Main Features

Imprisonment rate annual change:
Queensland ↓ 2.8%
Australia ↑ 3.7%

Proportion of unsentenced prisoners annual change:
Queensland ↑ 1.2 percentage points
Australia ↑ 0.8 percentage points

Proportion of female prisoners annual change:
Queensland ↑ 0.1 percentage points
Australia ↑ 0.2 percentage points

Commentary

Note: data contained in this brief should be read with reference to the explanatory notes provided in ABS Cat. No. 4571.0

- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland was 3.0 years, an increase from 2.5 years in 2006. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, the same as in 2006. (Note: if indeterminate sentences were included in calculating the median, it would be higher, particularly in Queensland, where the proportion of indeterminate sentences was higher.)

- In 2007, 65.2% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 65.3% in 2006. Similarly, the proportion for Australia has decreased from 58.0% in 2006 to 56.5% in 2007.

Figure 1: Imprisonment rate, 1997 to 2007

Figure 2: Indigenous and non-Indigenous age standardised imprisonment rates, Qld, 2000 to 2007

- On the night of the Prison Census, 30 June 2007, Queensland prisons held 5,567 prisoners. This was 20.4% of the 27,224 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2007 was 174.0 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons. This rate was a decrease of 2.8% from 179.0 prisoners per 100,000 adult population in 2006. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 169.4 prisoners per 100,000 adult population, a 3.7% increase from 163.4 in 2006 (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 14 prisoners in Queensland in 2007 were female (7.3% of the total, compared with 7.2% in 2006). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole increased from 7.1% in 2006 to 7.3% in 2007.

- The age-standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,405.4 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 136.1 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous, making Indigenous persons 10.3 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2007 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than Australia's as a whole (1,786.7 per 100,000).

- In Queensland 23.4% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation), compared with 22.4% for Australia.