

PUBLIC NUISANCE

Behaviour that is disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent, and interferes (or is likely to interfere) with a member of the public peacefully passing through or enjoying a public place. Can include using offensive, obscene, indecent, abusive or threatening language.

Maximum penalty – \$3,870 fine or 6 months' imprisonment if the offence is committed within, or in the vicinity of, licenced premises. Otherwise, maximum penalty is a \$1,548 fine or 6 months' imprisonment.

In 2022–23 there were

6,855

cases involving public
nuisance sentenced
in court

2,949

cases where public
nuisance was the
most serious offence



6,043
people
sentenced



average fine
\$484.42



71.9% sentenced
were male



34.2
average age



oldest sentenced
was 79 years



youngest sentenced
was 11 years



4.0% sentenced as a child
under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*

ADULTS

Most common penalty:

2,043	Monetary
220	Recognisance
153	Community service
122	Convicted, not further punished
110	Wholly suspended
89	Probation
89	Imprisonment
3	Partially suspended
1	Intensive correction order

JUVENILES

Most common penalty:

67	Reprimand
21	Court diversion referral
18	Recognisance
7	Community service
5	Restorative justice order
1	Probation

Police officers can issue infringement notices for public nuisance offences, which means the person does not have to go to court if they pay the infringement amount. Officers use their discretion in deciding whether to issue an infringement notice or to instead choose the court process. The issuing of infringements is a common way of dealing with public nuisance offences. Other non-court actions include cautioning, conferencing and referral to support services.