



Speech by

## Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Queensland Police Service, Annual Statistical Review

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): Queensland has always been a safe place to live and today we have new statistics that prove that this remains the case. A little later today Judy Spence, the police minister, will be releasing the new police figures which show that Queensland's overall crime rate has remained stable during 2005-06.

Each year, the Queensland Police Service releases its annual statistical review, which charts crime rates statewide and at a regional and district level. Last financial year there was a combined drop of three per cent in the rate of offences against people and property. Break and enters dropped overall by seven per cent for reported offences per 100,000 people. During 2005-06 there were 2,733 fewer homes broken into in Queensland. The rate of car thefts also dropped by 13 per cent. Last financial year, there were 1,494 fewer unlawful use of motor vehicle offences. Police also achieved a two per cent increase in the clear-up rate for these crimes. I say to the Queensland Police Service: well done.

Queensland police are doing their job more efficiently and with better resources. We have more police on the beat and involved in more targeted operations. Now we are seeing the results of that hard work and that long-term investment by my government.

Liquor offences rose by 28 per cent, which police attribute to the combined effects of alcohol management plans in Indigenous communities and the 17-point Brisbane City Safety Action Plan, including the Liquor Enforcement and Proactive Strategies program. I make no apology for being tough in both of those areas. Good order offences rose by nine per cent, which police attribute to the combined effect of the 3 am lockout, speed processing, rostering more police on in entertainment precincts over weekends and the introduction of the Summary Offences Act. In other words, we are cleaning up the streets in the early hours.

Drug offences increased by five per cent. We are getting higher drug detection rates from increased policing, for example, drug dog operations. I know that from time to time the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties attacks the police minister and also me in relation to the use of these drug dogs. Let me make it really clear: if people do not have illegal drugs, they have no problems. This is a clear strategy to tackle drugs. Some of the nightclub owners seem to think that they do not have any responsibility in this matter. The message that I get back from some of them is, 'Look, it's not our problem if people come in and use drugs on our premises.' I am sorry to tell them that it is their problem. From our point of view, if there were no drugs on the premises, then we would not need drug dogs. We are going to keep using them. So they had better get used to the idea.

These increases are about our police doing their job, making Queensland a safer place to live and a safer place for all of us to go out and enjoy ourselves in. The police minister will go into more detail about these crime figures later today. While there is still work to be done, I again want to compliment the Queensland Police Service on its continuing efforts to make us all safer.