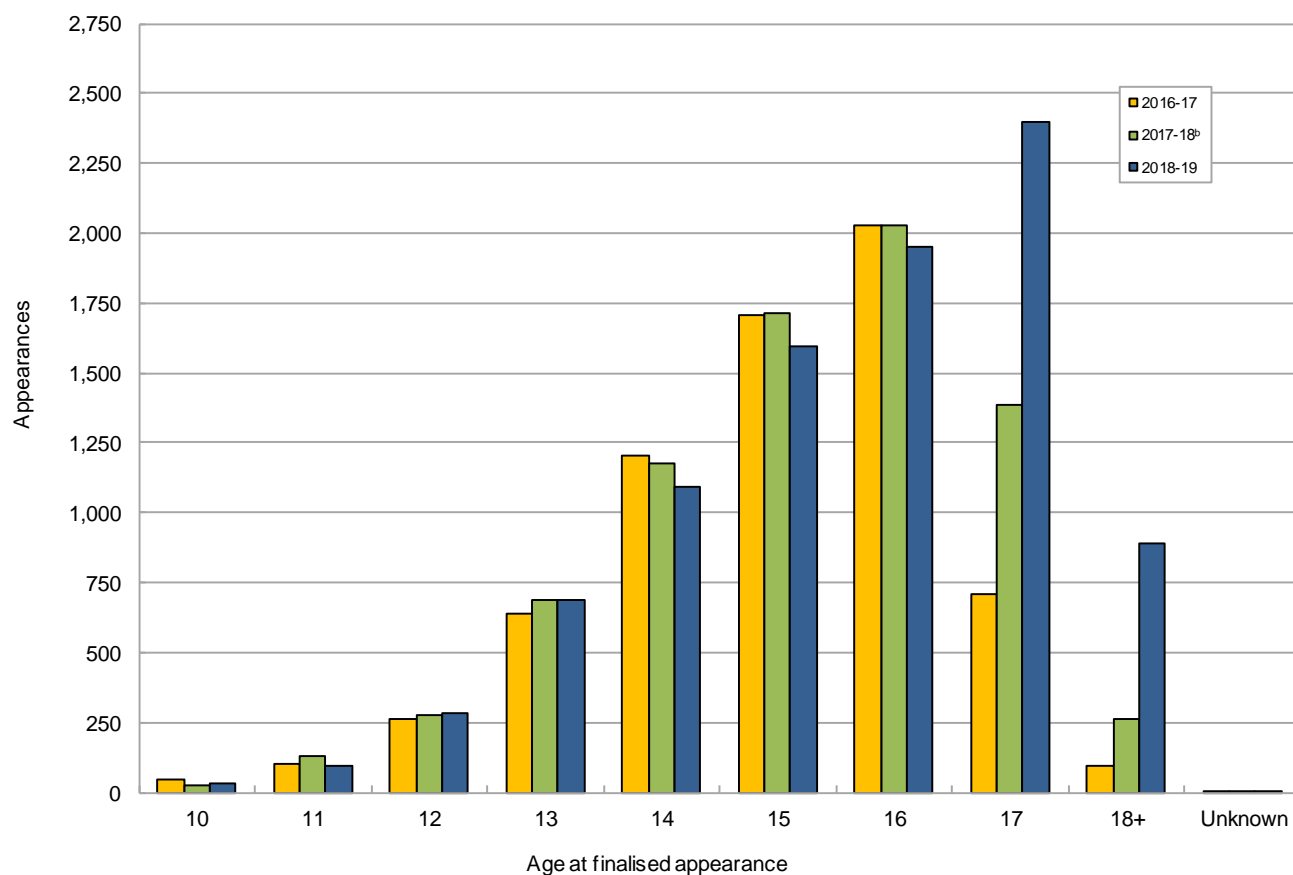
(c) Includes two appearances by child defendants with an unknown gender.

(d) Includes one appearance by a child defendant with an unknown gender.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.

**Figure 7 All Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance**



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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2019.