Report on Government Services 2025

PART C, SECTION 6: LATEST UPDATE: 10 JUNE 2025

6 Police services

LATEST UPDATE 10 JUNE 2025:

Indicator results for:

Magistrates' court decisions resulting in a guilty outcome for defendants, 2023-24 data

Crime victimisation, 2023-24 survey data

The focus of performance reporting in this section is police services, covering the operations of the police agencies of each state and territory government, including the ACT community policing function performed by the Australian Federal Police.

The **Indicator results** tab uses data from the data tables to provide information on performance for each indicator in the **Indicator framework**. The same data in the data tables are also available in CSV format.

Data downloads

📊 6 Police services data tables (XLSX 440.4 KB)

📄 6 Police services dataset (CSV 1.0 MB)

Refer to the corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

📄 Guide: How to find what you need in RoGS (PDF 288.5 KB)

Objectives for police services

Police services aim to contribute to a safe and secure community that enables people to undertake their lawful pursuits confidently and safely. To achieve these aims, governments seek to provide police services that:

- are accessible, and responsive to community needs, including disaster and emergency management
- support the judicial process to bring to justice people responsible for committing an offence
- provide safe custodial services
- are delivered with integrity, honesty and fairness
- promote safer behaviour on roads
- are capable of meeting current and projected future service demand.

Governments aim for police services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Collapse All

Service overview

Police services are the principal means through which state and territory governments pursue the achievement of a safe and secure environment for the community. Across jurisdictions, police activity can be grouped into four broad activity areas:

- Community safety – preserving public order and promoting a safer community
- Crime – investigating crime and identifying and apprehending offenders
- Road safety – targeted operations to reduce the incidence of traffic offences and through attendance at, and investigation of, road traffic collisions and incidents
- Judicial services – support to the judicial process including the provision of safe custody for alleged offenders.

Police services also respond to more general needs in the community – for

example, working with emergency management organisations and a wide range of government services and community groups, and advising on general policing issues.

Roles and responsibilities

Police services are predominantly the responsibility of state and territory government agencies. They include the Australian Capital Territory community policing function performed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) under an arrangement between the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Minister for Justice.

The Australian Government is responsible for the AFP. Data for the national policing function of the AFP and other national non-police law enforcement bodies (such as the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) is not included in this report.

Funding

Funding for police services comes almost exclusively from state and territory governments, with some limited specific purpose Australian Government grants. Nationally in 2023-24, total real recurrent expenditure (including user cost of capital, less revenue from own sources and payroll tax) was $17.0 billion with an average annual growth rate of 3.0% for the five years to 2023-24 (table 6A.1).

Size and scope

Client groups

All community members are recipients of policing services. Some members of the community have direct dealings with the police and can be considered specific client groups, for example:

- victims of crime
- people suspected of, or charged with, committing offences
- people reporting criminal incidents
- people involved in traffic-related incidents
- third parties (such as witnesses to crime and people reporting traffic-

related incidents)

- people requiring police services for non-crime-related matters.

Staffing

Police staff comprise operational and non-operational staff.

An operational police staff member is any member whose primary duty is the delivery of police or police-related services.

Police staff are also categorised according to 'sworn' status. Sworn police officers exercise police powers, including the power to arrest, summons, caution, detain, fingerprint and search. Specialised activities may be outsourced or undertaken by administrative (unsworn) staff.

Operational police staff is considered the primary estimate of the number of police staff actively engaged in the delivery of police-related services. Nationally in 2023-24, 87.9% of the total 81,848 police staff were operational. This proportion has decreased every year since 2017-18 (92.2%). There were 267 operational police per 100,000 people nationally in 2023-24. Rates varied across jurisdictions from 213 to 298, except the Northern Territory with a rate of 757 (figure 6.1 and table 6A.2).

The rate of operational sworn police staff is also reported to give greater context to police service provision across Australia. Nationally in 2023-24, 70.3% of the total 81,848 staff were operational sworn police. This proportion has decreased every year since 2019-20 (74.7%). There were 213 operational sworn police per 100,000 people nationally in 2023-24. Rates varied across jurisdictions from 168 to 235, except the Northern Territory with a rate of 513 (figure 6.1 and table 6A.2).
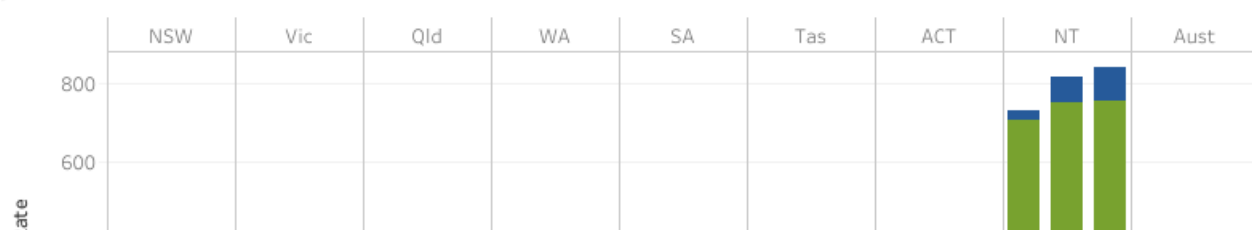
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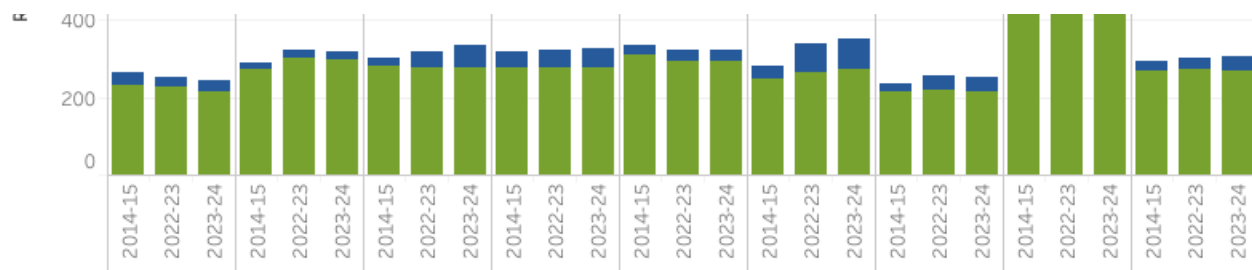Multiple values

Select staff type:
- (•) Non-operational staff per 100,000 people & Operational staff per 100,000 people
- ( ) Operational sworn staff per 100,000 people

■ Non-operational staff per 100,000 people
■ Operational staff per 100,000 people

Figure 6.1 **Full-time equivalent (FTE) police staff at 30 June**
Rate of Non-operational staff per 100,000 people & Operational staff per 100,000 people, by jurisdiction, by year

Source: table 6A.2

Data tables are referenced above by a '6A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) is available for download above (in Excel and CSV format).
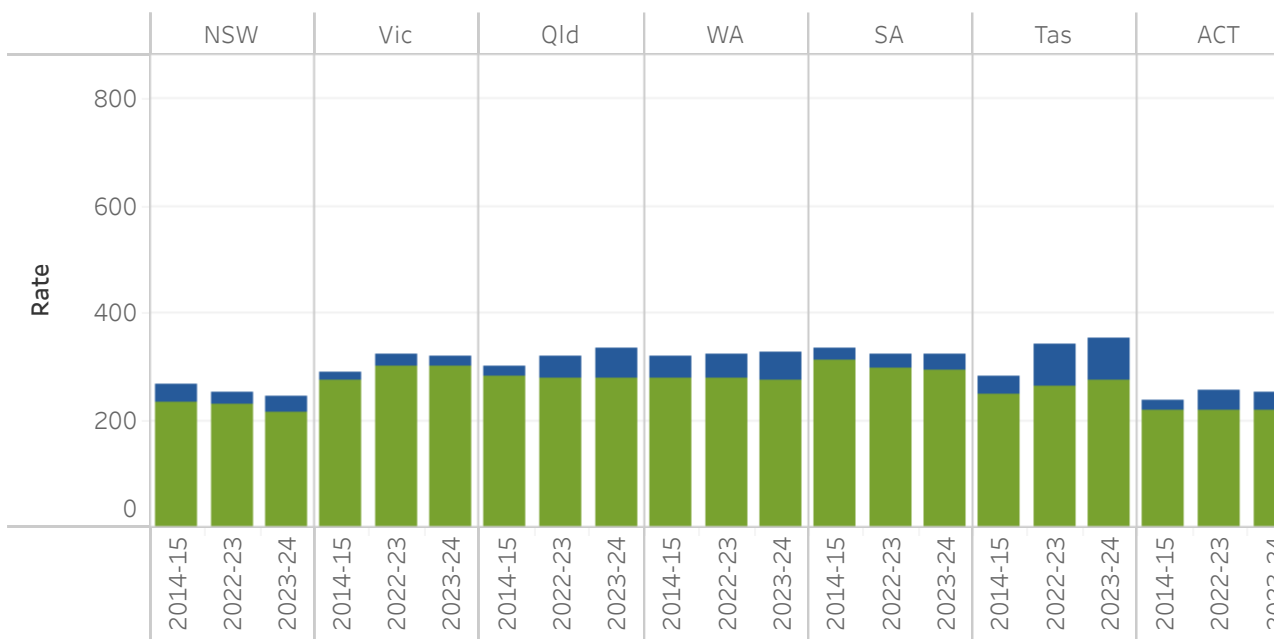
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