
6 Police services interpretative material

6	Police services interpretative material	6.1
	6.1 Indicators	6.2
	Outputs	6.2
	Equity	6.2
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing	6.2
	Staffing by gender	6.3
	Effectiveness	6.4
	Road safety	6.4
	Deaths in police custody	6.5
	Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants	6.6
	Satisfaction with police services	6.6
	Perceptions of police integrity	6.7
	Complaints	6.8
	Youth diversions	6.9
	Outcome of investigations	6.10
	Efficiency	6.11
	Expenditure per person	6.11
	Outcomes	6.11
	Crime victimisation	6.11
	Perceptions of safety	6.12
	Perceptions of crime problems	6.13
	Road deaths	6.13
	6.2 Treatment of assets by police agencies	6.14
	6.3 Definitions of key terms	6.16

The police services interpretative material is supporting material and includes explanations of why indicators have been chosen, and wherever possible, a link to the stated objectives of the service. It includes indicator definitions, technical details defining how the indicator is

measured and guidance on how the indicator is to be interpreted, including caveats and the indicator's completeness and comparability status.

Further information on the Report on Government Services including other reported service areas, the glossary and list of abbreviations is available at <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>.

6.1 Indicators

Different delivery contexts, locations and types of clients can affect the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of police services.

The comparability of performance indicator results is shaded in indicator interpretation boxes, figures and data tables as follows:

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are either not comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time or are not comparable across jurisdictions or both.

The completeness of performance indicator results is shaded in indicator interpretation boxes, figures and data tables as follows:

- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required data are available for all jurisdictions.
- Data are incomplete for the current reporting period. At least some data were not available.

Outputs

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

Equity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services in an equitable manner (box 6.1).

Box 6.1 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing**

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing' is defined as the proportion of police staff (operational and non-operational) from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds compared with the proportion of the population aged 20–64 years who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff numbers relate to those staff who self-identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is generally collected at recruitment.

A proportion of police staff aged 20–64 years who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds that is similar to the proportion of people aged 20–64 years who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds is desirable.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people might feel more comfortable in 'accessing' police services when they are able to deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander police staff. However, many factors influence the willingness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access police services, including familiarity with procedures for dealing with police.

Data reported for this indicator are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Staffing by gender

'Staffing by gender' is an indicator of governments' objective to provide police services in an equitable manner (box 6.2).

Box 6.2 **Staffing by gender**

'Police staffing by gender' is defined as the number of female police staff (sworn and unsworn) divided by the total number of police staff.

A proportion of female police staff similar to the proportion of females in the population is desirable. Women may feel more comfortable in accessing police services in particular situations, such as in relation to sexual assault, when they are able to deal with female police staff.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Effectiveness

Road safety

‘Road safety’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to promote safer behaviour on roads (box 6.3).

Box 6.3 Road safety

‘Road safety’ is defined by three measures:

- use of seatbelts, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven without wearing a seatbelt
- driving under the influence, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven when possibly over the alcohol limit
- the degree of speeding, defined as the proportion of people who had driven in the previous 6 months and who indicated that, in that time, they had driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit.

The population scope for the data reported is the total population aged 18 years or over. Until October 2015, it was the total population aged 15 years or over.

A low or decreasing proportion of people who stated that they had driven without wearing a seatbelt, driven when possibly over the alcohol limit and/or driven 10 kilometres per hour or more above the speed limit is desirable.

The use of seatbelts, driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding are affected by a number of factors in addition to police activities, such as driver education and media campaigns.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Deaths in police custody

‘Deaths in police custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of providing safe custodial services (box 6.4).

Box 6.4 Deaths in police custody

‘Deaths in police custody’ is defined by two measures:

- total deaths in police custody and custody-related operations
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody and custody-related operations.

Both measures refer to deaths in police custody and custody-related operations. These deaths are divided into two main categories:

- Category 1: deaths in institutional settings (for example, police stations or lockups, police vehicles, during transfer from an institution), and other deaths in police operations where officers were in close contact with the deceased (for example, most raids and shootings by police).
- Category 2: deaths during custody-related operations — where officers did not have such close contact with the person to be able to significantly influence or control the person's behaviour (for example, most sieges), and most cases where officers were attempting to detain a person (for example, a pursuit).

None or a decreasing number of deaths in custody and custody-related operations is desirable.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants

'Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants' is an indicator of governments' objective of supporting the judicial process to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (box 6.5).

Box 6.5 **Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants**

'Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants' is defined as the proportion of Magistrates' court adjudications where the outcome was that the defendant pled guilty, was found guilty by the court or was found guilty ex-parte. The defendant is a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid.

A high or increasing proportion of Magistrates' court decisions where the outcome for the defendant is guilty is desirable. This can indicate police were effective in gathering evidence and only bringing to court charges with sufficient evidence to ensure a guilty outcome.

This indicator does not provide information on the number of cases where police have identified a likely offender but choose not to bring the likely offender to court due to several factors.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Satisfaction with police services

'Satisfaction with police services' is an indicator of governments' objective of providing services that are accessible and responsive to community needs, including disasters and emergencies (box 6.6).

Box 6.6 **Satisfaction with police services**

‘Satisfaction with police services’ is defined by three measures: the proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with police services:

- in general (whether or not they had contact with police services)
- in their most recent contact
- in response to emergencies and disasters.

The population scope for the data reported is the total population aged 18 years or over. Until October 2015, it was the total population aged 15 years or over.

A high or increasing proportion of people who were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ is desirable.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Perceptions of police integrity

‘Perceptions of police integrity’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide services with integrity, honesty and fairness (box 6.7).

Box 6.7 **Perceptions of police integrity**

‘Perceptions of police integrity’ refers to public perceptions and is defined by three measures – the proportion of people who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that police:

- treat people fairly and equally
- perform their job professionally
- are honest.

The population scope for the data reported is the total population aged 18 years or over. Until October 2015, it was the total population aged 15 years or over.

A high or increasing proportion of people who ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with these statements is desirable.

Public perceptions might not reflect actual levels of police integrity, because many factors, including hearsay and media reporting, might influence people’s perceptions of police integrity.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Complaints

‘Complaints’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide services with integrity, honesty and fairness (box 6.8).

Box 6.8 **Complaints**

‘Complaints’ is defined as the rate of complaints against police by the public per 100 000 people in the population. It is expressed as an index comparing values over time to a base period allocated a value of 100.

Complaints includes statements (written or verbal) by members of the public regarding police conduct when a person was in police custody or had voluntary or involuntary dealing with the police. They include sustained complaints, withdrawn complaints, dismissed complaints, and unresolved complaints, whether they are handled internally to the police service or by an external agency.

A low or decreasing index score is desirable.

A high or increasing index score does not necessarily indicate a lack of confidence in police. It can indicate greater confidence in complaints resolution. It is desirable to monitor changes in the index score to identify reasons for the changes and use this information to improve the manner in which police services are delivered.

Data reported for this measure are:

- not comparable across jurisdictions or within some jurisdictions over time (see footnotes in data tables for specific jurisdictions).
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Youth diversions

‘Youth diversions’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of supporting the judicial process to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (box 6.9).

Box 6.9 Youth diversions

‘Youth diversions’ is defined by two measures:

- the proportion of police proceedings for alleged youth offenders that were diverted by police using a non-court proceeding
- the proportion of police proceedings for alleged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth offenders that were diverted by police using a non-court proceeding.

When police apprehend offenders, they have a variety of options available. They can charge the offender (and proceed to court), or they can use their discretion to divert the offender away from this potentially costly, time consuming and stressful situation (for both the offender and victim). They are particularly useful mechanisms for dealing with young offenders.

Alleged youth offenders are aged 10 to 17 years at the date of proceeding. A proceeding is a legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence(s). Police proceedings represent a count for each separate occasion on which police initiate a legal action against an offender during the reference period. Indigenous status is identified at the time of the proceeding by police.

Diversions include non-court actions initiated against offenders away from the courts by way of community conference, diversionary conference, formal (written) cautioning by police, family conferences, and other programs (for example, drug assessment/treatment). Non-court actions that are initiated against offenders who would not normally be sent to court for the offence detected, and who are treated by police in a less formal manner (for example, issued informal (oral) cautions, informal warnings or infringement/penalty notices), are not included.

A high or increasing proportion of youth diversions as a proportion of youth offenders is desirable. Not all diversionary options are available or subject to police discretion in all jurisdictions. In addition, young offenders who commit a serious offence or an offence specified in applicable legislation cannot be diverted. This limits the proportion of youth diversions that can be achieved. This indicator does not provide information on the relative success or failure of diversionary mechanisms.

Data reported for these measures are:

- not comparable across jurisdictions or within some jurisdictions over time (see footnotes in data tables for specific jurisdictions).
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Outcome of investigations

‘Outcome of investigations’ is an indicator of governments’ objective of supporting the judicial process to bring to justice those people responsible for committing an offence (box 6.10).

Box 6.10 Outcome of investigations

‘Outcome of investigations’ is defined by two measures which are recorded as at 30 days of the offence becoming known by police:

- the number of investigations that were finalised, as a proportion of all investigations
- the number of investigations finalised where an offender was proceeded against, as a proportion of all finalised investigations.

Measures are reported for a range of offences:

- personal offences: homicide and related offences; sexual assault; armed robbery; and unarmed robbery
- property offences: unlawful entry with intent; motor vehicle theft; and other theft.

A high or increasing proportion of investigations that were finalised and of investigations finalised where proceedings were instituted against the offender, is desirable.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Efficiency

Expenditure per person

‘Expenditure per person’ is a proxy indicator of governments’ objective of providing police services in an efficient manner (box 6.11).

Box 6.11 Expenditure per person

‘Expenditure per person’ is defined as real recurrent expenditure on policing per person in the population. All else being equal, a low or decreasing expenditure per person is desirable. However, efficiency data should be interpreted with care. High or increasing expenditure per person might reflect poor efficiency but may also reflect changing aspects of the service or policing environment. Low expenditure per person may reflect more efficient outcomes or lower quality or less challenging crime and safety situations. The scope of activities undertaken by police services also varies across jurisdictions.

Real recurrent expenditure includes user cost of capital, less revenue from own sources and payroll tax.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Time series data for real recurrent expenditure and capital costs (including associated costs for the user cost of capital) for each jurisdiction are reported in table 6A.1. Information on treatment of assets by police agencies is presented in table 6.1 in section 6.2.

Outcomes

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

Crime victimisation

‘Crime victimisation’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely (box 6.12).

Box 6.12 Crime victimisation

'Crime victimisation' is defined as the victimisation rate of selected personal and property crimes.

Data are reported for:

- personal crimes of physical assault, face-to-face threatened assault and robbery per 100 000 people aged 15 years or over; and for sexual assault, per 100 000 people aged 18 years or over.
- property crimes of break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle, malicious property damage and other theft, per 100 000 households.

A victim is a person (for personal crimes) or household (for property crimes) who has self-reported as experiencing at least one incident in the last 12 months.

A low or decreasing rate of crime victimisation is desirable.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Perceptions of safety

'Perceptions of safety' is an indicator of governments' objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely (box 6.13).

Box 6.13 Perceptions of safety

'Perceptions of safety' is defined by two measures – the proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe':

- at home alone during the night
- in public places, including walking alone in the neighbourhood during the day and night and travelling on public transport during the night.

The population scope for the data reported is the total population aged 18 years or over. Until October 2015, it was the total population aged 15 years or over.

A high or increasing proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe' is desirable. Perceptions of safety may not reflect reported crime, which might understate actual crime, and many factors might affect public perceptions of crime levels and safety.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Perceptions of crime problems

‘Perceptions of crime problems’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely (box 6.14).

Box 6.14 Perceptions of crime problems

‘Perceptions of crime problems’ is measured by the proportion of people who thought that various types of crime were a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood.

The population scope for the data reported is the total population aged 18 years or over. Until October 2015, it was the total population aged 15 years or over.

A low or decreasing proportion of people who thought the selected types of crime were a ‘major problem’ or ‘somewhat of a problem’ in their neighbourhood is desirable.

Care needs to be taken in interpreting data on perceptions of crime, because reducing people’s concerns about crime and reducing the actual level of crime are two separate but related challenges. Comparisons between perceptions of crime problems and the level of crime raise questions about the factors that affect perceptions and highlight the importance of considering the full suite of performance indicators rather than assessing performance on specific measures in isolation.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Road deaths

‘Road deaths’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely (box 6.15).

Box 6.15 Road deaths

‘Road deaths’ is defined as the rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles.

No deaths or a decreasing rate of road deaths per 100 000 registered vehicles is desirable.

The rate of road deaths is affected by a number of factors in addition to activities undertaken by police services, such as the condition of roads, driver education and media campaigns.

Data reported for this measure are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2020-21 data are available for all jurisdictions.

6.2 Treatment of assets by police agencies

Table 6.1 Treatment of assets by police agencies, 2020-21

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
Revaluation method^a								
• Land	Market value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair Value	Market	Market
• Buildings	Written down replacement value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair value	Fair Value	Market	Market
• Other assets	Straight-line depreciation over useful life	Fair value	Cost (aircraft are at market valuation)	Cost	Cost	Cost	Deprival	Cost - only land & buildings revalued
Frequency of revaluations (years)								
• Land	3	5	Annual over a four-year rolling plan	Annual	5	3	na	5
• Buildings	3	5	Annual over a four-year rolling plan	Annual	5	3	na	5
• Other assets	Annual capitalisation of group	5	None except aircraft, revalued annually	na	na	na	3	5
Useful asset lives (years)^{b, c}								
• Buildings	Useful life/Lease term, determined individually	1-50	10-169	50 (except for transportables, depreciated over 20)	Lease term (20-60)	5-90	25-59	20-50

(continued next page)

Table 6.1 Treatment of assets by police agencies, 2020-21 (continued)

	NSW ^b	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT ^c	NT
Useful asset lives (years)^{b, c}								
• Plant and equipment	6.5-10	1-40	2-17	4-20	10	1-40	3-25	1-10
• IT equipment ^d	4	1-5	3-8	4-40	3	5	3	3-6
• Office equipment ^e	10	1-10	4-40	7	10	1-40	5	5-10
• Motor vehicles ^f	Owned vehicles 6.5	1-10	2-10	5-10	3-10	5	5	1-10
Threshold capitalisation levels (\$)								
• Buildings	5 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	10 000	50 000	na	5 000
• IT equipment	–	5 000	5 000	5 000	10 000	10 000	2 000	5 000
• Other assets	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	10 000	10 000	2 000	5 000
Current asset value as at 30 June 2021 (\$'000)								
• Land	508 729	651 282	454 506	200 246	80 942	45 683	36 220	16 417
• Buildings	948 850	2 697 104	1 003 827	569 494	269 568	126 984	44 379	283 167
• Other assets	542 308	381 502	280 638	289 699	49 536	21 080	9 850	40 156

^a Depreciated replacement cost; current value; market value (current (net) value, market selling price or exchange value); and deprival value may be either the depreciated replacement cost of an asset of a similar service potential or the stream of its future economic benefits. ^b Estimated as (1/depreciation rate). ^c ACT asset lives for some assets have been grouped with other classifications. ^d WA IT equipment includes communication equipment. ^e NSW office equipment includes computer software, furniture and fittings, firearms and musical instruments. ^f Includes all transport equipment. However, marine equipment is amortised over 20 years and livestock over 8 years. Leased vehicles, including aircraft and vessels are amortised over the lease term. – Nil or rounded to zero. **na** Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

6.3 Definitions of key terms

Adjudicated defendant	A defendant is a person or organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as one unit of work by a court level. An adjudicated finalisation is a method of finalisation based on a judgment or decision by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) laid against them.
Armed robbery	Robbery conducted with the use (actual or implied) of a weapon, where a weapon can include, but is not restricted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• firearms — pistol, revolver, rifle, automatic/semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, military firearm, airgun, nail gun, cannon, imitation firearm and implied firearm• other weapons — knife, sharp instrument, blunt instrument, hammer, axe, club, iron bar, piece of wood, syringe/hypodermic needle, bow and arrow, crossbow, spear gun, blowgun, rope, wire, chemical, acid, explosive, vehicle, bottle/glass, other dangerous article and imitation weapons.
Assault	The direct (and immediate/confrontational) infliction of force, injury or violence on a person(s) or the direct (and immediate/confrontational) threat of force, injury or violence where there is an apprehension that the threat could be enacted.
Available full-time equivalent (FTE) staff	Any FTE category where the individual is on duty performing a function. To be measured using average staffing level for the whole reporting period.
Cautioning	A formal method of dealing with young offenders without taking court proceedings. Police officers may caution young offenders instead of charging them if the offence or the circumstance of the offence is not serious.
Civilian staff	Unsworn staff, including specialists and civilian administrative and management staff.
Complaints	Number of statements of complaint by members of the public regarding police conduct.
Depreciation	The cost allocation of a physical asset over its useful life. Where possible, this should be based on current asset valuation.
Estimated resident population (ERP)	The official Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is derived from the 5-yearly Census counts and is updated quarterly between censuses. It is based on the usual residence of the person.
Guilty ex-parte	A determination of guilt made by the court, in the absence of the defendant, based on the evidence presented in relation to a criminal charge(s).
Full-time equivalent (FTE)	The equivalent number of full-time staff required to provide the same hours of work as performed by staff actually employed. A full-time staff member is equivalent to a FTE of one, while a part time staff member is greater than zero but less than one.
Homicide and related offences	The unlawful killing or the attempted unlawful killing of another person. Includes murder, attempted murder and manslaughter. Excludes driving causing death.
Magistrates' court decisions resulting in guilty outcome for defendants	Defendants who had their case(s) (excluding committal hearings) adjudicated by the Magistrates' courts where these resulted in a guilty plea or finding. A guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant admitting culpability in relation to a criminal charge. A not guilty plea is the formal statement by a defendant denying culpability in relation to a charge. For this data collection, a plea of 'not guilty' should also include 'no plea', 'plea reserved' and 'other defended plea'. Further, these definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• exclude preliminary (committal) hearings for indictable offences dealt with by a lower court• count cases that involve multiple charges as a 'lower court case resulting in a plea of guilty' if a plea of guilty has resulted for at least one of those charges.

Motor vehicle theft	The taking of another person's motor vehicle illegally and without permission. It includes privately owned vehicles and excludes vehicles used mainly for commercial business/business purposes.
Non-Indigenous full-time equivalent staff	Number of full-time equivalent staff who do not satisfy the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff criteria.
Non-operational full-time equivalent staff	Any person who does not satisfy the operational staff criteria, including functional support staff only. Functional support full-time equivalent staff includes any person (sworn or unsworn) not satisfying the operational or operational support staff criteria (for example, finance, policy, research, personnel services, building and property services, transport services, and management above the level of station and shift supervisors).
Offender	A person who is alleged to have committed an offence. It differs from the definition used in section 8 ('Corrective services'), where the term 'offender' refers to a person who has been convicted of an offence and is subject to a correctional sentence.
Operational staff	An operational police staff member (sworn or unsworn) is any member of the police force whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police related services to an external customer (where an external customer predominately refers to members of the public but may also include law enforcement outputs delivered to other government departments). Operational staff include general duties officers, investigators, traffic operatives, tactical officers, station counter staff, communication officers, crime scene staff, disaster victim identification, and prosecution and judicial support officers.
Other recurrent expenditure	Maintenance and working expenses; expenditure incurred by other departments on behalf of police; expenditure on contracted police services; and other recurrent costs not elsewhere classified. Expenditure is disaggregated by service delivery area.
Other theft	The taking of another person's property with the intention of depriving the owner of the property illegally and without permission, but without force, threat of force, use of coercive measures, deceit or having gained unlawful entry to any structure, even if the intent was to commit theft.
Outcome of investigations	The stage reached by a police investigation after a period of 30 days has elapsed since the recording of the incident.
Property crimes	Total recorded crimes against property, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • break-in • attempted break-in • motor vehicle theft • theft from motor vehicle • malicious property damage • other theft.
Real expenditure	Actual expenditure is adjusted for changes in prices. Time series financial data are adjusted to 2020-21 dollars using the General Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GGFCE) chain price deflator (2020-21 = 100). See table 2A.26 and section 2 for more details.
Recorded crime	Crimes reported to (or detected) and recorded by police.
Registered vehicles	Total registered motor vehicles, including motorcycles.
Reporting rate	The proportion of crime victims who told police about the last crime incident of which they were the victim, as measured by a crime victimisation survey.
Revenue from own sources	Revenue from activities undertaken by police, including revenue from the sale of stores, plant and vehicles; donations and industry contributions; user charges; and other revenue (excluding fine revenue and revenue from the issuing of firearm licenses).
Road deaths	Fatal road injury accidents as defined by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. The Australian Road Deaths Database provides basic details of road transport deaths in Australia as reported by the police each month to the state and territory road safety authorities.
Robbery	The unlawful taking of property from the immediate possession, control, custody or care of a person, with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence.

Salaries and payments in the nature of salary	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • base salary package • motor vehicle expenses that are part of employer fringe benefits • superannuation, early retirement schemes and payments to pension schemes (employer contributions) • workers compensation (full cost) including premiums, levies, bills, legal fees • higher duty allowances (actual amounts paid) • overtime (actual amounts paid) • actual termination and long service leave • actual annual leave • actual sick leave • actual maternity/paternity leave • fringe benefits tax paid • fringe benefits provided (for example, school fee salary sacrifice at cost to the government, car parking, duress alarms, telephone account reimbursements, 'gold passes', other salary sacrifice benefits, frequent flyer benefits, overtime meals provided and any other components that are not part of a salary package) • payroll tax.
Sexual assault	<p>Physical contact of a sexual nature directed towards another person where that person does not give consent, that person gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud, or consent is proscribed (that is, the person is legally deemed incapable of giving consent as a result of youth, temporary/permanent (mental) incapacity or a familial relationship). Includes rape, attempted rape, indecent assault and assault with intent to commit sexual assault. Excludes sexual harassment not leading to assault.</p>
Sworn staff	Sworn police staff recognised under each jurisdiction's Police Act.
Total capital expenditure	Total expenditure on the purchase of new or second-hand capital assets, and expenditure on significant repairs or additions to assets that add to the assets' service potential or service life.
Total expenditure	Total capital expenditure plus total recurrent expenditure (less revenue from own sources).
Total FTE staff	Operational staff and non-operational staff, including full-time equivalent staff on paid leave or absence from duty (including secondment and training), as measured using absolute numbers for the whole reporting period.
Total number of staff	Full-time equivalent staff directly employed on an annual basis (excluding labour contracted out).
Total recurrent expenditure	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salaries and payments in the nature of salary (for police and non-police staff) • other recurrent expenditure • depreciation • less revenue from own sources.
Unlawful entry with intent — involving the taking of property	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, resulting in the taking of property from the structure. Includes burglary and break-in offences. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
Unlawful entry with intent — other	The unlawful entry of a structure (whether forced or unforced) with intent to commit an offence, but which does not result in the taking of property from the structure. Excludes trespass or lawful entry with intent.
User cost of capital	The opportunity cost of funds tied up in the capital used to deliver services. Calculated as 8 per cent of the current value of non-current physical assets (excluding land).
Value of physical assets — buildings and fittings	The value of buildings and fittings under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — land	The value of land under the direct control of police.
Value of physical assets — other	The value of motor vehicles, computer equipment, and general plant and equipment under the direct control of police.
