MEDIA RELEASE
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Latest crime statistics show increases in theft and burglary/break and enter offences

The Crime Statistics Agency has today released its recorded crime statistics for Victoria for the year ending 31 March 2016.

Recorded crime statistics show that there were 519,130 offences recorded by Victoria Police in the year to March 2016, up 12.4% compared to the same period last year. This equated to an offence rate of 8,575.9 per 100,000 of the population, up 10.3% from the previous year. A large proportion of this increase is attributed to increases in property and deception offences, which were up 13.5% and comprised almost 60% of all recorded crimes in Victoria in the last 12 months.

Offender incidents increased by 11.2% to 172,049 offender incidents in the year ending March 2016, making the Victorian offender rate 2,842.2 offender incidents per 100,000 population. Almost half of all offenders were aged between 20 and 34, with this age group making up 48% of the total increase in offender incidents in the last 12 months.

The victimisation rate increased by 10.4% compared to the same period last year, making the rate 5,134.8 per 100,000 population in the year to March 2016.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that while property and deception offences overall have increased in the last 12 months, 65% of this increase is due to an increase in theft.

‘Our analysis shows that one in every three recorded offences in Victoria are theft related.’ Ms Dowsley said.

‘In the year to March 2016 there has been a significant downward trend in the number of disorderly and offensive conduct offences, down by 15.6% compared to the same period last year.’

‘This quarter’s spotlight article also shows that property damage offences in Victoria have been trending down over a five year period.’

Further information can be found in the latest crime statistics quarterly release, available from the CSA website:


For further information please contact:
Brad Petry
Manager, Operations & Development
Phone: 0408 169 338
Email: info@crimestatistics.vic.gov.au
The number of offences recorded by police in the year to 31 March 2016 was 519,130. This is up 12.4% from 461,796 offences recorded in the same period last year.

Family incidents increased in the year to 31 March 2016, up 10.2% from 69,441 to 76,529.

There were 172,049 offender incidents recorded, up 11.2% from 154,763 in the year to March 2015.

Victim reports increased in the year to 31 March 2016 by 12.5% to 310,827 victim reports.

Between the year ending March 2015 and 2016, the major offence categories that showed the highest significant upward trends were:

- Justice procedures offences (up 64.3% from 6,712 to 11,031)
- Weapons and explosives offences (up 18.5% from 13,707 to 16,248)
- Theft offences (up 16.1% from 147,688 to 171,531)
- Transport regulation offences (up 13.9% from 462 to 526)
- Burglary/break and enter offences (up 13.7% from 44,983 to 51,134)
- Breaches of orders (up 13.4% from 49,608 to 56,261)
- Drug use and possession offences (up 13.4% from 20,651 to 23,421)

Between the year ending March 2015 and 2016 one offence subdivision showed a significant downwards trend:

- Disorderly and offensive conduct (down 15.6% from 20,530 to 17,328)

The five Local Government Areas with the highest offence rates were:

1. Melbourne (25,088.1 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 2.7%)
2. Latrobe (18,298.3 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 7.9%)
3. Horsham (15,483.3 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 17.2%)
4. Yarra (14,524.3 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 0.8%)
5. Greater Dandenong (13,175.3 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, up 24.1%)

For a detailed breakdown of the data, click to view the [Crime Statistics Quarterly Release](#).
For a breakdown of offences at the LGA level, click to access the [CSA Crime by Location Tool](#).
For explanatory information and definitions for the latest release, see the [Explanatory Notes](#) and [Glossary](#).