

COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT 2018/19





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There's nothing more important than keeping our state safe.

Thankfully, Victoria is home to an exceptional police force – men and women who are highly trained and dedicated to serving their local communities.

They put themselves on the line for us – and they should get all the help they need.

But for too long, police resourcing was determined by elections, not by experts.

It's why, in 2016, we released the first ever Community Safety Statement.

With it – the biggest ever investment in law and order in our state's history, including the funding, recruiting and deploying of an extra 3,135 new police.

And already, hundreds of these new officers have hit our streets.

Importantly, the number and location of these new recruits is being determined by a sophisticated and evidence-based model, developed by Victoria Police in consultation with The Police Association of Victoria.

It means that, finally, it's police – rather than politicians – making the big decisions.

And it's an approach that's working.

Recent independent crime data has shown that our police are driving down crime across Victoria.

But it's only the beginning – and the Community Safety Statement 2018/19 takes our work even further, delivering the police, protection and prevention our state needs.

First, we committed to the biggest police recruitment drive in Victorian history.

Now, we're making sure our men and women in blue have everything they need – the powers, the equipment and the technology – to get the jump on crime.

We're giving police the powers they need to catch criminals, but we're also focused on ensuring criminals are held to account.

It's why, at the same time, we're protecting Victorians by introducing tough new bail and parole laws, while further strengthening sentencing.

Of course, not every kid who makes a bad decision is destined to become a bad adult.

And right now, across our state, ice is destroying lives and devastating communities.

So, we're doubling the number of drug rehab beds and we're introducing new compulsory treatment orders for adults with multiple and complex needs, including addiction who pose a risk of violence to others.

With more police, more protection, and more prevention, we're making Victoria safer.

Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria

Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Police



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WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE THE FIRST STATEMENT

The first Community Safety Statement outlined the Victorian Government's plan for keeping our state safe.

This included a \$2 billion investment to help Victoria Police further strengthen its commitment to detect crime and apprehend offenders.

What we've seen since the Community Safety Statement 2017

- recruiting 3,135 extra police, including 415 family violence specialists
- taking the politics out of policing, by adopting the Staff Allocation Model (SAM), ensuring police recruitment is no longer at the whim of politicians but instead guided by experts
- strengthening bail laws and giving police new powers to remand a person in custody
- increasing the length of imprisonment for 12 of the state's most serious crimes
- changing the law so that a custodial sentence – imprisonment or a drug treatment order – is the only option for really serious crimes
- It's now harder to get parole and there is increased post-sentence supervision
- fixing the family violence system, so victims are protected and perpetrators are held to account.

The initiatives and investment outlined in the first Statement are having an impact.

Recent crime data from the independent Crime Statistics Agency show that in 2017 the crime rate declined for the first time since 2011.

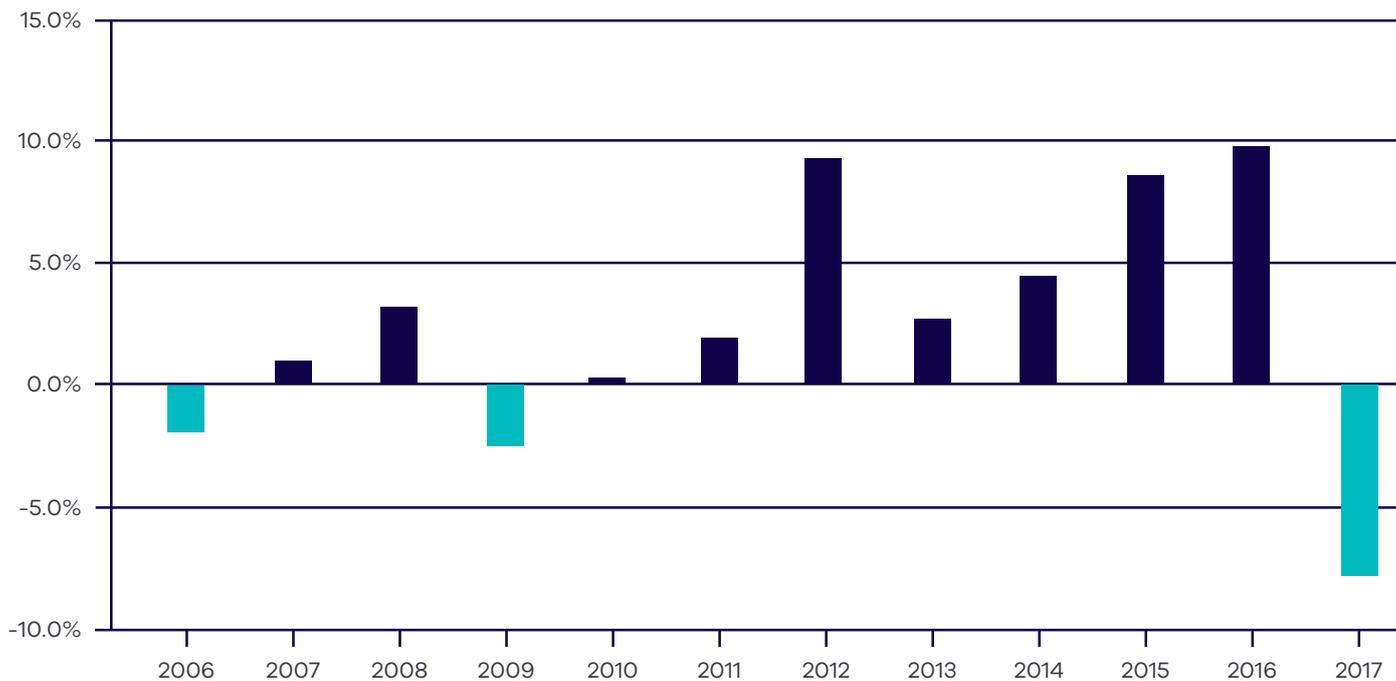
It also showed that in 2017, Victoria experienced the biggest drop in crime in the 12 years of data examined by the independent Crime Statistics Agency.

These decreases are welcome. But they in no way diminish the harm and trauma experienced by victims of crime.

We know that more needs to be done. It is the experience of victims that is at the heart of every effort detailed in this statement.

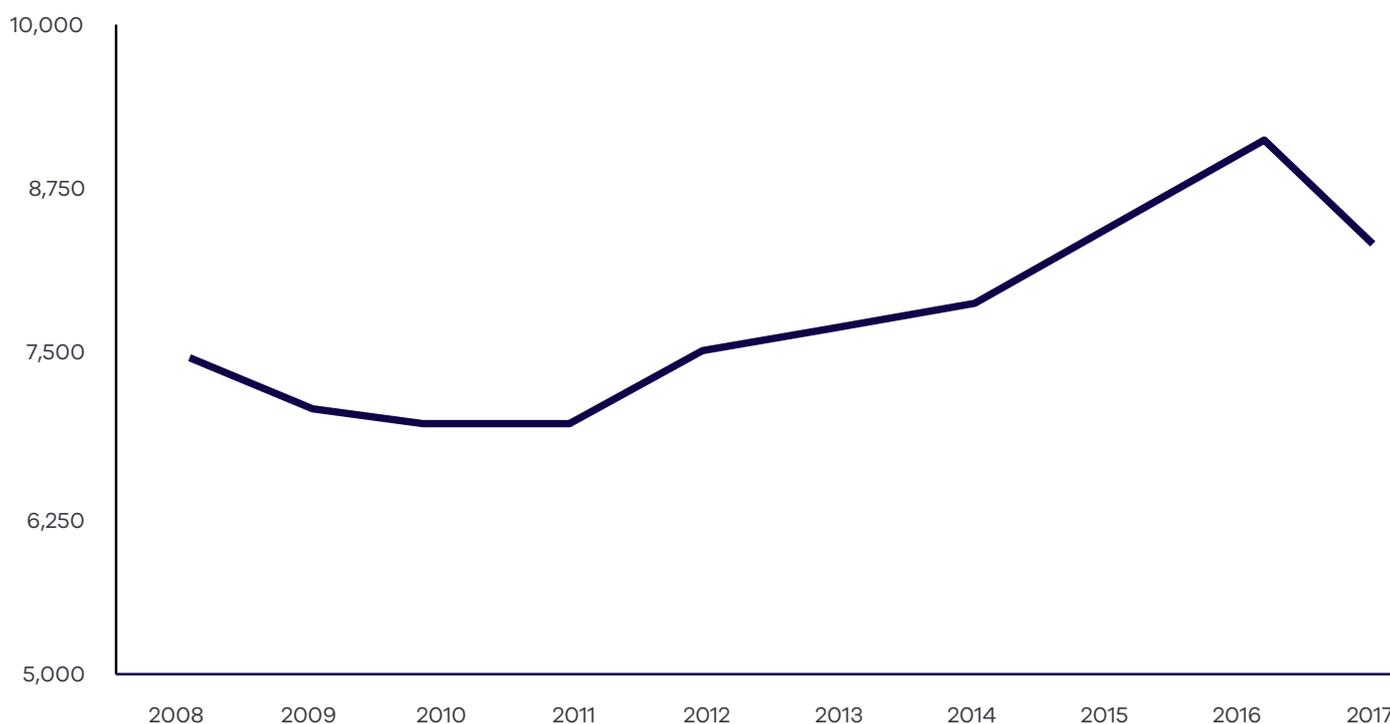
Offences recorded

Rolling 12 months - Yearly Percentage Change in Crime Statistics



Source: Crime Statistics Agency, Recorded Crime Statistics - YEAR ENDING 31 December 2017

Offences per 100,000 people



Source: Crime Statistics Agency, Recorded Crime Statistics - YEAR ENDING 31 December 2017

WHAT'S NEW IN THE COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT 2018/19

The Community Safety Statement 2018/19 recommits the efforts of the Government and Victoria Police, while taking our work even further, delivering the police, protection and prevention our state needs.

That includes bedding down the reforms committed to in the 2017 Statement, while also delivering the specialist technology and equipment needed by police to target and prevent crime.



WHAT'S NEW IN POLICING

- more Protective Services Officers (PSOs) across the public transport network, with early work underway to consider an expansion into places such as shopping centres, malls, and other places of mass gathering
- new mobile police stations to tackle crime when and where it happens
- new police powers to better prevent and respond to terrorist incidents
- specialist training and access to longarm firearms for selected police in Melbourne and regional Victoria
- harsher penalties for drug and drink driving
- more opportunities to connect with Victoria Police, both online and in person.



WHAT'S NEW IN PROTECTION

- tougher punishments for young people who offend with new orders, facilities and penalties
- stronger sentencing, with new laws to limit the use of Community Correction Orders
- new laws to respond to incidents of injury and assault against police and emergency service workers
- introducing longer prison sentences and harsher penalties for drug dealers
- creating new laws to target organised crime
- improving the way the justice system treats victims.



WHAT'S NEW IN PREVENTION

- a new Fixated Threat Assessment Centre to better identify and respond to individuals who may pose a threat to public safety
- new compulsory treatment for adults with multiple and complex needs, including addiction, who pose a risk of violence to others will be introduced
- new resources and training to help police recognise and respond to the early signs of family violence
- even more funding for projects that prevent youth crime
- further work to improve safety in public spaces through lighting and design
- extra support to divert kids away from crime, and into education, training or a job
- a strengthened focus on crime prevention, working with Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT 2018/19 MEANS FOR YOU

Since the first Community Safety Statement was released, the Government has heard from more than 4,900 Victorians on their views about community safety.

The findings of this consultation have been used to map expectations and ideas about community safety, and to help shape our community safety policy and priorities.

The rollout of initiatives outlined in the first two Community Safety Statements means that Victorians can expect to see not just new actions and activity, but real improvements in community safety.



MORE POLICE

- continuing recruitment of new police with 825 extra police, above attrition, to be deployed in 2018/19
- continuing commitment to 24-hour police stations being open and accessible at all hours
- more PSOs across the public transport system
- body-worn cameras on frontline police, providing new capability to capture evidence
- rollout of Victoria Police's sophisticated intelligence system, connecting information and leading to quicker arrests
- more police and PSOs equipped with mobile technology, giving them real-time access to operational information
- complete rollout of Victoria Police Eyewatch Facebook pages to all 54 police service areas
- new specialist police to fight technology enabled offending by serious and organised criminals
- new mobile police stations to tackle crime when and where it happens.



MORE PROTECTION

- implementation of the new Firearm Prohibition Order scheme to curb illegal gun crime and target violent offenders
- tougher bail and remand reforms
- harsher penalties for injuring or threatening police and emergency service workers
- more offenders being held to account with longer sentences
- cash for scrap metal banned, denying organised crime a key revenue stream
- tougher punishments for young people who offend with new orders, facilities and penalties
- extra mobile policing units to stamp out crime at a local level.



MORE PREVENTION

- more drug rehab beds treating more Victorians for their addictions
- rollout of new youth specialist police to reduce the risk of vulnerable young people offending
- new initiatives to target the root causes of crime in young people and in specific communities
- more opportunity for local communities to take control of crime prevention activity in their own areas
- more support for organisations like Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch
- new security measures in Melbourne's CBD
- more ways to contact police and resolve non-emergency issues.

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