# 6 Police services

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| Attachment tables |
| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by a ‘6A’ prefix (for example, table 6A.1). A full list of attachment tables is provided at the end of this chapter, and the attachment tables are available from the website at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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This chapter reports on the performance of police services. These services comprise the operations of the police agencies of each State and Territory government. Data for the national policing function of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and other national non‑police law enforcement bodies (such as the Australian Crime Commission) are not included in this Report.

The use of the term ‘offender’ in this chapter refers to a person who is alleged to have committed an offence, it differs from the definition used in chapter 8 (‘Corrective services’), where the term ‘offender’ refers to a person who has been convicted of an offence and is subject to a correctional sentence.

All abbreviations used in this Report are available in a complete list in volume A: Approach to performance reporting.

## 6.1 Profile of police services

### Service overview

Police services are the principal means through which State and Territory governments pursue the achievement of a safe and secure environment for the community. These services are investigation of criminal offences, response to life threatening situations, provision of services to the judicial process and provision of road safety and traffic management. Police services also respond to more general needs in the community — for example, working with emergency management organisations and a wide range of government services and community groups, and advising on general policing and crime issues. Additionally, police are involved in various activities which aim to improve public safety and prevent crime.

### Roles and responsibilities

Policing services are predominantly the responsibility of State and Territory government agencies. They include the ACT community policing function performed by the AFP under an arrangement between the ACT and the Commonwealth Minister for Justice. A strategic partnership with the ACT Government is underpinned by a detailed purchaser/provider agreement. The Australian Government is responsible for the AFP.

Although each jurisdiction’s police service is autonomous, there is significant cooperation at a national level, including through the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC). The LCCSC consists of Australian, State and Territory Government ministers with responsibilities for law and justice, police and emergency management (including representation by the New Zealand Government).

Across jurisdictions, police activity can be grouped into four broad activity areas:

* *Community safety* – activities related to preserving public order and promoting a safer community
* *Crime* – activities related to investigating crime and identifying and apprehending offenders
* *Road safety* – activities related to maximising road safety through targeted operations to reduce the incidence of traffic offences and through attendance at, and investigation of, road traffic collisions and incidents
* *Judicial services* – activities related to the effective and efficient provision of support to the judicial process including the provision of safe custody for alleged offenders.

### Funding

Funding for police services comes almost exclusively from State and Territory government budgets, with some limited specific purpose Australian Government grants. Total recurrent expenditure was $10.2 billion, nationally, in 2014‑15 (table 6A.10).

### Size and scope of sector

#### Client groups

Broadly, the entire community is a ‘client’ of the police. Some members of the community, who have more direct dealings with the police, can be considered specific client groups, for example:

* victims of crime
* those suspected of, or charged with, committing offences
* those reporting criminal incidents
* those involved in traffic‑related incidents
* third parties (such as witnesses to crime and people reporting collisions)
* those requiring police services for non‑crime‑related matters.

#### Staffing

Police staff may be categorised in two different ways:

* by ‘sworn’ status — sworn police officers exercise police powers, including the power to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search (tables 6A.1–8). Specialised activities may be outsourced or undertaken by administrative (unsworn) staff. This has three key objectives:
* to reduce the involvement of sworn police staff in duties that do not require police powers (for example, administrative and investigation support and intelligence analysis)
* to manage effectively the need for specialist skills
* to reduce costs
* by operational status — an operational police staff member is any member (sworn or unsworn) whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police‑related services to an external client (where an external client predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments).

Operational status is considered the better estimate for the number of police staff actively engaged in the delivery of police‑related services. Nationally in 2014‑15, of the 69 282 police staff, 91.2 per cent were operational, representing 267 operational staff per 100 000 people (figure 6.1 and table 6.1). The number of staff (operational and total) per 100 000 people varies across jurisdictions, in part, due to differing operating environments.

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| Figure 6.1 Police staff, by operational status, 2014‑15**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.1 Police staff, by operational status, 2014-15  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See table 6A.11 for detailed footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.11. |
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| Table 6.1 Police staff per 100 000 people, 2014‑15**a** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Total | | **Police staff numbers** | | | | | | | | | | | Operational | 17 525 | 16 182 | 13 350 | 6 995 | 5 274 | 1 277 | 848 | 1 710 | 63 161 | | Total | 20 031 | 17 200 | 14 237 | 8 005 | 5 662 | 1 443 | 932 | 1 772 | 69 282 | | **Population numbers** | | | | | | | | | | | Estimates at 31 December 2014 (100 000) | 75.7 | 58.9 | 47.5 | 25.8 | 16.9 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 236.3 | | **Police staff numbers per 100 000 people** | | | | | | | | | | | Operational | 232 | 275 | 281 | 271 | 312 | 248 | 219 | 700 | 267 | | Total | 265 | 292 | 300 | 310 | 335 | 280 | 240 | 725 | 294 | |
| a See tables 6A.1–8 for detailed footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); tables 6A.1–8. ABS (2015) Australian demographic statistics, Dec 2014 Cat. no. 3101.0. |
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Time series data for police staffing are reported in tables 6A.1–8, 6A.11, 6A.17 and 6A.18.

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| Box 6.1 Police response times |
| The responsiveness of police to calls for assistance is critical to the effectiveness of police services. Although the Steering Committee considers nationally comparable response times reporting a priority for this Report, the LCCSC has suggested that further work is required on the costs and benefits of a national standard for police response times. Currently, there is no consistent public reporting of response times across states and territories. Some jurisdictions publish data in annual reports.  In 2014‑15:  NSW reports the number of urgent response calls and the percentage attended to within a target time of 12 minutes (NSW Police 2015). Urgent calls are where there is an imminent threat to life or property. In 2014‑15, NSW Police responded to 116 916 urgent response calls, attending 77.9 per cent of urgent duty jobs within the 12 minute target time.  In 2014‑15, SA Police reported that 85.4 per cent of Grade 1 taskings in the metropolitan area were responded to within 15 minutes (SA Police 2015).  In 2014‑15, WA Police changed its response time performance indicators to the percentage of priority 1 and 2 incidents attended to within 12 minutes and the percentage of priority 3 incidents attended to within 60 minutes. The target for priority 1 and 2 incidents — situations that require urgent attendance and include an imminent threat to life, serious offence or incident in progress — is 80 per cent within 12 minutes (69.5 per cent achieved). The target was not met largely due to an increase in the number of incidents graded as priority 2. The increase in priority 2 incidents was mostly attributable to internal allocation practices, but also to a general increase in calls requiring an urgent response. The target for priority 3 incidents — non‑volatile situations that require immediate attendance such as an offence in progress/suspect at scene or the preservation of evidence — is 80 per cent within 60 minutes (84.8 per cent achieved).  ACT Police reports response times for three incident categories. The target for Priority One incidents — life threatening or critical situations — is 75 per cent or more of responses within 8 minutes (81.0 per cent achieved) and 90 per cent or more within 12 minutes (94.5 per cent achieved). The targets for Priority Two incidents — situations where the information provided indicates that time is important but not critical — were 70 per cent within 20 minutes (92.6 per cent achieved) and 95 per cent within 30 minutes (97.1 per cent achieved). The target for Priority Three incidents — situations where there is no immediate danger to safety or property but police attendance or response is needed no later than 48 hours from the initial contact by the complainant or a time agreed with the complainant — is 90 per cent within 48 hours (99.7 per cent achieved) (ACT Police 2015).  Other jurisdictions do not report response times as part of their corporate reporting, and have advised they are unable to provide these data for this Report. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished). |
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## 6.2 Framework of performance indicators

The framework of performance indicators in this Report can be defined in terms of how well a service meets its objectives, given its operating environment. The Steering Committee has identified five objectives of police services for the purposes of this Report (box 6.2).

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| Box 6.2 Objectives for police services |
| The key objectives for police services are:   * to allow people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely * to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence * to promote safer behaviour on roads * to support the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management and judicial processing, provide safe custody for alleged offenders, and ensure fair and equitable treatment of both victims and alleged offenders * responding, co‑ordinating or contributing to emergency management.   These objectives are to be met through the provision of services in an equitable and efficient manner. |
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The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of police services (figure 6.2). Where indicators relate to a subset of police activity (for example, community safety) this is identified under each indicator in text. The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in the 2016 Report. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability and data completeness from a Report‑wide perspective (section 1.6).

Data quality information (DQI) is being progressively introduced for all indicators in the Report. The purpose of DQI is to provide structured and consistent information about quality aspects of data used to report on performance indicators, in addition to material in the chapter or sector overview and attachment tables. All DQI for the 2016 Report can be found at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016.

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| Figure 6.2 Police services performance indicator framework |
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## 6.3 Key performance indicator results

### Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see chapter 1, section 1.5). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

### Equity

This section focuses on the performance of police services in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing and staffing by gender.

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing

‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing’ is an indicator of governments’ objective that provision of services occurs in an equitable manner (box 6.3). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people might feel more comfortable in ‘accessing’ police services when they are able to deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staff. However, many factors influence the willingness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access police services, including familiarity with procedures for dealing with police.

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| Box 6.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing |
| ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing’ is defined as the proportion of police staff (operational plus non‑operational) from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds compared with the proportion of the population aged 20–64 years who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. A significantly larger proportion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population falls within the younger non‑working age groupings compared with the non‑Indigenous population. ABS population projections of people aged 20–64 years provide a proxy for the estimated working population.  A proportion of police staff from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds aged 20–64 years that is closer to the proportion of people aged 20–64 years who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds represents a more equitable outcome.  The process of identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members generally relies on self‑identification. Where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are asked to identify themselves, the accuracy of the data will partly depend on how they perceive the advantages (or disadvantages) of identification and whether these perceptions change over time.  Data reported for this measure are:   * not comparable across jurisdictions or over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staff in 2014‑15 was below the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the population aged 20–64 years for all jurisdictions except NSW (figure 6.3).

Time series data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staffing are reported in tables 6A.1–8 and 6A.17.

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| Figure 6.3 Proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in 2014‑15 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–64 years**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.3 Proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in 2014 15 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–64 years  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.3 and table 6A.17 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (2014) *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 20–64 years*, Cat. no. 3238.0 (Series B); State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.17. |
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#### Staffing by gender

‘Staffing by gender’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an equitable manner (box 6.4). Women might feel more comfortable in ‘accessing’ police services in particular situations, such as in relation to sexual assault, when they are able to deal with female police staff.

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| Box 6.4 Staffing by gender |
| ‘Police staffing by gender’ is defined as the number of female police staff (sworn and unsworn) divided by the total number of police staff.  A higher proportion of female police staff is generally more equitable.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally, 32.1 per cent of police staff were female in 2014‑15. The proportion of female police staff was relatively unchanged for most jurisdictions over the period 2010‑11 to 2014‑15 (figure 6.4).

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| Figure 6.4 Female police staff as a proportion of all staff**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.4 Female police staff as a proportion of all staff  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.4 and table 6A.18 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.18. |
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### Effectiveness

#### Complaints

‘Complaints’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an effective manner (box 6.5). Police services across Australia encourage and foster a code of customer service that provides for openness and accountability. Complaints made against police reflect a range of issues relating to service delivery. Complaints of a more serious nature are overseen by relevant external review bodies, such as the Ombudsman, the Director of Public Prosecutions or integrity entities in each jurisdiction.

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| Box 6.5 Complaints |
| The indicator ‘Complaints’ is defined as the number of complaints made by members of the public against police per 100 000 people in the total population.  A high or increasing number of complaints does not necessarily indicate a lack of confidence in police. Rather, it can indicate greater confidence in complaints resolution. It is desirable to monitor changes in the reported rate of complaints to identify reasons for such changes and use this information to improve the manner in which police services are delivered. Because complaints mechanisms differ across jurisdictions, data should be used only to view trends over time within jurisdictions. Therefore, the trend in complaints is presented in index form, comparing values over time to a base period or year allocated a value of 100. For complaints, the base value is calculated using a three year average for the period 2007‑08 to 2009‑10.  Rates of complaints against police are influenced by factors such as familiarity with, effectiveness of and confidence in complaint handling procedures, as well as the definition of ‘complaint’ applicable to a particular jurisdiction.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable over time within jurisdictions (subject to caveats) but are not comparable across jurisdictions because definitions of what constitutes a ‘complaint against police’ differ across jurisdictions * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Complaints data are presented as an index in figure 6.5 to provide a picture of trends over time for each jurisdiction. Table 6A.16 reports numbers per 100 000 people.

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| Figure 6.5 Trends in complaints**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.5 Trends in complaints  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.5 and table 6A.16 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.16. |
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#### Juvenile diversions

‘Juvenile diversions’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to divert juveniles from the criminal justice system where appropriate (box 6.6).

When police apprehend offenders, they have a variety of options available. They can charge the offender (in which case criminal proceedings occur through the traditional court processes) or they can use their discretion to divert the offender away from this potentially costly, time consuming and stressful situation (for both the offender and victim). These options can be beneficial because they allow the offender to be admonished, without the necessity of traditional court processes. They are particularly useful mechanisms for dealing with juvenile offenders.

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| Box 6.6 Juvenile diversions |
| ‘Juvenile diversions’ is defined as the number of juveniles who would otherwise be proceeded against (that is, taken to court) but who are diverted by police, as a proportion of all juvenile offenders formally dealt with by police. Offenders who would not normally be sent to court for the offence detected, and who are treated by police in a less formal manner (for example, those issued with infringement notices), are not included in this measure.  A high or increasing proportion of juvenile diversions as a proportion of juvenile offenders represents a desirable outcome.  This indicator does not provide information on the relative success or failure of diversionary mechanisms.  The term ‘diverted’ includes diversions of offenders away from the courts by way of community conference, diversionary conference, formal cautioning by police, family conferences, and other programs (for example, drug assessment/treatment). Not all options are available or subject to police discretion in all jurisdictions.  Data reported for this measure are:   * not comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions because the process by which juvenile diversions are recorded differs across jurisdictions * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required data were not available for NSW.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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The proportion of juvenile offenders undergoing diversionary programs varied across jurisdictions in 2014‑15. Within most jurisdictions, proportions of juvenile offenders undergoing diversionary programs were relatively consistent over time (table 6.2).

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| Table 6.2 Juvenile diversions as a proportion of juvenile offenders (per cent)**a** |
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| a See box 6.6 and table 6A.39 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. **na** Not available. |
| *Source*:State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.39. |
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#### Satisfaction with police services

‘Satisfaction with police services’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an effective manner, specifically, how well police services are perceived to be delivered (box 6.7).

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| Box 6.7 Satisfaction with police services |
| ‘Satisfaction with police services’ is defined as the proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services. Results are reported for all people aged 15 years or over in the total population (whether they had contact with police or not).  A high or increasing proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ is desirable.  Client satisfaction is a widely accepted measure of service quality.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally, 77.5 per cent of the general population were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the services provided by police in 2014‑15 (figure 6.6).

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| Figure 6.6 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.6 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.7 and table 6A.12 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) (unpublished); table 6A.12. |
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Of those people who *had* contact with police in 2014‑15, 86.8 per cent nationally were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with the service they received during their most recent contact (figure 6.7).

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| Figure 6.7 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police in their most recent contact**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.7 People who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police in their most recent contact  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.7 and table 6A.24 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.24. |
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Time series data for general satisfaction with police services (and those who had contact with police in the preceding 12 months) are reported in tables 6A.12 and 6A.24 respectively.

#### Perceptions of police integrity

‘Perceptions of police integrity’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide police services in an effective manner. It provides measures of perceived integrity and professionalism (box 6.8).

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| Box 6.8 Perceptions of police integrity |
| ‘Perceptions of police integrity’ refers to public perceptions and is defined by three separate measures – the proportion of people who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police:   * treat people fairly and equally * perform the job professionally * are honest.   A high or increasing proportion of people who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with these statements is desirable.  Public perceptions might not reflect actual levels of police integrity, because many factors, including hearsay and media reporting, might influence people’s perceptions of police integrity.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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In 2014‑15, 77.7 per cent of people nationally ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police treat people ‘fairly and equally’ (figure 6.8).

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| Figure 6.8 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police treat people fairly and equally**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.8 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police treat people fairly and equally  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.8 and table 6A.14 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.14. |
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Nationally, 88.7 per cent of people ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police perform the job ‘professionally’ (figure 6.9).

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| Figure 6.9 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police perform the job professionally**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.9 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police perform the job professionally  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.8 and table 6A.13 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.13. |
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Police integrity can be judged to some extent by the public perception of police honesty. Nationally, 75.9 per cent of people ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ in 2014‑15 that police are ‘honest’ (figure 6.10).

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| Figure 6.10 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police are honest**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.10 People who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police are honest  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.8 and table 6A.15 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.15. |
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#### Perceptions of crime problems

‘Perceptions of crime problems’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to reduce crime for community reassurance (box 6.9).

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| Box 6.9 Perceptions of crime problems |
| ‘Perceptions of crime problems’ refers to governments’ objective to reduce crime for community reassurance. This is measured by the proportion of people who thought that various types of crime were a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood.  A low or decreasing proportion of people who thought the selected types of crime were a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood is desirable.  Care needs to be taken in interpreting data on perceptions of crime, because reducing people’s concerns about crime and reducing the actual level of crime are two separate but related challenges. Comparisons between perceptions of crime problems and the level of crime raise questions about the factors that affect perceptions. More generally, such comparisons highlight the importance of considering the full suite of performance indicators rather than assessing performance on the basis of specific measures in isolation.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally, people identified the following issues as a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhoods:

* 38.6 per cent of people thought illegal drugs to be a problem in 2014‑15, similar to the previous two years but lower than in 2011‑12 (figure 6.11a)
* 60.9 per cent of people thought ‘speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving’ to be a problem in 2014‑15 similar to the previous two years but lower than in 2011‑12 (figure 6.11b).

Time series data for perceptions of crime problems are reported in tables 6A.22 and 6A.23.

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| Figure 6.11 Proportion of people who consider the identified issues to be either a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood**a** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 1. **Illegal drugs** | | Figure 6.11 Proportion of people who consider the identified issues to be either a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood  (a) Illegal drugs  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | **(b) Speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving**   |  | | --- | | Figure 6.11 Proportion of people who consider the identified issues to be either a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood  (b) Speeding cars, dangerous or noisy driving  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | |
| a See box 6.9 and tables 6A.22 and 6A.23 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); tables 6A.22 and 6A.23. |
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### Efficiency

#### Dollars per person

‘Dollars per person’ is an indicator of governments’ objective that provision of services occurs in an efficient manner (box 6.10). Variations in policies, socioeconomic factors and geographic/demographic characteristics affect expenditure per person for police services across each jurisdiction. The scope of activities undertaken by police services also varies across jurisdictions.

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| Box 6.10 Dollars per person |
| ‘Dollars per person’ is defined as expenditure (adjusted for inflation) on policing per person.  All else being equal, a low or decreasing expenditure per person represents an improvement in efficiency. However, care must be taken because efficiency data are difficult to interpret. Although high or increasing expenditure per person might reflect deteriorating efficiency, it might also reflect aspects of the service or characteristics of the policing environment (such as more effective policing or more challenging crime and safety situations). Similarly, low expenditure per person may reflect more desirable efficiency outcomes or lower quality (less intensive policing) or less challenging crime and safety situations.  Efficiency indicators should be interpreted within the context of the effectiveness and equity indicators, to derive an holistic view of performance.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) on police services across Australia was $10.2 billion (or $430 per person) in 2014‑15 (table 6A.10 and figure 6.12).

Nationally, real recurrent expenditure on police services per person increased by an average of 1.8 per cent each year between 2007‑08 and 2014‑15 (table 6A.10).

Time series data for real recurrent expenditure by each jurisdiction are reported in tables 6A.1‑8 and 6A.10. Capital costs (including depreciation and the user cost of capital) for each jurisdiction are also contained in tables 6A.1–8, with associated information on treatment of assets by police agencies in table 6A.9.

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| Figure 6.12 Real recurrent expenditure per person (including user cost of capital less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) on police services (2014‑15 dollars)**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.12 Real recurrent expenditure per person (including user cost of capital less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) on police services (2014-15 dollars)  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.10 and table 6A.10 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 6A.10. |
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#### Proportion of prosecutions where costs are awarded against police

‘Proportion of prosecutions where costs are awarded against police’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to undertake police activities associated with the judicial process efficiently (box 6.11).

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| Box 6.11 Proportion of prosecutions where costs are awarded against police |
| ‘Proportion of prosecutions where costs are awarded against police’ is defined as the percentage of prosecutions with costs against police based on the number of files and the number of cost orders made.  This is an indicator of police efficiency in preparing evidence that is relevant to, and supports a prosecution.  Court costs are generally awarded against police when a criminal action against an offender has failed; in this respect, it represents at least some of the resources expended when a prosecution fails. Results are influenced by differing jurisdictional legislative requirements and court practices.  Data reported for this measure are:   * not comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions because the process by which costs are awarded differs between jurisdictions * complete for the current reporting period. All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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The process by which costs are awarded differs between jurisdictions. The proportion of prosecutions where costs were awarded against the police in 2014‑15 was low (less than 2.0 per cent) in all jurisdictions (table 6A.41).

### Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see chapter 1, section 1.5).

#### Perceptions of safety

‘Perceptions of safety’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to maintain public safety (box 6.12).

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| Box 6.12 Perceptions of safety |
| ‘Perceptions of safety’ is defined by two separate measures:   * the proportion of people who felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ at home during the night * the proportion of people who felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ in public places, including ‘walking locally’ and travelling on public transport during the day and at night.   A high or increasing proportion of people who felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ is desirable.  Perceptions of safety may not reflect reported crime, as reported crime might understate actual crime, and many factors (including media reporting and hearsay) might affect public perceptions of crime levels and safety.  Perceptions of safety on public transport might be influenced by the availability and types of public transport (that is, trains, buses, ferries and trams) in each jurisdiction (i.e. availability and density).  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally, 89.3 per cent of people felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ at home alone during the night in 2014‑15 (figure 6.13).

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| Figure 6.13 Perceptions of safety at home alone during the night**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.13 Perceptions of safety at home alone during the night  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.12 and table 6A.19 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.19. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, 91.7 per cent of people felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ when walking locally during the day (table 6A.20), and 52.8 per cent of people felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ when walking locally during the night (figure 6.14a).

Nationally in 2014‑15, 61.5 per cent of people felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ when travelling on public transport during the day (table 6A.21) and 27.9 per cent of people felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ when travelling on public transport during the night (figure 6.14b).

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| Figure 6.14 Perceptions of safety in public places during the night**a** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **(a) Proportion who felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ walking locally** | | Figure 6.14 Perceptions of safety in public places during the night  (a) Proportion who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' walking locally  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | | **(b) Proportion who felt ‘safe’ or ‘very safe’ travelling on public transport**   |  | | --- | | Figure 6.14 Perceptions of safety in public places during the night  (b) Proportion who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' travelling on public transport  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | |
| a See box 6.12 and tables 6A.20 and 6A.21 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); tables 6A.20 and 6A.21. |
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#### Victims of crime data in Australia

Information on the level of selected crimes against the person and crimes against property is obtained from two complimentary sources for this chapter.

*Crime Victimisation, Australia* (ABS 2015a) presents results from the national Crime Victimisation Survey for selected categories of personal and property crimes and provides estimates of prevalence and incidence of crime. Personal crimes include physical and threatened assault, robbery and sexual assault (reported in table 6A.27). Property crimes include break‑in, attempted break‑in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage, and other theft (table 6A.28).

*Recorded Crime Victims Australia* (ABS 2015b) presents data on selected offences reported to, or detected by, police, the details of which are subsequently recorded on police administrative systems. Victims in this collection can be people, premises or motor vehicles. Selected offences include homicide and related offences; kidnapping and abduction; sexual assault; robbery; blackmail and extortion; unlawful entry with intent; motor vehicle theft; and other theft (tables 6A.25 and 6A.26).

The full extent of crime is unlikely ever to be captured, because not all offences are reported to, or become known by, police. The victim’s confidence in the judicial process, the nature of the offence and the relationship between the victim and perpetrator are among the key factors that influence the propensity to report an offence.

A number of standards, classifications and counting rules are applied to recorded crime statistics, but care needs to be taken when comparing these statistics across states and territories, given the different business rules, procedures, systems, policies, legislation and recording of police agencies. The ABS has worked with police agencies to develop a National Crime Recording Standard, to improve the national comparability of the recorded crime victims collection.

#### Crime victimisation

‘Crime victimisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to reduce the incidence of crime (box 6.13).

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| Box 6.13 Crime victimisation |
| ‘Crime victimisation’ is defined by six separate measures:   * estimated victimisation rate for physical and threatened assault per 100 000 people aged 15 years or over * estimated victimisation rate for sexual assault per 100 000 people aged 18 years or over * estimated victimisation rate for robbery per 100 000 people aged 15 years or over * estimated household victims of break‑ins per 100 000 households * estimated household victims of attempted break‑ins per 100 000 households * estimated household victims of motor vehicle theft per 100 000 households.   A low or decreasing rate of crime victimisation is a desirable outcome.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2013‑14 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally in 2013‑14 there were an estimated 2263 physical assaults, 2674 threatened assaults, 275 sexual assaults and 355 robberies per 100 000 people. These rates vary across jurisdictions and over time (table 6A.27 and figure 6.15). The number of personal crimes recorded by police per 100 000 people in 2014 is reported in table 6A.25.

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| Figure 6.15 Estimated victims of assault and sexual assault, 2013‑14**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.15 Estimated victims of assault and sexual assault, 2013-14  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.13 and table 6A.27 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Sexual Assault data for Tasmania and robbery and sexual assault data for the ACT and the NT are not presented in this figure as confidence intervals are not available due to associated relative standard errors greater than 50 per cent. |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015a) *Crime Victimisation, Australia 2013‑14*, Cat. no. 4530.0; table 6A.27. |
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Nationally, there were 4526 estimated household victims of break‑in/attempted break‑in and 616 victims of motor vehicle theft per 100 000 households in 2013‑14. These rates vary across jurisdictions and over time (table 6A.28 and figure 6.16). The number of recorded property crimes per 100 000 people derived from the ABS recorded crime victims collection, is reported in table 6A.26.

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| Figure 6.16 Estimated victims of property crime, 2013‑14**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.16 Estimated victims of property crime, 2013-14  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.13 and table 6A.28 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Motor vehicle theft data for the ACT is not presented in this figure as confidence intervals were not available due to associated relative standard errors greater than 50 per cent. |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015a) *Crime Victimisation, Australia* *2013‑14*, Cat. no. 4530.0; table 6A.28. |
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#### Reporting rates

‘Reporting rates’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to engender public confidence in the police and judicial systems (box 6.14).

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| Box 6.14 Reporting rates |
| ‘Reporting rates’ is defined as the total number of the most recent incidents of a particular offence that were reported to police, as a percentage of the total number of victims estimated using ABS *Crime Victimisation Survey data*. It is reported separately for several categories of crimes against the person and crimes against property.   * Reporting rates for crimes against the person are defined as the total number of the most recent incidents of a particular offence that were reported to police, as a percentage of the total number of victims aged 15 years and over (except for sexual assault which is reported for victims aged 18 years and over), reported separately for: * physical assault * threatened assault (face‑to‑face incidents only) * robbery * sexual assault. * Reporting rates for crimes against property are defined as the total number of the most recent incidents of a particular offence that were reported to police, as a percentage of the total number of victims, reported separately for: * break‑in * attempted break‑in * motor vehicle theft * theft from motor vehicle * malicious property damage * other theft.   A high or increasing reporting rate is desirable.  Although survey data are reported for all measures, the associated standard errors can be large for some jurisdictions. Also, reporting rates vary across different crime types. This indicator does not provide information on why some people choose not to report particular offences to the police.  Data for these measures include 95 per cent confidence intervals (in the form of error bars in figures).  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2013‑14 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally in 2013‑14, reporting rates for selected offences against the person for people aged 15 years or over (except sexual assault which was reported for people aged 18 years or over) were 51.5 per cent for physical assault, 34.3 per cent for threatened assault (face‑to‑face incidents only), 56.4 per cent for robbery and 38.2 per cent for sexual assault (figure 6.17).

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| Figure 6.17 Reporting rates for selected offences against the person, by offence type, 2013‑14**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.17 Reporting rates for selected offences against the person, by offence type, 2013-14  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.14 and table 6A.29 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Robbery and sexual assault rates for Victoria, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT are not presented in this figure as confidence intervals are not available due to associated relative standard errors greater than 50 per cent. |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015a) *Crime Victimisation, Australia* *2013‑14*, Cat. no. 4530.0; table 6A.29. |
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Nationally in 2013‑14, reporting rates for selected offences against property for people aged 15 years or over were 75.6 per cent for break‑in offences, 42.8 per cent for attempted break‑in offences, 87.9 per cent for motor vehicle theft, 48.7 per cent for theft from motor vehicles, 49.5 per cent for malicious property damage, 39.3 per cent for other theft (figure 6.18).

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| Figure 6.18 Reporting rates for selected offences against property, by offence type, 2013‑14**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.18 Reporting rates for selected offences against property, by offence type, 2013-14  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.14 and table 6A.30 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Motor vehicle theft data for the ACT are not published as data are considered to unreliable. |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015a) *Crime Victimisation, Australia* *2013‑14*, Cat. no. 4530.0; table 6A.30. |
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#### Outcomes of investigations

‘Outcomes of investigations’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to bring offenders to justice (box 6.15).

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| Box 6.15 Outcomes of investigations |
| ‘Outcomes of investigations’ is defined by two separate measures:   * the proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police * the proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police where proceedings were instituted against the offender.   Measures are reported for a range of offences.   * against the person including homicide and armed robbery * against property, including unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft and other theft.   A high or increasing proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police and of finalised investigations where proceedings had started against the alleged offender within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police, is desirable.  Data reported for this measure are:   * not directly comparable across jurisdictions because of differences in the way data are compiled. A number of standards, classifications and counting rules have been developed since the inception of this collection to improve national comparability. However, over time significant differences and changes in the business rules, procedures, systems, policies and recording practices of police agencies across Australia have resulted in some discrepancies in data across states and territories for some offence types * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Activities associated with investigating offences against the person include gathering intelligence on suspects and locations to assist with investigations, and collecting and securing evidence in relation to both the offence and the suspect.

Figure 6.19a presents the proportion of investigations finalised for related offences in 2014. The proportion of these finalised investigations for which proceedings had commenced against an alleged offender is presented in figure 6.19b.

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| Figure 6.19 Crimes against the person: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | **(a) Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police**  Figure 6.19 Crimes against the person: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014  (a) Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **(b) Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police**  Figure 6.19 Crimes against the person: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014  (b) Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.15 and table 6A.31 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. bData is nil or rounded to zero for: Tasmania (kidnapping/abduction and blackmail/extortion); the ACT (homicide and related offences and blackmail/extortion); and the NT(kidnapping/abduction). |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015b), *Recorded Crime – Victims, 2014*, Cat. no. 4510.0; table 6A.31. |
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Figure 6.20a reports the proportion of investigations and other theft investigations of crimes against property that were finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police for 2014. The proportion of the finalised investigations for which proceedings had commenced against an alleged offender is presented in figure 6.20b.

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| Figure 6.20 Crimes against property: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014**a, b** |
| |  | | --- | | **(a) Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police**  Figure 6.20 Crimes against property: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014  (a) Proportion of investigations finalised within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | | **(b) Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police**  Figure 6.20 Crimes against property: outcomes of investigations, 30 day status, 2014  (b) Proportion of finalised investigations for which proceedings had begun within 30 days of the offence becoming known to police  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.15 and table 6A.32 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. b Outcomes of investigations data for other theft in NSW are not published due to data quality issues. |
| *Source*: Derived from ABS (2015b), *Recorded Crime – Victims, 2014*, Cat. no. 4510.0; table 6A.32. |
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#### Road safety

‘Road safety’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of promoting road safety (box 6.16).

The objective of police road safety programs is to promote safer behaviour on roads and influence road user behaviour so as to reduce the incidence of road collisions and the severity of road trauma. Many of these programs target the non‑wearing of seat belts, excessive speed and drink driving.

This indicator is reported against using data from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP) about driver behaviour.

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| Box 6.16 Road safety |
| ‘Road safety’ is defined by three separate measures:   * use of seatbelts, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven without wearing a seatbelt * driving under the influence, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven when possibly over the alcohol limit * degree of speeding, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit.   A low or decreasing proportion of people who stated that they had driven without wearing a seatbelt, driven when possibly over the alcohol limit and/or driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit is desirable.  The use of seatbelts, the prevalence of driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding in the population is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as driver education and media campaigns.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is under development. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, 5.4 per cent of people who had driven in the previous six months said they had ‘rarely’ or more often (‘sometimes’, ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’) driven without wearing a seat belt, a decrease from 6.7 per cent in 2010‑11 (figure 6.21).

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| Figure 6.21 People who had driven in the previous six months without wearing a seat belt ‘rarely’ or more often**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.21 People who had driven in the previous six months without wearing a seat belt ‘rarely’ or more often  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.16 and table 6A.33 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.33. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, 7.7 per cent of people who had driven in the previous six months indicated that they had ‘rarely’ or more often (‘sometimes’, ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’) driven when possibly over the blood alcohol limit. This rate has remained constant since 2012‑13 (figure 6.22).

Nationally in 2014‑15, 55.1 per cent of people who had driven in the previous six months reported travelling 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit ‘rarely’ or more often (‘sometimes’, ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’). This rate has remained constant since 2012‑13 (figure 6.23).

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| Figure 6.22 People who had driven in the previous six months when possibly over the alcohol limit ‘rarely’ or more often**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.22 People who had driven in the previous six months when possibly over the alcohol limit ‘rarely’ or more often  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.16 and table 6A.34 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.34. |
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| Figure 6.23 People who had driven in the previous six months 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit ‘rarely’ or more often**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.23 People who had driven in the previous six months 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit ‘rarely’ or more often  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.16 and table 6A.35 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ANZPAA (unpublished); table 6A.35. |
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#### Road deaths

‘Road deaths’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of promoting road safety (box 6.17). One aim of policing is to contribute to a reduction in road crashes and related road deaths and hospitalisations.

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| Box 6.17 Road deaths |
| ‘Road deaths’ is defined as the number of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles.  A low or decreasing rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles is desirable.  The rate of road deaths is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2014‑15 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally over the period 2005‑06 to 2014‑15, there has been a reduction in the number of road deaths (from 1647 to 1171) and the rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles (from 11.5 to 6.5) (table 6A.36 [for years prior to 2010‑11] and figure 6.24).

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| Figure 6.24 Road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.24 Road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.17 and table 6A.36 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: Australian Road Fatality Statistics at www.bitre.gov.au/; ABS (2015c) Motor Vehicle Census (various years), Australia, Cat. no. 9309.0; table 6A.36. |
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#### Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle

‘Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of promoting road safety (box 6.18).

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| Box 6.18 Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle |
| ‘Land transport hospitalisations per registered vehicle’ is defined as the number of hospitalisations from traffic accidents per 100 000 registered vehicles.  A low or decreasing number of hospitalisations from traffic accidents per 100 000 registered vehicles is desirable.  Hospitalisations from traffic accidents are affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2013‑14 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally, there were 229 land transport hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles in 2013‑14 (figure 6.25).

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| Figure 6.25 Land transport hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.25 Land transport hospitalisations per 100 000 registered vehicles  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.18 and table 6A.37 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: AIHW (various years) Australian Hospital Statistics (unpublished); ABS (2015c) Motor Vehicle Census (various years), Australia, Cat. no. 9309.0; table 6A.37. |
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#### Deaths in police custody and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody

‘Deaths in police custody’, and ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody’ are indicators of governments’ objective to provide safe custody for alleged offenders, and ensure fair and equitable treatment for both victims and alleged offenders (box 6.19).

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| Box 6.19 Deaths in police custody, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody |
| ‘Deaths in police custody’ and ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody’ are defined as the number of non‑Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody and custody related operations.  A low or decreasing number of deaths in custody and custody‑related operations is desirable.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required data for 2014‑15 are available for all jurisdictions except NSW and Victoria.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally in 2014‑15, there were 11 deaths in police custody, of which five were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths (table 6.3). This number has reduced since 2007‑08, predominately due to the decrease in non‑Indigenous deaths (29 out of 34 deaths in 2007‑08) (table 6A.38). However, as data are not available for NSW and Victoria, figures for 2014‑15 are understated.

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| Table 6.3 Deaths in police custody and custody‑related operations**a** |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust | | Non‑Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths | | | | | | | | | | | 2014‑15 | na | na | 3 | 2 | 1 | – | – | – | 6 | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths | | | | | | | | | | | 2014‑15 | na | na | 1 | 2 | – | – | – | 2 | 5 | | Total deaths | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | 2007‑08 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | – | 5 | 34 | | 2008‑09 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 6 | – | 1 | 5 | 37 | | 2009‑10 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 27 | | 2010‑11 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | – | 25 | | 2011‑12 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | – | – | 2 | 35 | | 2012‑13 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | – | – | – | 18 | | 2013‑14 | na | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | – | – | 1 | 12 | | 2014‑15 | na | na | 4 | 4 | 1 | – | – | 2 | 11 | |
| a See box 6.19 and table 6A.38 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. **–** Nil or rounded to zero. **na**Not available. |
| *Source*:AIC (various years, unpublished)Deaths in Custody, Australia;table 6A.38. |
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##### Magistrates court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding

The police assist the judicial process in a variety of ways including collecting evidence and providing testimony in court. Police work in this area can be measured to some extent by the success in achieving a guilty plea or finding in court. ‘Magistrates court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ is an indicator of governments’ objective for police to support the judicial process to achieve efficient and effective court case management for judicial processing (box 6.20).

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| Box 6.20 Magistrates court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding |
| ‘Magistrates court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding’ is defined as the number of finalised adjudicated defendants in lower courts who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty, as a proportion of the total number of magistrates court adjudicated defendants.  A high or increasing proportion of magistrates court adjudicated defendants submitting a guilty plea or being the subject of a guilty finding is desirable.  This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender but choose not to bring the likely offender to court due to a number of factors.  Data reported for this measure are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period (subject to caveats). All required 2013‑14 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016. |
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Nationally, the proportion of magistrates court adjudicated defendants who either submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty was 97.7 per cent in 2013‑14. This is consistent with previous years (figure 6.26).

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| Figure 6.26 Proportion of magistrates court finalised adjudicated defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding**a** |
| |  | | --- | | Figure 6.26 Proportion of magistrates court finalised adjudicated defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. | |
| a See box 6.20 and table 6A.40 for detailed definitions, footnotes and caveats. |
| *Source*: ABS (2015d) *Criminal Courts, Australia* (various years), Cat. no. 4513.0; table 6A.40. |
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## 6.4 Future directions in performance reporting

Police have, and will continue to work in close partnership with other sectors of government, including health and community services, corrections, courts and other emergency service providers. Police services also work frequently with Australian Government agencies on crime data issues, to combat the threat and impact of terrorism, and manage environmental issues such as the policing response to emergencies and natural disasters. These partnerships address the need to deliver whole‑of‑government outcomes at the State, Territory and national levels. Measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of police contributions to these outcomes can be challenging.

## 6.5 Definitions of key terms

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| **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff** | Number of staff who are self identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. |
| **Adjudicated defendant** | A defendant is a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as one unit of work by a court level. An adjudicated finalisation is a method of finalisation based on a judgment or decision by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) laid against them. |
| **Armed robbery** | Robbery conducted with the use (actual or implied) of a weapon, where a weapon can include, but is not restricted to:   * firearms — pistol, revolver, rifle, automatic/semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, military firearm, airgun, nail gun, cannon, imitation firearm and implied firearm * other weapons — knife, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hammer, axe, club, iron bar, piece of wood, syringe/hypodermic needle, bow and arrow, crossbow, spear gun, blowgun, rope, wire, chemical, acid, explosive, vehicle, bottle/glass, other dangerous article and imitation weapons. |
| **Assault** | The direct (and immediate/confrontational) infliction of force, injury or violence on a person(s) or the direct (and immediate/confrontational) threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted. |
| **Available full time equivalent staff** | Any full time equivalent category where the individual is on duty performing a function. To be measured using average staffing level for the whole reporting period. |
| **Average non‑police staff salaries** | Salaries and payments in the nature of salary paid to civilian and other employees, divided by the total number of such employees. |
| **Average police salaries** | Salaries and payments in the nature of salary paid to sworn police officers, divided by the number of sworn officers. |
| **Blackmail and extortion** | Unlawful demanding with intent to gain money, property or any other benefit from, or with intent to cause detriment to, another person, accompanied by the use of coercive measures, to be carried out at some point in the future if the demand is not met. This may also include the use and/or threatened use of face‑to‑face force or violence, provided there is a threat of continued violence if the demand is not met. |
| **Cautioning** | A formal method of dealing with young offenders without taking court proceedings. Police officers may caution young offenders instead of charging them if the offence or the circumstance of the offence is not serious. |
| **Civilian staff** | Unsworn staff, including specialists (civilian training and teaching medical and other specialists) and civilian administrative and management staff. |
| **Comparability** | The approach in this Report to defining comparability is if the reported data (subject to caveats) can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data are considered comparable when they are collected in the same way and in accordance with the same definitions. For comparable indicators or measures, significant differences in reported results allow an assessment of differences in performance, rather than being the result of anomalies in the data. |
| **Complaints** | Number of statements of complaint by members of the public regarding police conduct. |
| **Completeness** | The approach in this Report to defining completeness is if all required data are available for all jurisdictions that provide the service. |
| **Death in police custody and custody‑related incident** | Death of a person who was in police custody; death caused or contributed to by traumatic injuries while in custody; death of a person who was fatally injured when police officers attempted to detain that person; or death of a person who was fatally injured when escaping or attempting to escape from police custody. |
| **Depreciation** | Where possible, based on current asset valuation. |
| **Executive staff** | Number of sworn and unsworn staff at the rank of chief superintendent or equivalent grade to assistant commissioner grade. |
| **Full time equivalent (FTE)** | The equivalent number of full time staff required to provide the same hours of work as performed by staff actually employed. A full time staff member is equivalent to a full time equivalent of one, while a part time staff member is greater than zero but less than one. |
| **Higher court defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding** | Total number of higher courts finalised defendants resulting in a guilty plea or finding, as a proportion of the total number of higher courts finalised defendants. A defendant can be either a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.  A higher court is either:   * an intermediate court (known either as the district court or county court) that has legal powers between those of a court of summary jurisdiction (lower level courts) and a supreme court, and that deals with the majority of cases involving serious criminal charges * a supreme court (a higher court level which deals with the most serious criminal charges and has the greatest legal powers of all the State and Territory court levels).   Guilty finding is an outcome of a trial in which a court determines that the criminal charge against a defendant has been proven. |
| **Juvenile diversions** | Total number of juvenile offenders who are diverted by police (for example, through the use of cautions, official warnings or other diversionary programs) away from the criminal justice system, as a proportion of the total number of juvenile offenders either diverted from or dealt with by the criminal justice system (that is, those who are either diverted or prosecuted). |
| **Land transport hospitalisations** | Hospitalisations due to traffic accidents that are likely to have required police attendance; these may include accidents involving trains, bicycles and so on. |
| **Lower court defendants resulting in guilty plea or finding** | Total number of cases (excluding committal hearings) heard before lower courts of law only, for which there was a plea of guilty, as a proportion of the total number of cases (excluding committal hearings) heard before lower courts of law only.  A lower court is a court of summary jurisdiction (commonly referred to as magistrates’ court, local court or court of petty sessions) that deals with relatively less serious charges and has the most limited legal powers of all State and Territory court levels. Such courts are presided over by a magistrate and have jurisdiction to hear trial and sentence matters relating to summary offences. Under some circumstances, this court level may also deal with the less serious indictable offences known as ‘minor indictable’ or ‘triable either way’ offences.  A guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. A not guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. For this data collection, a plea of ‘not guilty’ should also include ‘no plea’, ‘plea reserved’ and ‘other defended plea’.  Further, these definitions:   * exclude preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences dealt with by a lower court * count cases that involve multiple charges as a ‘lower court case resulting in a plea of guilty’ if a plea of guilty has resulted for at least one of those charges. |
| **Management full time equivalent staff** | Number of management full time equivalent staff, including civilian (managers) and sworn (inspector to superintendent) staff. |
| **Motor vehicle theft** | The taking of another person’s motor vehicle illegally and without permission. |
| **Murder** | The wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life. |
| **Non‑Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander full time equivalent staff** | Number of full time equivalent staff who do not satisfy the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff criteria. |
| **Non‑operational full time equivalent staff** | Any person who does not satisfy the operational staff criteria, including functional support staff only. Functional support full time equivalent staff include any person (sworn or unsworn) not satisfying the operational or operational support staff criteria (for example, finance, policy, research, personnel services, building and property services, transport services, and management above the level of station and shift supervisors). |
| **Offender** | In the Police Services chapter, the term ‘offender’ refers to a person who is alleged to have committed an offence. This definition is not the same as the definition used in chapter 8 (Corrective services). |
| **Operational staff** | An operational police staff member (sworn or unsworn) is any member of the police force whose primarily duty is the delivery of police or police related services to an external customer (where an external customer predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments).  Operational staff include: general duties officers, investigators, traffic operatives, tactical officers, station counter staff, communication officers, crime scene staff, disaster victim identification, and prosecution and judicial support officers. |
| **Other recurrent expenditure** | Maintenance and working expenses; expenditure incurred by other departments on behalf of police; expenditure on contracted police services; and other recurrent costs not elsewhere classified. Expenditure is disaggregated by service delivery area. |
| **Other theft** | The taking of another person’s property with the intention of depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure, even if the intent was to commit theft. |
| **Outcome of investigations** | The stage reached by a police investigation after a period of 30 days has elapsed since the recording of the incident. |
| **Practitioner staff** | Number of practitioner staff, including civilian (administration) and sworn (constable to senior constable) staff. |
| **Property crimes** | Total recorded crimes against property, including:   * unlawful entry with intent * motor vehicle theft * other theft. |
| **Real expenditure** | Actual expenditure adjusted for changes in prices. Time series financial data are adjusted to 2014‑15 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (2014‑15 = 100) (table 6A.42). See table 2A.48 and chapter 2 (sections 2.5‑6) for more details. |
| **Recorded crime** | Crimes reported to (or detected) and recorded by police. |
| **Registered vehicles** | Total registered motor vehicles, including motorcycles. |
| **Reporting rate** | The proportion of crime victims who told police about the last crime incident of which they were the victim, as measured by a crime victimisation survey. |
| **Revenue from own sources** | Revenue from activities undertaken by police, including revenue from the sale of stores, plant and vehicles; donations and industry contributions; user charges; and other revenue (excluding fine revenue and revenue from the issuing of firearm licenses). |
| **Road deaths** | Fatal road injury accidents as defined by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. |
| **Robbery** | The unlawful taking of property from the immediate possession, control, custody or care of a person, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence. |
| **Salaries and payments in the nature of salary** | Includes:   * base salary package * motor vehicle expenses that are part of employer fringe benefits * superannuation, early retirement schemes and payments to pension schemes (employer contributions) * workers compensation (full cost) including premiums, levies, bills, legal fees * higher duty allowances (actual amounts paid) * overtime (actual amounts paid) * actual termination and long service leave * actual annual leave * actual sick leave * actual maternity/paternity leave * fringe benefits tax paid * fringe benefits provided (for example, school fee salary sacrifice at cost to the government, car parking, duress alarms, telephone account reimbursements, ‘gold passes’, other salary sacrifice benefits, frequent flyer benefits, overtime meals provided and any other components that are not part of a salary package) * payroll tax. |
| **Senior executive staff** | Number of senior executive staff, including civilian (top senior executive service) and sworn (commissioner, deputy commissioner and equivalent civilian executives) staff. |
| **Sexual assault** | Physical contact of a sexual nature directed towards another person where that person does not give consent, that person gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud, or consent is proscribed (that is, the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent as a result of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or a familial relationship).  Includes rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and assault with intent to commit sexual assault. Excludes sexual harassment not leading to assault. |
| **Supervisory full time equivalent staff** | Number of supervisory full time equivalent staff, including civilian (team leaders) and sworn (sergeant to senior sergeant) staff. |
| **Sworn staff** | Sworn police staff recognised under each jurisdiction’s Police Act. |
| **Total capital expenditure** | Total expenditure on the purchase of new or second hand capital assets, and expenditure on significant repairs or additions to assets that add to the assets’ service potential or service life. |
| **Total expenditure** | Total capital expenditure plus total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources). |
| **Total FTE staff** | Operational staff and non‑operational staff, including full time equivalent staff on paid leave or absence from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using absolute numbers for the whole reporting period. |
| **Total number of staff** | Full time equivalent staff directly employed on an annual basis (excluding labour contracted out). |
| **Total recurrent expenditure** | Includes:   * salaries and payments in the nature of salary * other recurrent expenditure * depreciation * less revenue from own sources. |
| **Unarmed robbery** | Robbery conducted without the use (actual or implied) of a weapon |
| **Unavailable full time equivalent staff** | Any full time equivalent category where the individual is on paid leave or absent from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using the average staffing level for the whole reporting period. |
| **Unlawful entry with intent — involving the taking of property** | The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, resulting in the taking of property from the structure. Includes burglary and break‑in offences. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent. |
| **Unlawful entry with intent — other** | The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, but which does not result in the taking of property from the structure. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent. |
| **User cost of capital** | The opportunity cost of funds tied up in the capital used to deliver services. Calculated as 8 per cent of the current value of non‑current physical assets (excluding land). |
| **Value of physical assets — buildings and fittings** | The value of buildings and fittings under the direct control of police. |
| **Value of physical assets — land** | The value of land under the direct control of police. |
| **Value of physical assets — other** | The value of motor vehicles, computer equipment, and general plant and equipment under the direct control of police. |

## 6.6 List of attachment tables

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an ‘6A’ prefix (for example, table 6A.1 is table 1). Attachment tables are provided on the website (www.pc.gov.au/rogs/2016).

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| **Table 6A.1** | Police service expenditure, staff and asset descriptors, NSW |
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| **Table 6A.29** | Reporting rates of selected personal crimes experienced and reported to police (proportion reported) |
| **Table 6A.30** | Reporting rates of selected household crimes experienced and reported to police (proportion reported) |
| **Table 6A.31** | Outcomes of investigations of crimes against the person: 30 day status, 1 January to 31 December 2014 |
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| **Table 6A.33** | People who had driven in the previous 6 months without wearing a seat belt |
| **Table 6A.34** | People who had driven in the previous 6 months when possibly over the alcohol limit |
| **Table 6A.35** | People who had driven in the previous 6 months more than 10 kilometres above the speed limit |
| **Table 6A.36** | Road deaths |
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| **Table 6A.39** | Juvenile diversions as a proportion of offenders (per cent) |
| **Table 6A.40** | Courts adjudicated defendants who submitted a guilty plea or were found guilty |
| **Table 6A.41** | Percentage of prosecutions where costs were awarded against the police |
| **Table 6A.42** | General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (index) |

## 6.7 References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2015a, *Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2013‑14,* Cat. no. 4530.0, Canberra.

—— 2015b, *Recorded Crime Victims, Australia, 2014*, Cat. no. 4510.0, Canberra.

—— 2015c, *Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 2015*, Cat. no. 9309.0, Canberra.

—— 2015d, *Criminal Courts, Australia, 2013‑14*, Cat no. 4513.0, Canberra.

NSW Police 2015, Annual Report 2014‑15.

WA Police 2015, Annual Report 2014‑15.

SA Police 2015, Annual Report 2014‑15.

ACT Policing 2015, Annual report 2014‑15.