Prisoners in Queensland, 2017

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 8 December 2017, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):
Queensland .................................................... ⏹️ 9.4%
Australia ..................................................... ⏹️ 6.1%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland ..................................................... ⏹️ 7.5%
Australia ..................................................... ⏹️ 4.0%

Main findings

Note: data contained in this brief should be read with reference to the explanatory notes provided in ABS 4517.0

- On the night of the Prison Census, 30 June 2017, Queensland prisons held 8,476 prisoners. This was 20.6% of the 41,202 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2017 was 221.8 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 206.3 per 100,000 in 2016. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 215.9 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 12 prisoners in Queensland in 2017 was female (8.3% of the total, compared with 8.8% in 2016). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia as a whole in 2017 was 8.0%, remaining the same as 2016.

- The age–standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Indigenous prisoners was 1,780.1 per 100,000 adult Indigenous population, compared with 167.5 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous adults, making Indigenous persons 11 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2017 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Indigenous imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,141.6 per 100,000).

- In Queensland, 30.0% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2017, compared with 31.3% for Australia.

- Of the prisoners with a sentence (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2017 was 3.0 years, an increase from 2.8 years in 2016. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, the same as in 2016.

- In 2017, 63.6% of prisoners in Queensland had an episode of prior known adult imprisonment. This proportion has decreased from 63.9% in 2016. The proportion for Australia increased from 56.2% in 2016 to 56.5% in 2017.

Note: Calculations in this brief are based on pre-rounded figures.

1 Age standardisation is a statistical method that adjusts crude rates to account for age differences between study populations.