

Engage in public policy

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.

Review of motorbike excessive noise

Our review of the effectiveness of the motorbike noise provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motorbike Noise) Amendment Act 2005* found that these laws have failed to address the problem of excessive noise and should be repealed.

We recommended that a ministerial taskforce and an advisory committee be created to provide a whole-of-government response to managing off-road motorbike riding in Queensland. We also provided recommendations for better regulation of excessive noise caused by off-road motorbikes.

Both the full report entitled *Sound advice: a review of the effectiveness of police powers in reducing excessive noise from off-road motorbikes* and a summary version are available on our website at <www.cmc.qld.gov.au>.

Government action on recommendations in CMC reports

Inquiry into policing Indigenous communities: the Restoring order report

The CMC report *Restoring order: crime prevention, policing and local justice in Queensland's Indigenous communities* was published in November 2009. The Queensland Government's response, tabled in Parliament on 11 June 2010, supported five of the six broad areas recommended for reform identified by the CMC. The government 'supported in principle' the sixth area recommended for reform in which the CMC proposed an Indigenous Partnership Policing Command, to be led by an Assistant Commissioner. The government has committed instead to appoint an Assistant Commissioner as champion or sponsor for Indigenous communities and create new positions which focus on Indigenous issues. In terms of the 51 specific areas for action highlighted by the CMC report, the government response supports 31 of these and 'supports in principle' the remainder.

The CMC has committed to assessing progress of the *Restoring order* recommendations in the future. In 2011 it will publicly report on how effectively police are using Indigenous people in policing roles and in 2013 it will audit the implementation of local-level community safety plans.

Policing public order report

In our 2008 report *Policing public order: a review of the public nuisance offence*, the CMC recommended that 'ticketing' be introduced as an optional means for police to deal with public nuisance behaviour.

A 12-month trial of ticketing in Townsville and South Brisbane that was evaluated by Griffith University showed that tickets provided a cost-effective alternative to court for dealing with a substantial proportion of public nuisance matters. Public urination and disorderly offences were said to account for the majority of tickets, together accounting for two-thirds of all tickets issued during the trial. Indigenous people were said to be up to 14 times more likely to be dealt with for public nuisance offences and five times more likely to be ticketed than non-Indigenous people, but the over-representation of Indigenous people was not found to increase with ticketing.

Legislation to allow the statewide roll-out of public nuisance ticketing will be introduced into Parliament later this year. The Police Minister has publicly stated that, in implementing statewide public nuisance ticketing, the Queensland Police Service will focus on maximising the use of alternatives to enforcement action, where appropriate, and on ensuring that ticketing does not unreasonably impact on vulnerable social groups.

Current reviews

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). These powers were introduced into the PPRA in 1997 to give police a way to deal with behaviour that interfered with trade or business, disrupted the peaceful conduct of an event, or was disorderly, indecent, offensive or threatening. A public report of our review will be released in the next reporting period.

Review of the 'evade police' offence

The CMC is currently reviewing the use of the 'evade police' offence, which was introduced in 2006. Its intent was to reduce high-speed pursuits by giving police new powers to investigate and prosecute drivers who fail to stop their vehicle when directed to do so. A public report will be released in the next reporting period.