

SERIOUS ASSAULT

A serious assault is an assault made 'serious' because it was committed against a particular kind of person or for a particular reason. This offence also covers other behaviour that may not be an assault: resisting or wilfully obstructing police (or people aiding police) or a public officer. The particular kinds of victim are: police officers or people helping them, corrective services and public officers, and people performing a duty imposed by law, who are over 60, or who rely on a guide, hearing or assistance dog, wheelchair or other remedial device.

11.1 % Serious assault

(n=6,751) Criminal Code (Qld) s 340

3.9 % Assault/obstruction of police officer

(n=2,382)

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld) s 790

0.1 % Assault/obstruction of corrective services staff

(n=71)

Corrective Services Act 2006 (Qld) s 124(b)

84.9 %

Other (n=51,794)

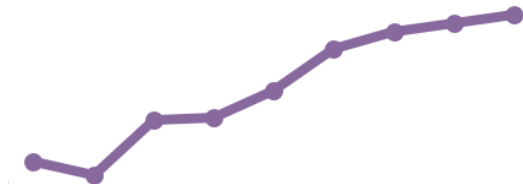
For example common assault, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm

2009-10 to 2017-18

60,998

sentenced cases of acts intended to cause injury

Number of serious assaults sentenced



555

2009-10

940

2017-18



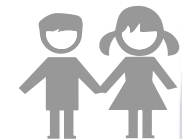
71.4%

sentenced were male



30.2

average age



10.8%

sentenced as a child under the

Youth Justice Act 1992 (Qld)

10 → 86
youngest oldest



31.3

average age for serious assault of public officer



28.5

average age for serious assault of police officer

64.6%
sentenced were non-Indigenous

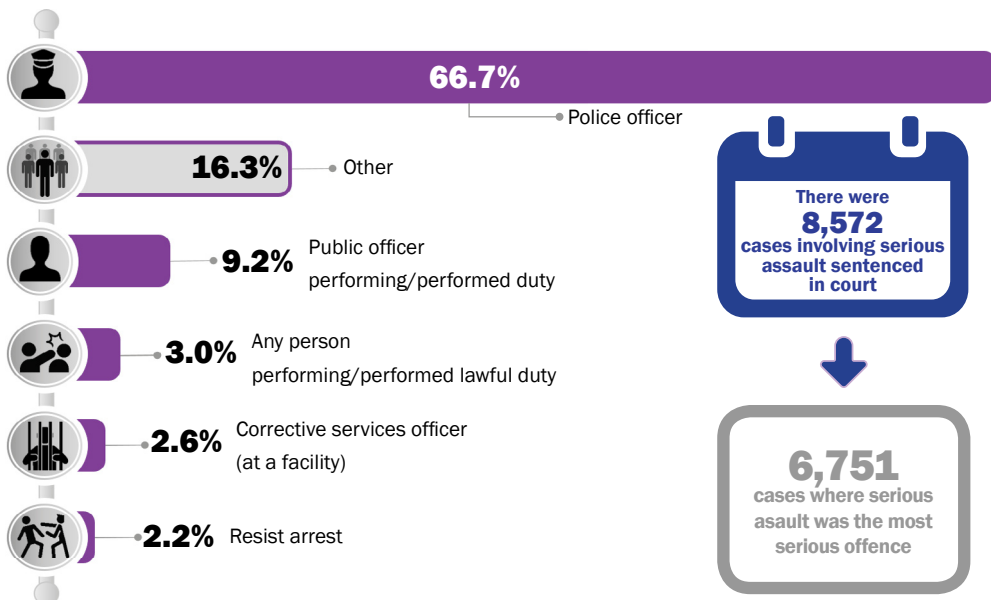


35.4%
sentenced were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Sentencing @ a glance

Serious assault MSO - 2009-10 to 2017-18

Section 340 of the Criminal Code (Qld)



Between **2014-15** and **2017-18** there were **2,648** cases of serious assault of police officers and public officers

Police officer



60.4%
with aggravating circumstances

From 29 August 2012, it has been an **aggravating circumstance** to assault a **police officer** by biting, spitting on, throwing or applying bodily fluid or faeces to, causing bodily harm to a police officer, or at the time of the assault, being or pretending to be armed.

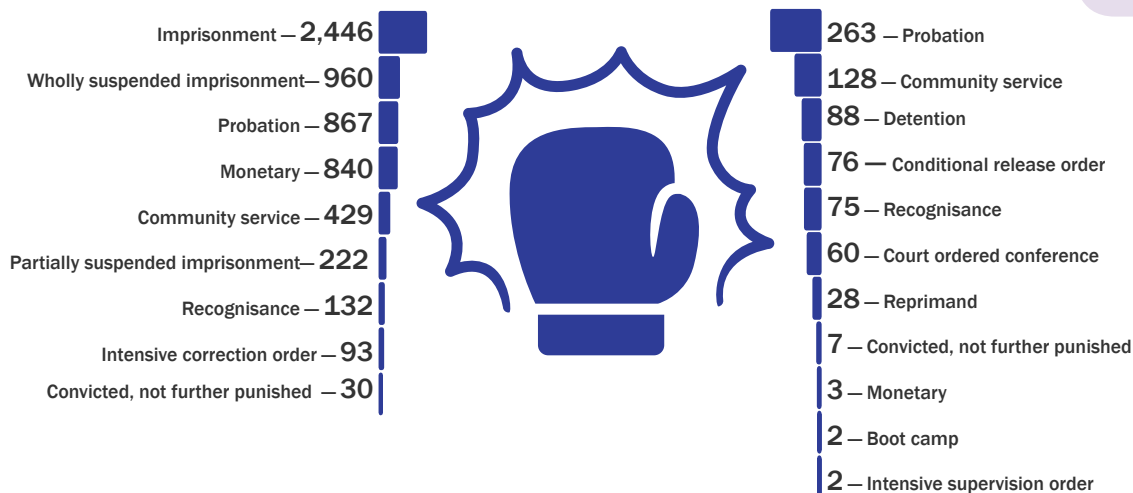
From 5 September 2014, the same circumstances of aggravation were extended to assaults of **other public officers**.

Public officer



50.7%
with aggravating circumstances

ADULTS — PENALTIES — JUVENILES



Maximum penalty for serious assault is 7 years' imprisonment. It increases to 14 years for assaults on police or public officers with a circumstance of aggravation.

Serious assault MSO - 2009-10 to 2017-18

ADULTS

average length of an imprisonment sentence



9.2
months

JUVENILES

average length of a probation order



8.5
months