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## Queensland Courts' domestic and family violence (DFV) statistics

Data collections cover three topics:

- Applications for domestic violence protection orders (DVOs) lodged
- DVOs made
- Criminal charges lodged relating to DFV

Figures are provided for larger court locations as well as statewide totals.

### Accuracy of data

Care is taken to ensure the accuracy of data published on this page, however, revised data may be published where errors or omissions occur.



Applications lodged



Orders made



Offences

### Applications lodged

An application for a DVO can be made by:

- a police officer
- another person. These are called 'private applications'. Private applications can be made by:
  - an aggrieved
  - an authorised person for an aggrieved
  - a person acting under another Act for an aggrieved
  - a party to a child protection proceeding
- a court. When sentencing an offender for a domestic violence offence, a court can make a protection against an offender on its own initiative.

Data below shows the number of applications for DVOs lodged. New (or 'initiating') applications and applications to vary an existing DVO are shown separately.

Table 1 shows the trend in lodgments over the previous 5 years as well as the current year-to-date figures. The figures are also broken down to show the nature of applications for DVOs brought to court, that is:

- who has lodged the application
- gender of the aggrieved
- relationship of aggrieved and respondent parties
- how the application was lodged.

Table 1. DVO applications (statewide)

Application Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Initiating	32,097	30,403	30,303	28,313	28,797	26,323	-108	-0.4%
Vary	10,146	10,286	10,303	9,512	12,016	11,865	976	9.0%

Table 2. DVO applications (Magistrates Courts with the most lodgments) initiating applications only

Location	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Southport	3,349	2,945	2,967	2,603	2,577	2,172	-198	-8.4%
Beenleigh	2,510	2,385	2,567	2,367	2,708	2,621	137	5.5%
Brisbane	1,938	1,865	1,949	1,825	1,897	1,764	18	1.0%
Ipswich	1,977	1,734	1,674	1,641	1,535	1,513	101	7.2%
Townsville	1,779	1,833	1,685	1,558	1,497	1,261	-111	-8.1%
Cairns	1,319	1,243	1,220	1,121	1,249	1,230	99	8.8%
Caboolture	1,141	1,037	1,080	998	984	1,036	146	16.4%
Maroochydore	1,060	1,041	1,014	1,014	930	813	-43	-5.0%
Rockhampton	1,000	954	960	814	933	816	-53	-6.1%
Pine Rivers	857	864	1,010	918	928	776	-67	-7.9%
Toowoomba	903	869	772	741	711	691	32	4.9%
Mackay	784	755	720	823	776	715	5	0.7%
Holland Park	836	778	776	704	682	584	-31	-5.0%
Redcliffe	801	758	761	766	661	514	-101	-16.4%
Cleveland	797	736	685	647	598	563	23	4.3%
Richlands	752	698	724	624	587	537	-4	-0.7%
Bundaberg	659	639	589	468	595	572	16	2.9%
Mount Isa	892	654	590	483	458	436	27	6.6%
Gladstone	558	627	622	536	596	502	-46	-8.4%
Hervey Bay	555	501	515	470	445	399	-6	-1.5%

## Nature of applications:

Table 3. Lodging authority, 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	Number	Percent
Police	21,291	80.9%
Private	4,958	18.8%
Court	74	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,323</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 4. Gender of Aggrieved, 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	Number	Percent
Female	19,446	73.9%
Male	6,825	25.9%
Unknown	52	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,323</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 5. Relationship, 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	Number	Percent
Intimate Personal	19,028	72.3%
Family	7,213	27.4%
Informal Care	78	0.3%
Unknown	4	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,323</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 6. Method of Lodgement, 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	Number	Percent
Electronic	21,209	80.6%
Counter	4,951	18.8%
Other	163	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,323</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Orders made

Data shows the total number of DVOs made.

DVOs are made to protect the aggrieved party and children or other relatives or associates.

Table 7. DVOs made								
Order Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Protection	26,496	24,828	24,976	20,966	25,368	22,021	-1,191	-5.1%
Temporary Protection	14,265	13,896	14,420	14,487	14,569	13,441	117	0.9%

Vary Protection	9,077	9,943	9,759	8,726	11,760	11,735	1,097	10.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,838</b>	<b>48,667</b>	<b>49,155</b>	<b>44,179</b>	<b>51,697</b>	<b>47,197</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Table 8. DVOs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Orders, 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	Aggrieved Number	Aggrieved Percent	Respondent Number	Respondent Percent
Protection	3,209	14.6%	3,486	15.8%
Temporary Protection	1,722	12.8%	1,814	13.5%
Vary Protection	2,020	17.2%	2,190	18.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,951</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>15.9%</b>

Table 9. DVOs, by gender of the aggrieved and respondent

Aggrieved	Respondent	# orders made 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	% orders made 2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)
Female	Male	15,050	68.6%
Male	Female	3,476	15.8%
Female	Female	1,730	7.9%
Male	Male	1,689	7.7%

So far in 2020-21

28%

of all DVOs have been temporary protection orders made to protect the aggrieved until the application is finalised

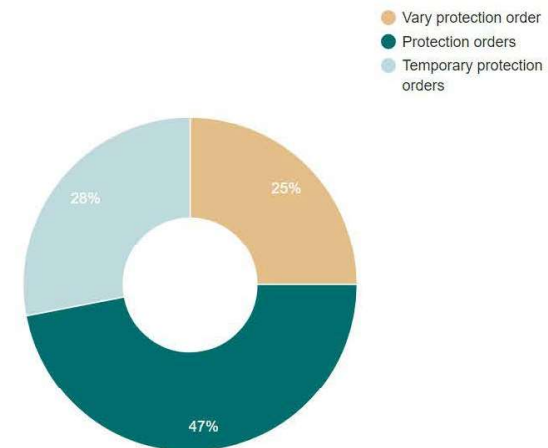
15%

of DVOs protect an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

76%

of DVOs protect a female aggrieved.

DVOs made by category, 2020-21 year to date





## Offences

Criminal offending in relation to domestic and family violence can be grouped into the following categories:

**Contravene DVO:** where the respondent breaches a condition of a DVO. A conviction in relation to this offence is recorded on a defendant's criminal history.

**Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) related offences** (flagged offences): Effective 1 December 2015, criminal offending that occurs in the context of DFV can be recorded by way of a notation under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*. This helps to ensure that the patterns of behaviour of those who commit acts of DFV are clearly evident to police officers and courts.

**Non-fatal strangulation:** Effective 5 May 2016, choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting is a stand-alone offence under the *Criminal Code 1899*, with a maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment.

Several data tables that follow relate to all court levels including Childrens, Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts. Due to the seriousness of some of the charges, not all charges are heard in the Magistrates Court, but are instead committed to the District or Supreme Courts.

This section shows the number of charges in relation to:

- breaches of DVOs
- offences 'flagged' as being in a DFV context (other than offences under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*)
- offences relating to section 315A of the *Criminal Code 1899* (offences of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting).

## Contravene offences

Table 10 is a count of all offences relating to contraventions of DVOs lodged with the Magistrates Court. This includes: contraventions of DVOs, contraventions of police protection notices and contraventions of release conditions.

Table 10. Contravene DVO charges lodged (Magistrates Courts with the most lodgments)

Location	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Townsville	3,074	2,304	2,153	2,395	4,032	2,580	-1,263	-32.9%
Beenleigh	1,369	1,312	1,432	1,829	2,912	2,640	-32	-1.2%
Brisbane	1,276	1,357	1,456	1,765	2,211	2,510	528	26.6%
Southport	1,843	1,584	1,576	1,687	1,983	1,716	-74	-4.1%
Ipswich	1,177	1,114	1,441	1,388	1,355	1,415	181	14.7%
Cairns	1,114	956	1,037	1,265	1,446	2,055	752	57.7%
Rockhampton	833	907	918	1,408	1,337	1,497	239	19.0%
Maroochydore	474	704	665	726	1,465	1,444	49	3.5%
Caboolture	685	674	683	904	880	900	98	12.2%
Toowoomba	578	668	621	596	735	782	134	20.7%
Mackay	526	497	496	695	1,011	722	-230	-24.2%
Mount Isa	495	438	485	526	710	819	186	29.4%
Redcliffe	522	540	483	578	722	617	-55	-8.2%
Gladstone	379	588	445	549	587	861	344	66.5%

Bundaberg	373	409	519	494	576	652	116	21.6%
Richlands	363	371	323	447	749	560	-156	-21.8%
Cleveland	367	329	776	420	430	460	74	19.2%
Pine Rivers	370	356	473	494	627	443	-131	-22.8%
Mareeba	250	308	229	326	279	430	181	72.7%
Hervey Bay	274	310	287	293	371	249	-93	-27.2%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>State Total</b>	<b>20,741</b>	<b>19,996</b>	<b>21,095</b>	<b>24,142</b>	<b>30,538</b>	<b>29,413</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

Table 11 is a count of defendants convicted of contravention of a DVO. One defendant can be convicted of more than one offence. Table 11 shows the most serious penalty imposed on a defendant at the time they are sentenced for their charge/s.

**Table 11. Defendants convicted of contravention DVO offences, listed by penalty imposed**

Penalty	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)
Imprisonment/Detention	4,173	4,542	4,835	4,852	4,763	6,195	5,819
Custody in the Community	56	63	71	52	52	80	55
Community Service Order	329	403	352	279	250	310	267
Probation	2,380	2,944	2,735	2,842	2,269	3,887	3,397
Monetary Order	3,763	4,049	4,132	3,986	3,330	6,023	5,392
Good behaviour/Recognisance	693	933	890	899	637	1,080	1,026
Other	479	598	730	790	733	1,054	1,181
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,873</b>	<b>13,532</b>	<b>13,745</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>12,034</b>	<b>18,629</b>	<b>17,137</b>

**Note:**

1. A defendant can be given one penalty in relation to multiple offences; or multiple penalties for one offence. The data shows only the most serious penalty for each defendant when convicted of the offence(s). This method of counting is used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for Criminal Courts, Australian publication (4513.0).
2. The order 'Custody in the community' may refer to 'Intensive Correction Order'; 'Conditional Release Order' or 'Intensive Supervision Order'.
3. The 'Other' category includes nominal penalties, such as 'convicted and not further punished'. In some instances, a court may sentence a defendant to a term of imprisonment on one offence and convict and not further punish them on a lesser offence.

## Flagged offences lodged

**Table 12. Flagged offences DFV offences, charges lodged**

Court	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)
Magistrates Court	8,765	6,889	6,164	6,565	7,809	9,357
District Court	3,039	4,030	4,349	4,304	4,027	4,540
Supreme Court	117	111	101	131	240	214

Total	11,921	11,030	10,614	11,000	12,076	14,111
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**Note:**

1. All offences are initially lodged in the Magistrates Court. However depending on the seriousness of the offence, some charges can only be dealt with on indictment in the Supreme or District Courts. Therefore the charges counted in the District and Supreme Courts are also counted in the Magistrates Court.
2. Flagged DFV offences were introduced on 1 December 2015 making 2016-17 the first full year of data.
3. Flagged offence data for all years has been recalculated due to revision of included offences under the legislation.

Table 13. Flagged DFV offences, charges lodged (Magistrates Courts with the most lodgments)

Location	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Townsville	1,384	702	591	630	672	770	143	22.8%
Southport	1,367	827	612	446	643	490	-104	-17.5%
Cairns	489	508	481	674	871	1,131	340	43.0%
Brisbane	384	393	349	497	513	619	149	31.7%
Beenleigh	459	363	338	385	548	587	95	19.3%
Ipswich	458	402	286	282	458	617	197	46.9%
Mount Isa	318	362	388	365	418	574	219	61.7%
Rockhampton	313	260	256	289	350	360	19	5.6%
Toowoomba	255	218	197	179	202	396	206	108.4%
Maroochydore	145	142	151	177	220	419	215	105.4%
Caboolture	180	210	150	161	143	217	84	63.2%
Mackay	196	133	118	171	218	203	4	2.0%
Redcliffe	181	182	126	168	124	149	39	35.5%
Bundaberg	127	112	130	113	219	175	-33	-15.9%
Mareeba	144	135	123	114	110	151	52	52.5%
Pine Rivers	119	141	94	145	114	137	32	30.5%
Richlands	168	117	124	99	98	77	-18	-18.9%
Gladstone	102	86	78	78	133	128	18	16.4%
Doomadgee	81	64	113	81	107	107	10	10.3%
Mornington Island	80	52	65	90	78	110	40	57.1%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Total	8,765	6,889	6,164	6,565	7,809	9,357	2,229	31.3%



Table 14. Strangulation offences, by court level

Court	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)
Magistrates Court	876	834	676	592	834	899
District Court	206	874	716	586	588	763
Supreme Court	<5	10	9	7	17	<5
Total	<1,090	1,718	1,401	1,185	1,439	<1,670

**Note:**

1. Strangulation related offences (s 315A of the *Criminal Code Act 1899*) was introduced 5 May 2016 making 2016-17 the first full year of data.
2. All offences are initially lodged in the Magistrates Court. However these charges can only be finalised upon indictment in the Supreme or District Courts. The counts of charges lodged in the District and Supreme Courts are also counted in the Magistrates Court charges.
3. Where charge numbers are less than 5, actual numbers have been replaced with '<5' to avoid possible identification of defendants.

Table 15. Strangulation offences lodged (Magistrates Courts with the most lodgments)

Location	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)	# change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD	% change 2020-21 YTD to 2021-22 YTD
Brisbane	87	87	71	74	109	129	33	34.4%
Southport	104	81	75	54	78	64	-5	-7.2%
Cairns	48	61	45	61	59	75	24	47.1%
Ipswich	47	62	29	23	80	89	17	23.6%
Beenleigh	59	62	41	31	67	53	-4	-7.0%
Townsville	62	52	47	29	56	38	-15	-28.3%
Maroochydore	23	58	45	34	38	59	25	73.5%
Toowoomba	38	43	24	23	21	54	34	170.0%
Mount Isa	22	33	16	16	41	37	0	0.0%
Rockhampton	43	16	13	28	25	26	3	13.0%
Richlands	36	29	26	22	17	6	-10	-62.5%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Total	876	834	676	592	834	899	162	22.0%

Table 16. Defendants convicted of strangulation offences, by penalty imposed

Penalty	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD (to 31 May 2022)
Imprisonment/Detention	57	340	319	249	283	323
Custody in the Community	-	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Probation	<5	9	7	5	7	7



Community Service Order	-	-	<5	<5	<5	-
Other	-	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Total	<65	353	332	258	295	333

**Note:**

1. A defendant can be given one penalty in relation to multiple offences; or multiple penalties for one offence. The data shows only the most serious penalty for each defendant when convicted of the offence(s). This method of counting is used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for Criminal Courts, Australian publication (4513.0).
2. The order 'Custody in the community' may refer to 'Intensive Correction Order'; 'Conditional Release Order' or 'Intensive Supervision Order'.
3. Where defendants number less than 5, actual numbers have been replaced with '<5' to avoid possible identification.


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