

Engage in public policy

Inquiry into policing in Indigenous communities

This matter was referred to the CMC by the Attorney-General under section 52(1)(c) of the Crime and Misconduct Act. As part of the inquiry process we conducted numerous stakeholder consultations, reviewed relevant research, crime data and other material, and held a public forum in Cairns. In finalising the report, we undertook a further round of consultations with representatives from the communities, government departments and the Queensland Police Service to ensure that our proposed recommendations would be practicable. The report will be released in the next reporting period.

Review of motorbike excessive noise

We were required to review the effectiveness of the motorbike noise provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motorbike Noise) Amendment Act 2005*. Our review commenced in July 2007, with an issues paper and invitation for public submission released in June 2008. This review generated substantial media and community interest. Although the call for public submissions closed in August 2008, we continued to receive submissions well after that time. In all, the CMC received more than 400 submissions. The report will be released in the next reporting period.

Review of police 'move-on' powers

The CMC is currently reviewing the use by police of move-on powers under section 48 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA). In 1997, provisions were introduced into the PPRA to provide police with the power to direct a person or group of people to move on from designated public areas if their behaviour or presence is: causing anxiety; interfering with trade or business; disorderly, indecent, offensive or threatening; or disrupting the peaceable and orderly conduct of an event. To determine whether the Act has achieved its objectives, we are examining where, when and how police use move-on powers, whether any particular groups or individuals are more likely to be moved on than others, and whether there have been any positive, negative or unintended consequences of the use of these powers. Our review, to be released in the next reporting period, will inform both the public and police about the effectiveness of the legislation.

Apart from our defined strategic goals, the CMC is also sometimes required to explore and report on complex public policy issues that can arise from a special referral, or as a consequence of provisions of legislation. Our engagement in public policy issues demonstrates the CMC's independence, its commitment to rigorous, non-partisan analysis and its capacity to develop practical recommendations.

Review of the 'evade police' offence

Chapter 22 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, which commenced in 2006, introduced a new offence called 'evade police'. The aim of the legislation is to reduce high speed pursuits by providing police with new powers to investigate and prosecute people who fail to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a police officer in a police vehicle. Section 789 of the Act requires the CMC to commence a review of the use of the 'evade police' offence by police as soon as practicable after 30 June 2009. The review will be conducted with the assistance of the Queensland Police Service and the report provided to the Speaker for tabling in the Legislative Assembly in 2010.

CMC public policy recommendations endorsed by government

In August 2008, the Queensland Government announced its intention to implement the recommendations of the CMC report *Policing public order: a review of the public nuisance offence* published earlier that year. Action has been taken, for example:

- a new stand-alone offence of public urination commenced in 2009 (section 7, *Summary Offences Act 2005*)
- a 12-month trial of on-the-spot fines (that is, ticketing) for public nuisance offences commenced in Townsville and South Brisbane on 1 January 2009 and an independent evaluation is being conducted by Griffith University
- in June 2009 the QPS conducted a themed operational performance review on public order policing, focusing on de-escalation.

Similarly, in response to the 2006 CMC report, *Regulating outcall prostitution: should legal outcall prostitution services be extended to licensed brothels and independent escort agencies*, the government this year signalled its intention to introduce the changes we recommended to the *Prostitution Act 1999*.