14 June 2018 02/2018

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo: 9:00AM Thursday 14 June 2018

**Latest crime statistics show a decrease for all crime measures**

The Crime Statistics Agency has today released its Victorian recorded crime statistics for the year ending 31 March 2018. The recorded criminal incident rate was 5,876.3 per 100,000 population, down 10.9% from the previous year. The recorded offence rate was 7,773.2 per 100,000 population, down 9.5% from the previous year.

There were 380,150 criminal incidents recorded by Victoria Police in the year to March 2018, down by 8.8% compared to the same period last year. This decrease is attributed to incidents with a property and deception principal offence (including burglary, theft and deception), which decreased 12.3% and comprised around 3 in 5 of all recorded criminal incidents in Victoria in the last 12 months.

Recorded offences showed a 7.4% decrease compared to the same period last year, with a total of 502,858 offences recorded by Victoria Police.

Alleged offender incidents decreased by 0.6% to 173,388 offender incidents in the year to March 2018. Population growth was greater making the Victorian offender rate of 2,680.2 per 100,000 population, 2.9% lower than the previous year.

The victimisation rate decreased by 12.5% compared to the same period last year, making the rate 4,618.8 per 100,000 population in the year to March 2018.

Family related incidents decreased to 75,263, down by 3.2% compared to the same period last year.

Crime Statistics Agency Chief Statistician Catherine Andersson said that ‘the decrease in the criminal incident rate over the last 12 months is driven largely by a reduction in property and deception incidents’ adding that ‘the number of burglary incidents is the lowest in 7 years.’

Whilst offences have declined across most offence types in the last 12 months, sexual assault offences continued to increase. Ms Andersson stated that ‘the introduction of a number of new sexual offence codes in the last 3 years has contributed to this increase.’

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

<http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data/>

**For further information please contact:**   
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**CSA FACT SHEET: RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – YEAR ENDING 31 March 2018**

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**State wide figures**

* The number of criminal incidents recorded by police in the year to 31 March 2018 was 380,150. This is down 8.8% from 416,925 incidents recorded in the same period last year.
* The number of offences recorded by police in the year to 31 March 2018 was 502,858. This is down 7.4% from 542,893 offences recorded in the same period last year.
* Offender incidents decreased to 173,388, down 0.6% from 174,515 in the year to March 2017.
* Victim reports decreased in the year to 31 March 2018 by 10.5% to 298,800 victim reports.
* Family incidents decreased in the year to 31 March 2018, down 3.2% from 77,717 to 75,263.

**Local Government Area level figures**

**The five Local Government Areas with the highest criminal incident rates were:**

**Criminal Incidents**

1. Melbourne (15,502.7 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 11.9%)
2. Latrobe (12,538.7 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 9.6%)
3. Yarra (10,852.6 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.6%)
4. Greater Shepparton (9,033.4 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 6.1%)
5. Mildura (8,723.1 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.9%)

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

**Recorded Offences**

1. Melbourne (21,152.5 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 9.5%)
2. Latrobe (17,867.1 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 7.4%)
3. Yarra (13,661.4 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 4.4%)
4. Horsham (12,410.8 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 5.5%)
5. Greater Shepparton (12,279.8 offences per 100,000 estimated resident population, down 4.4%)

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**Crime category trends**

**From April 2016 to March 2018, the major offence categories that showed significant upward trends were:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Sexual offences (up 13.4% from 7,493 to 8,495) | **Recorded Offences**   * Public nuisance offences (up 14.8% from 3,272 to 3,756) * Other government regulatory offences (up 52.0% from 561 to 853) |

**From April 2016 to March 2018, the following offence subdivisions showed a significant downward trend:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Incidents**   * Abduction and related offences (down 13.6% from 469 to 405) * Burglary/Break and enter  (down 15.2% from 50,684 to 42,966) * Theft (down 14.1% from 153,422 to 131,788) * Deception (down 6.8% from 21,756 to 20,270) * Drug dealing and trafficking   (down 10.8% from 3,046 to 2,717)   * Justice procedures  (down 12.8% from 8,507 to 7,414) | **Recorded Offences**   * **Burglary/Break and enter  (**down 15.5% from 53,452 to 45,147**)** * **Theft (down 12.9% from 189,098 to 164,642)** * **Drug dealing and trafficking  (**down 14.1% from 4,804 to 4,126**)** * **Weapons and explosives offences  (**down 7.8% from 15,921 to 14,683**)** * Justice procedures  (down 7.7% from 13,288 to 12,270) |

**For explanatory information and definitions for the latest release, see the** [explanatory notes](http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/explanatory-notes/) **and** [glossary](http://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/glossary-and-data-dictionary/).