

Question on Notice
No. 330
Asked on 21 March 2024

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the number of serious assaults between the hours of 9 pm and 6 am (reported separately by year and region) for the last nine years?

ANSWER:

The Member should note that the number of recorded offences is likely to be impacted by a Queensland Police Service (QPS) directive to ensure compliance with recording the statistical counts for all Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) related offences. From 1 July 2021, the QPS implemented improvements to recording practices, requiring police officers to record within QPRIME all criminal offence statistical counts associated with DFV incidents that come to their attention.

Consequently, 2021–22 presents as a break in the time series for DFV–related variables that are based on recorded offences statistical data. Prior to July 2021, when an incident occurred which involved domestic and family violence, QPS procedure was generally as follows:

- If there was an existing domestic violence protection order (DVO), a breach of that order was recorded but any associated DFV criminal offence (e.g. assault) may not have been recorded as a statistical count.
- If there was no DVO in place, police created a DFV incident record and may have made an application for a protection order. If the victim declined to support a prosecution, any DFV related criminal offence may not have been recorded in QPRIME as a statistical count.

Analysis conducted of selected recorded offences data indicates a notable change in recorded assault offences since the directive was implemented. That said, it is difficult to quantify the extent to which this practice alone has influenced the observed change in this and other DFV–related offence data.

Other factors are also likely to have contributed to the observed change, such as: increased public awareness of DFV, including through reports such as *Hear her voice*; improved mechanisms for reporting DFV; media coverage; cultural changes; population growth; natural variation; the delivery of the *Queensland Government's DFV prevention strategy 2016–2026*; and improving responses to DFV related incidents through targeted training

I am advised by the QPS that the number of reported serious assaults between the hours of 9pm and 6am (reported separately by Police Region for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2023) is as below.

In 2015 for Brisbane Region was 159, for Central Region was 106, for Far Northern Region was 123, for North Coast Region was 90, for Northern Region was 141, for South Eastern Region was 121, and for Southern Region was 91.

In 2016 for Brisbane Region was 152, for Central Region was 96, for Far Northern Region was 132, for North Coast Region was 134, for Northern Region was 148, for South Eastern Region was 148, and for Southern Region was 114.

In 2017 for Brisbane Region was 182, for Central Region was 81, for Far Northern Region was 83, for North Coast Region was 149, for Northern Region was 151, for South Eastern Region was 140, and for Southern Region was 96.

In 2018 for Brisbane Region was 201, for Central Region was 65, for Far Northern Region was 98, for North Coast Region was 125, for Northern Region was 152, for South Eastern Region was 149, and for Southern Region was 96.

In 2019 for Brisbane Region was 187, for Central Region was 93, for Far Northern Region was 108, for North Coast Region was 100, for Northern Region was 130, for South Eastern Region was 165, and for Southern Region was 108.

In 2020 for Brisbane Region was 203, for Central Region was 108, for Far Northern Region was 125, for North Coast Region was 154, for Northern Region was 161, for South Eastern Region was 171, and for Southern Region was 98.

In 2021 for Brisbane Region was 212, for Central Region was 170, for Far Northern Region was 194, for North Coast Region was 182, for Northern Region was 217, for South Eastern Region was 194, and for Southern Region was 140.

In 2022 for Brisbane Region was 248, for Central Region was 164, for Far Northern Region was 280, for North Coast Region was 224, for Northern Region was 306, for South Eastern Region was 219, and for Southern Region was 204.

In 2023 for Brisbane Region was 237, for Central Region was 178, for Far Northern Region was 291, for North Coast Region was 240, for Northern Region was 418, for South Eastern Region was 283, and for Southern Region was 201.

Notes:

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relates to Assault, serious (other) offences only, reported to police between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2023.
3. Only occurrences with a start time between 21:00 and 05:59 are included.