

Childrens Court of Queensland

13th Annual Report

2005-2006

28 November 2006

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

Dear Attorney,

In accordance with the requirements of s.24 of the Childrens Court Act 1992, I am pleased to present the Twelfth Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2005-2006.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K.J. O'Brien', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judge K.J. O'Brien
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland

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Judges of the Childrens Court

During the year under report the Judges were:

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

Introduction

This is the thirteenth annual report of the Children's Court of Queensland and my fourth, and last, as President of that Court. In presenting this report it is pleasing to note the continuing decline in the number of juvenile offenders coming before the courts throughout the State. This trend, which has been evident for a number of years now, strongly suggests that the objections of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* are being achieved. Certainly, the figures are not supportive of any suggestion of an increase in the rate of juvenile offending.

Juvenile Justice Trends

- Following a decrease from 2003-04 to 2004-05, there was an overall decrease of 22.4% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland courts from 6,996 in 2004-05 to 5,431 in 2005-06. This is most likely due to another increase in the number of cautions handed out by police and youth justice conferences held in 2005-06.
- There was an 11.7% increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2005-06, with the state-wide expansion programme for Youth Justice Conferencing now fully implemented. Fifty-two percent of conferences were as a result of police referral, 31% were indefinite court referrals, and 16% were pre-sentence court referrals.

- There was a 9.8% decrease in the number of young people coming before the Children's Court of Queensland. There was a 71.8% decrease in the number appearing before the District Court and a 33.3% decrease in those appearing before the Supreme Court, resulting in an overall decrease across the higher courts of 24.6%.
- There was an overall decrease in the number of charges against young people from 16,656 to 11,771 or 29.3%.
- Overall males accounted for 78.3% while 15-16 year olds represented 57.4% of juvenile defendants. Young people appearing before the Supreme and District Courts were aged sixteen years or older in 78.4% of cases.
- As in the previous year, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent offences accounted for 44.1% of all charges against juveniles. These offences saw a combined decrease of 33.1% since 2004-05.
- Detention orders increased from 117 in 2004-05 to 131 in 2005-06, an increase of 12% while detention orders with immediate/conditional release orders decreased 12.6% from 143 to 125. These most serious of penalties were awarded in only 5.6% of cases. Detention orders in the Children's Court of Queensland increased 56.7% from 30 to 47. However, immediate/conditional release orders in that court saw a decrease of 7.1% since 2004-05, from 42 to 39.
- Cautions administered by police increased this year, from 13,382 to 13,628 following a decrease in the previous year.
- The Magistrates Courts disposed of 93% of juvenile cases in 2005-06.

- Probation and community service orders have had a high compliance rate of 63.4% and 72.4% respectively. Immediate/conditional release and intensive supervision orders once again experienced the highest non-compliance rate of 50% each.
- As in previous years, the majority of victims of juvenile offenders were aged under twenty years of age (64.7% of those where age was recorded) and only 2.8% were aged 55 years or over. Assault victims accounted for 66.9% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 29% of those victims aged between ten and fourteen years.

General

In the Court's tenth annual report, I recommended that consideration should be given to amending the Act such that the age of a child for the purposes of the Act should be increased to eighteen. I wrote:

"In Queensland, young people are not lawfully permitted to vote or to drink alcohol until they reach the age of eighteen yet, at the age of seventeen, their offending exposes them to the full sanction of the adult criminal laws. There are, I believe, real concerns involved with the potential incarceration of seventeen year olds with more seasoned and mature adult offenders. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child considers a person as a child until he/she reaches the age of eighteen and other Australian States have adopted a similar approach."

As from 1 July 2005, when the Children and Young Persons (Age Jurisdiction) Act (Vic) became effective, the relevant age was increased in Victoria from seventeen years to eighteen years. Queensland now remains the only major jurisdiction in Australia which adheres to a seventeen year age limit for juvenile offenders. Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which, as noted above, considers a person as a child until that person reaches the age of eighteen. In September 2005 the United Nations, through its Committee on the Rights of the Child, was critical of the situation in Queensland and recommended that seventeen year olds

be removed from the adult criminal justice system in this State. I would again urge that this matter should receive careful consideration.

Throughout the year the Court has conducted a number of sentence reviews under Division 9 of Part 6 of the Act. This Division provides a relatively quick and inexpensive means of reviewing a sentence order without the formality of an appeal under the provisions of the Justices Act. There has often however been a significant delay in these matters coming on for hearing. The cause of this delay has been an apparent difficulty in obtaining transcripts of the proceedings in the Magistrates Court. Pursuant to Section 121(3) of the Act, supervisory orders are stayed pending the determination of the review application and applicants can therefore be without the benefit of the support provided by such orders during that period. There have, in recent times, been instances of juveniles reoffending whilst awaiting the determination of their review applications. It cannot of course be said that those further offences would not have occurred if the supervisory orders had been in place but it can be said that the likelihood of them being committed would have been reduced. Section 122(3) expressly provides that sentence reviews should be heard expeditiously and if this is to be achieved it is important that transcripts of the proceedings below should be available within a short time of the hearing. The situation with the provision of these transcripts needs to be addressed.

As I have indicated, this will be my last report as President of the Court. The passing of the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2002 has seen the emergence of a specialist Youth Court jurisdiction in this State. The situation remains one, however, in which judges preside in the jurisdiction on what is in reality a part-time basis. It may be that the time is not too far distant when consideration should be given in this State to the establishment of a court comprised of "full-time" magistrates and judges sitting in a distinct court complex physically separate from existing adult courts and operating with its own registry and court staff. Given the correlation between the two, there is a

strong case to be made for such a court to exercise concurrent protective and criminal jurisdictions in the same manner as do specialist children's courts in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Whatever the future may hold for the Court, I have enjoyed my time as President and the opportunity it has given me to make some contribution to the administration of criminal justice in this State.

Finally, I must acknowledge the valuable contribution that has been made to the operation of the Court, not only by the judges and the court and departmental staff throughout the State, but also by agencies such as the Legal Aid Office, the Youth Advocacy Centre and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. They have all, in their own way, contributed to the orderly and efficient administration of juvenile justice in this State.

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Reference period

The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. Where possible, data from the previous financial year are provided for comparison.

Data collection

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

Symbols used in tables

— nil
. . not applicable

DEFINITIONS

caution

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

charge

a formal accusation of an offence.

child

see juvenile.

Childrens Court of Queensland

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

committal

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

Court of Appeal

the Supreme Court sitting in judgment on an appeal.

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

	<i>probation order</i> a penalty allowing freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.
	<i>fine</i> a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.
	<i>good behaviour order</i> a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the juvenile re-offends during the period of the order.
	<i>reprimand</i> a formal reproof given by the court to a juvenile offender upon a guilty finding.
sentence	the determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty.
serious offence	an offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> , s. 8).
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 Children’s Court of Queensland) by a judge alone to determine the guilt of a defendant charged with an offence.
Youth Justice Conferencing	a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby firstly the police can divert young offenders from the court system, and then the court can either divert or order a pre-sentence conference or indefinite referral as a method of dealing with a charge. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.
Data Issues	There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics in recent years, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in early reports.
Breach of juvenile justice orders	<p>A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (ie conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour orders) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> sections 129, 135, 154 and 185). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report. Earlier reports of the Children’s Court of Queensland have included such breaches.</p> <p>In 2005–06, 157 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 5,757 appearing for criminal offences.</p>

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

Recording of ages

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

Most serious penalty

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

Percentage totals

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

Classification of offences

This report shows the classification of charges by “Offence type”. The offence classification used is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC). Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions shown in order of seriousness. These divisions are further broken down into offence types.

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

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

Cautions

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

Therefore the total number of cautions recorded is less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned and more than the total number of offenders.

Imprisonment

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

Summary

Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 5,431 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2005–06, a decrease of 22.4% from 6,996 in 2004–05. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in the District and Supreme Courts decreased by 71.8% and 33.3% respectively.

In 2005–06, Magistrates Courts disposed 93.0% of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 6.3%, the District Court 0.6% and the Supreme Court 0.1%.

Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Court level	2004–05 ^(b)		2005–06		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	6,495	92.8	5,053	93.0	-22.2
Children's Court of Queensland	378	5.4	341	6.3	-9.8
District	117	1.7	33	0.6	-71.8
Supreme	6	0.1	4	0.1	-33.3
Total	6,996	100.0	5,431	100.0	-22.4

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

(b) Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 78.3% of all finalised defendants in 2005–06. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 57.4% of juvenile defendants, with a further 15.6% aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

Charges against juveniles by court level

The number of defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland decreased 9.8% in 2005–06, charges heard also decreased by 23%, due to the number of charges per defendant decreasing by 13.5%, from 5.2 to 4.5. Charges against juveniles in the Supreme Court increased from 10 to 17, whereas the number of defendants decreased from 6 to 4. Both defendant and charge numbers decreased in the Magistrates and District Courts in 2005-06.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were unlawful entry with intent with 2,181 charges (18.5%), theft (except motor vehicles) 1,586 charges (13.5%), road traffic offences 1,323 charges (11.2%), public order offences 1,161 charges (9.9%) and motor vehicle theft and related offences

1,070 charges (9.1%). As in 2004-05, in total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry offences represented almost half of all charges against juveniles (44.1%). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)

Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Court level	2004–05 ^(b)		2005–06		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	14,243	85.5	10,136	86.1	-28.8
Childrens Court of Queensland	1,979	11.9	1,523	12.9	-23.0
District	424	2.5	95	0.8	-77.6
Supreme	10	0.1	17	0.1	70.0
Total	16,656	100.0	11,771	100.0	-29.3

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

(b) Revised.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2005–06, 84.2% (4,575) of the 5,431 juvenile defendants in Queensland's courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Penalty ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Detention ^(c)	117	131	12.0
Immediate/Conditional release ^(d)	143	125	-12.6
Community service	981	687	-30.0
Probation	994	838	-15.7
Fine	424	332	-21.7
Compensation	141	83	-41.1
Good behaviour	1,238	866	-30.0
Disqualification of licence	37	27	-27.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1,768	1,482	-16.2
Total	5,845	4,575	-21.7

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders .

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Of those found guilty in 2005–06, 131 (or 2.9%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 125 (or 2.7%) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,482 juveniles (32.4%). The next largest group of 866 (18.9%) received good behaviour orders as their most serious penalty with 838 receiving probation (18.3%), followed by 687 (15%) receiving community service orders.

CAUTIONS

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 13,628 juvenile offenders were given cautions in 2005–06, an increase of 1.8% from 2004–05. In comparison 11,771 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2004-05, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (4,987 or 36.6% of all cautions) in 2005–06. Another 2,186 juveniles received cautions for property damage (16.0%) and 2,460 for other offences (18.1%).

Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Offence type ^(b)	2004–05 ^(c)	2005–06	Change %
Homicide & related offences	—	—	. .
Acts intended to cause injury	723	849	17.4
Sexual assault & related offences	164	219	33.5
Robbery & extortion	29	40	37.9
Unlawful entry with intent	1,568	1,634	4.2
Theft & related offences	4,920	4,987	1.4
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	760	828	8.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	3,871	3,895	0.6
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	289	264	-8.7
Deception & related offences	331	268	-19.0
Illicit drug offences	1,318	955	-27.5
Property damage	2,065	2,186	-5.9
Road traffic offences	33	30	-9.1
Other offences ^(d)	2,231	2,460	10.3
Total	13,382	13,628	1.8

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if he or she has been cautioned for more than one type of offence, or for offences against more than one victim, or for offences during more than one incident.

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

(c) Revised.

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

**OFFENCES BEFORE THE
COURTS**

**CHILDRENS COURT OF
QUEENSLAND**

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed 1,523 charges against 341 defendants in 2005–06, a decrease of 9.8% defendants since 2004–05.

DEFENDANTS IN THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

The majority of defendants in 2005–06 were aged 15 years or older (284 or 83.3%), with 45.5% of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 7.6% of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Age	2004–05 ^(a)	2005–06	Change %
10	—	—	..
11	3	1	-66.7
12	6	6	—
13	19	19	—
14	36	31	-13.9
15	82	43	-47.6
16	98	86	-12.2
17 & over ^(b)	134	155	15.7
Total	378	341	-9.8

(a) Revised

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

CHARGES AGAINST JUVENILES IN THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 1,523 charges in 2005–06, a decrease of 23% from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant decreased from 5.2 in 2004–05 to 4.5 in 2005–06.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Offence type ^(b)	2004–05 ^(c)	2005–06	Change %
Homicide & related offences	3	—	-100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	211	175	-17.1
Sexual assault & related offences	176	166	-5.7
Robbery & extortion	167	147	-12.0
Unlawful entry with intent	674	544	-19.3
Theft & related offences	456	269	-41.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	200	130	-35.0
<i>[Other theft]</i>	217	108	-50.2
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	39	31	-20.5
Deception & related offences	7	14	100.0
Illicit drug offences	8	3	-62.5
Property damage	204	120	-41.2
Road traffic offences	11	14	27.3
Other offences ^(d)	62	71	14.5
Total	1,979	1,523	-23.0

- (a) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.
- (b) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.
- (c) Revised.
- (d) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 35.7% of all charges, a slight increase since 2004-05.

Theft and related offences accounted for 17.7% of all charges, with motor vehicle theft representing 48.3% and other theft representing 40.1% of these offences.

PENALTIES RECEIVED BY JUVENILE OFFENDERS BEFORE THE CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

Of the 341 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2005–06, 278 (81.5%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 47 juvenile offenders (16.9%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 39 (14%) receiving an immediate/conditional release sentence. The most common penalties were probation (33.8%) and community service orders (30.6%).

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Penalty ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Detention ^(c)	30	47	56.7
Immediate/Conditional release ^(d)	42	39	-7.1
Community service	98	85	-13.3
Probation	125	94	-24.8
Fine	1	1	—
Compensation	2	—	-100.0
Good behaviour	6	5	-16.7
Reprimand ^(e)	6	7	16.7
Total	310	278	-10.3

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

Magistrates Courts

JUVENILE DEFENDANTS IN MAGISTRATES COURTS

In 2005–06, 5,379 juvenile defendants were dealt with in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, a decrease of 21.5% from 6,856 in the previous year. Of these, 326 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 5,053 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (4,271 or 84.5%) or by discharge (782 or 15.5%).

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Method of finalisation	2004–05 ^(a)	2005–06	Change %
Committed	361	326	-9.7
Disposed ^(b)	6,495	5,053	-22.2
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,441	4,271	-21.5
<i>Discharged^(c)</i>	1,054	782	-25.8
Total	6,856	5,379	-21.5

- (a) Revised.
 (b) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.
 (c) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

The difference between the 326 defendants committed to the higher court and the 341 disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2005–06 is accounted for by *ex officio* indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2004–05 and being disposed in 2005–06. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2005–06 being disposed in 2005–06.

Charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts

Of the 11,065 charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts in 2005–06, 10,136 (91.6%) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts and the remaining 929 (8.4%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Method of finalisation	2004–05 ^(a)	2005–06	Change %
Committed	1,242	929	-25.2
Disposed ^(b)	14,243	10,136	-28.8
Total	15,485	11,065	-28.5

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

CHARGES AGAINST JUVENILES DISPOSED IN MAGISTRATES COURTS

In 2005–06 10,136 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (2,718 or 26.8%), followed by unlawful entry with intent (1,617 or 16%) and road traffic offences (1,309 or 12.9%).

In total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent accounted for 42.8% of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Offence type ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Homicide & related offences	3	—	-100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	734	874	-19.1
Sexual assault & related offences	59	58	-1.7
Robbery & extortion	94	76	-19.1
Unlawful entry with intent	2,140	1,617	-24.4
Theft & related offences	4,290	2,718	-36.6
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	1,479	926	-37.4
<i>[Other theft]</i>	2,305	1,475	-36.0
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	506	317	-37.4
Deception & related offences	522	252	-51.7
Illicit drug offences	586	300	-48.8
Property damage	1,062	912	-14.1
Road traffic offences	1,592	1,309	-17.8
Other offences ^(c)	3,161	2,020	-36.1
Total	14,243	10,136	-28.8

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

(b) Revised.

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

PENALTIES RECEIVED BY JUVENILE OFFENDERS BEFORE MAGISTRATES COURTS

Of the 5,053 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2005–06, 4,271 (84.5%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 84 offenders (2.0%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 84 (2.0%) receiving immediate/conditional release orders. Over one third of juveniles (1,472 or 34.5%) received a reprimand, 861 (20.2%) received a good behaviour order, 595 (13.9%) received a community service order and 735 (17.2%) received probation as their most serious penalty.

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Penalty ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Detention ^(c)	80	84	5.0
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	93	84	-9.7
Community service	852	595	-30.2
Probation	826	735	-11.0
Fine	422	331	-21.6
Compensation	139	82	-41.0
Good behaviour	1,230	861	-30.0
Disqualification of licence	37	27	-27.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1,762	1,472	-16.5
Total	5,441	4,271	-21.5

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

District and Supreme Courts

In 2005–06, District and Supreme Courts disposed 112 charges against 37 juveniles. This was a decrease of 69.9% in the number of defendants from 2004–05. In comparison, defendants and charges dealt with in the Childrens Court of Queensland showed a smaller decrease.

THE SUPREME COURT DISPOSED A SMALL PROPORTION OF THE CHARGES AND DEFENDANTS. IN 2005–06, THERE WERE 17 CHARGES AGAINST 4 DEFENDANTS DISPOSED IN THE SUPREME COURT, COMPARED WITH 95 CHARGES AGAINST 33 DEFENDANTS DISPOSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT.

DEFENDANTS IN DISTRICT AND SUPREME COURTS

In 2005–06, 78.4% of juvenile defendants before the District and Supreme Courts were aged 16 years and older, with a further 10.8% aged 15 years. The majority of defendants were male (89.2%). (For more detail refer to Table 5.)

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Age	2004–05 ^(a)	2005–06	Change %
11	—	—	. .
12	1	—	-100.0
13	5	2	-60.0
14	9	2	-77.8
15	18	4	-77.8
16	21	6	-71.4
17 & over ^(b)	68	23	-66.2
Unknown	1	—	-100.0
Total	123	37	-69.9

(a) Revised.

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

CHARGES AGAINST JUVENILES IN DISTRICT AND SUPREME COURTS

Of the 112 charges before District and Supreme Courts, sexual assault and related offences accounted for the largest number with 26 charges (23.2%), while unlawful entry with intent accounted for 20 charges or 17.9% of the total. Within theft and related offences (19.6% of the total), the largest number of charges were for motor vehicle theft (14 or 63.6 %) and other theft (6 or 27.3%). Assault accounted for 11 charges (9.8%).

District and Supreme Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Offence type ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Homicide & related offences	3	1	-66.7
Acts intended to cause injury	74	11	-85.1
Sexual assault & related offences	40	26	-35.0
Robbery & extortion	26	5	-80.8
Unlawful entry with intent	123	20	-83.7
Theft & related offences	80	22	-72.5
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	33	14	-57.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	38	6	-84.2
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	9	2	-77.8
Deception & related offences	2	3	50.0
Illicit drug offences	14	14	—
Property damage	40	6	-85.0
Road traffic offences	—	—	. .
Other offences ^(c)	32	4	-87.5
Total	434	112	-74.2

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

(b) Revised.

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

PENALTIES RECEIVED BY JUVENILE OFFENDERS BEFORE DISTRICT AND SUPREME COURTS

Of the 37 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2005–06, 26 (70.3%) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 4 (or 15.4%) received detention as their most serious penalty, 2 (7.7%) received an immediate/conditional release order, 7 (26.9%) received a community service order and 9 (34.6%) received probation.

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Penalty ^(a)	2004–05 ^(b)	2005–06	Change %
Detention	9	4	-55.6
Immediate/conditional release	8	2	-75.0
Community service	31	7	-77.4
Probation	43	9	-79.1
Fine	1	—	-100.0
Compensation	—	1	. .
Good behaviour	2	—	-100.0
Reprimand ^(c)	—	3	. .
Total	94	26	-72.3

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

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

**COMPLIANCE
COURT ORDERS**

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

In 2004–05 there were 2,773 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1,537 (55.4%) were probation, 1,049 (37.8%) were community service orders, 181 (6.5%) were conditional release orders and 6 (0.2%) were intensive supervision orders.

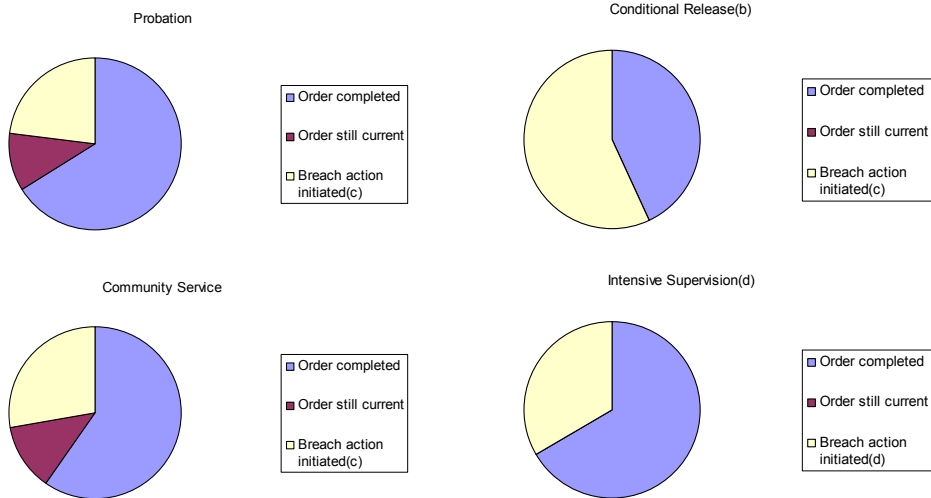
Orders breached

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

The majority (62.2%) of orders made in 2004–05 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2006, with community service and probation orders having compliance rates of 72.4% and 63.4% respectively. Conditional release orders and intensive supervision orders each had a 50% non-compliance rate (where a breach action had been initiated and/or finalised), compared with 23.2% for probation and 27.8% community service orders.

Of community service orders from 2004–05, 12.5% were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 10.6% were still in effect. Probation orders may be up to three years in length. The length of time within which community service orders should be completed is twelve months. Longer periods may be due to subsequent variations to the original order, including extension of orders and those which are not administratively closed after the specified date. Immediate release orders are a maximum of three months in duration.

Admissions to orders against juveniles in 2004–05: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2006, Queensland ^(a)



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

Source: *Families and Youth Justice Database Department of Communities, preliminary data current as at 12 September 2006.*

VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

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

Of the 3,139 victims of juvenile offenders in 2005–06, the majority were aged under 20 years (64.7% of those where age was recorded), with 38.5% aged 10 to 14 years and 26.2% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 2.8% of victims were aged 55 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 66.9% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 29% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 19.2% aged between 25 and 39 years.

Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 48.8% of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 32.4% were under 10 years of age.

For offences committed by juveniles, 58.4% of victims were male. Males comprised 71.7% of assault victims and 15% of robbery victims, while females comprised 60.2% of assault victims and 28.2% of sexual offences victims.

YOUTH JUSTICE CONFERENCING

The Youth Justice Conferencing has experienced significant demand increases in the past few years. This has been driven by the state-wide expansion of the program in 2003, the impact of amendments to the *Juvenile Justices Act 1992* and increasing awareness of Youth Justice Conferencing by police and courts.

A major review of the state-wide conferencing program was completed by the Department of Communities in 2005-06 to respond to challenges associated with this growth in referrals and to ensure ongoing timely response, effectiveness and sustainability of the program.

The outcomes of the review included a revised service delivery structure for conferencing, implemented from January 2006. The model has been enhanced through the addition to each service of a Service Leader position dedicated against the key roles of quality assurance and professional development. Another change has been the further capacity and flexibility provided through the expansion of employment status of convenors to include part-time and full-time conditions additional to the previous exclusive casual status.

The increased capacity of the program resulting from the adoption of the revised service delivery structure in conjunction with additional funding provided for 1,927 referrals being conferenced in 2005-06. This represents an increase of 164 over the preceding financial year period. The total number of referrals made to youth justice conferencing in 2005-06 was 2304, an increase of 241 over 2004-05.

Of referrals received in 2005-06, 1,206 (52%) were diversionary referrals made by police. Courts made 721 referrals (31%) on an indefinite basis whilst a further 377 referrals (16%) were made on a conference before sentence basis with the intention of assisting the court to make an appropriate sentencing order.

Indigenous young people accounted for 35% of the referrals received across this period. Male offenders comprised 78% of all referrals.

The restorative justice approach of youth justice conferencing continues to demonstrate positive outcomes for the young person referred and the victims of their offending. Ninety-eight percent of the conferences held in 2005-06 resulted in the agreement being reached between the parties.

Evaluation of the participant's conference experience is sought from every person at every conference. Of the responses provided from all participants including victims who attended conferences in 2005-06, 98.6% (of 6,355 responses) thought that the process was fair, 98.4% (of 6,321 responses) were satisfied with the agreement made and 97.9% (of 5,342 responses) would tell a friend in the same position as them to go to a conference.

Offences for which young people were conferenced, by offence type, in Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Offence type ^(a)	2004-05	2005-06	Change %
Homicide, etc. ^(b)	1	—	-100.0
Assaults (inc. sexual offences) ^(c) , etc.	445	516	16.0
<i>[Major assault]</i>	149	172	15.4
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	266	220	17.3
Robbery & extortion	58	29	-50.0
Fraud and Misappropriation	104	169	62.5
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	2,277	2,011	-11.7
<i>[Theft / Unlawful Use of MV]</i>	470	353	-24.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	843	801	-5.0
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	85	77	-9.4
<i>[Breaking and entering]^(d)</i>	879	780	-11.3
Property damage	1,293	1,509	16.7
Driving, traffic & related offences	100	137	37.0
Other offences ^(e)	591	619	4.7
<i>[Drug offences]^(f)</i>	70	56	-20.0
Total	4,839	5,046	4.3

*NB: all data valid as at 9 August 2006

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

(b) Includes *manslaughter + dangerous driving causing death*.

(c) Includes *Other violations of persons*.

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

(e) Other offences = *public order offences + weapons offences + environmental offences + liquor offences + enforcement of orders + Other + drug offences*.

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

NB – Total offences (5,046) differs from the number of conferences held (2,304) as multiple offences may be handled in one conference.

Source: Youth Justice Operations Unit, Department of Communities

DETAILED TABLES

TABLE 1

Summary, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

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

TABLE 2

Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

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

TABLE 3

Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 1

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

TABLE 4

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

FIGURE 2

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

TABLE 5

District and Supreme Courts, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 3

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

TABLE 6

Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location

TABLE 7

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

FIGURE 4

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

TABLE 8

All Courts, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

FIGURE 5

Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 1

All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type, Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Offence type	2004-05 ^(a)				2005-06			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	3	3	3	9	—	—	1	1
Murder	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1
Driving causing death	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Acts intended to cause injury	734	211	74	1,019	874	175	11	1,060
Assault	732	210	74	1,016	866	175	11	1,052
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	2	1	—	3	8	—	—	8
Sexual assault & related offences	59	176	40	275	58	166	26	250
Sexual assault	55	144	39	238	52	158	21	231
Non-assaultive sexual offences	4	32	1	37	6	8	5	19
Dangerous or negligent acts	203	22	4	229	113	20	1	134
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	131	14	1	146	79	13	—	92
Other dangerous or negligent acts	72	8	3	83	34	7	1	42
Abduction & related offences	40	9	2	51	8	11	—	19
Robbery & extortion	94	167	26	287	76	147	5	288
Robbery	92	165	20	277	69	143	5	217
Blackmail & extortion	2	2	6	10	7	4	—	11
Unlawful entry with intent	2,140	674	123	2,937	1,617	544	20	2,181
Theft & related offences^(c)	4,290	456	80	4,826	2,718	269	22	3,009
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,479	200	33	1,712	926	130	14	1,070
Other theft & related offences	2,300	216	36	2,552	1,472	108	6	1,586
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	506	39	9	554	317	31	2	350
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	5	1	2	8	3	—	—	3
Deception & related offences	522	7	2	531	252	14	3	269
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	495	2	2	499	228	3	3	234
Dishonest conversion	26	5	—	31	22	11	—	33
Bribery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other deception offences	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Illicit drug offences	586	8	14	608	300	3	14	317
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	66	—	5	71	22	—	10	32
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	28	—	—	28	8	—	—	8
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	229	4	6	239	139	1	3	143
Other illicit drug offences	263	4	3	270	131	2	1	134
Weapons & explosives offences	148	2	3	153	95	1	—	96
Property damage	1,062	204	40	1,306	912	120	6	1,038
Property damage	1,062	204	40	1,306	911	120	6	1,037
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	1,475	13	13	1,501	1,144	16	1	1,161
Road traffic offences	1,592	11	—	1,603	1,309	14	—	1,323
Justice & government offences	1,193	12	8	1,213	612	19	1	632
Breach of justice order ^(d)	459	3	2	464	356	13	—	369
Other offences against justice	724	9	6	739	241	6	1	248
Offences against government	10	—	—	10	15	—	—	15
Miscellaneous offences	102	4	2	108	48	4	1	53
Total	14,243	1,979	434	16,656	10,136	1,523	112	11,771

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

(b) Revised

(c) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

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

Table 2 Magistrates courts: Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2004–05 ^(a)			2005–06			Percentage change	
	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane City								
Brisbane Childrens Court	56	224	4.00	45	110	2.44	-19.6	-50.9
Holland Park	3	8	2.67	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-87.5
Inala	17	36	2.12	46	111	2.41	170.6	208.3
Sandgate	16	62	3.88	5	66	13.20	-68.8	6.5
Wynnum	3	26	8.67	5	12	2.40	66.7	-53.8
Remainder of Brisbane								
Beenleigh	29	105	3.62	43	132	3.07	48.3	25.7
Caboolture	18	71	3.94	23	45	1.96	27.8	-36.6
Cleveland	3	8	2.67	3	8	2.67	—	—
Ipswich	21	37	1.76	28	48	1.71	33.3	29.7
Petrie	2	20	10.00	2	5	2.50	—	-75.0
Redcliffe	11	25	2.27	5	7	1.40	-54.5	-72.0
Moreton								
Beaudesert	8	23	2.88	1	3	3.00	-87.5	-87.0
Maroochydore	14	43	3.07	12	21	1.75	-14.3	-51.2
Noosa	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Southport	23	66	2.87	19	119	6.26	-17.4	80.3
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg	8	11	1.38	8	16	2.00	—	45.5
Gympie	2	8	4.00	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-87.5
Hervey Bay	10	25	2.50	1	2	2.00	-90.0	-92.0
Kingaroy	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maryborough	16	54	3.38	5	16	3.20	-68.8	-70.4
Murgon	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Nanango	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Darling Downs								
Chinchilla	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Dalby	10	61	6.10	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Goondiwindi	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Stanthorpe	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Toowoomba	6	10	1.67	7	35	5.00	16.7	250.0
Warwick	3	3	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
South West								
Charleville	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cunnamulla	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Dirranbandi	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Roma	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Fitzroy								
Emerald	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Gladstone	2	4	2.00	4	8	2.00	100.0	100.0
Rockhampton	18	47	2.61	10	25	2.50	-44.4	-46.8
Yeppoon	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Central West								
Mackay								
Longreach	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Mackay	15	61	4.07	10	26	2.60	-33.3	-57.4
Proserpine	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Woorabinda	6	7	1.17	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Northern								
Bowen	1	3	3.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	—
Charters Towers	3	3	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Great Palm Island	8	8	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Ingham	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Townsville	19	65	3.42	17	29	1.71	-10.5	-55.4

Table 2

Continued

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2004-05 ^(a)			2005-06			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Far North								
Atherton	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Aurukun	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cairns	18	66	3.67	23	49	2.13	27.8	-25.8
Coen	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cooktown	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Innisfail	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Lockhart River	3	7	2.33	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mareeba	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Mossman	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Thursday Island	2	6	3.00	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-83.3
Tully	1	6	6.00	1	1	1.00	—	-83.3
Yarrabah	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
North West								
Cloncurry	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Doomadgee	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Kowanyama	1	2	2.00	1	1	1.00	—	-50.0
Mount Isa	5	9	1.80	7	17	2.43	40.0	88.9
Pormpuraaw	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Total	397	1,242	3.13	344	929	2.70	-13.4	-25.2

(a) Revised

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

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

Table 3 Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Age	2004–05 ^(a)			2005–06			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	18	1	19	20	1	21	11.1	—	10.5
11	56	11	67	41	9	50	-26.8	-18.2	-25.4
12	136	32	168	109	19	128	-19.9	-40.6	-23.8
13	383	127	510	303	93	396	-20.9	-26.8	-22.4
14	725	244	969	574	221	795	-20.8	-9.4	-18.0
15	1,129	355	1,484	909	300	1,211	-19.5	-15.5	-18.4
16	1,918	431	2,349	1,394	371	1,768	-27.3	-13.9	-24.7
17+	760	166	926	557	113	671	-26.7	-31.9	-27.5
Unknown	3	—	3	12	1	13	300.0	..	333.3
Total	5,128	1,367	6,495	3,919	1,128	5,053	-23.6	-17.5	-22.2

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06).

Figure 1 Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

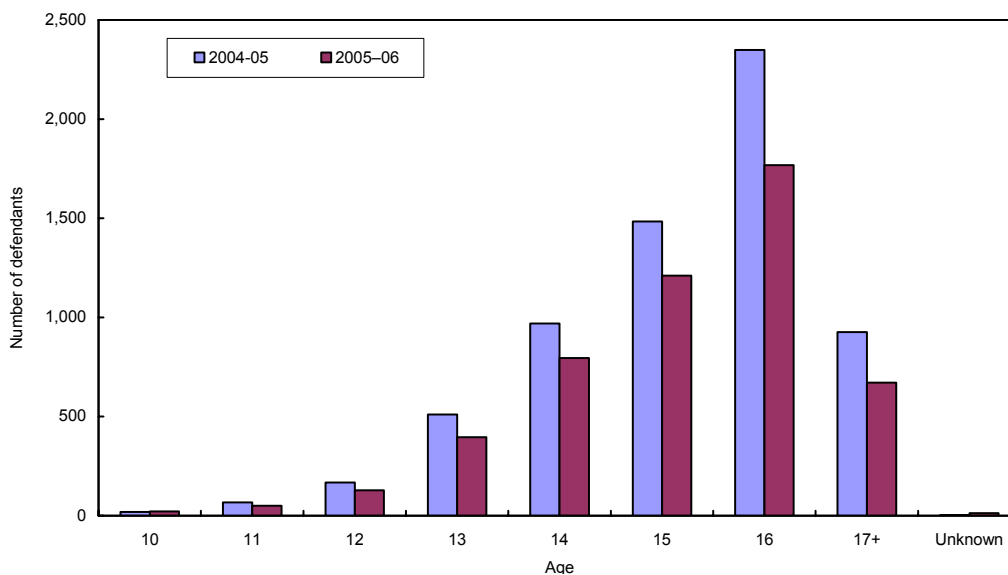


Table 4

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Penalty ^(a)	2004-05 ^(b)			2005-06			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(d)	76	4	80	75	9	84	-1.3	125.0	5.0
Immediate/conditional release ^(e)	81	12	93	77	7	84	-4.9	-41.7	-9.7
Community service	732	120	852	512	83	595	-30.1	-30.8	-30.2
Probation	624	202	826	557	178	735	-10.7	-11.9	-11.0
Fine	378	44	422	289	41	331	-23.5	-6.8	-21.6
Compensation	107	32	139	65	17	82	-39.3	-46.9	-41.0
Good behaviour	886	344	1,230	622	238	861	-29.8	-30.8	-30.0
Disqualification of licence	32	5	37	21	6	27	-34.4	20.0	-27.0
Reprimand ^(f)	1,339	423	1,762	1,091	377	1,472	-18.5	-10.9	-16.5
Total	4,255	1,186	5,441	3,309	956	4,271	-22.2	-19.4	-21.5

- (a) In decreasing order of seriousness.
- (b) Revised.
- (c) Includes offenders with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06).
- (d) Includes intensive supervision and imprisonment orders.
- (e) Includes suspended imprisonment (1 in 2004-05).
- (f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Figure 2

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06

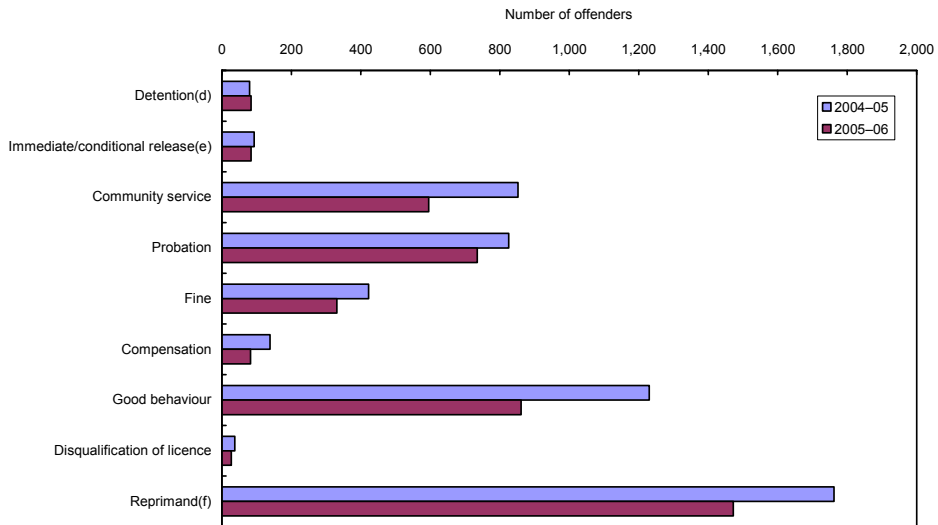


Table 5

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Age	2004–05 ^(a)			2005–06			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	..
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	..	..
12	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
13	4	1	5	2	—	2	-50.0	-100.0	-60.0
14	7	2	9	2	—	2	-71.4	-100.0	-77.8
15	15	3	18	4	—	4	-73.3	-100.0	-77.8
16	17	4	21	3	3	6	-82.4	-25.0	-71.4
17+	62	6	68	22	1	23	-64.5	-83.3	-66.2
Unknown	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Total	107	16	123	33	4	37	-69.2	-75.0	-69.9

(a) Revised.

Figure 3

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

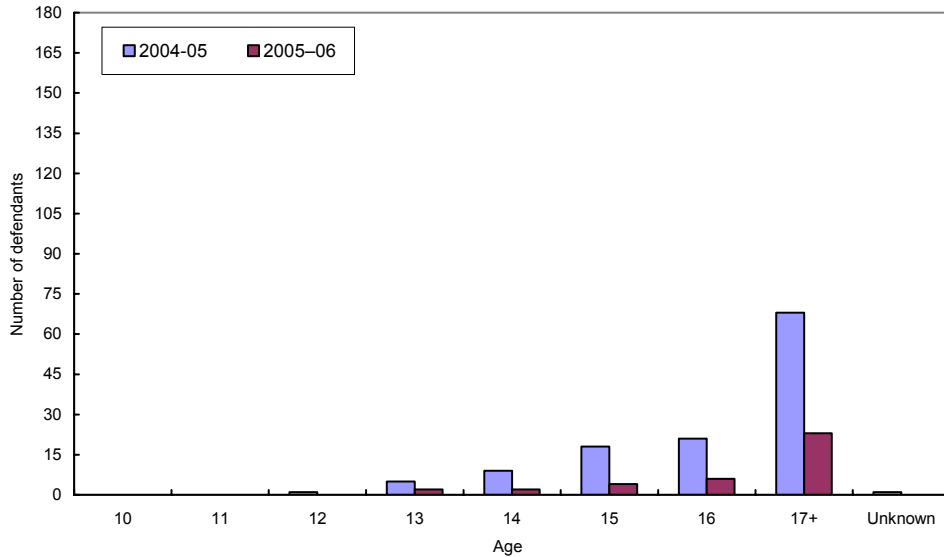


Table 6 District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2004–05 ^(a)			2005–06			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane Supreme	1	2	2.00	2	13	6.50	100.0	550.0
Brisbane	16	57	3.56	2	4	2.00	-87.5	-93.0
Beenleigh	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Ipswich	4	7	1.75	11	30	2.73	175.0	328.6
Moreton								
Maroochydore	11	56	5.09	4	17	4.25	-63.6	-69.6
Southport	6	24	4.00	2	10	5.00	-66.7	-58.3
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg Supreme	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Bundaberg	—	—	..	1	11	11.00	..	..
Gympie	2	4	2.00	1	2	2.00	-50.0	-50.0
Hervey Bay	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..
Kingaroy	9	23	2.56	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maryborough	16	43	2.69	1	2	2.00	-93.8	-95.3
Darling Downs								
Dalby	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Goondiwindi	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Toowoomba	2	4	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Toowoomba Supreme	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Warwick	1	11	11.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
South West								
Charleville	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Roma	4	8	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Fitzroy								
Gladstone	8	68	8.50	1	2	2.00	-87.5	-97.1
Rockhampton	11	23	2.09	2	3	1.50	-81.8	-87.0
Rockhampton Supreme	4	7	1.75	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mackay								
Mackay	3	8	2.67	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-87.5
Mackay Supreme	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Northern								
Bowen	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Charters Towers	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Townsville	6	23	3.83	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville Supreme	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Far North								
Cairns Supreme	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Cairns	5	11	2.20	1	1	1.00	-80.0	-90.9
Innisfail	2	11	5.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
North West								
Mount Isa	8	40	5.00	4	8	2.00	-50.0	-80.0
Total	123	434	3.53	37	112	3.03	-69.9	-74.2

(a) Revised.

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

Table 7

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Penalty ^(a)	2004-05 ^(b)			2005-06			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	8	1	9	3	1	4	-62.5	—	-55.6
Immediate/conditional release	8	—	8	2	—	2	-75.0	..	-75.0
Community service	30	1	31	6	1	7	-80.0	—	-77.4
Probation	33	10	43	7	2	9	-78.8	-80.0	-79.1
Fine	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Compensation	—	—	—	1	—	1	..	..	..
Good behaviour	1	1	2	—	—	—	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0
Reprimand ^(c)	—	—	—	3	—	3	..	..	..
Total	81	13	94	22	4	26	-72.8	-69.2	-72.3

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

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

Figure 4

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2004-05 and 2005-06

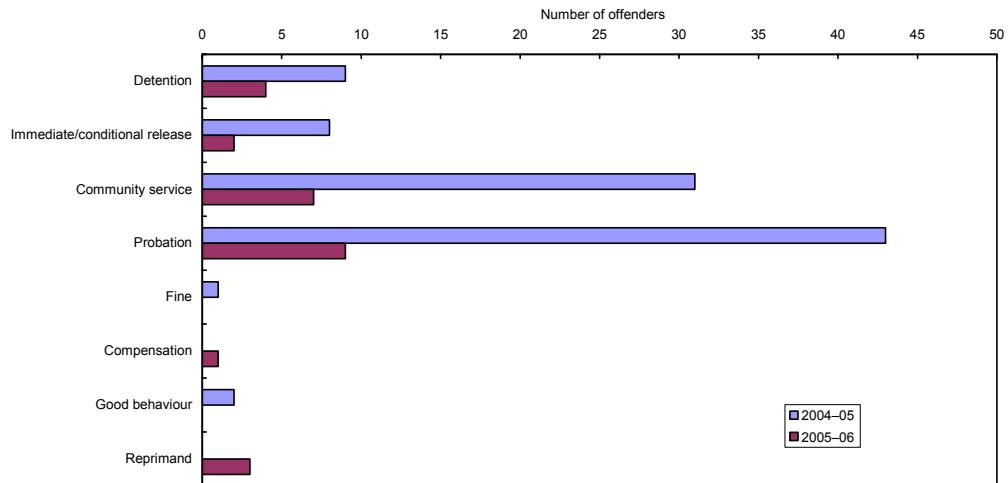


Table 8

All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

Age	2004–05 ^(a)			2005–06			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	18	1	19	20	1	21	11.1	—	10.5
11	59	11	70	42	9	51	-28.8	-18.2	-27.1
12	143	32	175	115	19	134	-19.6	-40.6	-23.4
13	402	132	534	324	93	417	-19.4	-29.5	-21.9
14	759	255	1,014	605	223	828	-20.3	-12.5	-18.3
15	1,209	375	1,584	950	306	1,258	-21.4	-18.4	-20.6
16	2,027	441	2,468	1,469	388	1,860	-27.5	-12.0	-24.6
17+	942	186	1,128	716	132	849	-24.0	-29.0	-24.7
Unknown	4	—	4	12	1	13	200.0	..	225.0
Total^(c)	5,563	1,433	6,996	4,253	1,172	5,431	-23.5	-18.2	-22.4

(a) Revised

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (6 in 2005-06).

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

Figure 5

All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2004–05 and 2005–06

