



# Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2009–2010



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**QUEENSLAND  
COURTS**

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26 November 2010

The Honourable Cameron Dick MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations  
State Law Building  
50 Ann Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Attorney,

In accordance with the requirements of s24 of the *Childrens Court Act 1992*,  
I am pleased to present the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Childrens Court  
of Queensland for 2009-2010.

Yours faithfully,

Judge J.M. Dick SC  
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland



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# Introduction

In 2009-2010, the work of the Childrens Court of Queensland has been enhanced by the appointment of a number of judges to the Childrens Court - Judges Devereaux SC, McGinness, Reid and Harrison.

During the year I have had the opportunity to meet with officers of Protect All Children Today Inc (PACT). In September 2009 I also had the honour of speaking at this important organisation's Annual General Meeting.

Judges Richards, Shanahan, Rafter and I met with Professor Paul Mazerolle and Associate Professor Clare Tilbury, who are conducting a research project on Challenges, Possibilities and Future Directions; a National Assessment of Australia's Childrens Courts. This project aims to assess the contemporary status, current and future challenges faced by the Australian Childrens Courts in relation to both their child welfare and criminal justice jurisdictions from the perspective of its judicial officers and other key stakeholders.

The project includes nine parallel studies focussing on each Australian State and Territory, and also considering Australia as a whole. The project's breadth will allow both a national assessment of the Childrens Courts and comparisons between Australian States and Territories. It will also enable comparison with contemporary overseas research and provide the foundation for a series of cross-national comparative studies. Furthermore, it will contribute important information for new policy directions and relevant enabling legislation.

The year saw the commencement of the *Surrogacy Act 2010* (Qld) (*Surrogacy Act*). I attended and took part in meetings in relation to the Act and consulted on forms and proceedings necessary for the appropriate handling of such matters in the Childrens Court. The Act provides for the court sanctioned transfer of parentage of children born as a result of particular surrogacy arrangements, and to prohibit commercial surrogacy arrangements. The court referred to is the Childrens Court constituted by a Childrens Court Judge.

On application, the court may make a parentage order for the transfer of parentage of a child to the applicant

or joint applicants. The court may only make the order if it is satisfied that:


- the proposed order will be for the wellbeing and in the best interests of the child;
- the residential requirements have been complied with;
- there is evidence of a medical or social need for the surrogacy arrangement; and
- after the parties have obtained independent legal advice about the surrogacy arrangement and its implications, it is not a commercial surrogacy arrangement.

The birth mother and the birth mother's spouse, if any, must be at least 25 years of age when the surrogacy arrangement is made, and the applicant must also be at least 25 years of age when the surrogacy arrangement is made.

In the last year there have been amendments to the *Adoption Act 2009* (Qld) (*Adoption Act*). I have consulted with the Acting Child Safety Director, the Acting Assistant Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Registry staff in relation to the implications of the amendments brought about by the *Adoption Act*. These provisions are related to child protection proceedings in the Childrens Court constituted by a magistrate but subject to appeal to the Childrens Court of Queensland.

In May 2010, during Law Week, I took part in a talk back radio program with Madonna King on 612 ABC Radio, where I answered questions from school children. Following a similar interview in February 2009 I spoke at the graduation ceremony/speech night of St Thomas Moore College in Brisbane.

On 18 September 2009, Chief Judge Wolfe, Judge Shanahan and I met with Dr Christine Bond (University of Queensland) and Dr Samantha Jeffries (Queensland University of Technology) in respect of their research project Indigenous Sentencing Disparities.



An important feature to note is that in March 2010 amendments to the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* (Qld) came into force. These included changing the name of the Act to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (Qld). Amendments were made to the provisions relating to community service orders and supervised release orders.

The Court powers to permit publication of a young person's identifying information have been widened. Imposing a curfew on a young person as a special condition of probation, intensive supervision order or conditional release order is now specified as an example of a condition that can be added to the requirements of each order and a curfew is now also specifically listed as a possible condition of bail.

In relation to bail, the court is now required to have regard to the sentence, order or other order that is likely to be made upon a finding or plea of guilt. Bail may now be refused for the reason that a young person's safety is endangered because of the alleged offence.

Where a young person fails to attend court following an unsuccessful youth conference or drug assessment and education session, courts are now able to issue a warrant.

In relation to transfer orders where orders are made transferring the young person from a youth detention centre to adult custody, the courts now have the option of making a transfer order at the time of sentencing a young person. Such orders can only be made where the young person is aged 16 years or more and the sentence is of such a length that it will detain them beyond the age of 18.

The date of transfer may be made from when the young person is aged 18, or 17 where there has been previous adult custody or a sentence of imprisonment. It is not necessary for such a transfer order to be made at the time of sentencing the young person but the sentencing judge must consider whether it should be done.

## Youth Justice Trends Summary

While the trends indicate an overall increase in the number of charges against young people of about 3.4 per cent, this is moderate and may allow for normal temporal adjustments. The statistic that is encouraging is that there has been a 7 per cent increase in the number of Justice conferences held during 2009/2010, with 48 per cent of the conferences as a result of police referral. It is pleasing that police are considering this form of diversion from the criminal justice system in appropriate cases.

# Judges of the Childrens Court

<b>President</b>	Her Honour Judge JM Dick SC
<b>Judges</b>	His Honour Judge KJ O'Brien JA
	His Honour Judge J Robertson
	His Honour Judge C Wall RFD, ED, QC
	His Honour Judge GT Britton SC
	Her Honour Judge D Richards
	Her Honour Judge S Bradley
	His Honour Judge M Shanahan
	His Honour Judge N Samios
	His Honour Judge J Newton
	His Honour Judge W Tutt
	His Honour Judge M Griffin SC
	His Honour Judge I Dearden
	Her Honour Judge F Kingham
	His Honour Judge S Durward SC
	His Honour Judge A Rafter SC
	His Honour Judge T Martin SC
	Her Honour Judge LJ Clare SC
	His Honour Judge W Everson
	His Honour Judge M Irwin
	His Honour Judge B Devereaux SC
	Her Honour Judge K McGinness
	His Honour Judge B Harrison
	His Honour Judge D Reid

# Statistical tables and analysis

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 re-sentencing 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 2009 to 30 June 2010. 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 operational data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland; juvenile caution and victims data from the Queensland Police Service; and youth justice conferencing data from the Department of Communities.



## Symbols used in tables

—	nil
..	not applicable

## 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 Right of Election, 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.

**Penalties include**

- *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 (*Youth 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.

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### ***Breach of juvenile justice orders***

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 (*Youth Justice Act 1992* 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 Childrens Court of Queensland have included such breaches.

In 2009–10, 358 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 7,015 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).

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### ***Recording of ages***

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

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### ***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.

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### ***Percentage totals***

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

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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) 2008. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions using QASOC 2008 then the National Offence Index (09) is applied to establish an order of seriousness. These divisions are further broken down into offence types.

\*The Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC) 2000 was revised during the 2008-09 period. This report contains offence data using the Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC) 2008.

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.

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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.

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.

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

### Imprisonment

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the *Youth 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 *Youth Justice Act 1992*, s.105).

## Summary

### Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 7,015 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2009–10, an increase of 7.2 per cent from 6,546 in 2008–09. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in the Supreme and District Courts decreased by 33.3 per cent and 22.6 per cent respectively. The number of defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland and Magistrates Courts increased by 6.7 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively.

In 2009–10, Magistrates Courts disposed 93.5 per cent of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 6.1 per cent, the District Court 0.3 per cent and the Supreme Court 0.03 per cent.

### Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Court level	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>		2009–10		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	6,109	93.3	6,559	93.5	7.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	403	6.2	430	6.1	6.7
District	31	0.5	24	0.3	-22.6
Supreme	3	0.05	2	0.03	-33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>

(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 not counted here.

(b) Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 76.1 per cent of all finalised defendants in 2009–10. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 57.9 per cent of juvenile defendants, with a further 16.0 per cent aged 14 years. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

### Charges against juveniles by court level

The number of defendants in the District Court decreased 22.6 per cent in 2009–10, charges heard increased by 7.4 per cent. The number of charges per defendant in the District Court increased from 3.5 to 4.8. The number of defendants in the Supreme Court decreased by 33.3 per cent, charges heard decreased by 60.0 per cent. Both defendant and charge numbers increased in the Childrens Court of Queensland and Magistrates Courts in 2009–10.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were unlawful entry with intent with 3,166 charges (16.8 per cent), theft (except motor vehicles) with 3,113 charges (16.6 per cent), public order offences 2,326 charges (12.4 per cent), road traffic offences with 1,715 charges (9.1 per cent), assault with 1,136 charges (6.1 per cent) and motor vehicle theft and related offences with 882 charges (4.7 per cent). In total, unlawful entry with intent, theft and related offences, public order offences, assault and road traffic offences represented over half of all charges against juveniles (65.7 per cent). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)

### Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Court level	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>		2009–10		Change %
	No.	%	No.	%	
Magistrates	17,435	89.4	18,080	89.6	3.7
Childrens Court of Queensland	1,957	10.0	1,983	9.8	1.3
District	108	0.6	116	0.6	7.4
Supreme	10	0.05	4	0.02	-60.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>

(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 not counted here.

(b) Revised.

### Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2009–10, 80.7 per cent (5,662) of the 7,015 juvenile defendants in Queensland's courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

### Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	125	126	0.8
Immediate/Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	245	267	9.0
Community service	853	867	1.6
Probation	984	1,024	4.1
Fine	277	157	-43.3
Compensation	75	74	-1.3
Good behaviour	975	1,101	12.9
Disqualification of licence	45	62	37.8
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,789	1,984	10.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,368</b>	<b>5,662</b>	<b>5.5</b>

(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 2009–10, 126 (or 2.2 per cent) were sentenced to detention, and a further 267 (or 4.7 per cent) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,984 juveniles (35.0 per cent). The next largest group of 1,101 (19.4 per cent) received good behaviour as their most serious penalty with 1,024 receiving probation orders (18.1 per cent), followed by 867 (15.3 per cent) receiving community service orders.

## Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 15,317 juvenile offenders were given cautions in 2009–10, an increase of 5.6 per cent from 2008–09. In comparison 20,183 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2008–09, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (6,473 or 42.3 per cent of all cautions) in 2009–10. Another 2,832 juveniles received cautions for other offences (18.9 per cent) and 1,870 for property damage (12.2 per cent).

### Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(c)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Acts intended to cause injury	914	865	-5.4
Sexual assault & related offences	356	304	-14.6
Robbery & extortion	29	39	34.5
Unlawful entry with intent	1,421	1,763	24.1
Theft & related offences	5,576	6,473	16.1
[Motor vehicle theft]	671	1,293	126.4
[Other theft]	4,596	4,873	6.0
[Receiving & handling]	309	307	-0.6
Deception & related offences	113	100	-11.5
Illicit drug offences	834	1,028	23.3
Property damage	2,107	1,870	-11.2
Road traffic offences	33	43	30.3
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	3,116	2,832	-9.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,499</b>	<b>15,317</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(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 and inadequate data.*

## Offences before the Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed 1,983 charges against 430 defendants in 2009–10, an increase of 6.7 per cent defendants since 2008–09.

### Defendants

The majority of defendants in 2009–10 were aged 15 years or older (376 or 87.4 per cent), with 40.9 per cent of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 12.6 per cent of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

### Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Age	2008–09 <sup>(a)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
12	2	2	..
13	14	12	-14.3
14	22	40	81.8
15	68	96	41.2
16	112	104	-7.1
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	185	176	-4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>6.7</b>

(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

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 1,983 charges in 2009–10, an increase of 1.3 per cent from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant decreased from 4.9 in 2008–09 to 4.6 in 2009–10.

### Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed<sup>(a)</sup> by offence type, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(c)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Acts intended to cause injury	240	206	-14.2
Sexual assault & related offences	133	189	42.1
Robbery & extortion	211	247	17.1
Unlawful entry with intent	604	510	-15.6
Theft & related offences	438	442	0.9
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	92	51	-44.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	320	364	13.8
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	26	27	3.8
Deception & related offences	8	18	125.0
Illicit drug offences	3	6	100.0
Property damage	215	211	-1.9
Road traffic offences	17	27	58.8
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	88	127	44.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>1.3</b>

(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 25.7 per cent of all charges, a decrease since 2008–09. Theft and related offences accounted for 22.3 per cent of all charges, with other theft representing 18.4 per cent and motor vehicle theft representing 2.3 per cent of these offences.

## Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 430 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2009–10, 350 (81.4 per cent) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 18 juvenile offenders (4.2 per cent) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 82 (19.1 per cent) receiving an immediate/conditional release sentence. The most common penalties were probation (32.6 per cent) and community service orders (20.2 per cent).

### Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	26	18	-30.8
Immediate/ Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	45	82	82.2
Community service	75	87	16.0
Probation	163	140	-14.1
Fine	1	—	-100.0
Compensation	1	—	-100.0
Good behaviour	11	12	9.1
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	12	11	-8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>4.8</b>

(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.

## Offences before the Magistrates Courts of Queensland

### Juvenile defendants

In 2009–10, 6,559 juvenile defendants were dealt with in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, an increase of 7.4 per cent from 6,109 in the previous year. Of these, 426 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 6,133 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (5,296 or 86.4 per cent) or by discharge (837 or 13.6 per cent).

### Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Method of finalisation	2008–09 <sup>(a)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Committed	349	426	22.1
Disposed <sup>(b)</sup>	5,760	6,133	6.5
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,013	5,296	5.6
<i>Discharged<sup>(c)</sup></i>	747	837	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,109</b>	<b>6,559</b>	<b>7.4</b>

(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 426 defendants committed to the higher court and the 456 disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2009–10 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2008–09 and being disposed in 2009–10. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2008–09 being disposed in 2009–10.

### Charges against juveniles

Of the 18,080 charges against juveniles in 2009–10, 16,697 (88.8 per cent) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts, while 1,383 (7.6 per cent) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

### Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Method of finalisation	2008–09 <sup>(a)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Committed	1,258	1,383	9.9
Disposed <sup>(b)</sup>	16,177	16,697	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,435</b>	<b>18,080</b>	<b>3.7</b>

(a) Revised.

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

### Charges against juveniles disposed

In 2009–10 16,697 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (5,094 or 30.5 per cent), followed by unlawful entry with intent (2,623 or 15.7 per cent) and property damage (1,825 or 10.9 per cent).

In total, theft and related offences, unlawful entry with intent and property damage accounted for 57.1 per cent of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court.



### Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Homicide & related offences	9	2	-77.8
Acts intended to cause injury	976	920	-5.7
Sexual assault & related offences	87	154	77.0
Robbery & extortion	130	131	0.8
Unlawful entry with intent	2,720	2,623	-3.6
Theft & related offences	4,525	5,094	12.6
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	591	831	40.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	3,372	3,660	8.5
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	562	603	7.3
Deception & related offences	128	161	25.8
Illicit drug offences	387	410	5.9
Property damage	1,676	1,825	8.9
Road traffic offences	2,070	1,687	-18.5
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	3,469	3,690	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,177</b>	<b>16,697</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(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.*

(d) Excludes committals.

### Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 6,559 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2009–10, 5,296 (80.7 per cent) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 108 offenders (2.0 per cent) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 179 (3.4 per cent) receiving immediate/conditional release orders. Over one third of juveniles (1,973 or 37.3 per cent) received a reprimand, 1,087 (20.5 per cent) received

a good behaviour order, 882 (16.7 per cent) received probation and 774 (14.6 per cent) received a community service order as their most serious penalty.

### Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	94	108	14.9
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	198	179	-9.6
Community service	773	774	0.1
Probation	815	882	8.2
Fine	276	157	-43.1
Compensation	74	74	..
Good behaviour	961	1,087	13.1
Disqualification of licence	45	62	37.8
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,777	1,973	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,013</b>	<b>5,296</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

## Offences before the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland

In 2009–10, Supreme and District Courts disposed 120 charges against 26 juveniles. This was a decrease of 23.5 per cent in the number of defendants from 2008–09. In comparison, defendants dealt with in the Childrens Court of Queensland showed an increase.

The Supreme Court disposed a small proportion of the charges and defendants. In 2009–10, there were 4 charges against 2 defendants disposed in the Supreme Court, compared with 116 charges against 24 defendants disposed in the District Court.

### Defendants

In 2009–10, 73.1 per cent of juvenile defendants before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 17 years and older, with a further 23.1 per cent aged 16 years. All defendants were male. (For more detail refer to Table 5.)

### Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Age	2008–09 <sup>(a)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
14	3	—	-100.0
15	4	1	-75.0
16	4	6	50.0
17 & over <sup>(b)</sup>	23	19	-17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-23.5</b>

(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

Of the 120 charges before Supreme and District Courts, unlawful entry with intent accounted for the largest number with 33 charges (27.5 per cent), while sexual assault accounted for 28 charges (23.3 per cent), while acts intended to cause injury accounted for 24 charges or 20.0 per cent of the total.

### Supreme and District Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Homicide & related offences	1	3	200.0
Acts intended to cause injury	33	24	-27.3
Sexual assault & related offences	28	28	..
Robbery & extortion	15	7	-53.3
Unlawful entry with intent	6	33	450.0
Theft & related offences	10	15	50.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	—	—	..
<i>[Other theft]</i>	8	14	75.0
<i>[Receiving &amp; handling]</i>	2	1	-50.0
Deception & related offences	—	—	..
Illicit drug offences	7	—	-100.0
Property damage	5	5	..
Road traffic offences	1	1	..
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	12	4	-66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1.7</b>

(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

Of the 26 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2009–10, 16 (61.5 per cent) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 6 (37.5 per cent) received immediate/conditional release orders as their most serious penalty, 6 (37.5 per cent) received a community service order, 2 (12.5 per cent) received probation, and 2 (12.5 per cent) received good behaviour.

### Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09 <sup>(b)</sup>	2009–10	Change %
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	5	—	-100.0
Immediate/ conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	2	6	200.0
Community service	5	6	20.0
Probation	6	2	-66.7
Good behaviour	3	2	-33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-23.8</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

### Compliance with court orders

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 2008–09 there were 2,555 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1,491 (58.4 per cent) were probation, 884 (34.6 per cent) were community service orders, 178 (6.9 per cent) were conditional release orders and 2 (0.1 per cent) were intensive supervision orders.

### Orders breached

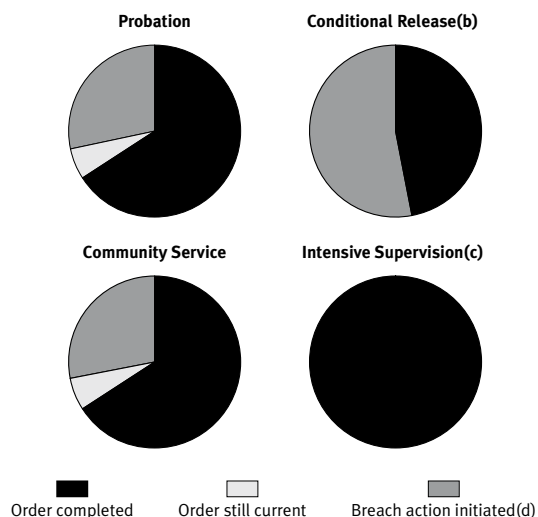
Orders can be breached either by the juvenile re-offending during the period of the order or by not meeting other conditions of the order.

The majority (64.6 per cent) of orders made in 2008–09 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2010.

Of community service orders from 2008–09, 6.2 per cent were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 5.8 per cent 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 2008–09: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2010, Queensland (a)



(a) Admissions to 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 2010) as a result of the action.

Source: Families and Youth Justice Database Department of Communities, preliminary data current as at 8 September 2010.

## 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 4,583 victims of juvenile offenders in 2009–10, the majority were under the age of 20 years (61.5 per cent of those where age was recorded), with 31.4 per cent aged 10 to 14 years and 21.6 per cent aged 15 to 19 years. Only 4.3 per cent of victims were aged 50 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 64.3 per cent of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 26.3 per cent of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 23.4 per cent aged between 15 and 19 years.

Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 45.9 per cent of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 30.8 per cent were under 10 years of age.

For offences committed by juveniles, 51.9 per cent of victims were male. Males comprised 75.9 per cent of robbery victims and 56.9 per cent of assault victims, while females comprised 55.1 per cent of sexual assault victims and 42.8 per cent of assault victims.

## Youth Justice Conferencing

In 2009–10, the Department of Communities Youth Justice Conferencing services received a total of 3,050 referrals, an increase of 204 or 7 per cent from the previous financial year. During the 2009–10 period a total of 2,513 referrals were conferenced.

Queensland courts made 1,077 (35 per cent) indefinite and 515 (17 per cent) before sentence referrals whilst 1,455 (48 per cent) diversionary referrals were made by Queensland Police.

Indigenous young people accounted for 31 per cent (959) of all referrals received, a 30 per cent increase from the previous year.

There are 12 Indigenous Conference Support Officer positions to assist youth justice conferencing staff in engaging with Indigenous people, victims, families and communities in a culturally appropriate manner to improve conference outcomes for Indigenous clients.

Of the 2,513 referrals conferenced, 96 per cent resulted in agreement being reached in a conference, consistent with 2008–09. In addition:

- 99 per cent of conference participants indicated that they thought that the conference was fair
- 98 per cent of conference participants were satisfied with the agreement made in the conference
- 98 per cent would tell a friend in the same position to go to a conference.

Note: All data reported valid as at 6 December 2010

- (a) Queensland Offence Classification. Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level.
- (b) Major assault includes = Assault occasioning bodily harm + Assault occasioning bodily harm in company + other. Minor assault includes = Common assault + Resist and Obstruct police + other.
- (c) Breaking and entering = *burglary and housebreaking + other breaking and entering*.
- (d) Other drug offences = *Dealing & trafficking in drugs + Manufacturing & growing drugs + Other drug offences*.
- (e) Other offences = Drunkenness + weapons offences + Environmental offences + Liquor offences + Gambling + Other.

Source: Youth Justice Conferencing-Files, Department of Communities

Offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by youth justice conference,  
by offence type, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2008-09	2009-10	Change %
Homicide	—	2	100.0
<i>[Driving causing death]</i>	—	2	100.0
Assaults <sup>(b)</sup>	830	815	-1.8
<i>[Major assault]</i>	273	305	11.7
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	394	346	-12.2
<i>[Other violations of persons]</i>	163	164	0.6
Sexual Offences	87	131	50.6
<i>[Rape]</i>	4	16	300.0
<i>[Other sexual offences]</i>	83	115	38.6
Robbery & extortion	91	64	-29.7
Fraud and Misappropriation	271	228	-15.9
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	3,216	2,853	-11.3
<i>[Theft / Unlawful Use of MV]</i>	648	629	-2.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	1,180	1,136	-3.7
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	138	110	-20.3
<i>[Breaking and entering]<sup>(c)</sup></i>	1,250	978	-21.8
Property damage	1,613	1,372	-14.9
<i>[Arson]</i>	55	32	-41.8
<i>[Other property damage]</i>	1,558	1,340	-14.0
Driving, traffic & related offences	449	387	-13.8
<i>[Licence offences]</i>	239	203	-15.1
<i>[Driving under the influence]</i>	48	36	-25.0
<i>[Dangerous or negligent driving]</i>	28	27	-3.6
<i>[Other traffic offences]</i>	134	121	-9.7
Drug offences	135	161	19.3
<i>[Possession or use of drugs]</i>	53	69	30.2
<i>[Other drug offences]<sup>(d)</sup></i>	82	92	12.2
Public nuisance offences	316	253	-19.9
<i>[Trespassing and vagrancy]</i>	284	230	-19.0
<i>[Offensive behaviour]</i>	32	23	-28.1
Other offences <sup>(e)</sup>	447	446	-0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,455</b>	<b>6,712</b>	<b>-10.0</b>

# Detailed Tables

## Summary, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

*Table 1* All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court

### **Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

*Table 2* Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location

### **Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

*Table 3* 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

### **District and Supreme Courts, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

*Table 5* 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

### **All Courts, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

*Table 8* 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, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

Offence type	2008–09(b)				2009–10			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide &amp; related offences</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
Murder	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	9	—	—	9	2	—	1	3
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,150</b>
Assault	950	240	33	1,223	908	204	24	1,136
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	26	—	—	26	12	2	—	14
<b>Sexual assault &amp; related offences</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>371</b>
Sexual assault	63	112	28	203	126	150	28	304
Non-assaultive sexual offences	24	21	—	45	28	39	—	67
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>197</b>
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	116	12	—	128	109	12	—	121
Other dangerous or negligent acts	75	3	—	78	66	10	—	76
<b>Abduction &amp; related offences</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>57</b>
Deprivation of Liberty	5	5	1	11	9	1	—	10
Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour	37	8	—	45	42	5	—	47
<b>Robbery &amp; extortion</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>385</b>
Robbery	130	211	15	356	129	247	7	383
Blackmail & extortion	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3,166</b>

Offence type	2008–09(b)				2009–10			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Theft &amp; related offences<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5,551</b>
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	591	92	—	683	831	51	—	882
Other theft & related offences	861	136	7	1,004	741	170	14	925
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	562	26	2	590	603	27	1	631
Theft (except motor vehicles)	2,511	184	1	2,696	2,919	194	—	3,113
<b>Deception &amp; related offences</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>179</b>
Obtain benefit by deception	52	5	—	57	82	12	—	94
Forgery & counterfeiting	3	—	—	3	20	1	—	21
Deceptive business/ government practice	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5
Other fraud and deception offences	73	3	—	76	54	5	—	59
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>416</b>
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	17	—	1	18	17	—	—	17
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	19	—	1	20	10	—	—	10
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	162	1	3	166	171	1	—	172
Other illicit drug offences	189	2	2	193	212	5	—	217
<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>160</b>
Prohibited weapons/ explosives offences	17	—	—	17	18	—	—	18
Regulated weapons/ explosives offences	125	6	—	131	134	8	—	142
<b>Property damage</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,896</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,041</b>
Property damage	1,676	215	5	1,896	1,824	211	5	2,040
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1



Offence type	2008–09(b)				2009–10			
	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts <sup>(a)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Public order offences	2,059	25	8	2,092	2,268	55	3	2,326
Road traffic offences	2,070	17	1	2,088	1,687	27	1	1,715
Justice & government offences	1,012	29	3	1,044	1,015	36	1	1,052
Breach of justice order <sup>(d)</sup>	7	—	2	9	30	—	—	30
Offences against government operations	27	1	—	28	21	5	—	26
Offences against justice procedures	978	28	1	1,007	964	31	1	996
Miscellaneous offences	23	—	—	23	29	—	—	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,177</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>18,252</b>	<b>16,697</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>18,800</b>

(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 charges committed for sentence or trial by court location, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			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	23	82	3.57	64	153	2.39	178.3	86.6
Holland Park	5	18	3.60	4	4	1.00	-20.0	-77.8
Richlands	42	135	3.21	37	125	3.38	-11.9	-7.4
Sandgate	1	3	3.00	7	10	1.43	600.0	233.3
Wynnum	3	10	3.33	3	6	2.00	—	-40.0

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change	
	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants <sup>(c)</sup>	Charges
<b>Remainder of Brisbane</b>								
Beenleigh	49	188	3.84	49	202	4.12	—	7.4
Caboolture	9	63	7.00	25	163	6.52	177.8	158.7
Cleveland	4	12	3.00	5	12	2.40	25.0	—
Ipswich	41	143	3.49	30	163	5.43	-26.8	14.0
Pine Rivers	5	13	2.60	4	28	7.00	-20.0	115.4
Redcliffe	5	17	3.40	3	8	2.67	-40.0	-52.9
<b>Moreton</b>								
Beaudesert	1	2	2.00	3	9	3.00	200.0	350.0
Caloundra	—	—	..	2	2	1.00	..	..
Maroochydore	4	8	2.00	5	8	1.60	25.0	—
Noosa	3	4	1.33	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-75.0
Southport	23	43	1.87	23	49	2.13	—	14.0
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Bundaberg	8	32	4.00	6	13	2.17	-25.0	-59.4
Gympie	1	3	3.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	-33.3
Hervey Bay	16	131	8.19	22	61	2.77	37.5	-53.4
Kingaroy	2	3	1.50	2	7	3.50	—	133.3
Maryborough	6	9	1.50	6	11	1.83	—	22.2
Murgon	—	—	..	3	14	4.67	..	..
Nanango	—	—	..	3	9	3.00	..	..
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Chinchilla	2	27	13.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Dalby	1	2	2.00	3	8	2.67	200.0	300.0
Stanthorpe	—	1	..	—	—	..	..	-100.0
Toowoomba	3	6	2.00	10	18	1.80	233.3	200.0
Warwick	1	1	1.00	1	10	10.00	—	900.0

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change	
	Defendants (c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants (c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants (c)	Charges
<b>South West</b>								
Charleville	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Cunnamulla	1	2	2.00	1	2	2.00	—	—
Goondiwindi	1	5	5.00	2	19	9.50	100.0	280.0
Roma	2	3	1.50	3	7	2.33	50.0	133.3
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Biloela	—	5	..	—	—	..	..	-100.0
Emerald	5	34	6.80	—	2	..	-100.0	-94.1
Gladstone	1	2	2.00	3	5	1.67	200.0	150.0
Rockhampton	12	28	2.33	13	41	3.15	8.3	46.4
Yeppoon	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Central West</b>								
Mackay	2	3	1.50	4	13	3.25	100.0	333.3
Moranbah	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Proserpine	1	2	2.00	1	3	3.00	—	50.0
Woorabinda	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Northern</b>								
Ayr	1	1	1.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	200.0
Bowen	—	6	..	—	—	..	..	-100.0
Charters Towers	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Great Palm Island	—	—	..	—	2	..	..	..
Townsville	14	92	6.57	14	23	1.64	—	-75.0
<b>Far North</b>								
Atherton	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Aurukun	1	1	1.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	200.0
Bamaga	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Cairns	31	65	2.10	38	126	3.32	22.6	93.8
Cooktown	2	3	1.50	1	2	2.00	-50.0	-33.3
Innisfail	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change	
	Defendants (c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants (c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants (c)	Charges
Lockhart River	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mareeba	1	7	7.00	3	5	1.67	200.0	-28.6
Normanton	—	—	..	2	2	1.00	..	..
Thursday Island	—	—	..	2	6	3.00	..	..
Tully	—	2	..	1	1	1.00	..	-50.0
Weipa	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Yarrabah	—	—	..	8	16	2.00	..	..
<b>North West</b>								
Camooweal	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mount Isa	7	25	3.57	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>9.9</b>

(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.

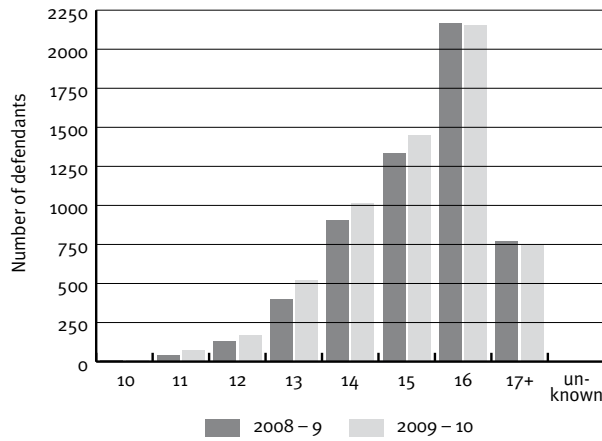
**Table 3: Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

Age	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
10	6	2	8	5	2	7	-16.7	—	-12.5
11	38	3	41	58	14	72	52.6	366.7	75.6
12	111	19	130	133	36	169	19.8	89.5	30.0
13	311	90	401	369	151	520	18.6	67.8	29.7
14	641	263	905	729	283	1,012	13.7	7.6	11.8
15	973	359	1,332	1,060	391	1,451	8.9	8.9	8.9
16	1,696	469	2,166	1,663	493	2,156	-1.9	5.1	-0.5
17+	617	152	771	604	139	744	-2.1	-8.6	-3.5
Unknown	2	4	6	1	1	2	-50.0	-75.0	-66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>6,133</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (4 in 2008–09 and 2 in 2009–10).

Figure 1: Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10



**Table 4 Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

	2008–09(b)			2009–10			Percentage change		
Penalty(a)	Male	Female	Total(c)	Male	Female	Total(c)	Male	Female	Total
Detention(d)	89	5	94	101	7	108	13.5	40.0	14.9
Immediate/ conditional release(e)	177	21	198	162	17	179	-8.5	-19.0	-9.6
Community service	661	112	773	650	124	774	-1.7	10.7	0.1
Probation	624	191	815	670	212	882	7.4	11.0	8.2
Fine	238	37	276	137	20	157	-42.4	-45.9	-43.1
Compensation	50	24	74	56	18	74	12.0	-25.0	—
Good behaviour order	709	252	961	790	297	1,087	11.4	17.9	13.1
Disqualification of licence	37	8	45	52	10	62	40.5	25.0	37.8
Reprimand(f)	1,267	508	1,777	1,406	567	1,973	11.0	11.6	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>5,013</b>	<b>4,024</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>5,296</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes offenders with sex not recorded (3 in 2008–09).

(d) Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment and intensive correction order.

(e) Includes immediate release orders and conditional release orders.

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

**Figure 2: Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**



**Table 5: Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

Age	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	1	2	3	—	—	—	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0
15	4	—	4	1	—	1	-75.0	..	-75.0
16	2	2	4	6	—	6	200.0	-100.0	50.0
17+	18	5	23	19	—	19	5.6	-100.0	-17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-100.0</b>	<b>-23.5</b>

(a) Revised.

Figure 3: Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

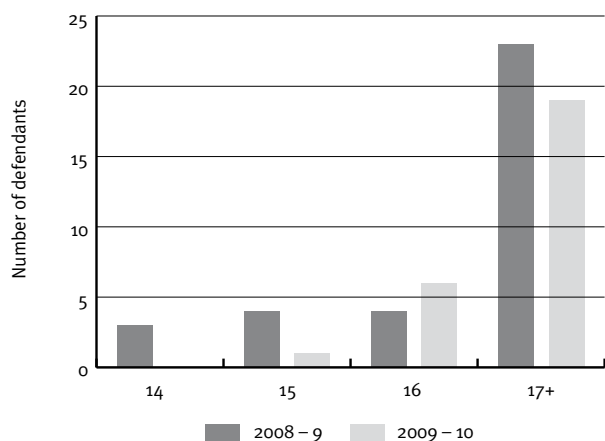


Table 6: Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10

Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
<b>Brisbane</b>								
Brisbane Supreme	1	3	3.00	1	2	2.00	—	-33.3
Brisbane	7	25	3.57	11	77	7.00	57.1	208.0
Ipswich	7	17	2.43	2	7	3.50	-71.4	-58.8
<b>Moreton</b>								
Southport	4	22	5.50	2	3	1.50	-50.0	-86.4
<b>Wide Bay – Burnett</b>								
Kingaroy	1	5	5.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maryborough Supreme	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Maryborough	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Darling Downs</b>								
Dalby	1	11	11.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0



Statistical division and court location <sup>(b)</sup>	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Toowoomba Supreme	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Warwick	1	8	8.00	2	2	1.00	100.0	-75.0
<b>Fitzroy</b>								
Rockhampton	2	7	3.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>Northern</b>								
Townsville	3	5	1.67	1	2	2.00	-66.7	-60.0
<b>Far North</b>								
Cairns Supreme	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cairns	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
<b>North West</b>								
Mount Isa	2	2	1.00	6	25	4.17	200.0	1,150.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>-23.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>

(a) Revised.

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

**Table 7: Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

Penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2008–09(b)			2009–10			Percentage change	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male		
Detention(c)	5	—	5	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Immediate/conditional release(d)	2	—	2	6	—	6	200.0	..	200.0
Community service	5	—	5	6	—	6	20.0	..	20.0
Probation	3	3	6	2	—	2	-33.3	-100.0	-66.7
Good behaviour order	3	—	3	2	—	2	-33.3	..	-33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>-100.0</b>	<b>-23.8</b>

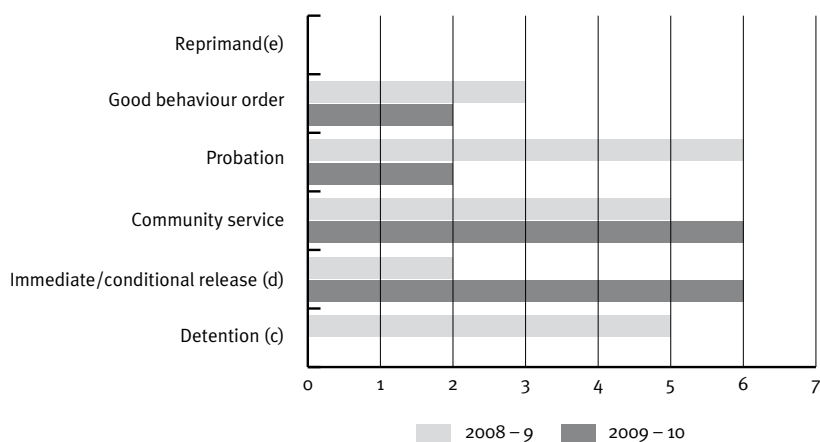
(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

**Figure 4: Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**



**Table 8: All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2008–09 and 2009–10**

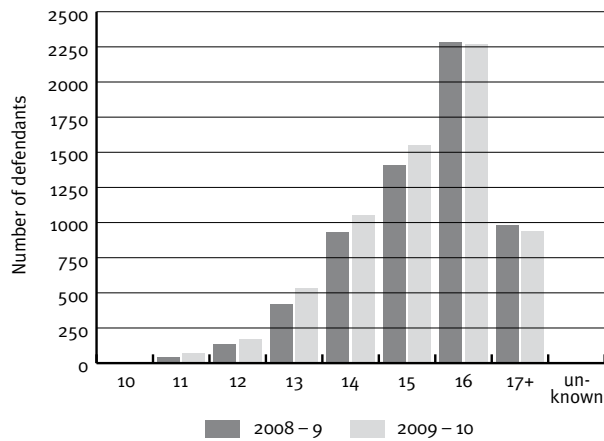
Age	2008–09(a)			2009–10			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
10	6	2	8	5	2	7	-16.7	—	-12.5
11	38	3	41	58	14	72	52.6	366.7	75.6
12	112	20	132	135	36	171	20.5	80.0	29.5
13	324	91	415	381	151	532	17.6	65.9	28.2
14	658	271	930	765	287	1,052	16.3	5.9	13.1
15	1,034	370	1,404	1,144	404	1,548	10.6	9.2	10.3
16	1,799	482	2,282	1,753	513	2,266	-2.6	6.4	-0.7
17+	803	174	979	773	165	939	-3.7	-5.2	-4.1
Unknown	2	4	6	1	1	2	-50.0	-75.0	-66.7
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>4,776</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>6,197</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>6,589</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (4 in 2008–09 and 1 in 2009–10).

(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, 2008–09 and 2009–10**



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