

Purchase Agreement 2022-26

Performance Report
December 2023



**ACT
Policing**

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Originating area	ACT Policing Statistics
Date Published	XX
Cleared by	Chief Police Officer

1. Summary

The ACT Policing December 2023 Performance Report (period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023)¹ outlines the performance of ACT Policing against the Purchase Agreement for the Provision of Policing Services 2022-26 and the Ministerial Direction issued by the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services in September 2022.

2022-26 Performance Measure Framework

Schedule 1 of the Purchase Agreement outlines 21 performance measures under two outcomes:

Shared ACT Government Outcomes

Outputs: Victimisation rate
 Repeat offender rate
 Road crashes resulting in death or injury

ACT Policing Operational Outcomes

Outputs: Divert
 Disrupt
 Respond
 Enforce
 Community Confidence

Key Performance Indicators

When analysing the data, it is important to note the impact of COVID-19 on 2019-20 to 2021-22 crime statistics. Notably, lockdowns and other related restrictions have resulted in significant variations to crime trends. Comparisons made with any previous years and/or trends need to be considered with this in mind.

2. Performance Measures Summary

Shared ACT Government Outcomes

Purchase Agreement 2022-26 between the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT							
2023-24 Financial Year - July to December 2023 Period							
Shared ACT Government Outcomes ^a							
Prevent Crime							
Victimisation rate	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result (2022-23)	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
1. Number of offences against the person ^b reported or becoming known per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	900.56	Trend based	934.26	-3.61%	Trend based
2. Number of offences against property ^c reported or becoming known per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	3323.71	Trend based	3333.63	-0.30%	Trend based
Reduce Recidivism							
Repeat offender rates	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
3. Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police ^d more than once within the previous 12 months	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	25.9%	Trend based	22.0%	3.9%	Trend based
Prevent Road Deaths and Trauma							
Road crashes resulting in death or injury	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
4. Number of road crashes resulting in death per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	0.9	Trend based	1.5	-42.6%	Trend based
5. Number of road crashes resulting in injury ^e per 100,000 population	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	72.8	Trend based	74.8	-3%	Trend based

*Pro-rata financial year results where relevant

ACT Policing Operational Outcomes

ACT Policing Operational Outcomes - Key Performance Indicators							
Divert	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
6. Percentage of eligible^f young people referred to restorative justice							
6.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	100%	100%	100.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	Y
6.2 Non-indigenous	100%	100%	100.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a	Y
7. Percentage of offenders proceeded against by non-court actions^g (Diversions and cautions)							
7.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	5 year average or more	6.5%	6.1%	-0.4%	4.50%	1.60%	N
7.2 Non-indigenous	5 year average or more	12.4%	14.3%	1.9%	13.50%	0.80%	Y
8. Number of persons referred to community support agencies (SupportLink)	5 year average or more	5888	6518.0	10.69%	5918.0	10.1%	Y
Disrupt	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
9. Number of disruption^h activities (Drug related, General person offences, General property offences or OMCg related)	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	686	Trend based	815	-129	Trend based
10. Disruption case study (for inclusion in ACT Policing Annual Report)	One	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes
11. Number of Targeted Traffic Operations (in line with the Road Safety Calendar)	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	8	Trend based	n/a	n/a	Trend based
Respond	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
12. Average length of time to respond to Priority One Incidentsⁱ	5 year average or less	8.2 minutes or less	7.2 minutes	-11.9%	9.6 minutes or less	n/a	Y
13. Average length of time to respond to Priority Two Incidents^j	5 year average or less	17.4 minutes or less	17.9 minutes	2.9%	17.8 minutes or less	n/a	N
14. Percentage of Priority Three Incidents^k responded to within 48 hours	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	94.7%	Trend based	93.5%	1.2%	Trend based
15. Percentage of 000 calls answered on first or second presentation^l:							
15.1 On first presentation	5 year average or more	89.40%	91.83%	2.4%	90.9%	-0.9%	Y
15.2 On second presentation	5 year average or more	96.23%	98.25%	2.0%	97.5%	-0.8%	Y
16. Percentage of the community satisfied in general with the job police are doing in responding to emergencies and	National Average or more	68.4%	68.1%	-0.3%	n/a	n/a	N

Enforce	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
17. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for person offences	5 year average or more	27.8%	30.9%	3.1%	30.1%	0.8%	Y
18. Proportion of offenders proceeded against for property offences	5 year average or more	7.9%	6.4%	-1.5%	7.6%	-1.2%	N
Community confidence	Target Measure	Actual Target	Financial Year Result	% Variation from Target	Previous Financial Year Result	% Variation from previous Financial Year	Achieved?
19. Percentage of the community satisfied in general with services provided by police. ^m	National Average or more	57.8%	64.3%	6.5%	80.8%	-16.5%	Y
20. Percentage of the community who have confidence in police. ^m	National Average or more	64.5%	72.8%	8.3%	84.6%	-11.8%	Y
21. Number of complaints against police ⁿ	Monitor 5 year trend	See "Trends & Graphs"	74	Trend based	64	15.6%	Trend based

*Pro-rata financial year results where relevant

3. Performance Measures and Indicators of Effectiveness Results

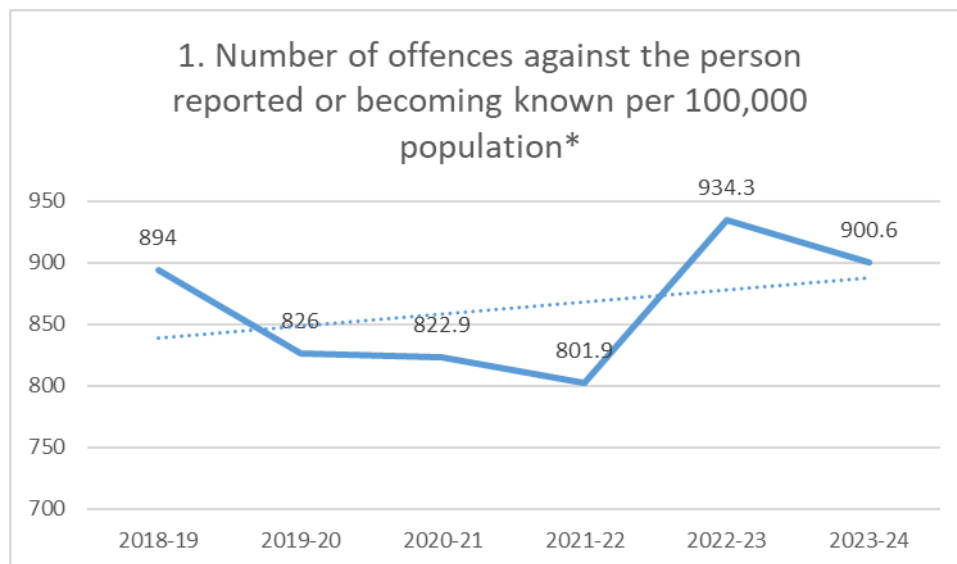
Shared ACT Government Outcomes

OUTCOME: Prevent Crime

Performance Measure 1 - Number of offences against the person reported or becoming known per 100,000 population

Time Period	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	900.56

Figure 1: Offences against the person reported or becoming known per 100,000 population – 5 year trend



*Figures for the 2023-24 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

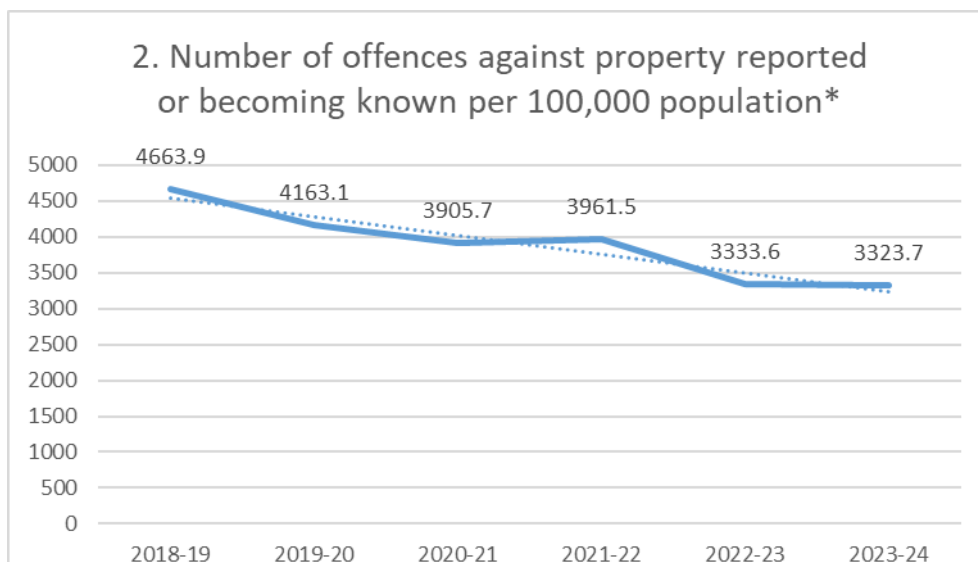
The pro-rata estimate of person offences reported or becoming known per 100,000 population for the 2023-24 Financial Year is 900.56. Whilst this is above average in comparison to the past 5 years, it is a decrease on the previous FY

Performance Measure 2 - Number of offences against property reported or becoming known per 100,000 population

Time Period	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	3323.71

Figure 2: Offences against property reported or becoming known per 100,000 population – 5 year trend

*Figures for the 2023-24 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

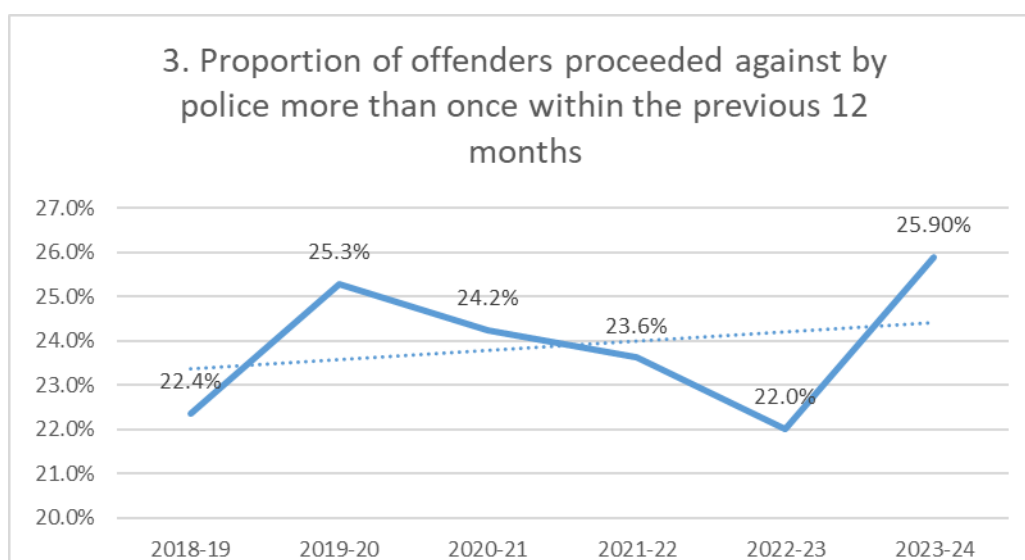


For period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, the pro-rata figure of property offences reported or becoming known per 100,000 population for the 202.-24 is 3323.7.

Figure 2 shows a continual long term downward trend for reported property offences per 100,000 population.

Performance Measure 3 – Proportion of offenders proceeded against by police more than once within the previous 12 months

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023*	Monitor 5 Year Trend	25.90%**



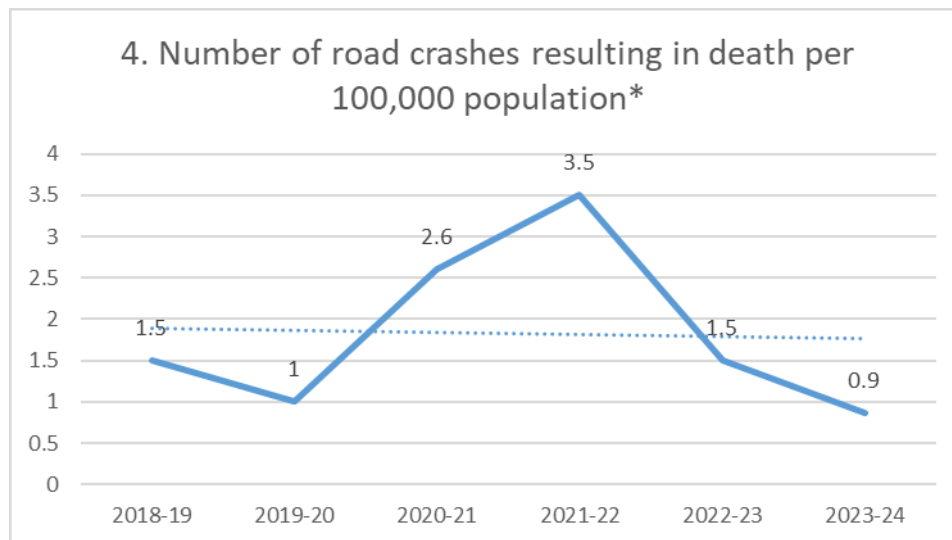
The proportion of offenders processes against by police more than once within the previous 12 months is 25.9%** . This is the highest result in the past 5 years and an almost 4% increase on the 2022-23 FY result.

**In order to provide a genuine comparison, the result data must take into account a 12 month period. As such, the last 6 months of data for the 2022-23 is also included in the pro-rata 2023-24 result.

OUTCOME: Prevent Road Deaths and Trauma

Performance Measure 4 – Number of road crashes resulting in death per 100,000

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	0.9 / 100,000 people*



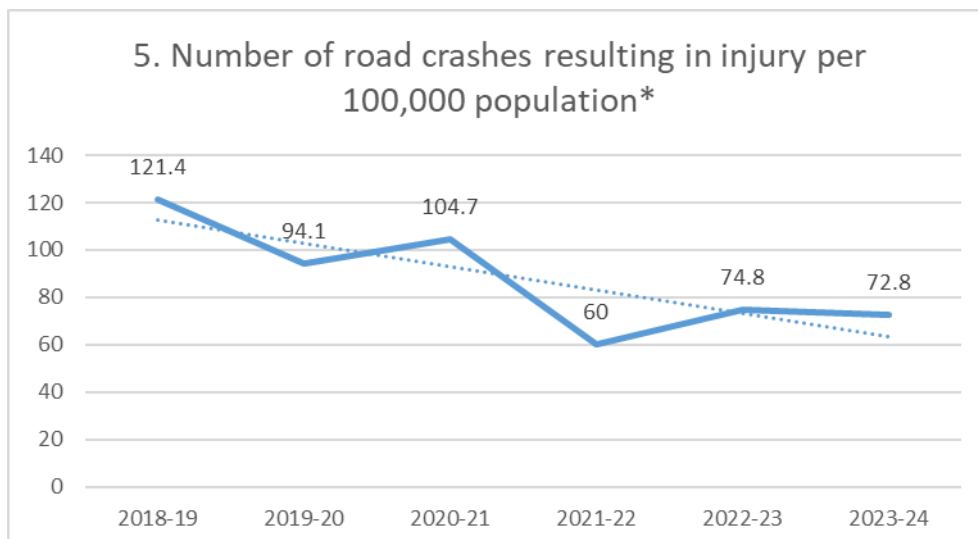
*Figures for the 2023-24 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

The projected rate of road crashes resulting in death per 100,000 for the 2023-24 FY is 0.9 crashes per 100,000 people.

It is the lowest result for the past 5 years.

Performance Measure 5 - Number of road crashes resulting in injury per 100,000

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	72.8 injuries / 100,000 people*



*Figures for the 2023-23 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata estimate of road crashes resulting in injury per 100,000 for the 2022-23 period is 72.8 per 100,000 people.

This figure is relatively consistent with the 2022-23 FY result, and significantly lower than the first 3 years of the 5 year period.

ACT POLICING OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES

OUTCOME: Divert

Performance Measure 6 - Percentage of eligible young people referred to Restorative Justice (RJ)

6.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Date Range	Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	100%	100%	0.0%	Y

For the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, all First Nations young people eligible for RJ have been referred by ACT Policing.

6.2 Non-Indigenous

Date Range	Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	100%	100%	0.0%	Y

For the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, all non-indigenous young people eligible for RJ have been referred by ACT Policing.

Performance Measure 7 - Percentage of offenders proceeded against by non-court actions (diversions and cautions)

7.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Date Range	Target measure	Actual target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or more	6.5%	6.1%	-0.4%	N

The percentage of First Nation offenders proceeded against by non-court actions (diversionary conferences, alcohol and drug diversions and cautions) is 6.1%. This is 0.4% below the target of 6.5% (average over the past five years).

7.2 Non-Indigenous

Date Range	Target measure	Actual target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or more	12.4%	14.3%	1.9%	Y

For the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, the percentage of non-indigenous offenders proceeded against by non-court actions (diversionary conferences, alcohol and drug diversions and cautions) is 14.3%. The result is 1.9% above the target of 12.4% (average over the past five years).

Performance Measure 8 - Number of persons referred to community support agencies (SupportLink)

Date Range	Target measure	Actual target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2022 – 31 Dec 2022	5 Year average or more	5888	6518.0*	10.69%	Y

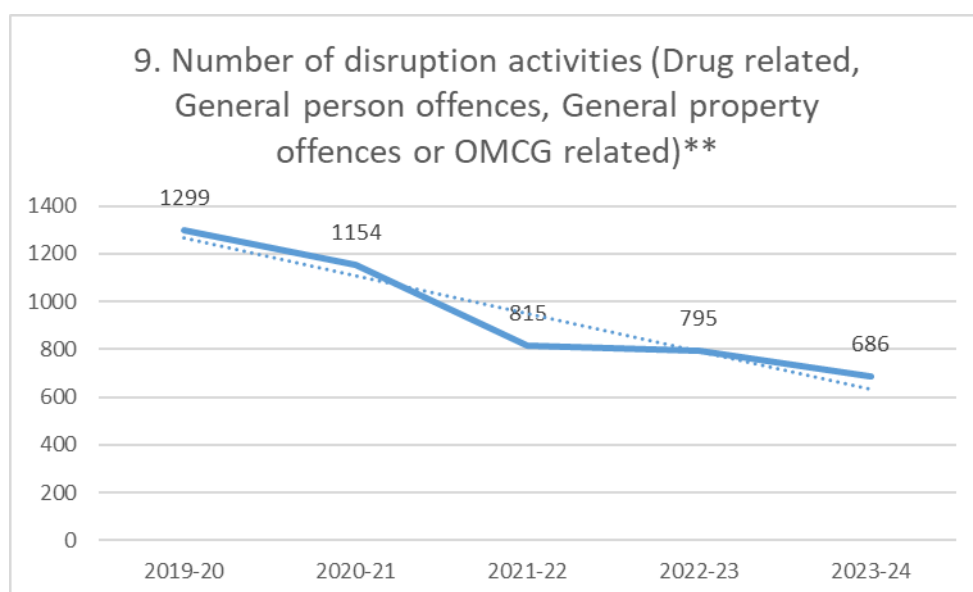
*Figures for the 2022-23 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

For the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were 6518 to SupportLink which is 10.69% above the five year average of 5888.

OUTCOME: Disrupt

Performance Measure 9 – Number of disruption activities (Drug related, General person offences, General property offences or OMCG related)

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	686



*Figures for the 2023-24 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata number of disruption activities for 2023-24 is 686. This continues a downward trend in disruption activity since 2019-20.

Performance Measure 10 – Disruption Case Study (for inclusion in the ACT Policing Annual Report)

A disruption case study will be included in the 2023-24 ACT Policing Annual Report due for release in October 2024.

Performance Measure 11 – Number of targeted traffic operations (In line with the Road Safety Calendar)

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	8

*Figures for the 2022-23 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

For the period 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 there has been 4 targeted traffic operations by ACT Road Policing. This figure only takes into account the 4 operations undertaken as part of the 2023-24 Road Safety Calendar.

OUTCOME: Respond

Performance Measure 12 – Average length of time to respond to Priority One incidents

Date Range	Target measure	Actual target	Result	% variation from Target	On Target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or less	8.2 minutes or less	7.2 minutes	-11.9%	Y

So far this financial year the average length of time to respond to Priority One incidents has been 7.2 minutes. This is 11.9% below the target of 8.2 minutes (the average response time over the past 5 years).

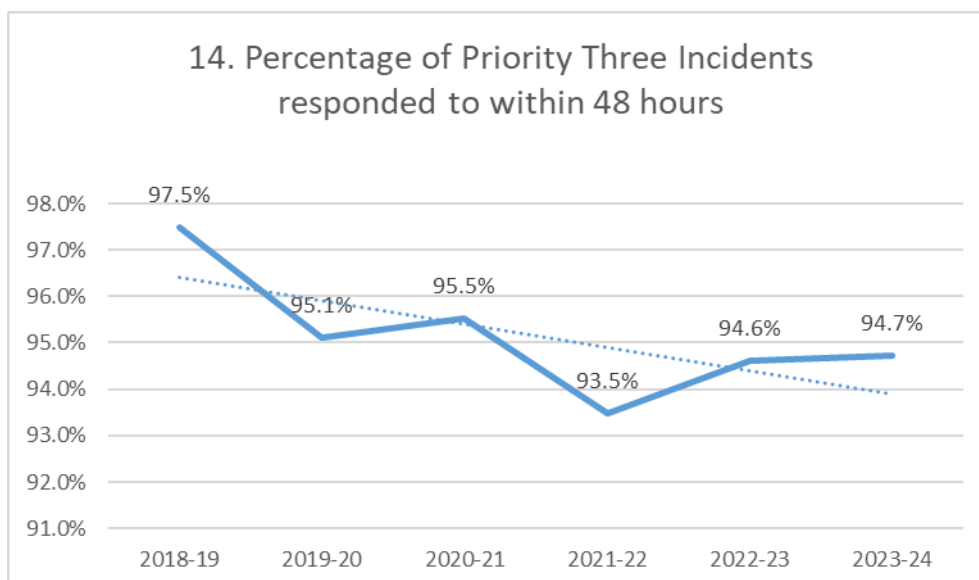
Performance Measure 13 – Average length of time to respond to Priority Two incidents

Date Range	Target measure	Actual target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or less	17.4 minutes or less	17.9 minutes	2.9%	N

For the reporting period, the average length of time to respond to Priority Two incidents was 17.9 minutes. This is 2.9% over the target 17.4 minutes (the average response time over the past 5 years).

Performance Measure 14 – Percentage of Priority Three incidents responded to within 48 hours

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	94.7%



Performance Measures 15 a) - Percentage of Triple Zero (000) calls answered on first or second presentation

Date Range	Target measure	Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2022 – 31 Dec 2022	5 Year average or more	89.4% or more	91.8%	2.4%	Y

The percentage of triple zero (000) calls answered on first presentation is 91.8%. This result is 0.4% below the target of 90.9%, which is the average percentage of calls answered on first presentation over the past 5 years.

Performance Measures 15 b) - Percentage of Triple Zero (000) calls answered on second presentation

Date Range	Target measure	Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or more	96.2% or more	98.2%	2.0%	Y

The percentage of triple zero (000) calls answered on second presentation is 98.2%. This result is 2.0% above the target of 96.2%, which is the average percentage of calls answered on second presentation over the past 5 years.

Performance Measure 16 – Percentage of the community satisfied in general with the job police are doing in responding to emergencies and disasters?

Date Range	Target measure	Actual Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	National average or more	68.4%	68.1%	-0.3%	N

The target for this measure is the national average or less as determined by the NSCSP.

As at the December 2023, the percentage of the community satisfied in general with the job police are doing responding to emergencies and disasters is 68.1% which is 0.3% below the target of 68.4%.

OUTCOME: Enforce

Performance Measure 17 – Proportion of offenders proceeded against for person offences

Date Range	Target measure	Actual Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or more	27.8% or more	30.9%	3.1%	Y

The proportion offenders proceeded against for person offences is 30.9. This is 3.1% greater than the target of 27.8%, the average over the past 5 years.

Performance Measure 18 – Proportion of offenders proceeded against for property offences

Date Range	Target measure	Actual Target	Result	% variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	5 Year average or more	7.9% or more	6.4%	-1.5%	N

The proportion offenders proceeded against for property offences is 6.4%. This is 1.5% less than the target of 7.5%, the average over the past 5 years.

OUTCOME: Community Confidence

Performance Measure 19 - Percentage of the community satisfied in general with services provided by police

Date Range	Target measure	Actual Target	Result	% Variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	National Average or more	57.8% or more	64.3%	6.5%	Y

The target for this measure is the national average or less as determined by the NSCSP.

As at the December 2023, the percentage of the ACT community satisfied in general with services provided by police is 64.3% which is 6.5% above the target of 57.85.

Performance Measure 20 - Percentage of the community who have confidence in police

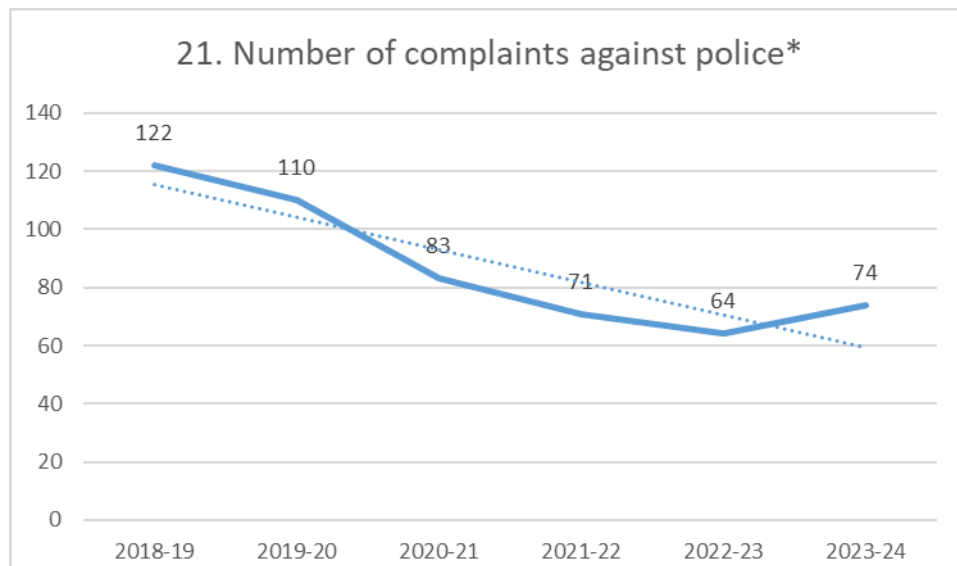
Date Range	Target measure	Actual Target	Result	% Variation from Target	On target
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	National Average or more	64.5% or more	72.8%	8.3%	Y

The target for this measure is the national average or less as determined by the NSCSP.

As at the December 2023, the percentage of the ACT community who have confidence in police is 72.8% which is 0.9% above the target.

Performance Measure 21 – Number of complaints against police

Date Range	Target	Result
1 Jul 2023 – 31 Dec 2023	Monitor 5 year trend	74*



*Figures for the 2022-23 FY have been provided on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata number of complaints against police for 2022-23 is 74. This is a slight increase on the previous FY, and is the first time in the past 5 years that the number of complaints has increased in comparison to the previous year.

4. Ministerial Direction and Statement of Intent

Transition to the Police Services Model

One of the strategies for ACT Policing to adapt its operating model and investigative processes to engage and support the community whilst responding to the complexities of modern-day crimes is by transitioning to the Police Services Model (PSM).

With ACT Government's ongoing support, ACT Policing is directing resources where they are most effective, conduct focused crime prevention activities and work across the broader justice system with our partners to ensure we are addressing the root causes of crime and repeat offending.

The ACT Government unveiled an unprecedented commitment to enhance community safety by investing over \$107 million in the recruitment of 126 ACT Policing personnel over the next five years. This represents the largest investment ever made in ACT Policing.

The substantial financial commitment will enable the commencement of an additional annual recruit course for the next five years, further fortifying the ranks of ACT Policing.

The new officers will be deployed across a range of priority areas consistent with the PSM pillars, the CPO's Statement of Intent and the Ministerial Direction.

Alongside this recruitment drive, the funding is being used to expand crucial supporting resources, including the provision of vehicles, body-worn cameras, and operational equipment. These enhancements will significantly bolster the capabilities of our dedicated officers in their efforts to ensure the safety and security of the community.

The latest funding is enabling ACT Policing to continue to progress the following projects:

- Additional Automatic Number Plate Recognition and Close Circuit Television capability.
- 'Proof of Life' software for the ACT Watch House.
- Operational equipment to support increased Full Time Employee (FTE) levels such as Conducted Energy Weapons and Body Worn Camera, vehicles, gun and uniform lockers.
- Scoping and design for the expansion of Online Reporting.
- Additional recruit courses over the five years to support the increase in FTE levels.
- Funding to consider future accommodation requirements for City, Woden and ACT Policing Headquarter buildings.

Proactive Intervention and Diversion Teams

The initial development and subsequent expansion of the Proactive Intervention and Diversion policing capability saw two Proactive Intervention and Diversion Teams (PIDTs) established.

The Operation TORIC model has matured and is now aligned into PIDT, as the goals are complementary. Operation TORIC (Targeting of Recidivists in Canberra) is immediate and problem solving and PIDT is the longer-term recidivist intervention and strategy. This alignment will allow ACT Policing to meet the expectations of the Canberra community.

These teams act as a visible and proactive presence in the community, aiming to put downward pressure on the drivers of demand and reduce repeat calls for service by investigating, disrupting and preventing crime.

Since its inception and as at 31 December 2023, 385 apprehensions were made by ACT Policing leading to 1,038 charges. Of those apprehended, 159 of the alleged offenders were on bail, 53 were subject to good behaviour orders, nine were on intensive corrections orders, 23 were on parole and 63 were on first instance warrants.

In 2023, the PIDT focused on offender management post-release from prison. The establishment of a multi-agency community of practice will consider facilitators and influencers of crime and offending. This will assist in delivering projects and evidence-based strategies to support and take the pressure off the front-line by focusing on underlying causation, particularly around recidivism.

Reducing the overrepresentation of First Nations people

ACT Policing acknowledges the significant challenge of over-representation for First Nations people in the criminal justice system. ACT Policing works in partnership with the ACT Government, First Nations peoples, non-government organisations and community to develop and deliver programs which better support people who come to the attention of police. ACT Policing provide culturally appropriate support during engagement with police and the justice process through dedicated First Nations Liaison Officers.

The ACT Policing First Nations Liaison Officers and the First Nations Senior Liaison Officer are involved through the Galambany and Warrambul Circle Sentencing when and as requested. In line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-28, ACT Policing will continue to focus on equitable access and culturally-safe restorative justice, including prevention and diversion programs for First Nations people and communities.

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the broader First Nations community has informed the development and delivery of the First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program that is tailored and relevant to the region for ACT Policing's members. This program fulfils a recommendation of the ACT Ombudsman's Own Motion Investigation (OMI) concerning ACT Policing's administrative framework for engagement with the First Nations community.

ETM Perspectives Pty Ltd (ETMP) is a 100 per cent owned Indigenous company and was contracted by ACT Policing through a tender process to assist in the implementation of the OMI recommendations, including the *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* and the development of the *ACT Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities*.

Both the *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* and the *ACT Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities* were substantially informed by:

- the community including First Nations key representative groups and identities, non-government organisations and service providers from the ACT and Wreck Bay,
- representatives from ACT Government Directorates and the justice sector, and
- the ACT Policing workforce.

The *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* is a two-day face-to-face program that is chaperoned by ACT Policing First Nations Liaison Officers to provide broader workforce exposure and familiarity to both the First Nations Liaison Officer personnel and the capability. The program was piloted with the ACT Policing Executive and the *ACT Policing First Nations Working Group* in October 2023. The program is being delivered in three rounds and is mandatory for both the sworn workforce and for professional staff filling public facing roles. The first round of the program was delivered between November and December 2023 to more than 200 members. Round two is scheduled for April 2024 and the final round scheduled for June-July or July-August 2024 pending ETM Perspectives availability.

The curriculum of the *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* includes:

- History of First Nations peoples – culture (lore), kin and country – at a national and local level (ACT and Wreck Bay).
- The cause and effect of displacement, disadvantage and intergenerational trauma including the historical role of police in the same.
- Identifying and understanding the effect of personal and systemic bias (unconscious or otherwise) through to racism.
- Cultural safety and trauma informed practices for engagement with First Nations people.
- First Nations related targets to address disadvantage and over-representation in the criminal justice system, including the role of and opportunities for police to mitigate these outcomes through diversionary considerations seeking bespoke First Nations community support programs and service providers.

The *ACT Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities* has been completed, and ACT Policing is now considering next-steps for its socialisation with both the workforce and the community ahead of implementation by mid-2024. Through the strategy, ACT Policing recognises that mutual respect, trust and partnership between police and First Nations peoples and communities is at the core of achieving the goals and outcomes of the strategy. In that regard, ACT Policing acknowledges that while the strategy lays out our intentions, we need to take the first steps in this journey, and we are committed to our actions speaking louder than words by more effectively supporting the needs of and promoting better outcomes for First Nations people and communities.

ACT Policing acknowledges there is more to do to improve outcomes for First Nations community and has committed to ongoing engagement to enhance our understanding of and responses to the challenges faced by First Nations people. The reinvigoration of the *Chief Police Officer's First Nations Advisory Board* and seeking to work more closely with the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body* are examples of this outlook. Engagement with these bodies has not only informed the *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* and the *ACT Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities*, but also influenced the refinement of existing ACT Policing guidelines and practices to better accommodate and support the needs of First Nations people and communities.

ACT Policing is extremely appreciative of First Nations people who shared and entrusted us with their stories, experiences and insights and for allowing us to draw upon their wisdom in order to establish the *First Nations Cultural Literacy Training Program* and the *ACT Policing Strategy for Engagement with First Nations People and Communities*.

Implementing effective sexual assault prevention and responses

It is a priority for ACT Policing to implement effective sexual assault prevention and responses. ACT Policing has specialist investigators in the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team (SACAT) who investigate matters and guide victim survivors through each step of the process. SACAT's primary focus is providing a victim-centric, trauma informed police response to sexual violence in our community.

ACT Policing works closely with victim support groups such as the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, the ACT Intermediary Program within the ACT Human Rights Commission and Victim Support ACT to deliver a high level of support and care to victim survivors.

In 2022, the *Crimes (Consent) Amendment Act 2022 (ACT)*, was amended to shift the principle that consent is not presumed, and there must be an ongoing and mutual conversation between participants. The Act also outlines that people have a right to choose not to participate in sexual activities. The communicative model of consent is underpinned by principles of agency, autonomy and responsibility and is based on a culture of health and respectful relationships.

In December 2023, ACT Policing launched a new campaign with support of the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and the dating application Tinder (Match Group), to promote positive consent when engaging in intimate acts.

ACT based users of the dating platform Tinder began to receive in-platform advertising which reminded users of ACT's positive consent laws. The campaign generated excellent results in males responding to the advertisement, and consequently being made aware of the positive consent laws.

ACT Policing acknowledges the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's Report (SAPR) into sexual violence and the work that all relevant agencies in the ACT can do to improve the experience for victim survivors of sexual assault.

ACT Policing continues to review these issues and seeks ways to improve service delivery and support for people who report sexual assault offences. The long-term focus for ACT Policing is to put decision making into the hands of the victim survivor at the centre of the process so their voice is heard in relation to how their matter proceeds.

An Oversight Committee has been established in response to Recommendation 15, supported by a working group consisting of the ACT Policing review team, ACT Director of Public Prosecutions, and Victim Support ACT. The working Group is chaired by the Office of the Co-ordinator General for Family Safety.

Operation Foster was established in February 2023 to reinvestigate matters recommended from the working group. This team conduct investigations with victim survivors who have agreed to reengage with police.

An independent researcher from Swinburne University has been engaged to further inform this important work.

ACT Policing has reformed its decision-making model to include additional oversight of a Criminal Investigations Management Committee in certain circumstances before investigations are finalised. Part of this committee process considers legal advice where appropriate.

ACT Policing is trialing a customised measure to assist in providing more detailed data in relation to sexual offence investigations conducted in the ACT.

ACT Policing is reviewing training across all levels to upskill the workforce, mitigate identified issues and improve the outcomes for victim survivors. Training will target police officers working in General Duties in conjunction with specialist members in Sexual Offences and Child Abuse and within ACT Criminal Investigations more broadly.

In February 2024, an ACT DPP prosecutor will commence a six-month engagement with SACAT to provide advice and prosecutorial recommendations in sexual assault matters.

Raising the Minimum age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)

The Legislative Assembly passed a Bill on 1 November 2023, titled Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 to raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) in a staged approach, with the following steps:

- The MACR has been initially raised to 12 years old on 22 November 2023; and
- The MACR will be further raised to 14 years old on 1 July 2025.

ACT Policing is engaged with the ACT Government on considerations for the MACR and continues to provide input into elements of the reforms that are yet to be fully established. ACT Policing advocates for the timely delivery of and multidisciplinary involvement in the Therapeutic Support Panel and the Safety Youth Response Service Pilot, including interim arrangements.

The ACT Government has committed to establishing the Therapeutic Support Panel by 27 March 2024 which will evaluate the therapeutic needs of the child and advise on appropriate treatment and support. The panel will include an ACT Policing representative.

ACT Policing remains firm on its commitment to continue to respond to any calls for assistance where there is a risk of harm to any member of the community, regardless of changes to the MACR. Police will always act to preserve life and property in protection of the community and will seek to engage support services and diversionary programs relevant to the person's age.

ACT Policing continues to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the Act and will adjust its response as outstanding elements of the reforms are implemented.

Combat dangerous driving

ACT Policing is committed to initiatives that support and increase the safety of all road users on ACT roads. These include joint education campaigns in line with the Road Safety Calendar, focused on improving road culture and driving behaviour. Additional initiatives include Operation TORIC and periodic high-visibility traffic enforcement operations on Canberra's roads.

In November 2023, ACT Policing participated in the ACT Government's Round Table focused on combatting dangerous driving. Addressing the Attorney-General, Minister for Transport and other road safety stakeholders, ACT Policing presented its perspective on the topic of dangerous driving.

Police continue to witness and prosecute dangerous driving incidents that include components of the ‘fatal five’ – impaired driving (alcohol and drug), failing to stop at intersections, excessive speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving while distracted – in addition to deliberately driving on the wrong side of the road and failing to stop for police.

As at 31 December 2023 more than 250 Immediate Suspensions Notices (ISN) have been issued since the *Road Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2023* came into effect on 22 June 2023. It should be noted that this figure includes ISNs issued for all driving offences, not just those related to the new legislation.

Between 22 June and 31 December 2023, ACT Policing seized a total of 269 vehicles (including motorcycles) for offences including improper use of a motor vehicle, fail to stop for police, burnout, crime scenes, proceeds of crime and warrants. Of the 269 vehicles, 11 were seized under the new *Road Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2023* laws.

In 2024, ACT Policing will continue to increase its presence with a high visibility approach across the ACT to deter anti-social and dangerous driving, and influence safe driving practices. Road Policing continues to promote all aspects of road safety through targeted campaigns in line with the ACT Road Safety Calendar.

Countering terrorism and violent extremism

ACT Policing works with partners across National, State and Territory law enforcement agencies to respond to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

ACT Policing has a dedicated Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Case Manager role within the Education and Diversion Team of the Vulnerable Persons portfolio.

The ACT Policing CVE Case Manager partners with the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS) to deliver the Commonwealth funded Living Safe Together Intervention Program (LSTIP), working with individuals and communities vulnerable to radicalisation.

The LSTIP provides support to individuals deemed vulnerable to violent extremism within the ACT community and ensure the ACT Government has the appropriate capability, awareness, and training in place to support them. Referrals to the LSTIP emanate from a range of partners and see the ACT LSTIP Intervention Panel engage with ACT Policing and directorates to assess cases.

Participation in LSTIP is voluntary, requiring agreement on the part of the participant and their parent or guardian in the case of young people. Individuals who are assessed as not meeting LSTIP requirements may be referred elsewhere for more general community support.

In mid-2020 ACT Policing and Canberra Health Services established ACT FLAG (Fixated and Lone-Actor Grievance-Fuelled Violence) Assessment team, which is the dedicated assessment capability within the ACT. ACT FLAG continues to evolve with the development of joint FLAG operating procedures.

The core function of ACT FLAG is to assess and mitigate the threat of harm posed by persons with demonstrated fixated behaviours and persons vulnerable to engaging in lone-actor grievance-fuelled violence, where there is suspected or known mental illness or mental disorder influencing behaviours and a pathological grievance, evidence of radicalisation, or interest in extremism.

Despite implementation challenges which occurred during the establishment of ACT FLAG over a period of COVID-19 restrictions, the capability has played a vital role in assessing and providing early intervention to members of the community at risk of fixated behaviour towards Members of the Legislative Assembly and ACT Government officials or lone-actor grievance-fuelled violence towards the broader ACT community.

Future priorities for FLAG include continuing education sessions such as those provided to the Legislative Assembly and the ACT Department of Education, ongoing outreach and education to referral services and to continue to increase community visibility of FLAG.

Family violence

ACT Policing is committed to protecting the safety of the community and works with relevant Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach to supporting victim survivors of family violence.

ACT Policing undertakes education and prevention strategies and works with community organisations to educate the community on personal safety, which includes measures to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

ACT Policing has productive collaborative relationships with key sector stakeholders including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Young Women's Christian Association, Victim Support ACT and Child and Youth Protection Services to ensure victim survivors are supported. The network between these partner agencies is crucial in maintaining a level of service and support from point of reported crisis through to the stage where a family violence survivor may be in the difficult position of deciding to leave a violent relationship, through to and during the arrest and the finalisation of a judicial process.

The information shared through these collaborative partnerships helps to inform a comprehensive assessment undertaken by police, which is used as a predictive tool to identify high risk victims and offenders and implement and mitigate future high risk behaviour. ACT Policing also shares its extensive intelligence resources with community and government agencies in a collaborative effort to reduce harm. This work is most often undertaken by ACT Policing's Family Violence Unit (FVU) in multi-agency forums such as Case Tracking and Family Violence Safety Action Program.

The FVU is a specialist team who provide support and education to frontline police. This first occurs during their studies in the AFP College as recruits, and continues throughout their careers as legislation, information, technology and innovation develops. ACT Policing is committed to ensuring that front line members have the contemporary knowledge to ensure the safety of victims and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

The FVU also facilitates training to Sergeants across ACT Policing to ensure the skills and knowledge of front line police are contemporary and aligned with community expectations.

Additionally, The FVU undertakes complex FV investigations involving high risk victims and offenders. The FVU regularly attend court to assist with bail oppositions, Special Interim court-initiated Family Violence Orders, and work closely with ACT Policing's Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs) to support family violence survivors.

FVU work collaboratively with ACT Corrective Services and CYPs with recidivist programs such as Recidivist Offender Multi Agency Round Table (ROMART) and Offender Management Program (OMP).

Once a referral by a first responder is made, the Special Interim Family Violence Liaison officer will identify suitable support options available, and assist the navigation of the Court process, from application through to completion.

ACT Policing recognises that women and children are disproportionately affected by domestic and family violence. ACT Policing will continue to work with relevant support services to mitigate the trauma experienced by victims and to ensure that they are supported and protected.

ACT Policing's perpetrator program focuses on early intervention of low-level family violence perpetrators and identifying at-risk behaviour. It is designed to make perpetrators accountable for their actions and behaviours. Perpetrators are identified by either being involved in a family violence incident where police attend but no charges have been laid or being the respondent to an interim family violence order.

The Perpetrator Program is a referral pathway; to be eligible perpetrators must display a willingness to get help and demonstrate some accountability for their actions.

Perpetrators are referred to a range of support options. These include programs for anger management or behavioural change, drug and/or alcohol issues, legal advice, homelessness, general counselling, relationship counselling, support for carers, advocacy, First Nations communities support services and parenting programs. If a support service requested is not available, the team member will locate a service that offers the appropriate support.

Strengthening community to prevent exploitation by Organised Crime

ACT Policing will continue to work to prevent and disrupt serious and organised crime targeting our community. This is being achieved through a number of investigative strategies and initiatives.

ACT Policing works closely with interstate policing partners, law enforcement, intelligence agencies and other stakeholders across the country and internationally through AFP networks, to maximise the impact that we have on organised crime and illicit profit-making enterprises.

ACT Policing continue to work with the ACT Government to identify appropriate legislative mechanisms to target serious and organised crime groups.

Case Study – Operation ATHOS

In December 2023, three men faced court following the discovery of the largest illegal controlled and prescription drug distribution network ever identified in the ACT and Victoria.

In August 2023, a joint investigation with Victoria Police was commenced to identify and disrupt a criminal group allegedly distributing significant quantities of controlled and prescription drugs including Xanax, Valium, anabolic steroids, human growth hormone, clenbuterol, THC gummies and psilocybin chocolates.

Police allege the three men were sourcing significant commercial quantities of these drugs and then operating a sophisticated marketing, sale and distribution network for individual buyers. The buyers were located across Australia and the group, operating under the 'OzPhermLabs' name, allegedly distributed their products via the postal system.

On 8 December 2023, simultaneous search warrants were executed in the ACT region and in Melbourne.

A 38-year-old man was arrested at a residence in O'Connor and a 27-year-old man was arrested at a home in Gordon. Both faced more than 20 charges including traffic in a commercial quantity of a controlled drug, supplying anabolic steroids and traffic in a controlled drug other than cannabis. The 38-year-old has also been charged with contravening a 3LA order and weapon possession.

A 39-year-old Googong man was arrested by NSW Police and was extradited to the ACT to face 40 charges including participating in a criminal group, trafficking in a commercial quantity of a controlled drug, dealing in the proceeds of crime to a value greater than \$1,000,000, obtaining financial advantage by deception, dealing in identification information for the purpose of committing an indictable Commonwealth offence, supplying anabolic steroids, trafficking in a controlled drug other than cannabis, contravening a section 3LA order and supplying declared substances

Police seized unprecedented quantities of controlled drugs as well as approximately \$200,000 in cash, a house, five vehicles, three motorcycles and designer goods. Multiple bank accounts were also restrained.

Police expect to lay additional charges against all three men once the drug seizures are fully collated and forensic examination of digital items is concluded.