Prisoners in Queensland, 2018

Source: ABS 4517.0, released 6 December 2018, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Number of prisoners (annual change):
Queensland .................................................... 4.3%
Australia ........................................ ................ 4.3%

Crude imprisonment rate (annual change):
Queensland .................................................... 2.4%
Australia .......................................... ................ 2.5%

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 National Prisoner Census, 30 June 2018, Queensland prisons held 8,840 prisoners. This was 20.6% of the 42,974 prisoners in Australian prisons.

- The crude imprisonment rate in Queensland for 2018 was 227.2 prisoners per 100,000 adult persons up from 221.8 per 100,000 in 2017. The imprisonment rate in Australia was 221.4 prisoners per 100,000 adult population (Figure 1).

- Approximately 1 in 11 prisoners in Queensland in 2018 was female (9.5% of the total, compared with 8.3% in 2017). The proportion of female prisoners in Australia in 2018 was 8.4%, up from 8.0% in 2017.

- The age–standardised rate of imprisonment for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 1,744.9 per 100,000 adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared with 175.1 per 100,000 non-Indigenous adults, making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous persons to be in prison at 30 June 2018 (Figure 2). The age-standardised Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment rate was lower than for Australia as a whole (2,209.8 per 100,000).

- In Queensland, 30.0% of prisoners were unsentenced (on remand, awaiting sentence or awaiting deportation) at 30 June 2018, compared with 32.2% for Australia.

- Of the sentenced prisoners (those sentenced to a specified term), the median aggregate sentence length for prisoners in Queensland in 2018 was 3.0 years, the same as in 2017. The median aggregate sentence in Australia as a whole was 3.0 years, the same as in 2017.

- In 2018, 63.6% of prisoners in Queensland had a known episode of prior adult imprisonment, the same as in 2017. The per cent for Australia increased from 56.5% in 2017 to 56.7% in 2018.

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.