

Our performance in 2007–08

Projects arising from investigations

Handling sexual offences

In 2003 our *Seeking justice* report advocated changes to various processes relating to the handling of sexual offences by the QPS and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and recommended that the CMC review the resulting implementation.

In March 2008 we released *How the criminal justice system handles allegations of sexual abuse: a review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Seeking Justice report*. We found that 13 of our 24 recommendations had been fully implemented at the time our consultations were completed; most of the remaining recommendations had been at least partially implemented; and only six of the recommendations had either been rejected by the responsible agency or the government, or had failed to be implemented.

Referrals from the minister under the Crime and Misconduct Act

Policing in Indigenous communities

Under section 51(1)(c) of the Crime and Misconduct Act, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice required us to undertake an inquiry into policing in Indigenous communities. (The terms of reference may be found on our website at <www.cmc.qld.gov.au>.)

As part of the inquiry process we conducted extensive stakeholder consultations, including in all the mainland DOGIT communities and in several of the Torres Strait Islander communities. We held a public forum in Cairns, in which about 20 speakers took part, representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and councils, legal services, government departments and the QPS.

Our report will be released in the next reporting period.

Projects required under other legislation

Review of the public nuisance offence

In May 2008 we tabled in parliament our report entitled *Policing public order: a review of the public nuisance offence*. Our review under the *Summary Offences Act 2005* detailed a significant upward trend in public nuisance offences since 1997.

We concluded that the legislative change itself did not appear to have had a significant impact either on public nuisance offending or on the police and courts' response to it. Although marginalised groups were still found to be over-represented, this had not been exacerbated by the introduction of the new offence. We found that the principal focus of the offence was on managing the behaviours of 'party people' and that this focus had strengthened over time in response to community concerns around public order.

We made five recommendations to parliament, including that a separate offence for public urination be created and that 'ticketing' be introduced as a further option available to police to deal with public nuisance behaviour.

Review of motorbike noise provisions

Under the motorbike noise provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motorbike Noise) Amendment Act 2005*, the CMC was required to review their effectiveness in reducing excessive noise from motorbikes being ridden off-road and to prepare a public report.

In June 2008, we released an issues paper and invitation for public submissions. As at 30 June, more than 200 public submissions had been received from individuals, agencies, politicians and other interest groups. Our report of the review will be released in the next reporting period.

Public policy: outlook 2008–09

- We are required to review the use by police officers of powers under Part 5 (Directions to move on) of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* as soon as practicable after 31 December 2007.
- We will undertake a review of the provisions about evading police officers under Chapter 22 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*. Pursuant to s. 789 of that Act, we are required to review and report on Chapter 22 as soon as practicable after 30 June 2009.