



Speech by

Hon. Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR MOUNT GRAVATT

Hansard Tuesday, 6 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Police Service, Midyear Crime Statistics

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (10.03 am): Today I am tabling the latest crime statistics for Queensland. Each year there are two public releases of crime statistics. In November I tabled the annual statistical review, which drills down to district and regional level. In the first quarter of the year I tabled the midyear review, which is a six-monthly snapshot of crime statistics. Today I am tabling that midyear review for the period of July to December last year.

Tabled paper: Report, dated 16 February 2007, by the Queensland Police Service titled 'Crime Statistics Report—July 2006 to December 2006'.

It shows decreases in some major offences and an increase in clear-up rates. In this period, there were drops in robbery, fraud and handling stolen goods. Property crime dropped by four per cent. Crimes against the person dropped by two per cent. Statewide, there was a one per cent drop in the rate of sexual offences. This is encouraging, considering that in the previous 12 months there was a spike in sexual offences. The *Courier-Mail* has this morning accessed three-monthly figures from July to September last year, concluding that the number of reported sex offences in one district—north Brisbane—increased by 19 per cent in that time. However, as the midyear review shows, over six months the rate of sex offences statewide dropped by one per cent.

I thank police for their efforts in tackling these crimes, and in particular in northern Brisbane with many officers working on Operation Echo Shine. Seasonally, these crime reports go up and down and offences that occurred even decades ago are still being reported to police. So that these fluctuations are taken into account, the best indicator we have is the long-term 12-monthly annual statistical review. This midyear review shows that Queensland's police are continuing to reduce crime. Between July and December last year, the rate of reported offences per 100,000 people in Queensland showed a three per cent decrease in drug offences, a nine per cent drop in robbery, a nine per cent reduction in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle, a seven per cent decrease in arson, a two per cent drop in assaults, a one per cent decrease in sexual offences, a 27 per cent drop in drug trafficking and a 29 per cent drop in prostitution offences. Some 70 per cent of sexual offences were solved while 64 per cent of fraud cases were solved, and these clear-up rates have improved on the previous period. Meanwhile, good order offences increased by 19 per cent and liquor offences increased by 36 per cent, both the result of more proactive policing.

The Queensland Police Service works closely with the community to prevent, detect and combat crime. I want to thank our police for their good work. I also want to stress the important part that crime prevention initiatives and education programs are continuing to play in encouraging people to report offences.