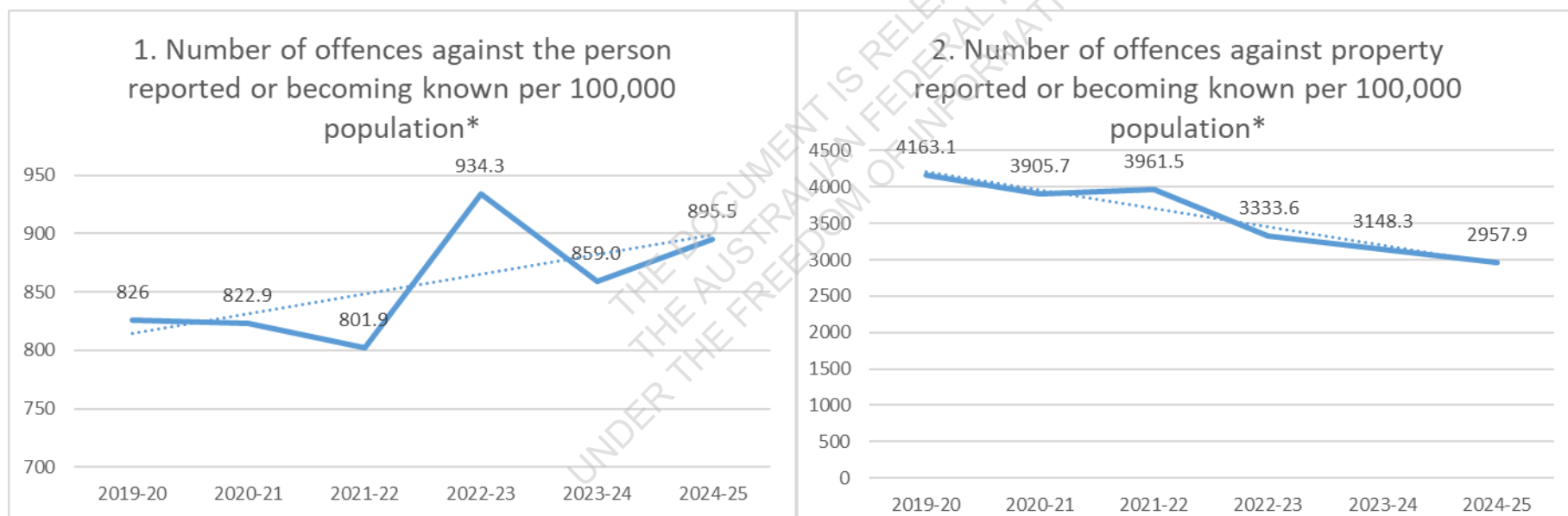


Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Attachment A – 2024-25 KPI Summary

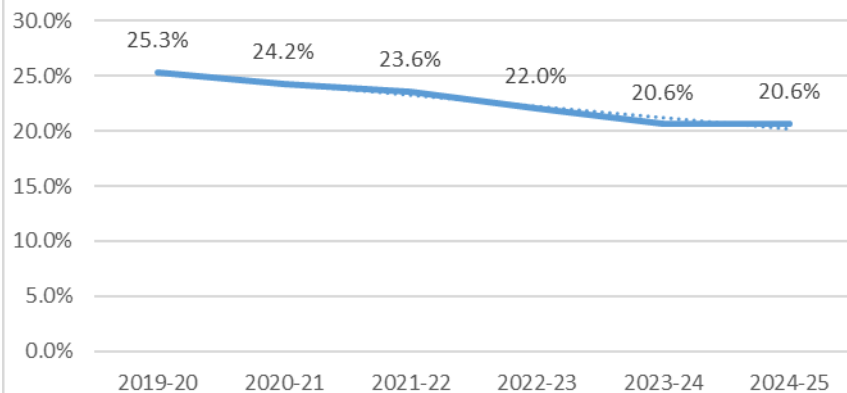
Purchase Agreement 2022-26 between the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT							
2024-25 Financial Year - July 2024 to June 2025 Period							
Shared ACT Government Outcomes ^a							
Prevent Crime							
Victimisation rate	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result (2023-24)	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
1. Number of offences against the person ^b reported or becoming known per 100,000 population*	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	895.51	Trend based	859.02	4.25%	Trend based
2. Number of offences against property ^c reported or becoming known per 100,000 population*	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	2957.89	Trend based	3148.29	-6.05%	Trend based
Reduce Recidivism							
Repeat offender rates	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
3. Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police ^d more than once within the previous 12 months*	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	20.6%	Trend based	20.6%	0.0%	Trend based
Prevent Road Deaths and Trauma							
Road crashes resulting in death or injury	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
4. Number of road crashes resulting in death per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	1.69	Trend based	1.70	-0.5%	Trend based
5. Number of road crashes resulting in injury ^e per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	73.0	Trend based	72.1	1.2%	Trend based

ACT Policing Operational Outcomes - Key Performance Indicators							
Divert	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
6. Percentage of eligible^f young people referred to restorative justice							
6.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	100%	100%	66.7%	-33.3%	50.0%	16.7%	N
6.2 Non-indigenous	100%	100%	94.3%	-5.7%	94.3%	0.0%	N
7. Percentage of offenders proceeded against by non-court actions^g (Diversion and cautions)							
7.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander*	5 year average or more	6.2%	5.7%	-0.5%	5.40%	0.30%	N
7.2 Non-indigenous*	5 year average or more	12.8%	12.2%	-0.6%	15.00%	-2.80%	Y
8. Number of persons referred to community support agencies (SupportLink)*	5 year average or more	5935	5681	-4.27%	6296	-9.8%	N
Disrupt	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
9. Number of disruption^h activities (Drug related, General person offences, General property offences or OMCG related) *	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	897	Trend based	683	31%	Trend based
10. Disruption case study (for inclusion in ACT Policing Annual report each year) ^q	One	One	One	N/A	One	N/A	Y
11. Number of Targeted Traffic Operations (in line with the Road Safety Calendar)*	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	19	Trend based	18	6%	Trend based
Respond	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
12. Average length of time to respond to Priority One Incidents ⁱ	5 year average or less	7.9 minutes or less	6.4 minutes	-19.7%	7.5 minutes	-14%	Y
13. Average length of time to respond to Priority Two Incidents ^j	5 year average or less	17.6 minutes or less	17.4 minutes	-1.2%	18.0 minutes	-2.2%	Y
14. Percentage of Priority Three Incidents^k responded to within 48 hours	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	95.1%	Trend based	95.2%	-0.1%	Trend based
15. Percentage of 000 calls answered on first or second presentation^l:							
15.1 On first presentation	5 year average or more	90.8%	91.4%	0.6%	92.9%	1.5%	Y
15.2 On second presentation	5 year average or more	97.4%	97.2%	-0.2%	98.2%	1.0%	N
16. Percentage of the community satisfied with the job police are doing in responding to emergencies and disasters. ^m	National Average or more	68.0%	73.5%	N/A	69.6%	na	N/A*

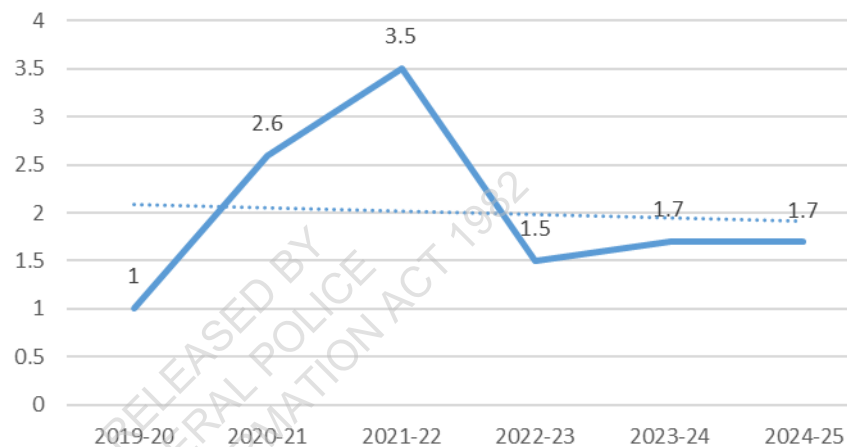
Enforce	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
17. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for person offences*	5 year average or more	28.7%	35.3%	6.6%	29.8%	5.5%	Y
18. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for property offences*	5 year average or more	7.8%	9.3%	1.5%	6.6%	2.7%	Y
Community confidence	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
19. Percentage of the community satisfied in general with services provided by police. ^{m o}	National Average or more	58.8%	64.6%	N/A	65.6%	-1.0%	N/A*
20. Percentage of the community who have confidence in police. ^{m o}	National Average or more	64.0%	72.2%	N/A	74.1%	-1.9%	N/A*
21. Number of complaints against police ^{n p}	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	107	Trend based	93	15.1%	Trend based



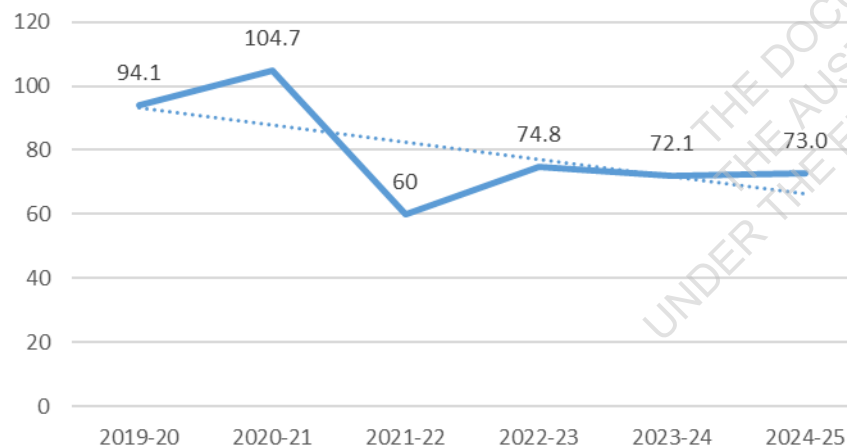
3. Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police more than once within the previous 12 months



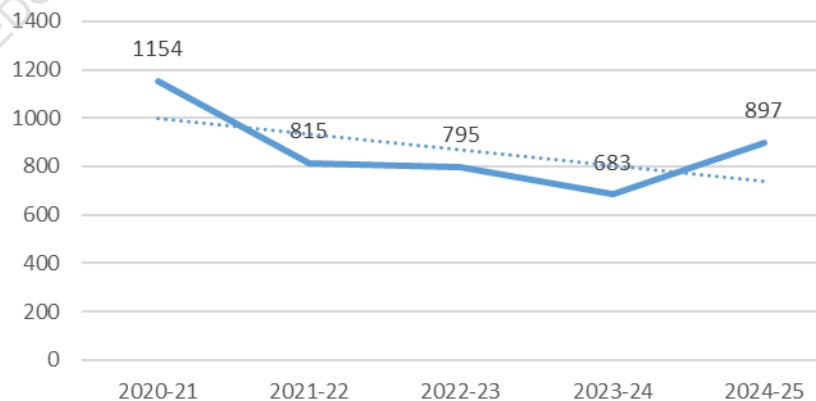
4. Number of road crashes resulting in death per 100,000 population*



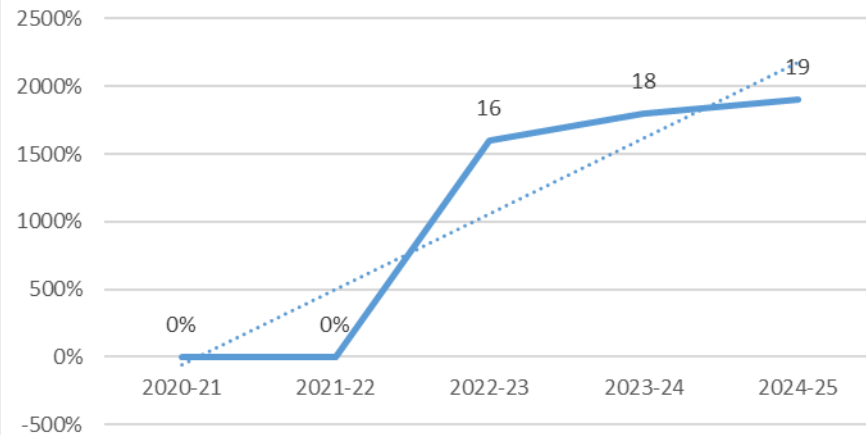
5. Number of road crashes resulting in injury per 100,000 population*



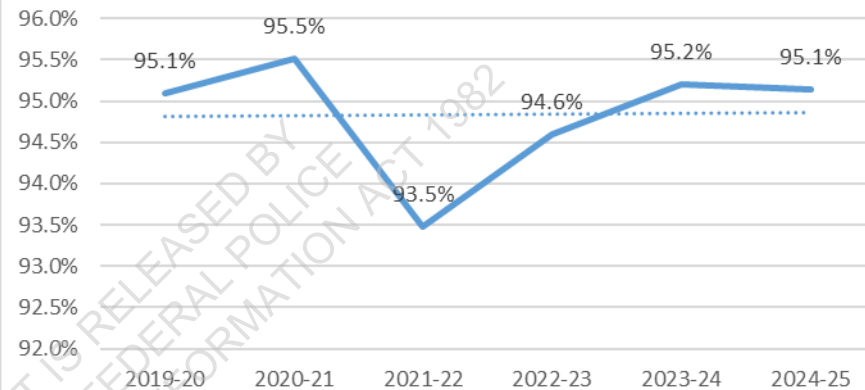
9. Number of disruption activities (Drug related, General person offences, General property offences or OMCG related)



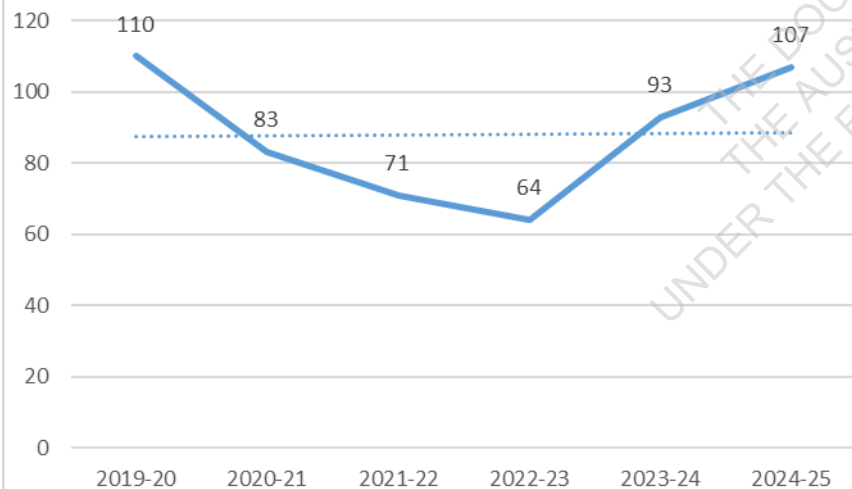
11. Number of Targeted Traffic Operations (in line with the Road Safety Calendar)



14. Percentage of Priority Three Incidents responded to within 48 hours



21. Number of complaints against police*



*Figures as per previous ACT Policing Annual Reports

Purchase Agreement between the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT Financial Year Report - 2024-25	
a.	These measures encompass the jurisdiction of a great many public and private institutions and individuals who contribute to the overall results and standings. Success in these targets is not the sole domain or responsibility of ACT Policing
b.	Offences against the person – include homicide, assaults, sexually based offences, kidnap and related offences, other person offences.
c.	Offences against property – include robbery, blackmail, extortion, burglary, fraud, motor vehicle thefts, other theft offences, property damage and environmental offences.
d.	Offenders proceeded against – any alleged offender who was proceeded against via court or non-court means where a proceeding is defined as a legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence(s) including but not limited to, arrest, summons, charged before court, diversionary conference or formal caution.
e.	Injury – an injury sustained by any person as a result of a collision, which necessitates treatment by a medical practitioner.
f.	Eligible according to s19 of the Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004. A proportion of the young people referred are as a diversion whilst others are referred in conjunction with criminal prosecution This target does not include matters where police discretion has determined that no further action or a caution is the most appropriate action.
g.	Non-court actions – a type of legal action initiated by police against an offender. Non-court actions comprise legal actions such as informal or formal cautions/warnings, conferencing, counselling such as drug diversionary schemes, or the issuing of penalty or infringement notices, which do not require an appearance in court. Court actions – a type of legal action initiated by police against an offender. Court actions largely comprise the laying of charges against an alleged offender that must be answered in court. Offenders may be taken into custody, granted bail or issued with a summons for these charges pending an appearance in court.
h.	Disruption – any lawful action that interferes, delays or complicates a criminal activity, resulting in the degradation of criminal enterprise, reducing criminal capability, influence, and capacity to create harm and victimisation.
i.	Priority One Incident – life threatening or time critical situations.
j.	Priority Two Incident – situations where the information provided indicates that time is important, but not critical.
k.	Priority Three Incident – there are two possible responses to situations where there is no immediate danger to safety or property. This will be either police attention or police response. Each incident will be managed on a case by case basis in full consultation with the complainant. During that consultation, a determination will be made as to whether the complainant agrees that the matter can be handled over the telephone (police attention) or if attendance is required by Police. If the latter, then attendance must be not later than 48 hours from the initial contact by the complainant.
l.	Percentage of 000 calls answered on first and second presentation – it is the policy of Telstra to re-present 000 calls to another line after 9 rings in order to maximise the response rate. This is a national standard endorsed by Emergency Services Organisations across Australia. The measurement of response to 000 calls is based on average operating capacity and the target for this measure does not include abnormal instances created by one major event where operating capacity is overloaded due to multiple reporting of the same incident.

m. These results against these measures are sourced from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP), a national survey conducted by the Social Research Centre. Using the results of the relevant NSCSP questions, the percentage of the community 'satisfied' in measure 19 equals those who scored 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'; the percentage of the community who have 'confidence' in measure 20 equals those who scored 'agree' or 'strongly agree'. Comparability of Survey of Community Satisfaction with policing results - Since 1 July 2010 the NSCSP is conducted by the Social Research Centre. While the content of the survey remains relatively similar over time, results should not be compared over time (year on year). Survey results are subject to standard errors as they are an estimate of the population. Survey sample sizes are generally designed around confidence intervals (e.g. 95% confidence intervals). This means that for each survey question the true result/percentage point if the entire population was surveyed lies within a range or interval. In this context the survey estimate can be considered as the midpoint with the true value, if the population was surveyed, being either above or below that result. Therefore if the differing year confidence interval ranges overlap we are not able to state with certainty that the result is higher or lower.

n. Number of complaints received by *AFP Professional Standards*.

o. Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP) the 2024–25 data is not comparable to previous years results.
The new methodology for collection has shifted for all jurisdictions to a mix of online and phone modes using a sample mix combination of mobile Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and online (through a probability-based online panel). This change has significantly impacted the NSCSP results as respondents' answers differ between CATI and online. Sampling mix also differs between jurisdictions.
Accordingly, the 2024-25 data is not comparable to results in previous years; is not comparable to other jurisdictions. Noting the above, the derived national average estimate is indicative only.

p. Following a recommendation from the Commonwealth Ombudsman there has been an increase in cases complaints/cases being recorded that do not proceed to investigation. This includes complaints where due diligence inquiries are made on receipt of the complaint and it is determined there is no basis for the complaint.

q. KPI is considered complete on publishing of the 2024-25 ACT Policing Annual Report. At the time of writing, a draft Case Study has been prepared and submitted for consideration.



Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Key Performance Indicators & ACT Purchase Agreement

Key Points

- ACT Policing has many achievements to be proud of in the 2024-25 financial year, including our timely and professional responses to the most dangerous incidents impacting the safety of our community, and holding those who choose to criminally offend against people and property to account.
- I would also like to acknowledge that we have areas where we can and must do better.
- Our Key Performance Indicator results tell us that we need to continue boosting our efforts to refer Canberra's youth and First Nations offenders to restorative justice processes. We also have work to do in ensuring every community member we interact with is being referred to the important services that SupportLink provide in a timely manner (where it is necessary and appropriate).
- While we met the majority of our Key Performance Indicators last financial year, ACT Policing did not meet five KPIs.
- The 2022-26 Purchase Agreement and 2022 Ministerial Direction currently in place were finalised in late September 2022. Negotiations for a new four-year Purchase Agreement will commence in the second half of 2025. Work to prepare for negotiations and establish priorities is already well underway, facilitated through a new Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Policing Cross-Government Priorities Working Group.
- I would like to reassure the Assembly that we regularly track and assess our performance and will make every effort to ensure we meet the indicators we have missed this year.

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Purchase Agreement and Ministerial Direction

- The 2022-26 Purchase Agreement and 2022 Ministerial Direction were finalised in late September 2022.
- A new Ministerial Direction has been issued in 2025 reflecting recent budget decisions and contemporary policing priorities.
- The 2025 Ministerial Direction details the following areas of focus for ACT Policing:
 - Professionalism and practices of positive community engagement

- Crime prevention
 - Implement effective domestic and family violence prevention and response
 - Implement effective sexual assault prevention and responses
 - Address dangerous driving and reduce road trauma
 - Reducing the overrepresentation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system
 - Raising the age of criminal responsibility
 - Drug decriminalisation and harm minimisation
 - Community safety focused firearms approach
 - Counter terrorism and violent extremism
- A new Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS) and ACT Policing Cross-Government Priorities Working Group has been established within the Purchase Agreement Governance Framework. The objective of this working group is to provide a shared understanding across Government directorates of priority areas, particularly those requiring shared engagement, and to determine ways the Working Group can add value and facilitate progress.
 - It is expected negotiations for a new four-year Purchase Agreement will commence in 2025.

Performance Indicators

- ACT Policing, in partnership with ACT Government and the community, is creating a safer and more secure ACT through the provision of quality police services.
- The ACT Policing 2022-26 Purchase Agreement details the policing services purchased by the ACT Government from the AFP. The agreement remains a high-level principles-based document that seeks to provide guidance on how ACT Policing and the ACT Government work together to provide a community policing capability consistent with the ACT community's expectations.
- The 2022-26 Purchase Agreement outlines performance measures under two outcomes (Shared ACT Government Outcomes and ACT Policing Operational Outcomes), against which ACT Policing's performance is measured.

Please see **Attachment A** for all 2024-25 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) results.

Key Performance Indicators achieved 2024-25			
KPI	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result
12. Average length of time to respond to Priority One Incidents	5 year average or less	7.9 minutes or less	6.4 minutes
13. Average length of time to respond to Priority Two Incidents	5 year average or less	17.6 minutes or less	17.4 minutes

15.1 Percentage of 000 calls answered on first presentation	5 year average or more	90.8%	91.4%
17. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for person offences	5 year average or more	27.8%	29.8%
18. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for property offences	5 year average or more	8.0%	9.3%

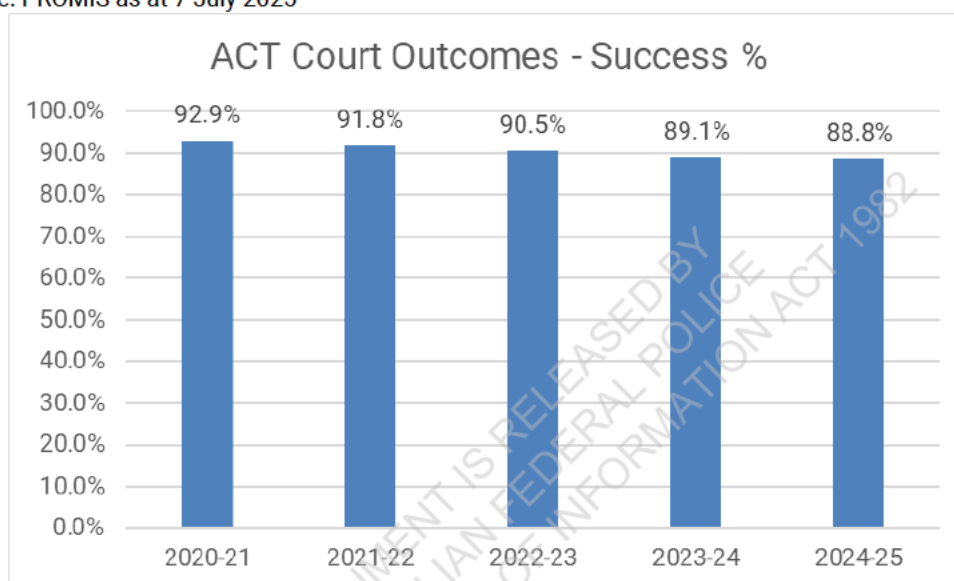
Key Performance Indicators not achieved 2024-25		
Performance measures		
#6.1	Percentage of eligible young First Nations people referred to restorative justice (RJ).	ACT Result: 66.7 per cent Target: 100 per cent
#6.2	Percentage of eligible young non-First Nations people referred to restorative justice (RJ).	ACT Result: 94.3 per cent Target: 100 per cent
Rationale: • ACT Policing's policy is to refer all eligible offenders including all eligible First Nations to restorative justice and to work with Government and non-government partners to identify options for increased diversion and community-based referrals. During the reference period there were: • Three Eligible First Nations offenders, one of which were not referred to RJ. • 35 Eligible non-First Nations offenders, two of which were not referred to RJ. • Overall, during 2024-25 there were 38 Young Persons eligible for diversionary conferences. Of those eligible, 35 were referred to the ACT Government's Restorative Justice Unit (RJU). The three young people outstanding were not referred due to the case officer not considering RJU at the time of apprehension or based on their discretion due to either the number and or nature of the offences committed. • Criteria for restorative justice may have limited the pool of 'eligible' youth for diversionary conferencing. Currently most retail crime and in particular, the increase in shoplifting relates to organisations and major businesses. Due the nature of the offences (while still eligible), business practices and that the victim is a 'business' these organisations are unlikely or unwilling to participate in diversionary conferences. • ACT Policing have planned initiatives scheduled for 2025-26 to increase the number of RJ referrals including but not limited to: – Upgrades to ACT Policing's case management system including the introduction of a mandatory case note entry form and digi-flow forms. These will be used at the point of apprehension and adjudication brief preparation to remind members of RJ obligations and assessment of eligibility. – Enhanced training modules for both recruits and local procedures courses.		

#7.1	Percentage of First Nations offenders proceeded against by non-court actions (Diversions and cautions).	ACT Result: 5.7 per cent Target: 6.2 per cent or more
Rationale: • ACT Policing's policy is to refer all eligible young offenders, including all eligible young First Nations people, to restorative justice and to work with government and non-government partners to identify options for increased diversion and community-based referrals. • ACT Policing recognises the role of restorative justice in the ACT Government's Reducing Recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025 policy (RR25by25), and fully appreciates the role of police in contributing to that aspiration. • The percentage of First Nation offenders proceeded against by non-court actions fell short of the target by 0.5 per cent which equates to four offenders for the 2024-25 financial year.		
#8	Number of persons referred to community support agencies (SupportLink)	ACT Result: 5,681 Target: 5,935
Rationale: • ACT Policing fell short of the target by 4.1 per cent or 254 referrals which equates to 21 less referrals per month across the 12-month period. • The target for this measure was 5,935 persons referred or more and is based on the average number of referrals over the past five years. ACT Policing failed this by referring 5,681 persons to Supportlink over the 2024-25 financial year, which was a decrease of 9.8 per cent in comparison to the previous financial year. • SupportLink provides a national referral and diversion gateway for police and other emergency services to participate in early intervention. The role of SupportLink is to reduce crime, suicide, violence, substance abuse, family breakdown, juvenile offending and to improve support for victims of crime. • The annual target for this measure is based on the average number of persons referred to community support agencies over the previous five years. For the periods covering the COVID-19 pandemic the numbers of referrals declined, however, have since increased with the number of referrals for 2023-24 the highest for the previous seven years.		
#15.2	Percentage of 000 calls answered on second presentation	ACT Result: 97.2 per cent Target: 97.4 per cent
Rationale: • The target for this measure was 97.4 per cent of calls answered on second presentation. ACT Policing failed this by answering 97.2 per cent of calls on second presentation, a difference of 0.2 per cent or 88 calls. • The total number of 000 calls answered by ACT Policing in 2024-25 increased by 10.2 per cent (or 3,698 calls) compared to the previous financial year.		

Court Outcomes

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
FAILED	190	153	225	220	155
SUCCESSFUL	4,370	3,501	3,434	3,218	2,783
DISMISSED MENTAL HEALTH	143	161	134	174	196
Total	4,703	3,815	3,793	3,612	3,134
Success %	92.9%	91.8%	90.5%	89.1%	88.8%

Source: PROMIS as at 7 July 2025



- These measures are based on the concept of a 'case' where a person may be brought before the court on multiple charges. The charges are, for the purpose of these measures, grouped under the apprehension identification number which is automatically generated by the PROMIS Case Management System. Successful prosecutions are those where any of the charges under one apprehension identification number has been proven before the court.
- Cases otherwise resolved (Mental health orders only) are those which resulted in a court appearance where the magistrate or judge made a determination which is not related to a finding of guilty or not guilty. This currently refers to mental health orders used by the court.

Community Confidence

- As per **Attachment A**, the Performance Indicators related to community confidence are based on the results from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with NSCSP. This is a telephone survey conducted on a quarterly basis across all jurisdictions in Australia.
- The Social Research Centre currently conducts the survey and the contract is managed by the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency, on behalf of all police jurisdictions in Australia.
- Due to a national change in the data collection methodology for the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing (NSCSP) the data from 2023-24 onwards is not comparable to previous year's results.

- In 2023-24 the methodology for collection has shifted for all jurisdictions to a mix of online and phone modes using a sample mix combination of mobile Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) and online (through a probability-based online panel). This change has significantly impacted the NSCSP results as respondents' answers differ between CATI and online. Sampling mix also differs between jurisdictions.
- Accordingly, the data from 2023-24 onwards is not comparable to results in previous years and is not comparable to other jurisdictions. Noting the above, the derived national average estimate is indicative only.
- Despite the aforementioned compatibility issues the 2024-25 result for community satisfaction in general with services provided by police, and the percentage of the community who have confidence in police remains high.

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Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Crime Statistics and Trends

Key Points

- During the 2024-25 financial year, a total of **51,802 incidents** were attended by ACT Policing. That equates to approximately 142 incidents attended per day. This is an increase compared to the 2023-24 financial year.
- Overall, there has been a **decrease in reported crime** for 2024-25. This included a decrease in motor vehicle theft, property related offences, and assaults. However, alcohol-related assaults increased compared to the previous year.
- The estimated increase in illicit drug use in the ACT, the ongoing need for police to attend mental health incidents and family and domestic violence highlights pose ongoing challenges for ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing will continue to respond to changing crime trends and we have the ability, through our proactive and targeting teams, to address particular issues as they arise. My officers adapt their methods and responses to ensure they remain a flexible and responsive police organisation.
- The organisation remains committed to adapting its methods and responses to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

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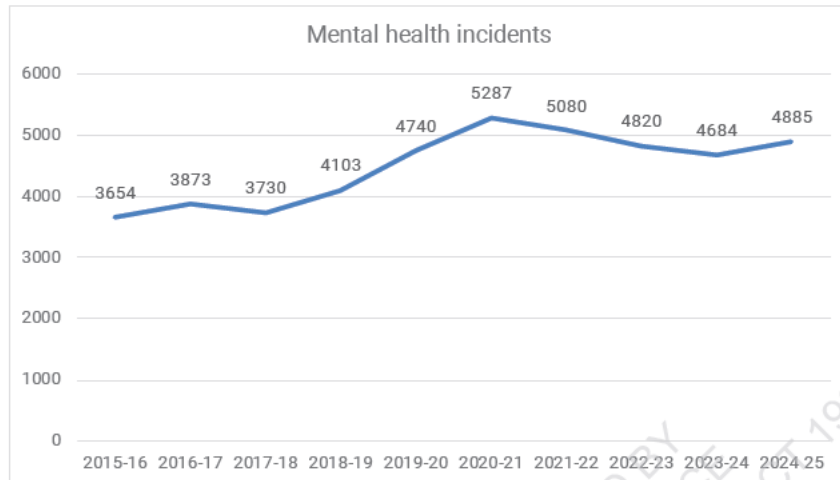
Financial Year Comparison

- There were six homicide related offences in 2024-25, decreasing from 14 in 2023-24.
- Assault offences have decreased by 3 per cent when compared to 2023-24.
- Alcohol-related assaults have increased by 7 per cent when compared to 2023-24.
- Property related offences decreased by 7 per cent when compared to 2023-24.
- Motor vehicle thefts decreased by 12 per cent when compared to 2023-24.

Trends

Number of mental health incidents

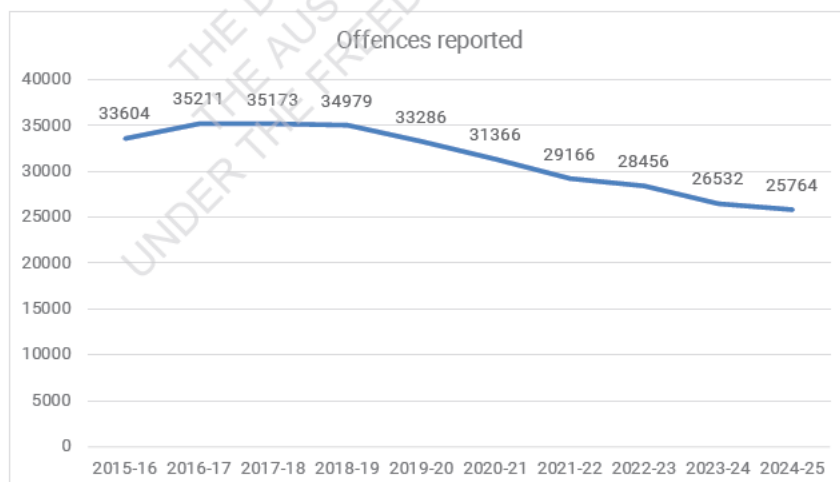
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Mental health incidents	3654	3873	3730	4103	4740	5287	5080	4820	4684	4885	4.3%



- A total of **4,885 mental health incidents** were reported to ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 4.3 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **13 mental health incidents per day**.

Number of offences reported

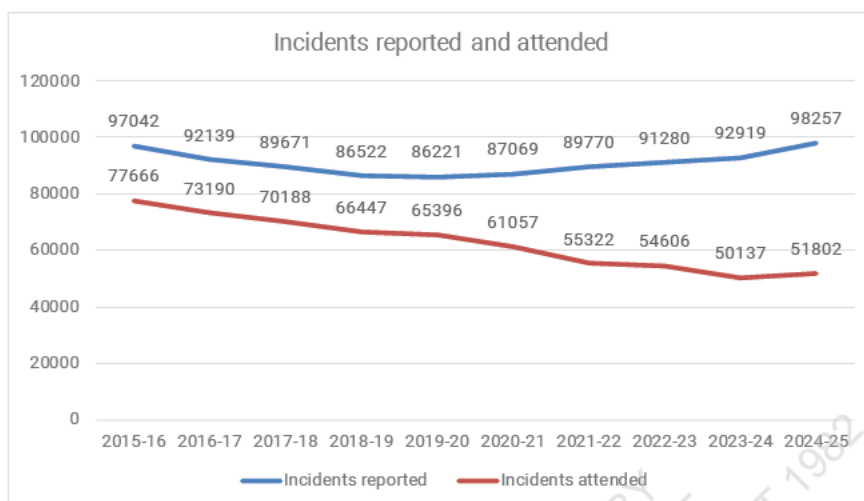
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Offences reported	33604	35211	35173	34979	33286	31366	29166	28456	26532	25764	-2.9%



- A total of **25,764 offences** were reported to ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 2.9 per cent decrease compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **71 offences reported per day**.

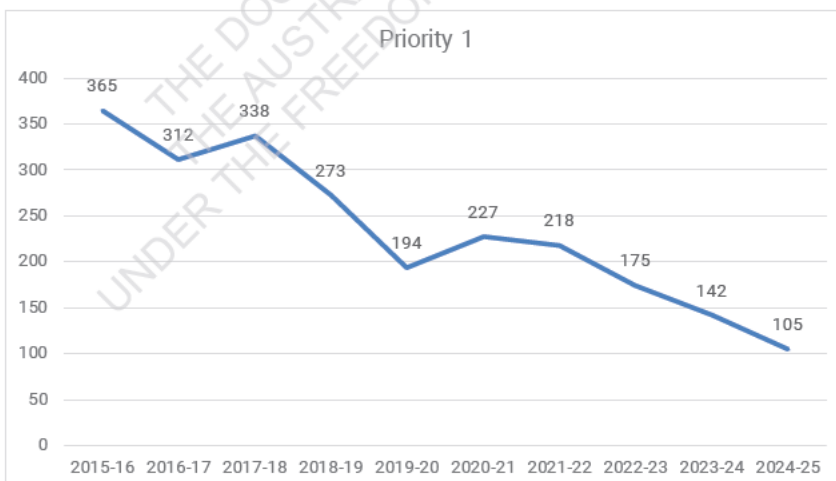
Incidents - Reported and attended

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Incidents reported	97042	92139	89671	86522	86221	87069	89770	91280	92919	98257	5.7%
Incidents attended	77666	73190	70188	66447	65396	61057	55322	54606	50137	51802	3.3%



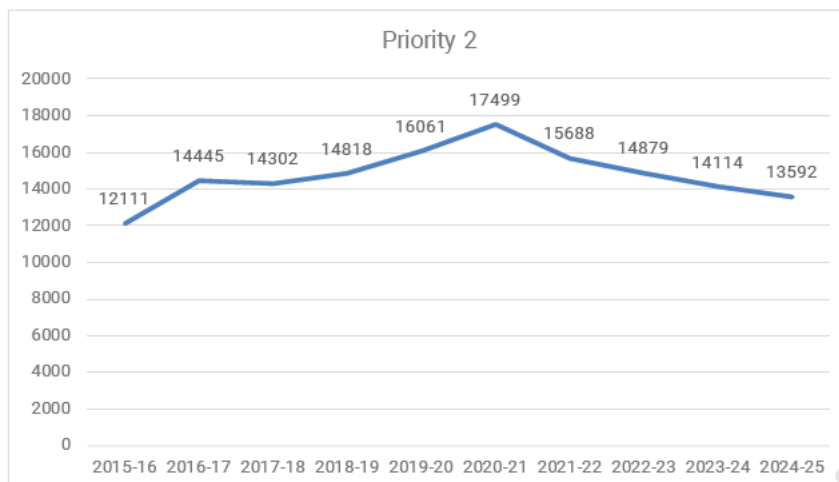
- A total of **51,802 incidents** were attended by ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is 3.3 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **142 incidents attended per day**.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Priority 1	365	312	338	273	194	227	218	175	142	105	-26.1%



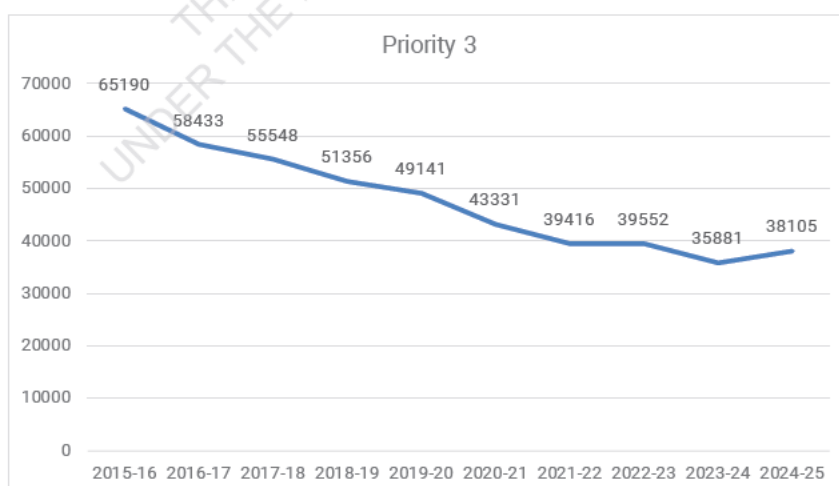
- A total of **105 Priority 1 incidents** were attended by ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 26.1 per cent decrease compared to the previous financial year.
- **Note** – three incident types are classified as Priority 1 – offender on premises, urgent response required (officer safety) and police pursuits (with pursuits not counted in the above as their ‘immediate’ response impacts KPI analysis).

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Priority 2	12111	14445	14302	14818	16061	17499	15688	14879	14114	13592	-3.7%



- A total of **13,592 Priority 2 incidents** were responded to by ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 3.7 per cent decrease compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **37 Priority 2 incidents per day**
- **Note** – 14 incident types are classified as Priority 2 – Industrial accident, aircraft incident, explosive incident, bomb threat, check welfare/premises, water incident, m/v collision involving injury/fatal/AFP vehicle, disturbance, missing person, multi-agency event, breach order, mental health/psychiatric incident, robbery, fail to stop. The majority of P2s are check welfare/premises and check welfare/premises.

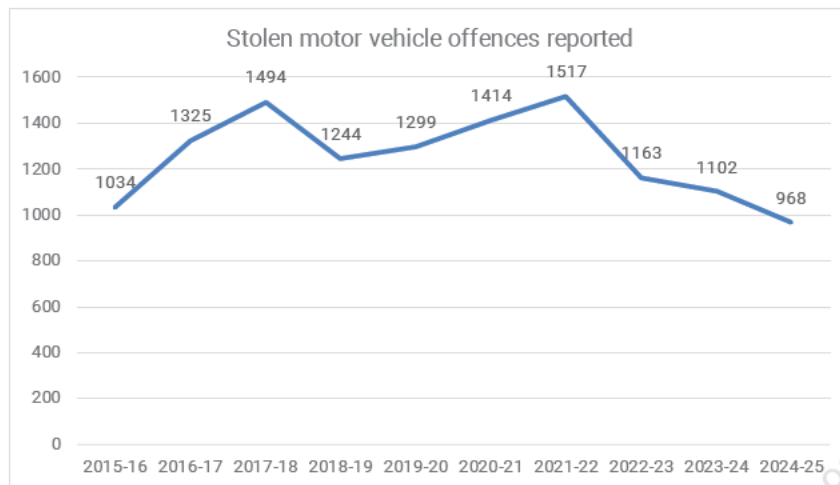
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Priority 3	65190	58433	55548	51356	49141	43331	39416	39552	35881	38105	6.2%



- A total of **38,105 Priority 3 incidents** were responded to by ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 6.2 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **104 Priority 3 incidents per day**.

Number of stolen motor vehicle offences reported

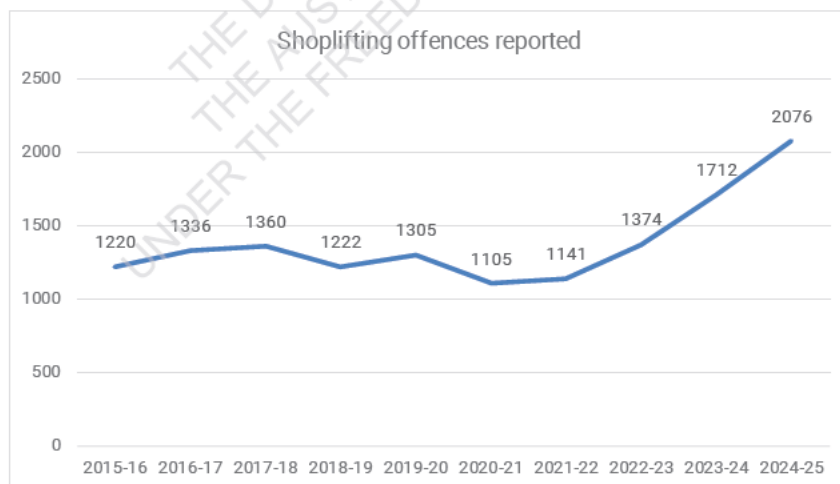
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Offences reported	1034	1325	1494	1244	1299	1414	1517	1163	1102	968	-12.2%



- A total of **968 stolen motor vehicle offences** were reported to ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 12.2 per cent decrease compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **3 offences reported per day**.

Number of shoplifting offences reported

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% change 2024-25 compared to 2023-24
Offences reported	1220	1336	1360	1222	1305	1105	1141	1374	1712	2076	21.3%



- A total of **2,076 shoplifting offences** were reported to ACT Policing in 2024-25. This is a 21.3 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year.
- This equates to approximately **6 offences reported per day**.

Crime Statistics

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2020-2025							
Offence Type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage of offences cleared 2024-25*	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Homicide and related offences	17	15	7	14	6	67%	-57%
Sexual assault offences	632	640	854	733	689	46%	-6%
Assaults	2,896	2,799	3,402	3,266	3,157	64%	-3%
Home	1,316	1,334	1,634	1,450	1,480	74%	2%
Other	1,580	1,465	1,768	1,816	1,677	55%	-8%
Other offences against the person**	290	293	450	382	382	53%	0%
Total	3,835	3,747	4,713	4,395	4,234	60%	-4%

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025

*Offences cleared relates to offences where there is an outcome during the respective financial year, including identification of an offender, withdrawal of the complaint, or an unsubstantiated determination of the offence.

**Other offences include kidnapping, abduction, threatening behaviour and other dangerous/negligent acts.

PROPERTY OFFENCES 2020-2025						
Offence Type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Robbery	155	171	224	174	181	4%
Armed robbery	63	84	96	70	82	17%
Unarmed Robbery	92	87	128	104	99	-5%
Burglary	2,031	2,063	1,979	1,866	1,747	-6%
Dwelling	1,178	1,108	1,036	947	718	-24%
Shops	291	405	455	331	223	-33%
Other	562	550	488	588	806	37%
Motor vehicle theft	1,414	1,517	1,163	1,102	968	-12%
Theft (excluding motor vehicle theft)	7,886	7,916	7,214	7,058	6,808	-4%
Property damage	4,102	3,670	3,474	3,389	3,169	-6%
Other Offences Against Property*	1,985	2,288	1,751	1,465	1,112	-24%
Total	17,573	17,625	15,805	15,054	13,985	-7%

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025

*Other offences against property include fraud, blackmail, extortion and handling of stolen goods and environmental offences – the increase is driven by an increase in fraud reported in the 2021-22 financial year.

ALCOHOL-RELATED ASSAULT OFFENCES 2020-2025						
Alcohol related assault offences	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Assault – Alcohol-related	647	596	767	549	586	7%
Assault – non-alcohol-related	2,249	2,203	2,635	2,717	2,571	-5%
Total	2,896	2,799	3,402	3,266	3,157	-3%
Proportion of assaults that are alcohol related (%)	22%	21%	23%	17%	19%	

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025

2024-25 Bail Data

- Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, there were 2,261 charges laid by ACT Policing on apprehensions with a breach of bail charge
 - The most common offence was justice procedures (1,542), followed by traffic offences (154), assault (102) and theft (excl motor vehicle theft) (95).
- Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, there were 1,195 apprehensions by ACT Policing involving breach of bail. 160 of those apprehensions related to offenders under 18 years old.
- These apprehensions relate to 594 unique offenders, of those, 62 were under 18 years old.

Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Crime Statistics and Trends

ACT POLICING CRIME DATA 2015-16 to 2024-25												
Offence Group	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25 vs 2023-24	2024-25 vs 2015-16
Homicide	8	2	11	8	7	17	15	7	14	6	-57.1%	-25.0%
Assault - FV	1,141	1,364	1,179	1,162	1,230	1,169	1,274	1,545	1,409	1,416	0.5%	24.1%
Assault - Non-FV	1,417	1,700	1,671	1,790	1,612	1,726	1,520	1,855	1,857	1,735	-6.6%	22.4%
Sexual Assault	485	571	528	642	580	632	640	854	733	689	-6.0%	42.1%
Other offences against a person	230	320	197	276	304	290	293	450	382	382	0.0%	66.1%
Robbery - armed	96	136	124	105	108	63	85	96	70	82	17.1%	-14.6%
Robbery - other	59	113	103	109	124	93	87	129	104	99	-4.8%	67.8%
Burglary dwellings	1,476	1,649	1,679	1,659	1,393	1,178	1,108	1,036	947	718	-24.2%	-51.4%
Burglary shops	431	335	287	419	388	291	405	455	331	223	-32.6%	-48.3%
Burglary other	724	581	591	548	573	562	550	488	588	806	37.1%	11.3%
Motor vehicle theft	1,034	1,325	1,494	1,244	1,299	1,414	1,517	1,163	1,102	968	-12.2%	-6.4%
Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)	10,975	9,632	9,797	8,807	8,282	7,886	7,916	7,214	7,058	6,808	-3.5%	-38.0%
Property damage	5,123	5,374	4,645	4,964	4,262	4,102	3,670	3,474	3,389	3,169	-6.5%	-38.1%
Other offences against property	1,758	1,595	1,670	2,410	1,787	1,984	2,288	1,751	1,455	1,112	-23.6%	-36.7%
Other offences	8,647	10,514	11,197	10,836	11,337	9,959	7,798	7,939	7,093	7,551	6.5%	-12.7%
Total	33,604	35,211	35,173	34,979	33,286	31,366	29,166	28,456	26,532	25,764	-2.9%	-23.3%

Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Crime Statistics and Trends

Perceptions of Community Safety

- ACT Policing acknowledges recent community motions, petitions and concerns regarding perceptions of increased crime in the areas of:
 - Dickson
 - Hawker
 - Page
 - Scullin
 - Kippax shops
 - Watson
 - Downer
 - Woden Town Centre
 - Kaleen
 - Giralang
 - Belconnen (BAHA)
- We understand that within the community there is a perception of increased crime. This can often be based on conjecture rather than fact.
- We can see from the supporting data crime rates are decreasing for the majority of offence types. However, we do note a decrease in crime does not necessarily correlate to community perceptions of safety.
- A large component of ACT Policing's crime reduction strategy is engagement with the community and Community Interest Groups.
- ACT Policing is also working with areas of ACT Government, including Housing ACT and other support services, to identify issues of concern and respond appropriately.
- To address concerns within the ACT region, ACT Policing has implemented the following initiative:
 - ACT Community Engagement Approach – which involves:
 - Proactive high visibility patrolling
 - High visibility Road Policing operations
 - Commercial and community engagement
 - Tailored engagement with residents and community groups
 - Intelligence and data analytics.
- As part of its commitment to community consultation, all ACT Policing Station Inspectors establish and continue to engage with business owners and operators as opportunities arise, to raise awareness about burglaries and other criminal conduct, and when requested, provide education on how to protect and secure businesses from criminality.
- Senior ACT Policing members also attend community forum sessions when available upon request. At these sessions, police also address questions from, and work with, business

owners on strategies to help reduce anti-social behaviour incidents and limit the opportunity for crime to occur.

- ACT Policing has a dedicated a Business Liaison Officer which serves as a vital link between ACT Policing and the business community. This role is responsible for fostering positive relationships, ensuring effective communication, and enhancing collaboration between ACT Policing, business owners and state/regional level managers. The Business Liaison Officer works to address concerns, promote crime reduction initiatives, and facilitate problem-solving efforts to maintain a safe, secure, thriving business environment.
- Reports to ACT Policing's online reporting portal have made reporting incidents of crime easier assisting in positive community perceptions regarding police action.

Homelessness

- ACT Policing is aware of concerns surrounding antisocial behaviour and homelessness in the Canberra City and other retail precincts, and are working with stakeholders on initiatives to combat these issues.
- It is important to recognise that being homeless is not a crime and policing is a part of the solution and not the whole solution to the issue.
- ACT Policing works closely with government and non-government service providers to assist those sleeping rough in our community like Street to Home, delivered by St Vincent de Paul, who are an outreach service that provide advocacy and support for Canberrans experiencing homelessness.

Outsmart the Offender

- The Outsmart the Offender campaign is a joint ACT Government and ACT Policing initiative, in partnership with ACT Neighbourhood Watch and ACT Region Crimestoppers, aimed at raising awareness about what individuals can do to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to property crime.
- Since the initial launch of the Outsmart the Offender campaign in late 2019, ACT Policing have seen some great results in social media engagement.
- A refreshed Campaign was launched on 1 July 2024. It went beyond social media to include transport and retail communication modes, like the interior of buses and the light rail, and in shopping centres.
- The key messages of the campaign are based on ACT Policing intelligence about the tactics offenders are using to steal cars and valuables, and break into homes and businesses, with a call to action on what people can do to take steps to safeguard their homes, businesses, cars and personal property.
- The campaign targets important areas of prevention, including:
 - *Keep out a break-in* – Lock doors and windows, even when at home. Consider installing security cameras or motion-sensor lights.
 - *Lock it or lose it* – Secure vehicles and bikes with quality locks and alarms.
 - *Be engaged and crime-wise* – Get to know your neighbours, watch out for each other and share crime concerns with each other and the police.

Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Knife Crime

Key Points

It is an offence to possess a knife in public without a reasonable excuse. Knives are dangerous and pose a serious risk to the owner and the wider public.

In 2024-25, police seized 467 knives and laid charges against 89 individuals for possession of a knife without reasonable excuse. 23 of those individuals were under 18 years old.

While we are not seeing a particular spike in knife-related incidents in the ACT, any use of knives is a concern to police noting the presence of any weapon can escalate what could already be a volatile situation. If someone is found with a knife and there is no legal reason for them to be in possession of that weapon, it will be seized, and criminal charges may follow. Self-defence and self-protection are not reasonable excuses.

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Possession of a Knife

- Under the *Crimes Act 1900* – Sect 382, the possession of a knife in a public place or school without a reasonable excuse is prohibited, including for the purpose of self-defence.
- ACT Policing will continue to respond to crime trends, and have the ability, through our proactive and targeting teams to address particular issues as they arise. ACT Policing officers adapt their methods and responses to ensure they remain a flexible and responsive police organisation.
- The [Crimes Act 1900 \(ACT\)](#) provides ACT policing with the following powers to search for a knife if the police officer has **suspicion on reasonable grounds**.
 - Section 193 – Police may conduct a frisk or ordinary search on a person in a public place or school if they are suspected on reasonable grounds of having a knife, and may seize any knife found as a result of the search.
 - Section 207 – Police may stop, search and seize a person for a relevant thing under the circumstances of a serious offence or a thing that has been stolen or otherwise was unlawfully obtained. Police may exercise this power if a police officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, without a search warrant as the circumstances under this section are deemed serious and urgent.

- Sections 223 and 224 – Police may conduct a frisk or ordinary search of an arrested person at the time of arrest.
 - Section 185 – defines a **frisk search** as a search of a person conducted by quickly running the hands over the person's outer garments; and an examination of anything worn or carried by the person that is conveniently and voluntarily removed by the person.
 - Section 185 – defines a **ordinary search** as a search of a person or of articles in the possession of a person that may include – requiring the person to remove his or her overcoat, coat or jacket and any gloves, shoes, socks and hat; and an examination of those items.
- In 2024-25, police seized 467 knives and laid charges against 89 individuals for possession of a knife without reasonable excuse. 23 of those individuals were under 18 years old.
 - Knives are dangerous and pose a serious risk to the owner and the wider public.
 - It is an offence to possess a knife in public without a reasonable excuse.
 - Self-defence and self-protection are not reasonable excuses.
 - Officers are being called to situations where people are getting into arguments and suddenly someone is pulling a knife or threatening that they have one.
 - The presence of a weapon can escalate what is an already volatile situation and as we saw recently in the city, can cause serious injuries

Statistics

NUMBER OF APPREHENSIONS RELATING TO POSSESSION OF A KNIFE WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE REPORTED BY ACT POLICING					
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
120	108	110	121	112	100

Source: PROMIS as of 2 July 2025

- The following tables outline offences reported where the case officers have determined that a knife or a sharp instrument was involved using the weapons checkbox selected on the 'Offence Screen' in PROMIS.

NUMBER OF OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING WHERE A KNIFE OR SHARP INSTRUMENT WAS INVOLVED*					
Offence Type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Homicide	7	2	2	7	3
Assault	99	66	77	70	48
Sexual offences	2	1	1	3	1
Other offences against the person	36	20	27	19	12

Robbery	35	59	52	44	36
Burglary	30	45	24	40	29
Stolen Motor vehicle	7	7	3	3	8
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	23	46	18	37	18
Property damage	79	86	91	70	49
Other offences against property	1	1	0	2	0
Justice procedures	5	6	4	5	10
Firearms and weapons	141	132	175	163	148
Other offences against good order	20	7	6	9	6
Drug offences	1	0	1	3	0
Traffic Offences	6	2	3	1	1
Other offences n.e.c.	5	1	0	0	0
Total	497	481	484	476	369

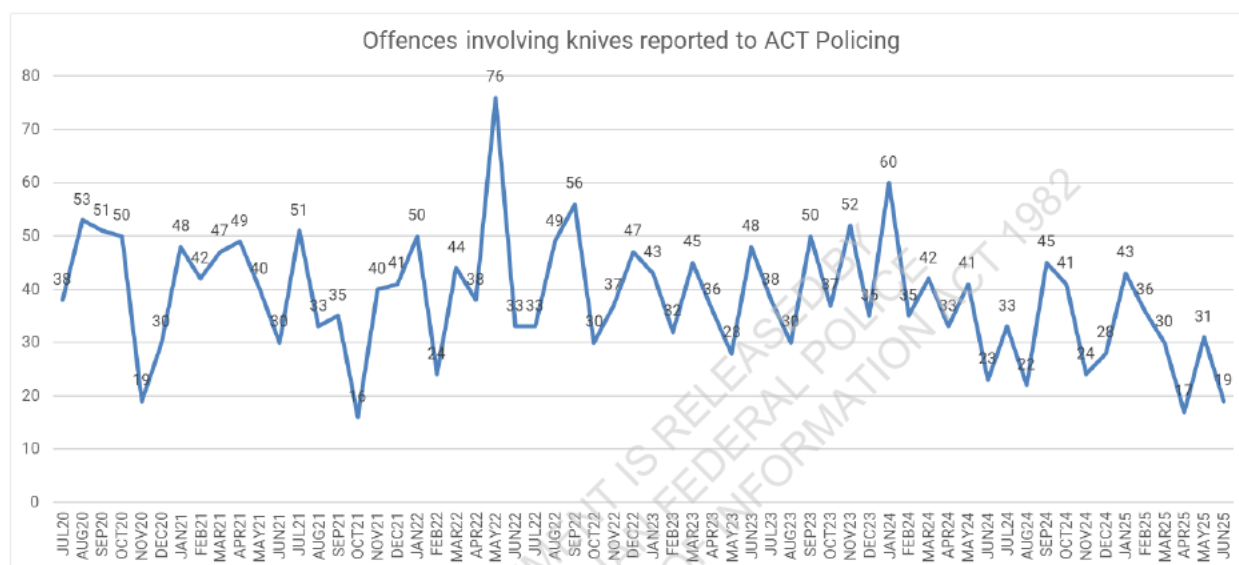
Source: PROMIS as of 2 July 2025

*Knife or sharp instrument parameters are based on where the weapons checkbox is selected on the 'Offence Screen' in PROMIS.

NUMBER OF OFFENCE LOCATIONS REPORTED TO ACT POLICING WHERE A KNIFE OR SHARP INSTRUMENT WAS INVOLVED*					
Offence Location	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Airport	0	0	0	1	0
Bank (inc building society/credit union)	0	0	0	0	0
Basement carpark	5	9	4	5	6
Building site	2	2	3	6	4
Bus depot	1	0	1	1	1
Car park	43	32	35	44	25
Chemist/surgery	0	3	2	1	0
Driveway	23	23	16	11	9
Garage (attached to residence)	0	6	0	3	1
Garage (not attached to residence)	0	2	0	4	0
Hospital (inc all health except chemist/surgery)	2	2	3	4	0
Hotel/motel	2	3	2	13	2
House	156	133	133	125	118
Licensed premises	4	2	5	14	7
Office	1	2	3	3	1
Other	26	11	11	12	7
Police station	0	0	1	1	0
Post office/mail exchange	0	0	1	3	1
Public place (inc street/ path/bicycle path)	191	214	192	150	140
Recreational centre	3	0	3	1	0

School (inc all educational and surrounds)	12	9	10	14	7
Service station	2	0	2	14	0
Shop	24	28	57	46	39
Train station	0	0	0	0	0
Tram terminal	0	0	0	0	1
Total	497	481	484	476	369

Source: PROMIS as of 2 July 2025.



If Asked Questions

What percentage of knife related offences resulted in imprisonment, were brought before a judicial body in 2024-25?

ACT Policing relies on data made available by the ACT Courts in relation to matters regarding imprisonment and judicial appearances. In order to provide the Committee with an accurate response, ACT Policing recommends this question be directed to ACT Courts.

How many knife related offences were brought before the Supreme Court in 2024-25?

ACT Policing relies on data made available by the ACT Courts in relation to matters appearing before the Supreme Court. In order to provide the Committee with an accurate response, ACT Policing recommends this question be directed to ACT Courts.

How many knife related offences were brought before the Magistrates Court in 2024-25?

ACT Policing relies on data made available by the ACT Courts in relation to matters appearing before the Magistrates Court. In order to provide the Committee with an accurate response, ACT Policing recommends this question be directed to ACT Courts.

Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Youth Crime

Key Points

- The prevalence of youth related crime in the ACT is an ongoing concern for ACT Policing, particularly considering the public expectations for police response to criminal incidents and the recent changes to the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility or MACR.
- A key message we are reinforcing to the public is that even following the increase to the MACR, ACT Policing continues to respond to calls for assistance, regardless of the apparent age of the offender. Once officers ensure the **safety of everyone present** at an incident, they will establish what has taken place and whether an offence has occurred. **Officers will then consider the appropriate pathway** for any young people or others involved.
- ACT Policing continues to work with ACT Government stakeholders and ACT Policing has been clear that it will be reliant on the therapeutic and immediate support services being adequately resourced and in place to respond to, and critically, support any action taken by ACT Policing so that young persons can be transferred to support services in a timely manner.
- In preparation for the changes that occurred on 1 July 2025, ACT Policing invested heavily in a capability uplift by developing and delivering a mandatory MACR training package, targeted for all sworn operational members of ACT Policing (up to and including Superintendents). More than 650 officers and frontline staff have completed this training.
- Ultimately – ACT Policing supports efforts to divert young people away from the judicial system. We will continue to work daily with all stakeholders in this space to identify those youth (of all ages) who need assistance and guidance.

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Key Points

- The prevalence of youth related crime in the ACT is an ongoing concern for ACT Policing, particularly considering the public expectations for police response to such incidents and the recent changes to the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR).
- On 1 July 2025, the MACR was increased in the ACT from 12 years to 14 years of age.
- ACT Policing continues to receive high volumes of complaints about youth crime in Canberra and the impact this is having on victims and the broader community.

- ACT Policing continues to respond to calls for assistance, regardless of the apparent age of the offender.
- Once ACT Policing officers ensure the safety of all present at an incident, establish the events having taken place and determine whether an offence has occurred, police will then consider the appropriate pathway for any young people or offenders involved. For young people under the MACR, police will continue to refer these individuals to the Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) or the Safer Youth Response Service (SYRS) as appropriate.
- ACT Policing will continue to work with ACT Government stakeholders on issues associated with implementing the MACR reforms, and advocate for the MACR referral pathways to be adequately resourced to provide appropriate and timely support.

Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)

- The MACR reforms aim to divert children and young people who engage in harmful behaviour away from the criminal justice system and provide them with therapeutic supports to address the underlying causes of their conduct.
- The [Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2025](#) commenced on 1 July 2025, raising the MACR to 14 years of age, with exceptions for the following offences:
 - murder
 - intentionally inflicting grievous bodily harm
 - sexual assault in the first degree; and
 - act of indecency in the first degree.
- This amendment also introduced new limitations on police powers for young people under the MACR, including changes to the circumstances in which police may stop, search or detain a young person without a warrant, by:
 - Introducing a new 'seriousness threshold' gateway that a police officer must consider prior to using their powers where they are unable to form the belief on reasonable grounds that a person is at least 14 years old.
 - Raising the threshold from reasonable suspicion to belief on reasonable grounds before using stop, search or detain powers.
 - Introducing written notice requirements to the Public Advocate or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People Commissioner in certain circumstances.
- Although a child under the MACR cannot be summonsed, charged or found guilty of a criminal offence (with some offence exceptions) in the ACT, police can still investigate matters involving children and young people including to ascertain whether an adult is involved.
- To support the MACR reforms, the ACT Government established the following referral pathways for children under the MACR:
 - **Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP)** – evaluates the therapeutic needs of the child or young person and advises on appropriate treatment and support.
 - **Safer Youth Response Service Pilot (SYRS)** – a voluntary service that provides children and young people who are engaging in harmful behaviour with

crisis/after-hours access to youth workers, emergency accommodation and follow-up case management.

- As of 1 July 2025, the SYRS' operating hours are 9am-2am, 7 days a week.

Operational Challenges

- ACT Policing continues to receive high volumes of complaints about youth crime in Canberra and the impact this is having on victims and the broader community.
 - ACT Policing has been the primary referrer to the Therapeutic Support Panel.
 - The MACR reforms' implementation has been further complicated by the staggered roll-out of support services and their varying response times, meaning that police are often still engaged in the management and support of persons under the MACR.
- The passing of the [Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2025](#) (the Act) on 9 April 2025, introduced new limitations on police powers and written notification requirements involving young people under the MACR. This placed significant pressure on ACT Policing to rapidly operationalise and ready their workforce in implementing these changes, as the Act came into effect less than three months later on 1 July 2025.
- With the further raising of the MACR to 14 years old on 1 July 2025 (with some offence exceptions), ACT Policing is concerned with the anticipated resourcing impact this cohort may have on support services such as SYRS. A timely response from support services is critical to avoid prolonged police engagement in matters involving young people and in fulfilling the intent of the MACR reforms.
- ACT Policing maintains the concerns raised in ACT Policing's [2023 Inquiry submission](#) to the Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2023 which stated:
 - If the MACR is raised to 14 years, ACT Policing does not support offence exceptions for serious offences. ACT Policing's experience is that children either have the cognitive ability to understand their actions or not, regardless of the crime type.
 - ACT Policing is concerned that the proposed exceptions do not address a range of other intentionally violent, serious or significantly harmful offences. ACT Policing continues to observe a cohort of 12-13 year olds engaging in serious and violent offences, who are often recidivist offenders. Offences include incest, property damage, ride/drive motor vehicle without consent, assault (common and occasioning actual bodily harm), robbery, burglary, and contravention of a protection order.
- Between **22 November 2023** (when MACR was increased from 10 to 12 years) and **30 June 2025**:
 - There were 164 apprehensions of 12–13-year-olds.
Police charged 12–13-year-olds with the following offences, most of which may not be captured by the offence exceptions.
 - 34.9 per cent - Assault
 - 19.3 per cent - Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)
 - 14.0 per cent - Justice procedures e.g. breaches of bail and other orders
 - 8.0 per cent - Other offences against good order
 - 7.6 per cent - Sexual Offences.

- Per ACT Policing's arrest data for the last four calendar years, children aged 12 and 13 years of age have historically been arrested at various times of the day. This demonstrates that arrests can occur at any time of the day, with peaks between 2pm and 6pm, and can extend throughout the evening.
- ACT Policing continues to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the MACR reforms, working alongside ACT Government stakeholders on issues raised in implementation, including ensuring the MACR referral pathways are providing appropriate and timely support.
 - A coordination mechanism has been established to monitor implementation from 1 July 2025 and will keep Ministers briefed of the progress and any issues arising. This comprises key senior stakeholders across ACT Policing, Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) and the SYRS.

MACR Training

- ACT Policing has invested significantly to support the implementation and operationalisation of the MACR reforms. This includes significant uplift of MACR related governance material.
- ACT Policing developed and delivered a mandatory MACR training package targeted for all sworn operational members of ACT Policing, up to and including Superintendents.
- As at 1 July 2025, 698 ACT Policing members completed this mandatory training package.
- ACT Policing members spent a combined 2,422.3 hours attending MACR training and supporting the operationalisation of the reforms for policing, with an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Statistics

Youth related crimes involving persons aged 10 – 17 years of age.

- In 2024-25, ACT Policing apprehended 746 young people (aged between 10–17 years of age), with 76 of those apprehended aged between 12-13. This was a decrease from 797 apprehensions in 2023-24.
- In 2024-25, ACT Policing laid a total of 1,754 charges against young people (aged between 10–17 years of age) at the time of apprehension, with 124 of these charges relating to 12-13-year-old offenders. This is an increase compared to the 1,718 charges laid in 2023-24.
 - Police charged 12–13-year-olds with the following offences:
 - 39.5 per cent - Assault offences
 - 19.4 per cent - Justice procedures e.g. breaches of bail and other orders
 - 11.3 per cent - Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)
 - 8.1 per cent - Other offences against good order.
- The above figures include charges and apprehensions for breaches of bail and breaches of good behaviour obligations.

- Although a child younger than the MACR cannot be summonsed, charged or found guilty of a criminal offence in the ACT, police retain powers to search, arrest, detain and gather forensic evidence if reasonable grounds exist.
- ACT Policing remains firm on its commitment to continue to respond to any call for assistance, regardless of the apparent age of the offender. Once officers ensure the safety of all present at an incident, establish the events having taken place and determine whether an offence has occurred, police will then consider the appropriate pathway for any young offenders involved (taking the MACR into account).
- Apprehension - Police proceedings based on the identification of an alleged offender or offenders. Police can proceed against an offender in a number of ways including but not limited to arrest, summons, diversionary conference and caution. While not every offence results in an apprehension, apprehensions may involve multiple charges and may be linked to more than one incident.
- Between 1 and 28 July 2025, since the raising of MACR to 14 years of age:

OFFENCES CLEARED BY OFFENDER IDENTIFIED – CHILD UNDER 14 YEARS OLD	
Offence	July 2025
Assault	6
Property damage	1
Firearms and weapons	2
Other offences against good order	1
Total	10

SOURCE: PROMIS as at 28 July 2025

REFERRALS TO SAFER YOUTH RESPONSE SERVICE AND THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT PANEL	
Referral	July 2025
SYRS - Safer Youth Response Service (via ACTP Communications)	2
TSP - Therapeutic Support Panel (via SupportLink)	7
TSP and SYRS	3
Total	12

SOURCE: PROMIS as at 28 July 2025

Police Powers

- **General search powers:** Where a police officer suspects on reasonable grounds that the person is carrying or is in possession of relevant material (e.g., a knife, or stolen or unlawful goods), they may be able to search or arrest the young person per the relevant search provision e.g., section 193, 207 and 209 of the *Crimes Act 1900*.
- **Stop, search or detain powers for young people under the MACR:** The [Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2025](#) commenced on 1 July 2025, introducing new limitations on police powers for young people under the MACR. This included changes to the circumstances in which police may stop, search or detain a young person under the MACR and the introduction of written notice requirements to the Public Advocate and Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Young People Commissioner when exercising certain police powers and executing search warrants. This amendment was passed on 9 April 2025, resulting in limited lead time and placed significant pressure on ACT Policing to operationalise these amendments and ensure workforce readiness in less than three months.

- **Police action after arresting young person under the MACR:** Per Division 10.7 of the Crimes Act, police must do the minimum necessary to prevent or stop the conduct for which the arrest was made and take the young person to their parent/carer. If it is not appropriate for the young person to return to a parent or carer, police must consult with the Director-General of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) before deciding whether another person or agency (e.g. SYRS) is appropriate.
- **Search warrants:** Per section 194 of the *Crimes Act 1900*, a search warrant may be issued to search a person, including young people under 14 years of age where there is a reasonable suspicion that they possess or will possess evidential material.
- **Arrest and Detention at ACT Watch House or Police Cells:** As a last resort (e.g. CYF/SYRS are unable to assist) police may arrest and detain a young person under the MACR if certain requirements have been met, such as provisions for:
 - The arrest of children under the age of criminal responsibility (Division 10.7 of the *Crimes Act*).
 - The detention of intoxicated people (section 4 of the *Intoxicated People (Care and Protection) Act 1994*).
 - Breach of the peace (common law).
- Where a child is detained in the Watch House, it should only be for as long as reasonably necessary to take the child or young person to a parent, carer or appropriate persons.

Emergency Action

- In some cases, ACT Policing may be required to apprehend the child or young person, before taking emergency action or facilitating the transfer of care responsibility to CYF or SYRS.
 - ACT Policing can contact CYF, including after hours, to facilitate the transfer of care responsibility for young people under Care and Protection Orders or in the event of SYRS being unresponsive to a call for assistance.
 - ACT Policing can contact SYRS to assist in transferring care responsibility for young people who are not under Care and Protection Orders or in the event of CYF being unresponsive to a call for assistance.
 - In circumstances where it is not appropriate to return a young person to the care of their parent or carer, CYF and SYRS can provide crisis accommodation and immediate support to young people under the MACR who are exhibiting risky or harmful behaviours.
- Regardless of the MACR reforms, ACT Policing members maintain emergency action powers for children and young people.

- ACT Policing members are encouraged to engage with CYF as appropriate when encountering a child or young person under the MACR who is also under a Care and Protection Order.
- This may include considering if emergency action needs to be taken, which concerns situations where:
 - a child or young person (s 403, *Children and Young People Act 2008* (CYP Act)):
 - is in immediate need of care and protection; or
 - is likely to be in immediate need of care and protection if emergency action is not taken
 - a police officer believes on reasonable grounds that the child or young person is in need of emergency care and protection (s 406, CYP Act).
- Emergency action (s 405, CYP Act), taken by the Director-General or a police officer, for a child or young person:
 - (a) means transferring daily care responsibility for the child or young person to the Director-General or police officer; and
 - (b) includes arranging for the child's or young person's care and protection by keeping the child or young person at a place or by moving the child or young person from a place to another place.
- If a police officer takes emergency action, they must immediately tell the Director-General of CYF and, if practicable, the parents or people with daily care responsibility for the child or young person. The police officer must also deliver the child or young person to the place or person advised by the Director-General.

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Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Sexual Assault

Key Points

- ACT policing takes all sexual assault matters seriously and has specialist investigators in the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse (SACAT) teams who investigate matters and guide victim survivors through each step of the process.
- Reporting sexual assault can be a daunting and traumatic experience. ACT Policing recognises the emotional hardship and courage required to come forward. SACAT works with victim survivors during what is a very stressful time in their lives. SACAT's priority is to ensure the emotional wellbeing and physical safety of victim survivors of sexual assault, while bringing sexual offenders to justice.
- ACT Policing works closely with victim support groups such as the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, the ACT Intermediary Program within the ACT Human Rights Commission and Victims Support ACT to deliver a high level of support and care to victim survivors.
- Since the reviews into our handling of sexual assault matters, there has been significant progress with our dedicated sexual assault training and new oversight processes to ensure a consistency of response. I am confident that the support and assistance we provide to victims of sexual assault are based on a trauma informed and victim centric approach.
- During 2024-25 there were five matters involving allegations of childcare centre related sexual offending investigated by ACT Policing's Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team. Of these five, nil were progressed to prosecution.

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Key Statistics

NUMBER OF SEXUAL OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING						
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Sexual assault	4	5	13	34	3	-91.2%
Sexual assault 1st 2nd 3rd degree	6	9	13	9	15	66.7%

Sexual intercourse, no consent	173	175	263	176	237	34.7%
Indecent act, assault	52	41	91	60	36	-40.0%
Sexual intercourse, person < 16 yrs	97	73	93	81	86	6.2%
Indecent act, person < 16 yrs	87	92	110	100	96	-4.0%
Incest	8	20	12	17	5	-70.6%
Indecent act, no consent	139	180	213	180	165	-8.3%
Indecent Exposure	40	35	26	49	24	-51.0%
Total	606	630	834	706	667	-5.5%

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025

NUMBER OF SEXUAL OFFENCES INVESTIGATED BY SACAT						
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Sexual Assault	0	5	0	19	1	-94.7%
Sexual assault 1st 2nd 3rd degree	1	2	0	2	7	250.0%
Sexual intercourse, no consent	78	89	104	85	152	78.8%
Indecent act, assault	15	4	8	8	2	-75.0%
Sexual intercourse, person < 16 yrs	55	36	65	60	59	-1.7%
Indecent act, person < 16 yrs	40	43	30	42	40	-4.8%
Incest	4	12	9	11	4	-63.6%
Indecent act, no consent	27	35	52	46	37	-19.6%
Indecent Exposure	4	3	2	2	0	-100.0%
Total	224	229	270	275	302	9.8%

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025.

NUMBER OF SEXUAL OFFENCES INVESTIGATED BY SACAT CLEARED BY TYPE						
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 23-24 to 24-25
Arrest	34	18	43	19	41	115.8%
Assault - unable to differentiate victim/offender	0	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Assault -inadequate evidence to support allegation	16	9	3	3	0	-100.0%
Charge withdrawn	0	5	0	4	4	0.0%
Charged before court	0	9	10	25	10	-60.0%

Civil reconciliation between offender/victim	1	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Complaint withdrawn by victim	44	75	85	65	49	-24.6%
FV - not enough evidence to proceed	2	5	0	0	0	0.0%
Not cleared	80	65	87	112	162	44.6%
Offence passed to another agency	2	5	4	3	7	133.3%
Offender identified - child under 10 yrs old	0	0	5	0	0	0.0%
Offender identified - deceased	4	5	1	8	2	-75.0%
Sexual assault 3rd party report	0	1	5	3	2	-33.3%
Summons	13	10	13	10	8	-20.0%
Unfounded	27	22	13	23	16	-30.4%
Warrant	1	0	0	0	1	↑
Total	224	229	270	275	302	9.8%

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2025.

- The number of reported offences is sourced from a live case management system (PROMIS) with offence counts being subjective to revision at any time. In line with national reporting standards the number of offence counts for each distinct incident are used by ACT Policing for reporting purposes. The type and historical nature of offences reported for each case or incident may cause some significant variability in the data trends.
- Historical sexual offence reporting (including online reporting) may be ambiguous with regard to the actual nature of offending (indecent acts versus penetrative offences) and the specific dates of victimisation therefore there may be significant lags as to when the counts and type of offences are added to PROMIS by investigators. This is opposed to reports sourced from ACT Policing Operations and allocated to General Duties officers which are generally added to the system at time of report or soon after.
- Criminal Investigations including SACAT also receive referrals directly from a number of different sources. Investigations may also relate to third party reports rather than sourced directly from the victim(s), therefore, offences/offending may only be established during the course of an investigation and may not initially be included in PROMIS and reported crime counts. Based on aforementioned, but not limited to reasons, offence counts will generally not be reflective of the caseloads or the number of cases on hand.
- In the ACT Government's 2022-23 Budget, ACT Policing received \$3.84 million over four years to increase the resources within SOCA Teams. The funding provided was to increase the level of service to the community, following recommendations of the December 2021 report 'Listen. Take action to prevent, believe and heal.'

ACT Policing's Historical Sexual Assault Online Reporting Portal

- Victim survivors can report an incident of sexual assault to police, regardless of how long ago it occurred. When making a report they can be assured that the information they provide will be handled confidentially and that full control over the next steps will be retained by the victim survivor.
- In August 2020, ACT Policing launched an online sexual assault reporting platform for historic sexual assaults (offences that had occurred greater than six months from the incident). This platform allows victim survivors to make a report, remotely, at a time that they choose, via the ACT Policing website.
- There were 127 reports made via the Sexual Assault Online Reporting Portal for the 2024-25 financial year.
- This option complements existing reporting avenues and enables victim survivors to make informed decisions about their options. The portal outlines what level of information is required for such proceedings and gives victim survivors the choice to proceed with a criminal investigation or not.
- This platform also breaks down geographical barriers for victim survivors, who may not reside in the ACT, and because of this, do not feel comfortable or confident to make a report to police. The option to use the online platform in this instance will ensure appropriate support is offered through the reporting process, no matter where the victim survivor currently resides.
- ACT Policing's website has extensive information on the process of reporting a sexual assault in the ACT, including but not limited to the options available to a victim survivor, the investigation process, and available support services. In addition, the website provides a link to an ACT Policing sexual offences information pamphlet, with additional information on each step.
- ACT Policing's website has extensive information on the process of reporting a sexual assault in the ACT, including but not limited to the options available to a victim survivor, the investigation process, and available support services. In addition, the website provides a link to an ACT Policing sexual offences information pamphlet, with additional information on each step.

Resourcing Sexual Offences and Child Abuse portfolio

- As at 30 June 2025, there were 38.80 FTE within the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse portfolio.
- The 2025-26 ACT Government Budget was delivered on 24 June 2025 and funding of **\$5.022m over 2 years (fully offset within ACT Policing's existing funding and resourcing)** was announced to further support implementation of the Assault (Police) Review Report – Sexual Assault Advocate Program.
 - This is to support the establishment of sexual assault advocate pilot program which will co-locate sexual assault advocates within ACT Policing to provide support and advocacy for victim survivors, including providing critical information about rights, referrals and access to specialist services.

- This initiative also includes funding for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as part of a broader service response model to ensure that victim survivors are supported throughout the reporting, investigation and prosecution stages.
- Under this funding, ACT Policing will self-fund ten full-time employees (FTE) consisting of one Sergeant and nine Constables to conduct investigations of sexual violence in a more victim-centric and trauma-informed way.
- For further information, please refer to Budget Estimates Hearing Briefs 02. Resourcing Overview and Staffing Profile.

Child Victims of Sexual and Physical Assault

- During 2024-25 there were **five matters** involving allegations of childcare centre related sexual offending investigated by ACT Policing's SACAT. Of these five, **nil were progressed to prosecution**.
 - Allegations of childcare centre related sexual offending are referred to ACT Policing's SACAT in a number of ways, and may not necessarily correspond to the below offence tables, in particular where investigations revealed no offences were identified.

ASSAULT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING WITH VICTIM UNDER 18 YEARS OLD		
Offence Type	2023-24	2024-25
Assault	572	577
Sexual Assault	279	270
Total	851	847

Source: PROMIS as at 22 July 2025

Does not include homicide offences

SEXUAL OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING WITH VICTIM 5 YEARS OLD OR UNDER*					
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Sexual Offences Reported	5	19	10	6	9

SOURCE: PROMIS as at 22 July 2025

*Location: Preschool, childcare, family childcare, primary school, day care, babysitter.

**1 January to 22 July 2025

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENCES REPORTED TO ACT POLICING 5 YEARS OLD OR UNDER*					
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Victims	3	7	7	6	7

SOURCE: PROMIS as at 22 July 2025

*Location: Preschool, childcare, family childcare, primary school, day care, babysitter.

**1 January to 22 July 2025

- Please note the above tables include historical offences, and offences where the offender is also a child.

- ACT Policing is not able to provide a further breakdown of child victims of sexual and physical assault where the offence occurs in a childcare centre for 2020-2024 at this time.
- This is due to the onerous process involving manual interrogation of ACT Policing's PROMIS database. The PROMIS database does not contain a specific location code for childcare centres, and therefore locations such as houses for family day care, schools for outside of school hours care services and preschools must be manually scrutinised and accounted for.

Key Statistics

- The June 2024 ABS Recorded Victims of Crime Data reported in the ACT, there was:
 - an 83.3 per cent increase in victims of sexual assault in 2023 compared to 2014.
 - a 14.5 per cent increase in the ACT of recorded victims of sexual assault in 2023 compared to 2022.
- There was a **6 per cent decrease in sexual offences reported to ACT Policing during 2024-25** compared to the previous financial year (689 offences compared to 733 offences in 2023-24).
- ACT Policing laid **486 sexual offence charges in the 2024-25 reporting period**.
- As at 1 July 2025, the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Teams (SACAT) had **398 active cases in different stages of progress**, including active investigations, pending, and before the court.
- For the 2024-25 financial year SACAT were referred a total of 538 investigations, comprising of:
 - 102 physical assaults on children under the age of 12
 - 178 sexual assaults on children under the age of 18
 - 206 adult sexual assaults
 - 46 offences relating to Child Abuse Material (CAM)
 - Six other.
- Between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2025, SACAT were referred a total of 219 investigations, comprising of:
 - 33 physical assaults on children under the age of 12
 - 75 sexual assaults on children under the age of 18
 - 92 adult sexual assaults
 - 18 matters relating to Child Abuse Material
 - one other matter.

Psychosocial risks

- There are significant welfare and psychosocial risks to police working in the sexual assault and child abuse space due to the nature of their responsibilities. Constant exposure to explicit material, high workloads coupled with the emotional toll of investigating sexual abuse matters can lead to heightened stress, compassion fatigue and mental health challenges.
- There is a significant risk of psychosocial injury to ACT Policing members working in the sexual assault space which is already being observed in ACT Policing at present. Despite the

provision of health and wellbeing services to ACT Policing members, concerning trends are still being seen in member wellbeing data due to the increase in workload demand and capacity issues.

- Members undertake annual psychological clearances which have routinely flagged unsustainable high workloads as a risk and concern to member welfare working in SACAT.
 - Currently these members face severe burnout, a high rate of job dissatisfaction and attrition due to increased demands.
- Following the introduction of amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth), ACT Policing faces increased organisational and individual responsibility for managing psychosocial risks and hazards in the workplace for its members. Non-compliance with this could attract financial penalties along with organisational and/or individual prosecution as per Division 5 of the WHS Act, including Category 1, 2 and 3 offences.

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Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Reducing Recidivism

Key Points

- It remains a fact that a relatively small number of individuals can be responsible for a significant number of offences in the ACT. This is also the case in other Australian jurisdictions.
- Consequently, recidivism continues to be an issue we actively consider and act on – with resources allocated to both support individuals identified as recidivist offenders as well as programs to reduce the chances of individuals offending in the first place.
- A key plank in addressing recidivism is the Recidivist Offender Multi-Agency Round Table (ROMART) program. ROMART, comprising of representatives from relevant ACT Government agencies was established in August 2023. ROMART is a case management body that meets weekly to manage high-risk-high-harm offenders. It also enhances information sharing between participating agency partners working with persistent recidivist offenders.
- In 2024-25, the proportion of offenders proceeded against by police more than once within the previous 12 months was at 19.9 per cent. This number continues to trend downwards from a 25.3 per cent figure in 2019-20.

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ACT Government's Reducing Recidivism Plan

- The ACT Government's *Reducing Recidivism Plan 2020-23* (the Plan) sets out the first three years of work towards the government's goal of reducing recidivism in the ACT by 25 per cent by 2025.
- The Plan has seven priorities to address the factors that often lead to repeat offending, such as social isolation, inadequate housing, drug and alcohol dependence and poor mental health.
- During the 2024 - 2025 financial year, ACT Policing made 5681 referrals to SupportLink services:
 - The target of 5,888 referrals is an agreed Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that is included in the ACT Policing Purchase Agreement and represents the average amount of referrals over the past five years.

ACT Policing Purchase Agreement 2022-26

- The *Purchase Agreement* supports an ongoing arrangement between the Minister for Justice of the Commonwealth and the ACT Minister for the Police, Fire and Emergency Service for the provision of policing services to the ACT.
- The *Purchase Agreement* details the outcomes, outputs, performance measures, targets and facilities to be provided and the powers and obligations of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT and associated administrative arrangements.
- In addition to the ACT Government *Reducing Recidivism Plan 2020-23*, the *Purchase Agreement* contains a specific Shared ACT Government Outcome (whole-of-government) KPI relating to recidivist offenders:
 - Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police more than once in the previous 12 months – monitor five-year trend.

Reduce Recidivism						
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	1 Jul 2024 - 31 Jan 2025
Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police more than once within the previous 12 months	25.3%	24.2%	23.6%	22.0%	20.6%	19.9%

ACT Policing Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team (including Operation TORIC)

- ACT Policing's Proactive Intervention and Diversion Team (PIDT) are a visible and proactive presence in the community and focus on operational actions to reduce crime that is placing the community at risk, including the targeting of recidivist offending.
- With a focus on problem people, problem places and problem issues, PIDT's objective is to use problem orientated policing methodologies to intervene, investigate, disrupt and problem solve, to reduce recidivism and decrease repeat calls for services.
- PIDT has two ongoing operations, namely Operation TORIC (Targeting of Recidivists in Canberra) and Operation ANCHOR.
- Operation TORIC focuses on the rapid identification and apprehension of high risk, high harm, recidivist offenders who place the community and ACT Policing members at great risk. Evidence shows that swift intervention with these offenders result in a reduction of crimes such as car thefts, assaults and burglaries.
- Operation ANCHOR, representing stability and security for the community, involves matters that require longer term treatment options, utilising both traditional and non-traditional policing methods and captures those investigations that fall outside the need for an urgent response. Rather than reacting to the outcome of a problem, Operation ANCHOR provides the opportunity to look at the causal issue from various viewpoints and explore options that

will instigate change to address the problem and/or reduce crime and recidivism.

- ACT Policing is committed to initiatives that not only reduce repeat call outs and increase diversions (disruption capability) but also support and increase community safety and build community connectedness.
- Between 1 August 2022 and 30 June 2025, 571 apprehensions were made under Operation TORIC, leading to 1780 charges. Of those apprehended:
 - 225 of the alleged offenders were on bail.
 - 85 were subject to good behaviour orders.
 - 12 were on intensive corrections orders.
 - 34 were on parole; and,
 - 94 were subject to arrest warrants.
- PIDT are also responsible for maintaining relationships with external agencies to seek a collaborative approach to recidivism through the Recidivist Offender Multi-Agency Round Table (ROMART). ROMART, comprising of representatives from relevant ACT Government agencies was established in August 2023. The primary purpose of ROMART is to reduce recidivist offending in the ACT. ROMART is a case management body that meets weekly to manage high-risk-high-harm offenders. It also enhances information sharing between participating agency partners working with persistent recidivist offenders.
- The following two case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of ROMART:
 - ACT Policing supported partner agencies to obtain an Intensive Therapy Order (ITO), allowing a young person to receive intensive support to effectively manage harmful behaviours, which if left unaltered, may have led to the young person being seriously harmed or having lost their life. Following the ITO, there was an immediate reduction in harmful behaviours which led to fewer calls for service; a positive outcome for the young person and the community.
 - A high number of calls for service were being received by multiple agencies following incidents involving young females being exploited by older males (using alcohol and drugs to obtain sexual favours). A reluctance by the young females to cooperate with police hampered all efforts to obtain evidence and prosecute the males involved. Collectively, ROMART identified and issued Cease and Desist Orders against the adult males, limiting contact with the young females and reducing risk of further harm.

Restorative Justice

Criteria

- In terms of eligibility for **Restorative Justice** (RJ), Part 5 of the *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004* provides a strict criteria for matters to be referred:
 1. **Eligible offence**
 - Property offence: max penalty of 14 years or less
 - Other offence: max penalty of 10 years or less

- Must be a legislated Australian Capital Territory Offence. This does not include any Commonwealth offences.
- If domestic or family violence/sexual offence – for first offence only, must be low risk and low complexity.

2. Eligible victim

- Identifiable person
- An immediate family member 10 years or older, if the victim is under 10 years old
- Agrees to participate in a diversionary conference.

3. Eligible perpetrator

- At least 10 years old at time of offence
- Agreeing to be referred and participate in a diversionary conference
- For a young person - 'does not deny involvement'
- For an adult being 18 years and above
- The adult 'accepts responsibility for some involvement'

- RJ provides a platform for a discussion between the people most affected by a crime being the victim (with support persons) and the offender (with support persons). This can include discussions about what occurred, how people involved were affected, and agree on how to repair harm caused by the offending.
- RJ conferences are facilitated by a Convenor from the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate RJU. Case officers of ACT Policing are invited to participate at the discretion of RJU.
- As a partner of ACT Policing, the RJU of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate is committed to providing a safe environment for First Nations clients involved in the RJ process that is responsive to their needs.
 - In this regard the RJU employs a First Nations Convenor and a First Nations Guidance Partner to work with other staff at the RJU to help support those aspirations.
- ACT Policing previously provided the RJU with annual funding for a role to manage referrals which are submitted via the SupportLink platform.
 - This arrangement was amended in the 2022-23 financial year and saw the appropriation moved permanently to the RJU in reflection of ACT Policing's commitment to RJ and to concurrently remove the impost for annual administration of the grant.
- Commencing in the 2021-22 financial year ACT Policing and the RJU began administrative reforms of RJ, streamlining the process by moving to a case-management approach between agencies to minimise the extent of information required by frontline police officers when referring to RJ via SupportLink.
- The purpose of these reforms was to:
 - Align metrics between ACT Policing and RJU for consistency in reporting.

- Reduce the administrative impost on the front-line to encourage uptake of RJ.
- Future reforms for RJ intend to increase the efficacy of the RJ scheme by:
 - Decreasing time between referral and the convening of diversionary conferences to maintain interest by offenders and victims for their participation.
 - Consider amendments to the Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004 that mitigate current impediments to referral concerning the eligibility criteria applied to offenders.
- During 2024 – 2025 financial year, ACT Policing diverted 35 members of the community to the RJU comprising:
 - **31 persons under 18 years of age**
 - **4 Adults**
 - Out of the 35 people, 2 First Nations people (who identified as First Nations to ACT Police) were referred, comprising of:
 - 2 persons under 18 years of age.
- In 2023 - 2024, ACT Policing data shows that **54 people were referred to the RJU** comprising:
 - **36 persons under 18 years of age**
 - **18 adults**
 - Out of the 54 people, 7 First Nations peoples (who identified as First Nations to ACTP) were referred, comprising of:
 - 2 adults
 - 2 aged 18-25 years (ACT ATSI Agreement - Special Focus Area – Justice target)
 - 3 persons under 18 years of age
- ACT Policing utilise RJ where appropriate. For matters involving serious crimes RJ and police-led reform initiatives may not be appropriate.
- ACT Policing notes the number of referrals made to RJ has decreased over recent years, despite significant improvements made to case management processes to ease the administrative duties for police. Ongoing education of ACT Policing members about the availability and suitability of RJ for their cases is occurring.
- The reasons for this decline are varied. They are likely, in part, to be the result of several factors including changes to the crime environment which effect eligibility, including:
 - Changes to the seriousness of offences
 - Changes to persons responsible (offenders) willingness to accept responsibility for the offence
 - Changes to persons harmed (victims) willingness to participate in RJ or their preferences to have matters go to court
 - Changes in case officer attitudes towards offender inclination to change their behaviour

Drug & Alcohol Diversions

- The Police and Court Drug Diversion Service programs divert people arrested and/or charged with drug or alcohol related offences out of the judicial system into the health system.
- In addition to diverting people from court, the Canberra Health Services led program also provides pre-sentence and sentencing diversion options for people arrested for alcohol and other drug related offences in the ACT.
- This program provides alcohol and other drug assessments following referral by ACT Policing services, and includes:
 - Youth Alcohol Diversion – referral and treatment for young people aged under 18 years who have committed any offence under the Liquor Act 2010.
 - Adult Alcohol Diversion – voluntary referrals for adults who require assistance in relation to alcohol substance abuse.
 - Illicit Drug Diversion – diverts individuals who have been apprehended by police for possession of small amounts of illicit drugs (or legal drugs used illicitly) and provides assessment, education and/or treatment, with compliance resulting with no conviction recorded on their criminal record.
- ACT Policing is participating in forums established by the Alcohol & Other Drug Policy Section - Population Health Division - ACT Health Directorate in relation to drafting the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2022-2026*.
- During 2024 - 2025, **ACT Policing referred 204 matters** to the Early Intervention and Drug Diversion Program (EIDDP). This figure consists of (please note, due to delays in submissions and staggered interrogation of the data, the figures **may be** different to what is in the Annual Report):
 - Of the 204 drug only related referrals:
 - 146 were compliant for drug diversion
 - 54 were non-compliant
 - 4 Matters are pending outcomes
- During 2024 – 2025, ACT Policing submitted 14 Simple Drug Offences Notices (SDONs);
 - 2 Paid
 - 12 Not Paid
- During 2024 – 2025, ACT Policing submitted 6 alcohol only referrals.
 - 2 compliant
 - 3 non compliant
 - 1 pending.
- During 2024 – 2025, ACT Policing submitted 1 joint drug and alcohol referral which is at pending status.
- This program reduces the burden on the criminal justice system and leverages on education, counselling and substance abuse programs to minimise the harm caused by the consumption of illicit drugs and alcohol.

Budget Estimates Hearing Brief | Family Violence

Key Points

- Family violence remains a high operational priority for ACT Policing – with a pro-arrest, pro-charge and presumption against bail approach to incidents when matters are reported to us.
- We continue to see an upward trend of calls for assistance for family violence matters – with a 33 per cent increase in reported incidents in the past five years.
- Last financial year (2024-25), ACT Policing responded to 4,478 domestic and family violence incidents. This constitutes an average of 12 domestic and family violence incidents per day, most of which are dealt with by our frontline patrol officers.
- ACT Policing recognises the importance of community-led solutions to support and prevent further harm to victim-survivors of family violence and we work collaboratively with partner agencies and stakeholders throughout the domestic and family violence sector.
- Work is underway to design and deliver enhanced domestic and family violence training for ACT Policing officers to increase officers' knowledge and understanding of coercive control and trauma-informed best practice.

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Domestic and Family Violence Model

- ACT Policing operates by an evidence-led, pro-charge, pro-arrest and presumption against bail policy for domestic and family violence (DFV) incidents. ACT Policing also follows a pro-intervention policy when there is insufficient evidence to commence judicial proceedings.
- ACT Policing recognises the importance of community-led solutions to support and prevent further harm to victim-survivors of family violence.
- ACT Policing works collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders throughout the domestic and family violence sector.
- The majority of responses to and investigation of DFV incidents in the ACT are carried out by frontline uniform patrol officers across the five ACT Policing stations.

- The high-risk domestic and family violence investigation unit (DFVIU) has enabled specialist investigators to focus on our most high-risk domestic and family violence matters, as well as providing support and advice to frontline officers who are the first responders to those incidents.
- The DFVIU ensures that our most at-risk victim survivors get the appropriate support and that the offenders are engaged to ensure they are complying with court orders and other sanctions.

Key Statistics

- A total of **4,478 domestic and family violence related incidents were reported to ACT Policing in 2024-25**, this is an increase when compared to the 4,263 reports received in 2023-24.
- Domestic and family violence related assaults have **increased by 0.5 per cent** in the 2024-25 financial year when compared to the 2023-24 financial year.
- The 2024-25 financial year saw:
 - **An average of 12 domestic and family violence incidents reported per day.**
 - **45 percent of assaults reported to police were domestic and family violence related.**
 - 34 percent of domestic and family violence related offences reported to police were cleared by arrest.
 - When compared to five years ago reports of domestic and family violence related assaults have increased by 21 percent (or 247 offences).

KEY DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE STATISTICS FROM 2020-21 TO 2024-25						
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage change between 2023-24 and 2024-25
Domestic and Family Violence related incidents	3,343	3,497	4,057	4,263	4,478	5%
Domestic and Family Violence related assaults	1,169	1,274	1,545	1,409	1,416	0%
Proportion of reported assaults that are Family Violence related	40%	46%	45%	43%	45%	2%
Family Violence Orders (FVOs)	1,327	1,024	1,141	1,794 ^(a)	1400 ^(b)	-22%
Contacts by Family Violence Orders Liaison Officers (FVOLOs)	461	492	182 ^(c)	0 ^(c)	0 ^(c)	N/A

(a) FVOs processed between July and October 2023 is estimated due to a change in system. The estimate is an average of FVOs processed between October 2023 and June 2024.

(b) Estimate only as additional documents recorded as received along with the FVO can include interstate or interim orders, timing notices, affidavits of service, and private and confidential forms. Unable to separate these figures.

(c) The FVOLO function was delimited in 2023.

FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENCES 2020-2025						
Family Violence related assault offences	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Percentage Change 24-25 to 23-24
Assault – Family violence related	1169	1274	1545	1409	1416	0.5%
Assault – Non-family violence related	1727	1525	1857	1857	1741	-6%
Total	2896	2799	3402	3266	3157	-3%
Proportion of assaults that are family violence related	40%	46%	45%	43%	45%	2%

Source PROMIS: As at 2 July 2025

Domestic and Family Violence Investigation Unit (DFVIU)

- On 28 June 2024, the creation of a new Domestic and Family Violence Investigation Unit (DFVIU) was announced. This is an expansion and restructure of ACT Policing's existing Family Violence Unit (FVU) which was primarily focused on coordination.
- The DFVIU Investigations Teams focus on holding high-risk perpetrators to account and employs a **holistic investigations model** which recognises victim-survivors experience domestic and family violence as a continuum rather than as stand-alone incidents. The teams typically manage more than 90 high-risk cases at any given time
- The Investigation Teams work closely with the Family Violence Safety Action Program (FVSAP) to support whole-of-sector approaches to supporting victim-survivor safety, along with partner agencies the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS), Children Youth and Families (CYF, formerly CYPs) and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC).
- DFVIU's Coordination Team leads ACT Policing's domestic and family **violence training, policy and quality assurance**, ensuring a consistent and best practice response to domestic and family violence incidents.

Training

- All ACT Policing officers receive a five-day domestic and family violence training program as part of recruit training, incorporating legislation and offences, coercive control and family violence dynamics, lived experience presentations, and response procedures. Select officers receive additional specialist training in evidence-in-chief interviewing of vulnerable witnesses and victims.

- ACT Policing is in the process of designing and implementing a 3-tier domestic and family violence training continuum for recruits, frontline leaders and specialist investigators in line with national police training guidelines.
- In June 2024, the ACT Government announced a \$375,000 package for **coercive control training** for frontline agencies. ACT Policing's portion of this package is enabling the development of academic-designed modules spanning family violence dynamics, victim-centric and **trauma-informed** responses, and coercive control which will be fully and permanently integrated into the training continuum.

Resourcing and Investment

- There is currently no specific DFVIU funding, with FTE and other resources drawn from the *More ACT Police* (MAP) funding and existing budgets. Funding under phase two of MAP commencing 1 July 2025 has allowed for expansion of DFVIU to include a second investigative team with recruitment into those roles expected to be complete by late 2025.
- ACT Policing is continually seeking opportunities to learn from other policing agencies and external service providers to strive for **innovation and best-practice** in our response to domestic and **family** violence.

Victims of Crime Team

- ACT Policing's Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs) support investigators to meet their obligations under the Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime.
- VLOs contact victims of serious crime following an incident, provide an ongoing point of liaison between victims and investigators, and make referrals to external support services.
- In the 2024-25 financial year, VLOs made **11,094 victim contacts, resulting in 791 referrals to support agencies, plus 526 referrals for sexual assault wraparound services.**
- VLOs also process Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) requests for information on behalf of Victim Support ACT. During the 2024-25 financial year, 1,171 FAS requests were processed. These requests grew considerably in 2023-2024 but have stabilised in 2024-2025:
 - 2021-22: 896
 - 2022-23: 847
 - 2023-24: 1,192
 - 2024-25: 1,171

Family Violence Risk Assessment Tool

- The Family Violence Risk Assessment Tool (FVRAT) assesses the risk of future family violence that a person poses towards another person, and is mandatorily completed for all family violence incidents involving current or former intimate partners.
- In June 2023 the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) completed a validated research study, summarised in an AIC publication titled 'Improving Police risk assessment of Domestic Violence', which confirmed FVRAT was a suitable tool to identify and mitigate intimate partner risk of repeat DFV.
- ACT Policing is working with the Domestic, Sexual and Family Violence Office (DFSVO) within the Community Services Directorate (CSD) to inform their work on a standardised and cross-sector risk-assessment tool for DFV which may replace the FVRAT in due course.

If asked about timeliness of court order service (especially FVOs/Personal Protections Orders (PPOs)):

- ACT Policing has a thorough and effective mechanism of recording the existence of judicial processes (including orders), to enable service by any ACT Policing officer.
- Last year more than 1,800 FVOs were required to be served by police. Legislation requires these be personally served on the respondent, by an ACT Policing officer.
- In the 2024-2025 financial year there were 1018 Personal Protection Orders (PPOs) issued.
- Some respondents actively avoid police and the service of documents. When this occurs, police do not have the same access to many of the investigative tools and powers available to locate suspects of criminal offences.
- The volume of documents requiring service and ACT Policing resourcing does not permit police to take the time to 'wait out' respondents (static surveillance etc). Some orders are served on the first attempt while in other cases multiple attempts (a dozen or more) are made to serve orders before they are returned unserved to the Court.
- ACT Policing would welcome exploring initiatives to further improve timeframes for the service of orders, including legislative reform to allow for electronic service, sub-service on legal guardians, and/or entry powers to premises to enable personal service.
- ACT legislation does not permit police to act upon an alleged breach of an order until it has been served upon the respondent, unless they were present in court at the time the order was made.
- *For further information please refer to Annual Report Hearing Brief 7. Legislative Proposals and Issues.*

If asked about breach FVO investigations:

- ACT Policing investigates all reported breaches of family violence orders, to gather evidence and hold offenders accountable by bringing them before the Court.
- ACT Policing's evidence-based, pro-charge policy stipulates that where evidence of an order breach has been identified, police will charge the offender.
- Complexities include complainants misunderstanding order conditions, or not understanding the standard of evidence required to prove an alleged breach.