

**Childrens Court of Queensland**  
Annual Report 2007 – 2008



**QUEENSLAND  
COURTS**



**DISTRICT COURT OF  
QUEENSLAND**

CHAMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT, CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

17 November 2008

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Dear Attorney

In accordance with the requirements of s 24 of the *Childrens Court Act 1992*,  
I am pleased to present the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2007 – 2008.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM Dick'.

**Judge JM Dick SC**  
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland

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## Judges of the Childrens Court

During the year under the report the judges were:

**President**

Her Honour Judge Julie Dick SC

**Judges**

His Honour Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker

His Honour Judge Kerry John O'Brien

His Honour Judge John Elwell Newton

His Honour Judge Peter John White

His Honour Judge John Mervyn Robertson

His Honour Judge Clive Frederick Wall RFD, ED

His Honour Judge Robert Douglas Pack

His Honour Judge Nicholas Samios

His Honour Judge Grant Thomas Britton SC

Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards

Her Honour Judge Sarah Bradley

His Honour Judge Michael John Shanahan

His Honour Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC

His Honour Judge Walter Henry Tutt

His Honour Judge Milton Griffin SC

Her Honour Judge Fleur Kingham

His Honour Judge Anthony Rafter SC

His Honour Judge Terence Martin SC

Her Honour Judge Leanne Clare SC

His Honour Judge David C Andrews SC

His Honour Judge William G Everson

## Introduction

This is the 15th Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland. As part of my statutory duty as President of the Court, I am required to report annually to the Parliament on the operation of the court in the preceding financial year.

Last year I reported that there had been a slight rise of 2.6% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in Queensland and I commented that this slight rise was not evidence of a significant increase in the rate of juvenile offending. In 2007–08, there was an overall decrease of 6.3% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in all of Queensland. It should be noted that there has also been a 5.8% increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2007–08. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that despite a certain amount of diversion from the court system, the number of juveniles offending is not increasing steeply but is slightly declining or, at worst, holding steady.

## Juvenile justice trends – summary

- Following an increase from 2005–06 to 2006–07, there was an overall decrease of 6.3% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland from 6,761 in 2006–07 to 6,337 in 2007–08.
- There was a 5.8% increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2007–08, with the state-wide expansion program for youth justice conferencing now fully implemented. Conferences included 45.7% as a result of police referral, 38.8% were indefinite court referrals, and 15.6% were pre-sentence court referrals.
- There was a 2.6% decrease in the number of young people coming before the Childrens Court of Queensland. There was a 36.5% decrease in the number appearing before the District Court and a 66.7% decrease in those appearing before the Supreme Court, resulting in an overall decrease across the higher courts of 7.3%.
- There was an overall decrease in the number of charges against young people from 21,842 to 18,062 or 17.3%.
- Overall males accounted for 78.5%, while 15 to 16 year olds represented 62.2% of juvenile defendants. Young people appearing before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 16 years or older in 83.8% of cases.
- As in the previous year, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent offences accounted for 43.7% of all charges against juveniles. These offences saw a combined decrease of 17.7% since 2006–07.

- Detention orders increased from 199 in 2006–07 to 203 in 2007–08, an increase of 2%, while immediate/conditional release orders decreased 16.4% from 214 to 179. These most serious of penalties were awarded in only 6.9% of cases. Detention orders in the Childrens Court of Queensland increased 65.1% from 43 to 71, while immediate/conditional release orders in that court increased by 4.1% since 2006–07, from 49 to 51.
- Cautions administered by police decreased this year, from 14,894 to 14,654 following an increase in the previous year.
- The Magistrates Courts disposed of 92.2% of juvenile cases in 2007–08.
- As in previous years, the majority of victims of juvenile offenders were aged under 20 years of age (60.5% of those where age was recorded) and only 5.5% were aged 50 years or over. Assault victims accounted for 71.2% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 27% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years.

## General

In my 2006–07 Annual Report, I expressed concern about the timely provision of transcripts of proceedings in the Magistrates Court of matters for sentence review under Div 9, Part 6 of the Act. The matter was first raised by the former President of the Childrens Court, Judge O’Brien in the 2005–06 Annual Report. The problem is not yet resolved. Very recently, a sentence review was delayed because the transcript was not available. Fortunately, the child in question was not in detention as a result of the sentence because attempts to resolve the lack of transcript were complicated by the fact that the only contact with the relevant parties is through general,

not direct, telephone numbers and requests for assistance are met with the answer that it is the responsibility of another department. The process is inefficient and frustrating and is a serious impediment to the efficient and timely disposal of the sentence reviews.

In July 2008 I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Childrens Courts (SPCYCC). The meeting was held in Western Samoa.

In brief, the charter of the SPYCC is to support the development of youth justice and child protection systems and the maintenance of rule of law in the region. Currently, member jurisdictions are the relevant courts of all Australian states and territories, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa (Western Samoa and American Samoa) and Kiribati.

Membership of the Council is confined to heads of jurisdiction (or other appropriate judicial officers) of youth and childrens’ courts in the South Pacific. The Council is supported in its activities by UNICEF, AusAID, NZAID, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Forum.

The Council meeting was an inspiring experience.

The delegates were welcomed by Acting Chief Justice, Lesatele Rapi Va’ai. He said in part:

*“Your meeting is an important and significant event. It is important and significant because it focuses on every country’s most precious and greatest asset, its youth. They are the future of every nation, the architects and leaders of tomorrow. The importance of your meeting is reflected in the support it receives from UNICEF, AusAID, NZAID, Pacific Islands Forum and Commonwealth Secretariat. ... The value of this*

*meeting is that it creates an opportunity for each delegate to learn from every other delegate; it provides a forum to receive and to share up-to-date researches, new initiatives and current trends on youth offending. ... What I can say with confidence is that the catalyst and initiative which brought about the developments with the Chief Justice of Samoa was its membership in the Council and the unwavering assistance from other members of the Council in particular New Zealand and Australia ... as our respective nations are either signatories or ratifiers of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, each delegate here today is duty bound to work together with one another as stakeholders towards promoting, strengthening and developing systems and legal provisions for our youth simply because it is a naked realisation of the fundamental and basic principles within the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”*

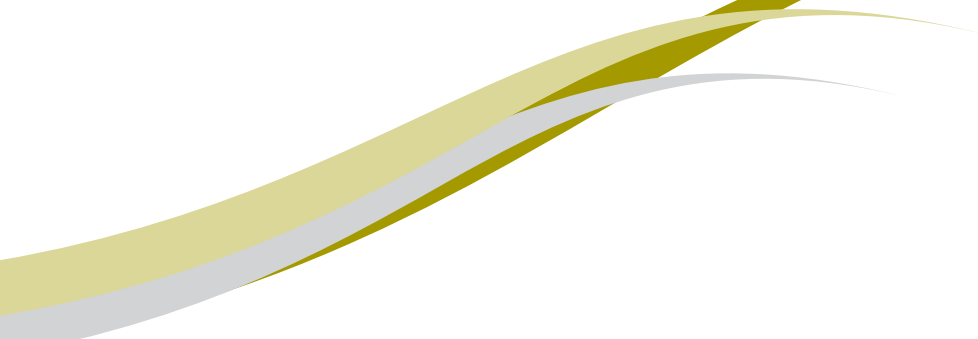
*The subject of youth justice is a challenging one. It is a challenging one because there are basically two virtually irreconcilable concepts or approaches involved.*

*The justice approach emphasises the offence and the demand by society for the offender, irrespective of age, to be held accountable for his offence. The welfare approach on the other hand favours educational and social intervention by attempting to focus on the needs of the offender, the background of the offender, and the possible underlying causes for his offending. To strike a balance between the two different approaches is easier said than done.”*

During the course of the meeting the Council was informed of the results of research into patterns of and modern trends in youth offending in South Auckland. The first paper was delivered by Ronji Tanielu, a Samoan/Tokelauan law and politics graduate who has worked with young people for 10 years. He identified factors leading to the disconnection of Samoan youth living in New Zealand. Many such youth are disconnected from Samoa and Samoan culture. There is often a disconnection in terms of generational communication when parents speak Samoan and broken English and the child speaks English and broken Samoan. The young people are often disconnected from their church and their school. The outcome of the disconnectedness is a search for identity. The search often ends in young people forming or joining gangs. The gangs are often based on competing ethnic backgrounds and this causes unrest in the local community. He specifically pointed to the areas of Logan, Woodridge and Ipswich being susceptible to the same youth problems because many of the young people migrate for a second time to Australia from New Zealand. This leads to further dislocation and disconnectedness. His words are particularly poignant in light of recent events involving the Aboriginal and the Samoan community.

Efeso Collins, a Samoan/Tokelauan education graduate spoke on the influences of modern technology (video games, internet) on youth today.

The Council heard from Inspector George Faalogo, New Zealand Police, in relation to diversion programmes available to New Zealand police dealing with young people.



Other issues discussed included pre-sentence conferencing, domestic violence, child abuse and care and protection systems in New Zealand and Australia.

The Council has decided to hold its meeting in the Pacific Island countries to support those countries and to encourage an appreciation of the need for legislation and separate detention facilities for young offenders. Indeed, Western Samoa has recently welcomed the introduction of the *Youth Offender's Act 2007* and the *Community Justice Act 2007* as well as construction of rehabilitation facilities and probation facilities for young offenders. The Council feels that meeting in Pacific Island Countries encourages those countries to consider prompt and favourable responses to issues of concern relating to youth, justice and domestic violence.

As I reported in 2006, I was unable to attend the Council in 2006–07 when the Council meeting was held in New Zealand. I felt it was important that I attend the 2007–08 meeting although it fell during a period of my leave from the Court.

Former Presidents of the Childrens Court of Queensland, Judge Robertson and Judge O'Brien have attended the Council in the past and received a contribution for travel and accommodation expenses from the District Court Conference Budget. This year, for the first time, a request to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for approval for a contribution from the District Court Judges' Conference Budget was refused. A request to the Minister for Communities and Families was also refused.

These decisions placed me in an uncomfortable position. I attended the meeting in my own time and at my own cost but also as Head of Jurisdiction of the Court. I was the only delegate from Australia or the Pacific Island countries who was placed in this position.

A meeting of all the delegates of the Council decided that the Council should write to the Attorney General and Minister for Justice expressing the Council's regret at the decision to refuse approval for funding. The letter is to be signed by all delegates of the Council. This is quite a cumbersome procedure as some of the delegates do not have ready access to internet facilities or even convenient postal services.

Needless to say, if Queensland was not represented at the next meeting, it would be a significant setback to the work of the Council, to the interests of the Childrens Court in Queensland and to the reputation of the Court.



## Proposed review of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*

The proposed review of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* referred to in the Childrens Court Annual Report 2006–07, has not resulted in meaningful amendment to any relevant legislation. It is to be hoped that the review will recognise the guiding principles of youth justice and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The balance between principles of accountability and rehabilitation is delicate but research shows that young people are particularly open to rehabilitation and the community has a great interest in supporting the notion that young people, where possible, should be assisted and encouraged to look for a law-abiding life and to meet society’s expectations.

## Juvenile justice trends

The summary of the juvenile justice trends for 2007–08 is very pleasing. In particular, the fact that the number of charges against young people has decreased by 17.3% is a positive result that cannot be overlooked. A large percentage of charges against juveniles relate to property offences. There has been a 17.7% decrease in these offences since 2006–07.

Another important result is the increase in the number of cases diverted to youth justice conferencing as a result of police referrals (46%), court referrals (39%) and pre-sentence court referrals (16%).

As reported last year, the response of victims to youth justice conferencing is overwhelmingly positive. Thus, such conferencing plays an invaluable role in allowing a comfortable balance between accountability and rehabilitation. In most cases, it achieves the purpose of providing

some satisfaction for the victim and recognition of wrong doing and increased empathy on the part of the offending juvenile. Such diversionary processes are in accord with all modern research into juvenile/youth justice and the fact that the Queensland experience is proving successful is immensely satisfying.

## Thanks

The judges who hold a Childrens Court Commission are all well qualified in this jurisdiction and I have found each one most obliging in providing assistance in the administration of the Court, particularly when I am away on circuit or when I have other responsibilities. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude.

I would like to thank all those involved in juvenile justice including the Office of the Director of Prosecutions, Legal Aid, youth advocacy workers, officers from the Department of Families and Childcare workers.

I would also like to thank court staff who have made my task as President of the Childrens Court a very streamlined one indeed. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to this report. In order to encourage them in the good and generous work they do, may I repeat the words of the Acting Chief Justice of Samoa when he said:

**“(Juvenile Justice) is important and significant because it focuses on every country’s most precious and greatest asset, its youth. They are the future of every nation, the architects and leaders of tomorrow”.**

Queensland



*Childrens Court Act 1992*

# CHILDRENS COURT RULES 1997

Reprinted as in force on 28 August 1998  
(rules not amended up to this date)

Reprint No. 1

This reprint is authorised by  
the Parliamentary Counsel and printed by  
the Government Printer

**Statistical tables  
and analysis**



## 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

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<b>Reference period</b>	The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. Where possible, data from the previous financial year are provided for comparison.
<b>Data collection</b>	Statistical information used in this report has been collected and prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR), Queensland Treasury, from operational data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland.
<b>Symbols used in tables</b>	— nil . . not applicable

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## Definitions

<b>caution</b>	an official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to charging.
<b>charge</b>	a formal accusation of an offence.
<b>child</b>	see juvenile.
<b>Childrens Court of Queensland</b>	an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences. It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge.
<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 juvenile charged with a criminal offence. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
<b>disposal</b>	the ultimate finalisation and clearing of all matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by transfer to another court).
<b>District Court of Queensland</b>	a court constituted by a District Court judge (see <i>Right of Election</i> , p. 9; 4th annual report).
<b>ex officio indictment</b>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
<b>guilty finding</b>	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<b>juvenile</b>	a person who has not turned 17 years. (A person who has attained 17 years of age may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.)
<b>Magistrates Court</b>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two justices of the peace.
<b>offence</b>	an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment.
<b>offence type</b>	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the Queensland extension of the Australian Standard Offence Code is used in this report.
<b>offender</b>	a juvenile who has been found, or has pleaded guilty, of an offence.

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**penalty**

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.

*detention order* a custodial penalty placing a juvenile in a youth detention centre.

*conditional release order* suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a juvenile offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.

*intensive supervision order* 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.

*community service order* a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.

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

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

*good behaviour order* a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the juvenile re-offends during the period of the order.

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

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**sentence**

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

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**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 (*Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, s. 8).

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**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).

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**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.

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**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.

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## 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.

<b>Breach of juvenile justice orders</b>	<p>A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (i.e. 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>, ss. 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 Childrens Court of Queensland have included such breaches.</p> <p>In 2007–08, 128 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 6,682 appearing for criminal offences. Breach of justice orders which are criminal offences have been included in the court statistics (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or domestic violence protection orders).</p>
<b>Recording of ages</b>	<p>Where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth of the defendant to the date of finalisation.</p>
<b>Most serious penalty</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Percentage totals</b>	<p>In tables in this report constituent percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.</p>

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**Classification of offences**

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

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

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

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**Cautions**

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

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

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**Imprisonment**

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

## Summary

### Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 6,337 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2007–08, a decrease of 6.3% from 6,761 in 2006–07. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in the Supreme and District Courts decreased by 66.7% and 36.5% respectively.

In 2007–08, Magistrates Courts disposed 92.2% of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 7.2%, the District Court 0.5% and the Supreme Court 0.06%.

### Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Court level	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>		2007–08		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates Court	6,230	92.1	5,845	92.2	-6.2
Childrens Court of Queensland	467	6.9	455	7.2	-2.6
District Court	52	0.8	33	0.5	-36.5
Supreme Court	12	0.2	4	0.1	-66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> 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.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 78.5% of all finalised defendants in 2007–08. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 62.2% of juvenile defendants, with a further 15% 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 2.6% in 2007–08, charges heard also decreased by 3.4%. The number of charges per defendant decreased from 4.8 to 4.7. The number of defendants in the District Court decreased by 36.5%, charges heard also decreased by 38.2%. Both defendant and charge numbers decreased in the Supreme and Magistrates Courts in 2007–08.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were unlawful entry with intent with 3,277 charges (18.1%), theft (except motor vehicles) with 2,430 charges (13.5%), road traffic offences with 2,090 charges (11.6%) disorderly conduct with 1,834 charges (10.2%) and motor vehicle theft and related offences with 1,615 charges (8.9%). In total, unlawful entry with intent, theft and related offences and road traffic offences represented over half of all charges against juveniles (55.3%). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)



### Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup> Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Court level	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>		2007–08		Change %
	No.	%	No.	%	
Magistrates Court	19,428	88.9	15,798	87.5	-18.7
Childrens Court of Queensland	2,227	10.2	2,152	11.9	-3.4
District Court	157	0.7	97	0.5	-38.2
Supreme Court	30	0.1	15	0.1	-50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,062</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-17.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> 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.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

### Penalties received by juveniles by court level

In 2007–08, 87.4% (5,540) of the 6,337 juvenile defendants in Queensland's courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

### Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	199	203	2.0
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	214	179	-16.4
Community service	986	973	-1.3
Probation	1092	943	-13.6
Fine	339	294	-13.3
Compensation	113	91	-19.5
Good behaviour	959	951	-0.8
Disqualification of licence	41	35	-14.6
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,784	1,871	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,727</b>	<b>5,540</b>	<b>-3.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes suspended imprisonment.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Of those found guilty in 2007–08, 203 (or 3.7%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 179 (or 3.2%) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,871 juveniles (33.8%). The next largest group of 973 (17.6%) received community service as their most serious penalty with 951 receiving good behaviour orders (17.2%), followed by 943 (17%) receiving probation orders.

## Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 14,654 juvenile offenders were given cautions in 2007–08, a decrease of 1.6% from 2006–07. In comparison 18,062 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2006–07, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (5,654 or 38.6% of all cautions) in 2007–08. Another 3,206 juveniles received cautions for other offences (21.9%) and 2,204 for property damage (15%).

### Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(c)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Homicide and related offences	—	—	..
Acts intended to cause injury	963	782	-18.8
Sexual assault and related offences	253	165	-34.8
Robbery and extortion	40	17	-57.5
Unlawful entry with intent	1,657	1,595	-3.7
Theft and related offences	5,256	5,654	7.6
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	718	896	24.8
<i>[Other theft]</i>	4,217	4,450	5.5
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	321	308	-1.3
Deception and related offences	214	183	-14.5
Illicit drug offences	909	821	-9.7
Property damage	2,456	2,204	-10.3
Road traffic offences	28	27	-3.6
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	3,118	3,206	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,894</b>	<b>14,654</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> 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.

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

<sup>(c)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(d)</sup> 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 2,152 charges against 455 defendants in 2007–08, a decrease of 2.6% defendants since 2006–07.

#### Defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland

The majority of defendants in 2007–08 were aged 15 years or older (398 or 87.5%), with 40% of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 12.5% of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

#### Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age Queensland 2006–07 and 2007–08

Age	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>	2007–08 <sup>(c)</sup>	Change %
11	1	2	100.0
12	2	2	. .
13	7	16	128.6
14	37	37	. .
15	75	89	18.7
16	135	127	-5.9
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	210	179	-13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> 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.

<sup>(c)</sup> In 2007–08, the total has been adjusted to incorporate three defendants with an unknown age.

## Charges against juveniles in the Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 2,152 charges in 2007–08, a decrease of 3.4% from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant decreased from 4.8 in 2006–07 to 4.7 in 2007–08.

### Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(c)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Homicide and related offences	—	1	100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	230	202	-12.2
Sexual assault and related offences	204	253	24.0
Robbery and extortion	204	261	27.9
Unlawful entry with intent	574	619	7.8
Theft and related offences	602	453	-24.8
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	295	192	-34.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	274	213	-22.3
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	33	48	45.5
Deception and related offences	16	11	-31.3
Illicit drug offences	6	15	150.0
Property damage	243	172	-29.2
Road traffic offences	36	32	-11.1
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	112	133	18.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>-3.4</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

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

<sup>(c)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(d)</sup> 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 28.8% of all charges, an increase since 2006–07. Theft and related offences accounted for 21.1% of all charges, with motor vehicle theft representing 42.4% and other theft representing 47% of these offences.

## Penalties received by juvenile offenders before the Childrens Court of Queensland

Of the 455 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2007–08, 366 (80.4%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 71 juvenile offenders (19.4%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 51 (13.9%) receiving an immediate/conditional release sentence. The most common penalties were probation (37.7%) and community service orders (22.1%).

### Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	43	71	65.1
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	49	51	4.1
Community service	109	81	-25.7
Probation	127	138	8.7
Fine	3	—	-100.0
Good behaviour	6	14	133.3
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	9	11	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>5.8</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes suspended imprisonment.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

## Magistrates Courts

### Juvenile defendants in Magistrates Courts

In 2007–08, 6,190 juvenile defendants were dealt with in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, a decrease of 6.9% from 6,650 in the previous year. Of these, 345 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 5,845 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (5,146 or 83.1%) or by discharge (699 or 11.3%).

#### Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Method of finalisation	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Committed	420	345	-17.9
Disposed <sup>(b)</sup>	6,230	5,845	-6.2
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,343	5,146	-3.7
<i>Discharged<sup>(c)</sup></i>	887	699	-21.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>6,190</b>	<b>-6.9</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> Defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

<sup>(c)</sup> Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

The difference between the 345 defendants committed to the higher court and the 455 disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2007–08 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2006–07 and being disposed in 2007–08. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2006–07 being disposed in 2007–08.

## Charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts

Of the 16,949 charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts in 2007–08, 15,798 (93.2%) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts and the remaining 1,151 (6.8%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

### Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Method of finalisation	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Committed	1,491	1,151	-22.8
Disposed <sup>(b)</sup>	19,428	15,798	-18.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,919</b>	<b>16,949</b>	<b>-19.0</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> Charges of defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

## Charges against juveniles disposed in Magistrates Courts

In 2007–08 15,798 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (4,154 or 26.3%), followed by unlawful entry with intent (2,633 or 16.7%) and road traffic offences (2,056 or 13%).

In total, theft and related offences, unlawful entry with intent and road traffic offences accounted for 56% of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type  
Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Homicide and related offences	8	1	-87.5
Acts intended to cause injury	859	792	-7.8
Sexual assault and related offences	81	53	-34.6
Robbery and extortion	110	122	10.9
Unlawful entry with intent	3,220	2,633	-18.2
Theft and related offences	5,129	4,154	-19.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	1,919	1,421	-26.0
<i>[Other theft]</i>	2,643	2,232	-15.6
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	567	501	-11.6
Deception and related offences	369	306	-17.1
Illicit drug offences	502	447	-11.0
Property damage	3,147	1,414	-55.1
Road traffic offences	1,990	2,056	3.3
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	4,013	3,820	-4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,428</b>	<b>15,798</b>	<b>-18.7</b>

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

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> 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 5,845 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2007–08, 5,146 (88%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 128 offenders (2.5%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 124 (2.4%) receiving immediate/conditional release orders. Over one third of juveniles (1,859 or 36.1%) received a reprimand, 937 (18.2%) received a good behaviour order, 884 (17.2%) received community service and 794 (15.4%) received a probation order as their most serious penalty.

### Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	144	128	-11.1
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	159	124	-22.0
Community service	872	884	1.4
Probation	952	794	-16.6
Fine	336	294	-12.5
Compensation	113	91	-19.5
Good behaviour	951	937	-1.5
Disqualification of licence	41	35	-14.6
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,775	1,859	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>-3.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes suspended imprisonment.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

## District and Supreme Courts

In 2007–08, District and Supreme Courts disposed 112 charges against 37 juveniles. This was a decrease of 42.2% in the number of defendants from 2006–07. In comparison, defendants and charges dealt with in the Childrens Court of Queensland also showed a decrease.

The Supreme Court disposed a small proportion of the charges and defendants. In 2007–08, there were 15 charges against four defendants disposed in the Supreme Court, compared with 97 charges against 33 defendants disposed in the District Court.

### Defendants in District and Supreme Courts

In 2007–08, 83.8% 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 (81.8%). (For more detail refer to Table 5.)

### District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Age	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
13	1	2	100.0
15	4	4	. .
16	8	9	12.5
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	51	22	-56.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-42.2</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> 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, acts intended to cause injury accounted for the largest number with 32 charges (28.6%), while sexual assault accounted for 26 charges or 23.2% of the total. Within theft and related offences (6.3% of the total), the largest number of charges were for other theft (5 or 71.4 %) and motor vehicle theft (2 or 28.6%). Unlawful entry with intent offences accounted for 25 charges (22.3%).

### District and Supreme Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Homicide and related offences	6	6	..
Acts intended to cause injury	54	32	-40.7
Sexual assault and related offences	9	26	188.9
Robbery and extortion	10	2	-80.0
Unlawful entry with intent	41	25	-39.0
Theft and related offences	19	7	-63.2
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	13	2	-84.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	5	5	..
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	1	—	-100.0
Deception and related offences	—	—	..
Illicit drug offences	19	6	-68.4
Property damage	17	3	-82.4
Road traffic offences	—	2	100.0
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	12	3	-75.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>-40.1</b>

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

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> 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 2007–08, 28 (75.7%) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 11 (39.3%) received probation as their most serious penalty, eight (or 28.6%) received a community service order, four (14.3%) received a detention order and four (14.3%) received an immediate/conditional release order.

#### District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>	2007–08	Change %
Detention(c)	12	4	-66.7
Immediate/conditional release(d)	6	4	-33.3
Community service	5	8	60.0
Probation	13	11	-15.4
Fine	—	—	..
Compensation	—	—	..
Good behaviour	2	—	-100.0
Reprimand(e)	—	1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-26.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes suspended imprisonment.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

### Compliance with court orders

The Juvenile Justice Program, Department of 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 2006–07 there were 2,936 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1,680 (57.2%) were probation, 1,023 (34.8%) were community service orders, 219 (7.5%) were conditional release orders and 14 (0.5%) were intensive supervision orders.

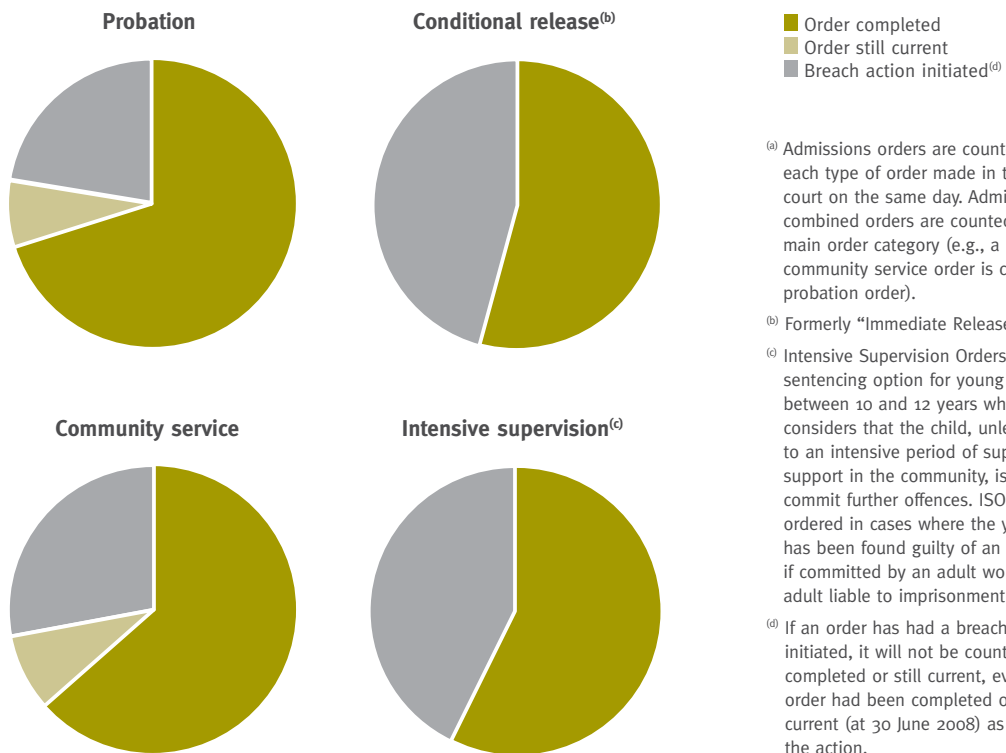
## Orders breached

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 (66.5%) of orders made in 2006–07 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2008.

Of community service orders from 2006–07, 8.3% were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 7.6% 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 2006–07: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2008, Queensland<sup>(a)</sup>



Source: Families and Youth Justice Database, Department of Communities, preliminary data current as at 26 September 2008.

## 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 3,766 victims of juvenile offenders in 2007–08, the majority were aged under 20 years (60.5% of those where age was recorded), with 27.6% aged 10 to 14 years and 25.3% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 5.5% of victims were aged 55 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 71.2% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 27% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 14.4% aged between 25 and 39 years.

Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 49.8% of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 30.5% were under 10 years of age.

For offences committed by juveniles, 60% of victims were male. Males comprised 74.4% of robbery victims and 62.3% of assault victims, while females comprised 59.7% of sexual assault victims and 37.7% of assault victims.

## Youth justice conferencing

In 2007–08 the Department of Communities, Youth Justice Conferencing Program received 2,652 referrals. This represents an increase of 146 referrals or 5.8% from the previous year. During

the same period 2,207 referrals were conferenced, 170 (8.3%) more than in 2006–07.

Courts referred 1,028 (38.8%) indefinite and 413 (15.6%) before sentence matters whilst 1,211 (45.7%) diversionary referrals were made by police. Of these, Indigenous young people accounted for 31% of all referrals received. Male offenders comprised 76% of all referrals.

In 2007–08, seven Indigenous Conference Support Officer positions were recurrently funded following a trial of the position in 2006–07. The role of the Indigenous Conference Support Officer is to assist youth justice conferencing staff in engaging with Indigenous young people, victims, families and communities in a culturally appropriate manner to improve conference outcomes for Indigenous clients.

Youth justice conferencing has continued to achieve restorative justice outcomes where young people and victims reach agreement about how the young person can make amends for the offence they have committed. Of the 2,652 youth justice conferences held in 2007–08, 98% resulted in an agreement being reached. Referrals that do not proceed to conference are returned to either police or the courts for further action.

Every person who attends a conference, including young people and victims, has opportunity to provide feedback of their experience. The responses received in 2007–08 indicated that 99% (7,569 responses) thought that the process was fair, 98.6% (7,518 responses) were satisfied with the agreement made and 97.6% (6,530 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  
Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08\*

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07	2007–08	Change %
Assaults <sup>(b)</sup> .	575	655	13.9
<i>[Major assault]</i>	236	235	-0.4
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	247	306	23.9
Sexual offences	87	40	-54.0
<i>[Rape]</i>	8	3	-62.5
<i>[Other sexual offences]</i>	79	37	-53.2
Robbery and extortion	41	81	97.6
Fraud and misappropriation	463	220	-52.5
Theft, breaking and entering, etc.	2,443	2,714	11.1
<i>[Theft / Unlawful Use of MV]</i>	481	536	11.4
<i>[Other theft]</i>	788	1,134	43.9
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	97	128	32.0
<i>[Breaking and entering](c)</i>	1,077	916	-14.9
Property damage	1,230	1,308	6.3
<i>[Arson]</i>	32	14	-56.3
<i>[Other property damage]</i>	1,198	1,294	8.0
Driving, traffic and related offences	238	355	49.2
<i>[Licence offences]</i>	135	192	42.2
<i>[Driving under the influence]</i>	19	29	52.6
<i>[Dangerous or negligent driving]</i>	14	22	57.1
<i>[Other traffic offences]</i>	70	112	60.0
Drug offences	56	150	167.9
<i>[Possession or use of drugs]</i>	22	73	231.8
<i>[Other drug offences]<sup>(d)</sup></i>	34	77	126.5
Public nuisance offences	282	277	-1.8
<i>[Trespassing and vagrancy]</i>	249	259	4.0
<i>[Offensive behaviour]</i>	33	18	-45.5
Other offences <sup>(e)</sup>	329	380	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,741</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>7.6</b>

\*Note: all data valid as at 26 September 2008.

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

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

<sup>(c)</sup> Breaking and entering = burglary and housebreaking + other breaking and entering.

<sup>(d)</sup> Other drug offences = Dealing & trafficking in drugs + Manufacturing & growing drugs + Other drug offences.

<sup>(e)</sup> Other offences = Drunkenness + weapons offences + Environmental offences + Liquor offences + Gambling + Other.

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

Source: Youth Justice Operations Unit, Department of Communities





## Detailed tables

	<b>Summary, Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08</b>
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Figure 5	Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 1: All courts – charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Offence type	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>				2007–08			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	<b>8</b>	—	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
Murder	1	—	3	4	1	—	1	2
Conspiracy to murder	7	—	—	7	—	—	1	1
Attempted murder	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	4
Manslaughter	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,026</b>
Assault	850	228	54	1,132	790	202	32	1,024
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	9	2	—	11	2	—	—	2
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>332</b>
Sexual assault	68	182	8	258	47	222	26	295
Non-assaultive sexual offences	13	22	1	36	6	31	—	37
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>209</b>
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	113	27	—	140	115	34	1	150
Other dangerous or negligent acts	72	5	2	79	57	2	—	59
<b>Abduction and related offences</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	—	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	—	<b>26</b>
<b>Robbery and extortion</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>385</b>
Robbery	99	202	10	311	111	260	2	373
Blackmail & extortion	11	2	—	13	11	1	—	12

Table 1: All courts – charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type  
Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08, continued

Offence type	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>				2007–08			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3,835</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3,277</b>
<b>Theft and related offences<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,614</b>
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	1,919	295	13	2,227	1,421	192	2	1,615
Other theft and related offences	10	58	—	68	18	2	—	20
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	567	33	1	601	501	48	—	549
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	2,633	216	5	2,854	2,214	211	5	2,430
<b>Deception and related offences</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>317</b>
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	275	11	—	286	256	4	—	260
Dishonest conversion	89	5	—	94	45	6	—	51
Bribery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other deception offences	5	—	—	5	4	1	—	5
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>468</b>
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	29	—	3	32	30	—	3	33
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	14	—	1	15	21	—	—	21
Possess and/or use illicit drugs	216	3	9	228	179	9	3	191
Other illicit drug offences	243	3	6	252	217	6	—	223

Table 1: All courts – charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08, continued

Offence type	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>				2007–08			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Weapons and explosives offences</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Property damage</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3,407</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,589</b>
Property damage	3,147	243	17	3,407	1,413	172	3	1,588
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,040</b>
<b>Road traffic offences</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,090</b>
<b>Justice and government offences</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,465</b>
Breach of justice order <sup>(d)</sup>	537	10	3	550	456	4	—	460
Other offences against justice	1,000	18	1	1,019	975	22	2	999
Offences against government	6	—	—	6	6	—	—	6
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,428</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>15,798</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>18,062</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Charges are disposed at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to youth justice conference.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

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

Table 2: Magistrates Courts – juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change	
	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges
<b>Brisbane</b>								
<b>Brisbane City</b>								
Brisbane Childrens Court	71	231	3.25	35	127	3.63	-50.7	-45.0
Holland Park	2	4	2.00	6	17	2.83	200.0	325.0
Inala	32	120	3.75	45	157	3.49	40.6	30.8
Sandgate	7	49	7.00	5	20	4.00	-28.6	-59.2
Wynnum	1	22	22.00	5	7	1.40	400.0	-68.2
<b>Remainder of Brisbane</b>								
Beenleigh	50	194	3.88	24	60	2.50	-52.0	-69.1
Caboolture	26	73	2.81	12	43	3.58	-53.8	-41.1
Cleveland	7	25	3.57	9	17	1.89	28.6	-32.0
Ipswich	34	109	3.21	26	80	3.08	-23.5	-26.6
Petrie	10	18	1.80	12	54	4.50	20.0	200.0
Redcliffe	12	35	2.92	12	142	11.83	—	305.7
<b>Moreton</b>								
Beaudesert	1	5	5.00	1	4	4.00	—	-20.0
Caloundra	2	2	1.00	1	21	21.00	-50.0	950.0
Maroochydore	10	35	3.50	10	22	2.20	—	-37.1
Noosa	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Southport	24	94	3.92	40	108	2.70		14.9
Toogoolawah	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Bundaberg	5	7	1.40	2	3	1.50	-60.0	-57.1
Gympie	3	4	1.33	2	2	1.00	-33.3	-50.0
Hervey Bay	7	30	4.29	1	14	14.00	-85.7	-53.3
Kingaroy	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Maryborough	4	10	2.50	5	13	2.60		
Nanango	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..

Table 2: Magistrates Courts – juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08, continued

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change	
	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Chinchilla	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Dalby	2	10	5.00	3	7	2.33	50.0	-30.0
Stanthorpe	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Toowoomba	3	9	3.00	4	6	1.50	33.3	-33.3
Warwick	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>South West</b>								
Charleville	1	1	1.00	1	4	4.00	—	300.0
Cunnamulla	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Roma	—	—	..	1	5	5.00	..	..
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Emerald	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Gladstone	—	2	..	1	7	7.00	..	250.0
Rockhampton	8	22	2.75	4	10	2.50	-50.0	-54.5
<b>Central West</b>								
<b>Mackay</b>								
Longreach	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mackay	11	48	4.36	9	20	2.22	-18.2	-58.3
Moranbah	1	1	1.00	1	5	5.00	—	400.0
Proserpine	—	—	..	3	3	1.00	..	..
Woorabinda	—	—	..	—	2	..	..	..
<b>Northern</b>								
Ayr	—	—	..	3	6	2.00	..	..
Bowen	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Great Palm Island	3	3	1.00	1	2	2.00	-66.7	-33.3
Ingham	—	—	..	2	2	1.00	..	..
Townsville	27	189	7.00	17	42	2.47	-37.0	-77.8

Table 2: Magistrates Courts – juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08, continued

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change	
	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges
<b>Far North</b>								
Atherton	—	1	..	1	2	2.00	..	100.0
Aurukun	6	7	1.17	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Bamaga	—	—	..	—	1	..	..	..
Cairns	24	60	2.50	20	66	3.30	-16.7	10.0
Innisfail	5	14	2.80	2	7	3.50	-60.0	-50.0
Lockhart River	1	17	17.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mareeba	1	2	2.00	1	4	4.00	—	100.0
Normanton	—	1	..	—	—	..	..	-100.0
Thursday Island	1	2	2.00	2	8	4.00	100.0	300.0
Tully	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Weipa	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Yarrabah	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>North West</b>								
Cloncurry	2	3	1.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Doomadgee	—	—	..	3	3	1.00	..	..
Kowanyama	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Mount Isa	8	17	2.13	6	11	1.83	-25.0	-35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>-17.9</b>	<b>-22.8</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

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

<sup>(c)</sup> 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, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Age	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
10	16	7	23	9	—	9	-43.8	-100.0	-60.9
11	54	12	66	50	3	53	-7.4	-75.0	-19.7
12	155	32	187	155	24	179	—	-25.0	-4.3
13	319	80	399	350	87	437	9.7	8.7	9.5
14	711	240	951	658	221	879	-7.5	-7.9	-7.6
15	1,167	355	1,522	1,063	359	1,423	-8.9	1.1	-6.5
16	1,712	470	2,185	1,638	450	2,089	-4.3	-4.3	-4.4
17+	732	161	893	600	152	752	-18.0	-5.6	-15.8
Unknown	4	—	4	22	2	24	450.0	. .	500.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-6.2</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> Includes persons with sex not recorded (4 in 2006–07 and 24 in 2007–08).

Figure A: Magistrates Courts – juvenile defendants disposed by age Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

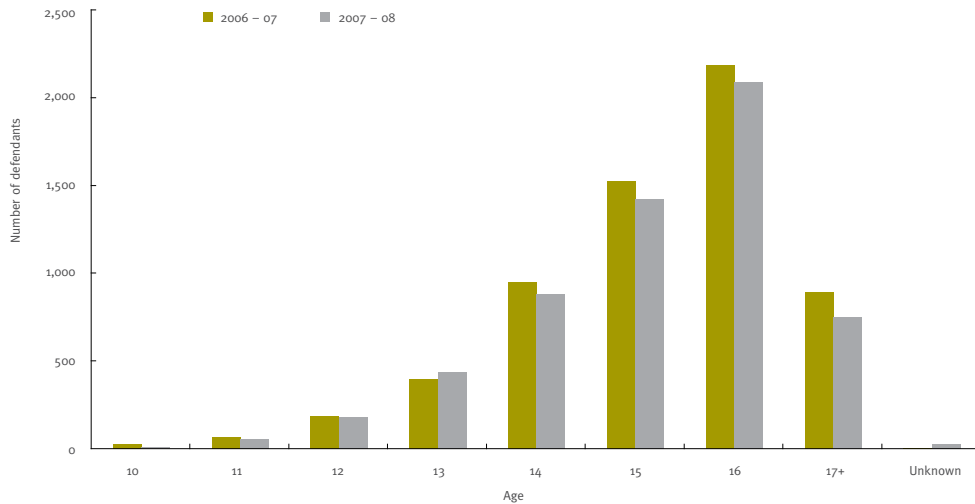




Table 4: Magistrates Courts – juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	133	11	144	119	9	128	-10.5	-18.2	-11.1
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	146	13	159	111	13	124	-24.0	—	-22.0
Community service	718	154	872	756	128	884	5.3	-16.9	1.4
Probation	708	244	952	594	200	794	-16.1	-18.0	-16.6
Fine	297	38	336	254	40	294	-14.5	5.3	-12.5
Compensation	86	27	113	54	37	91	-37.2	37.0	-19.5
Good behaviour order	715	236	951	724	213	937	1.3	-9.7	-1.5
Disqualification of licence	33	8	41	29	6	35	-12.1	-25.0	-14.6
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	1,337	437	1,775	1,361	497	1,859	1.8	13.7	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>4,002</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-3.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes offenders with sex not recorded (2 in 2006–07 and 1 in 2007–08).

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment and intensive correction order.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Figure B: Magistrates Courts – juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

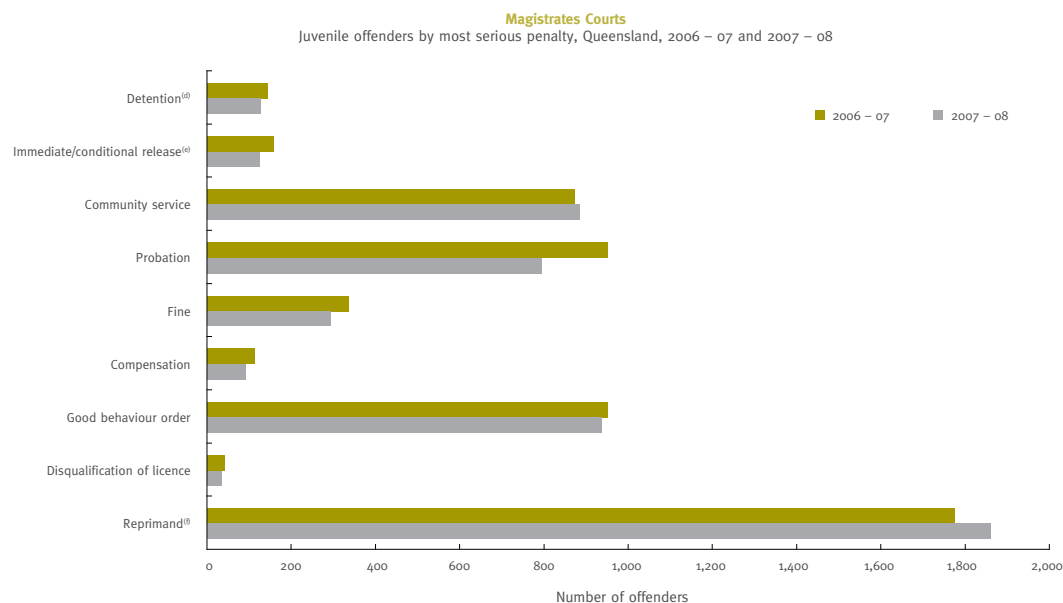


Table 5: District and Supreme Courts – juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Age	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
13	1	—	1	—	2	2	-100.0	..	100.0
15	4	—	4	4	—	4	—	..	—
16	7	1	8	7	2	9	—	100.0	12.5
17+	47	4	51	19	3	22	-59.6	-25.0	-56.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-49.2</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>-42.2</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

Figure C: District and Supreme Courts – juvenile offenders disposed by age Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

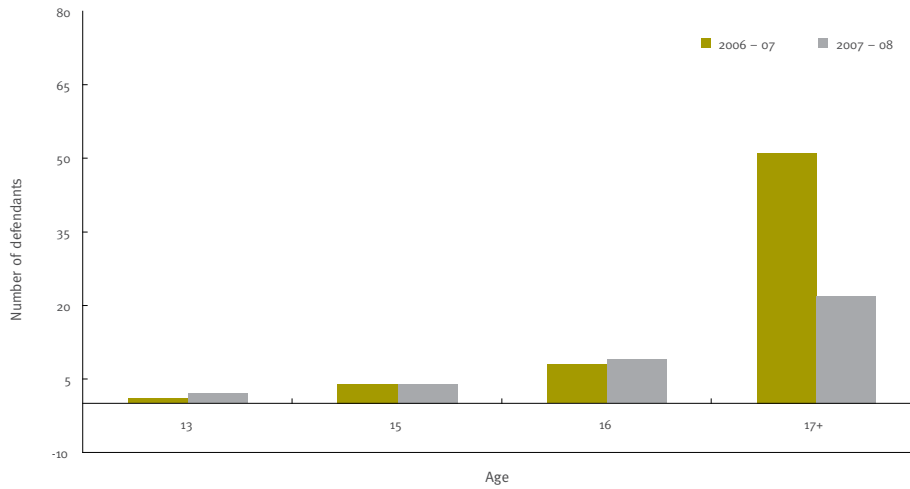


Table 6: District and Supreme Courts – juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location, Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
<b>Brisbane</b>								
Brisbane Supreme	7	23	3.29	4	15	3.75	-42.9	-34.8
Brisbane	17	46	2.71	9	40	4.44	-47.1	-13.0
Beenleigh	1	2	2.00	1	4	4.00	—	100.0
Ipswich	3	12	4.00	2	7	3.50	-33.3	-41.7
<b>Moreton</b>								
Maroochydore	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Southport	1	11	11.00	2	8	4.00	100.0	-27.3
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Bundaberg Supreme	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maryborough Supreme	1	1	1.00	—	—	..		
Bundaberg	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Gympie	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Hervey Bay	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Kingaroy	1	8	8.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maryborough	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Toowoomba Supreme	2	4	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Toowoomba	—	—	..	2	7	3.50	..	..
Warwick	—	—	..	1	5	5.00	..	..

Table 6: District and Supreme Courts – juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location, Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08, continued

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
<b>South West</b>								
Charleville	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Gladstone	—	—	..	—	—	..	..	..
Rockhampton	14	34	2.43	1	2	2.00	-92.9	-94.1
<b>Mackay</b>								
Mackay Supreme	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Longreach	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
<b>Northern</b>								
Townsville	5	8	1.60	1	2	2.00	-80.0	-75.0
<b>Far North</b>								
Cairns	1	1	1.00	7	9	1.29	600.0	800.0
<b>North West</b>								
Mount Isa	6	31	5.17	3	6	2.00	-50.0	-80.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>-42.2</b>	<b>-40.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> 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, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2006–07 <sup>(b)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	12	—	12	4	—	4	-66.7	..	-66.7
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	5	1	6	2	2	4	-60.0	100.0	-33.3
Community service	5	—	5	7	1	8	40.0	..	60.0
Probation	12	1	13	8	3	11	-33.3	200.0	-15.4
Good behaviour order	1	1	2	—	—	—	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	—	—	—	1	—	1	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-37.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-26.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> In decreasing order of seriousness.

<sup>(b)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(c)</sup> Includes imprisonment.

<sup>(d)</sup> Includes suspended imprisonment.

<sup>(e)</sup> Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Figure D: District and Supreme Courts – juvenile offenders by most serious penalty Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

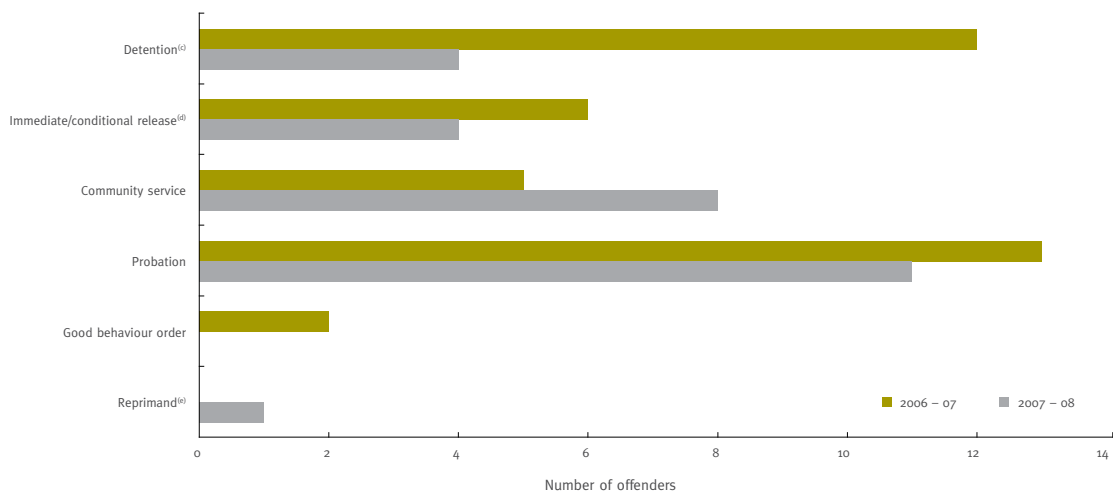


Table 8: All courts – juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08

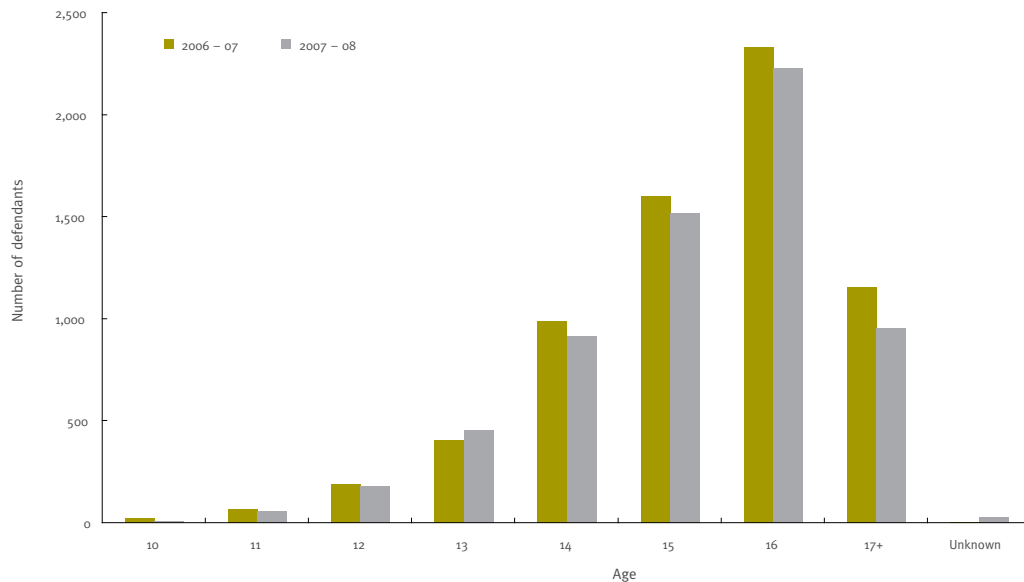
Age	2006–07 <sup>(a)</sup>			2007–08			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>
10	16	7	23	9	—	9	-43.8	-100.0	-60.9
11	55	12	67	52	3	55	-5.5	-75.0	-17.9
12	157	32	189	157	24	181	—	-25.0	-4.2
13	325	82	407	365	90	455	12.3	9.8	11.8
14	740	248	988	691	225	916	-6.6	-9.3	-7.3
15	1,234	367	1,601	1,139	376	1,516	-7.7	2.5	-5.3
16	1,834	491	2,328	1,759	465	2,225	-4.1	-5.3	-4.4
17+	974	180	1,154	775	178	953	-20.4	-1.1	-17.4
Unknown	4	—	4	25	2	27	525.0	. .	575.0
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>4,972</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Revised.

<sup>(b)</sup> Includes persons with sex not recorded (3 in 2006–07 and 2 in 2007–08).

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

Figure E: All courts – juvenile defendants disposed by age Queensland, 2006–07 and 2007–08





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