

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



# 2013-14 Crime Statistics Supplement



# 2013-14

# Crime Statistics Supplement



The Department of Police and Emergency Management Crime Statistics Supplement 2013-14 provides a detailed breakdown of the offences reported, or becoming known to police in the financial year ending 30 June 2014. Five year trend data is included for many of the measures.

Prior to 2012-13 the Crime Statistics Supplement was published as a part of the *Department of Police and Emergency Management Annual Report*. In 2012-13 the Supplement was removed from the Annual Report for cost-efficiency reasons and is now a separate document. It is the intention of the Department to continue to publish the Crime Statistics Supplement on an annual basis.

## Offences Recorded and Cleared: Tasmania

Total Offences increased by 4% (937 offences) to 24,599 offences in 2013-14, following decreases in each of the previous seven years. Including a 3% reduction in 2012-13. Total Offences in 2013-14 was below the three-year average for 2010-11 to 2012-13 (25,213).

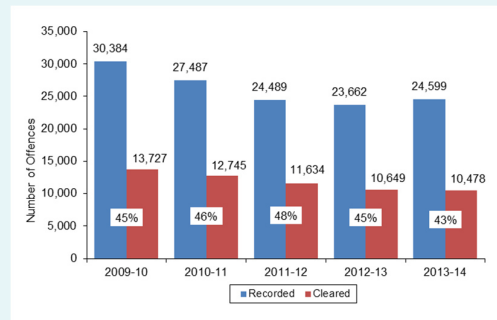
Contributing to the rise in crime were increases of 2% in Offences Against the Person, 5% in Offences Against Property and 15% in Other (Miscellaneous) Offences.

The clearance rate for Total Offences decreased from 45% in 2012-13 to 43% in 2013-14.

The chart provided indicates an overall downward trend for Total Offences recorded by police over the past five years.

Changes from the previous year are outlined below for offences recorded within the four broadly classified major offence categories.

**TOTAL OFFENCES: TASMANIA**  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



### Number of Offences Recorded

Major Offence Categories	2012-13*	2013-14	% Change
A. Offences Against the Person	3,689	3,763	2.0%
B. Offences Against Property	19,153	20,030	4.6%
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	581	531	-8.6%
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences**	239	275	15.1%
<b>Total Offences**</b>	<b>23,662</b>	<b>24,599</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

\* Revised 7 August 2014.

\*\* Excludes Breaches of Family Violence Orders and Breaches of Restraint Orders.

### Number of Offences Recorded and Cleared

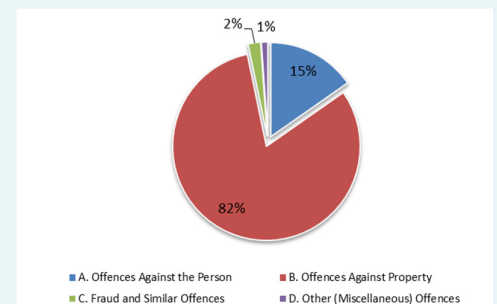
Major Offence Categories	2012-13*			2013-14		
	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared	Recorded	Cleared	% Cleared
A. Offences Against the Person	3,689	3,354	90.9%	<b>3,763</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>91.0%</b>
B. Offences Against Property	19,153	6,702	35.0%	<b>20,030</b>	<b>6,503</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
C. Fraud and Similar Offences	581	404	69.5%	<b>531</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>62.7%</b>
D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences	239	189	79.1%	<b>275</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>79.6%</b>
<b>Total Offences</b>	<b>23,662</b>	<b>10,649</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>24,599</b>	<b>10,478</b>	<b>42.6%</b>

\* Revised 7 August 2014

The Total Offences 2013-14 pie chart, enclosed, provides a detailed distribution for the four major offence categories.

Offences Against Property accounted for 82% of all offences with Stealing, Burglary and Injure/Destroy Property accounting for the majority of offences.

**TOTAL OFFENCES 2013-14**



## A. Offences Against the Person

The number of Offences Against the Person increased by 2% to 3,763 in 2013-14, following a decrease of 12% the previous year. The 2013-14 result was below the 2010-11 to 2012-13 three-year average (4,025)

The clearance rate for Offences Against the Person in 2013-14 remained consistent at 91%.

Assaults (excluding Sexual Assault and Assault a Police Officer) accounted for the majority of Offences Against the Person (66%) while the combination of Murder/Attempted Murder/Manslaughter accounted for only 0.4%. This is reflected in the distribution provided.

### Assault (excluding Assault a Police Officer)

A total of 2,490 Assault offences was recorded in 2013-14 compared with 2,377 the previous year, an increase of 5% (113 offences). However, the 2013-14 figure was lower than the three year average for 2010-11 to 2012-13 (2,607).

During 2013-14, over half the assaults (54%) were committed at a residential location. 19% were committed in the street/footpath and 10% at a retail location.

The majority of assaults did not involve a weapon (84%), 4% involved a knife and 1% involved a firearm.

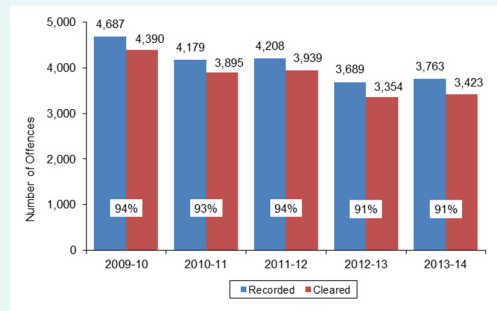
The alleged offender was known to the victim in 76% of assaults. Females accounted for 53% of Assault victims.

### Sexual Assault

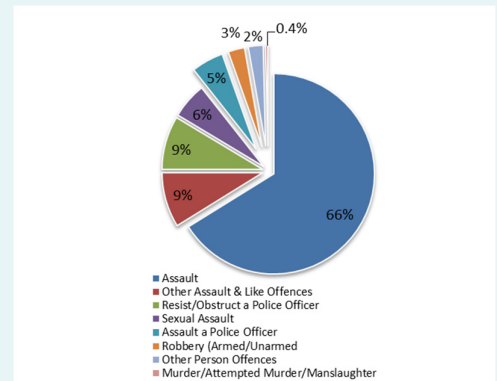
The number of sexual assaults recorded in 2013-14 increased by 33% (54 offences) from 163 in 2012-13 to 217 in 2013-14. The 2013-14 result was higher than the 2010-11 to 2012-13 three-year average (165) and in fact was the highest result for Sexual Assault since 2007-08. However, the number of sexual assaults reported to police can vary significantly from year to year due to the reporting of sexual assaults committed many years and sometimes decades ago. 19% of sexual assaults reported in 2013-14 were committed more than a year before they were reported, some occurring up to 40 years ago.

Sexual assaults reported in 2013-14 occurred most commonly at residential locations (65%). The majority (97%) of sexual assaults were committed without a weapon and females accounted for 85% of Sexual Assault victims.

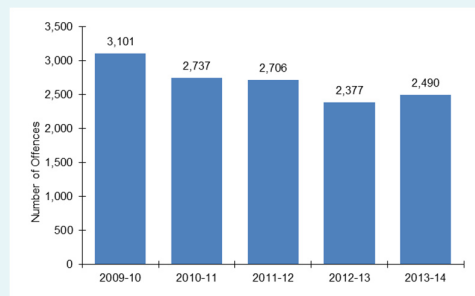
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



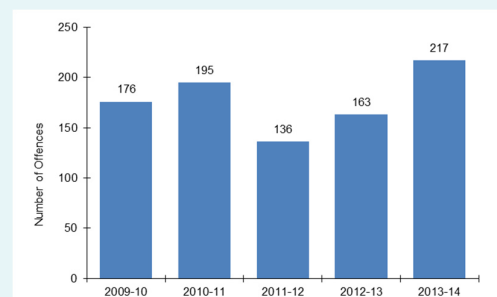
OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON 2013-14



ASSAULT (EXCLUDING ASSAULT A POLICE OFFICER):  
TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED



SEXUAL ASSAULT: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED



## Robbery (Armed and Unarmed)

Robbery offences, including both Armed and Unarmed Robbery, decreased by 32 offences (24%) from 132 in 2012-13 to 100 in 2013-14. This followed an increase by 6 offences the previous year. The 2013-14 result was below the 2010-11 to 2012-13 three-year average (128).

Armed and Aggravated Armed Robbery offences accounted for 52% of total Robberies in 2013-14 and decreased from 82 recorded in 2012-13 to 52 in 2013-14 (30 offences). Armed robberies fell to the lowest level since 2005-06. Unarmed Robbery decreased marginally by 2 offences in 2013-14.

Armed Robbery offences recorded in 2013-14 were committed at the following locations:

Locations	Offences
Residential	19
Retail location	18
Street/Footpath	5
Transport	4
Other Location	2
Open Space	2
Recreational	1
Community	1

Knives were the predominant type of weapon used in armed robberies (44%) with firearms used in 25% of armed robberies.

In September 2013 new legislation was proclaimed making Carjacking and Aggravated Carjacking crimes in Tasmania. No offences were recorded for either crime type in 2013-14.

## Murder

There were 9 murders recorded in 2013-14, the same number as the previous year. The offender was known to the victim in 6 of the 9 murders. The clearance rate for Murder in 2013-14 was 78%.

## B. Offences Against Property

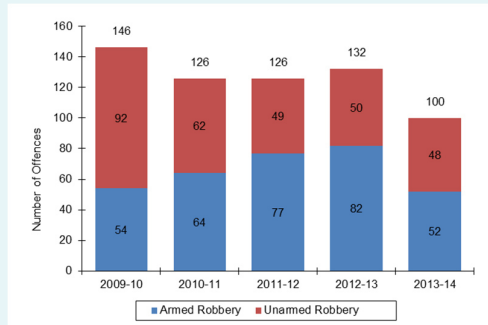
Offences Against Property increased by 5% (877 offences) from 19,153 recorded in 2012-13 to 20,030 recorded in 2013-14. This followed a 2% decrease the previous year. The 2013-14 result was lower than the 2010-11 to 2012-13 three-year average (20,435).

Contributing most to this increase was a 14% rise in Injury/Destroy Property and a 4% rise in Stealing (excluding Stolen Motor Vehicles).

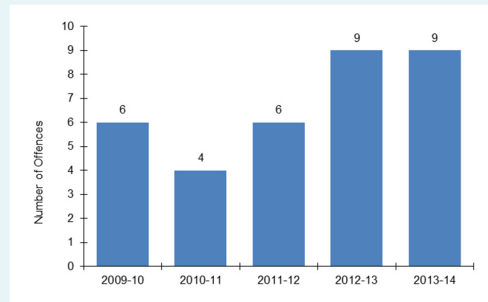
The clearance rate for Offences Against Property decreased from 35% in 2012-13 to 32% in 2013-14.

Burglary and Stealing offences accounted for the majority of Offences Against Property (69%), as can be seen in the pie chart provided.

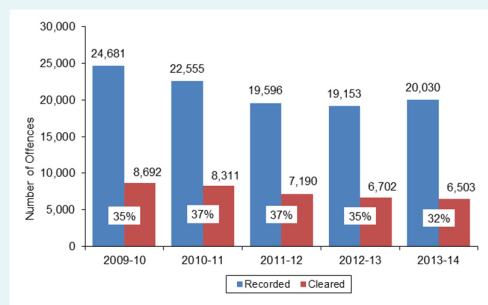
ARMED AND UNARMED ROBBERY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED



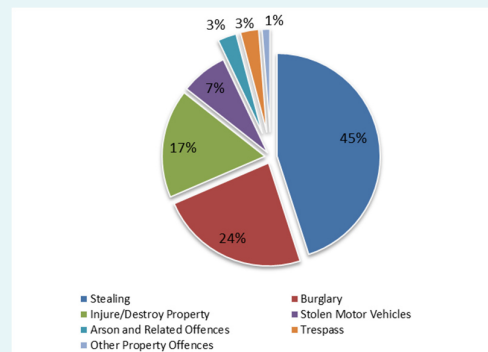
MURDER: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED



OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/  
PERCENTAGE CLEARED



OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY 2013-14



## Burglary

Burglary-buildings fell by 5% (170 offences) in 2013-14, following a 2% increase the previous year. The 2013-14 figure (3,386) was lower than the previous three-year average (3,614). Aggravated Burglary comprised 44% of Burglary-buildings offences in 2013-14.

The most common locations for Burglary-buildings in 2013-14 were residential locations (65%) and retail locations (14%).

In the same period Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances increased by 24% (256 offences) to 1,317 offences, following a 9% reduction the previous year. The 2013-14 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (1,202).

The most common locations for Burglary-motor vehicles/other conveyances offences were residential locations (39%) and in the street (22%).

## Stealing-general

Stealing-general comprises stealing offences not connected with any Burglary and excludes Shoplifting and Stolen Motor Vehicles.

Stealing-general offences in 2013-14 increased by 2% (62 offences) to 2,933 offences, following another 2% increase the previous year. The 2013-14 result was below the previous three-year average (3,072).

The most frequent locations for Stealing-general were residential locations (34%), followed by retail locations (27%).

## Stolen Motor Vehicles (excluding attempts)

The number of Stolen Motor Vehicles in 2013-14 increased by 4% (45 offences) to 1,235, following a 19% decrease the previous year. The 2013-14 result was below the previous three-year average (1,468). The recovery rate for Stolen Motor Vehicles decreased from 86% in 2012-13 to 84% in 2013-14.

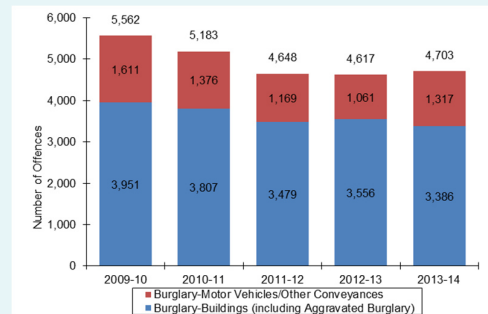
Motor vehicles were most frequently stolen from residential locations (52%) and in the street (30%).

## Arson and Related Offences

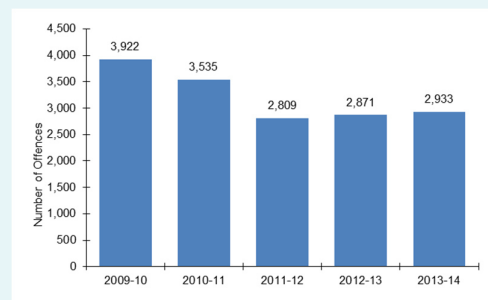
There were 586 Arson and Related Offences recorded in 2013-14, a decrease of 6% (35 offences) from the 621 offences recorded in 2012-13. The 2013-14 result was higher than the previous three-year average (533).

The 2013-14 distribution for Arson and Related offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

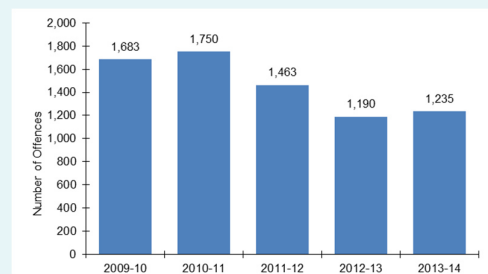
**BURGLARY: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED**



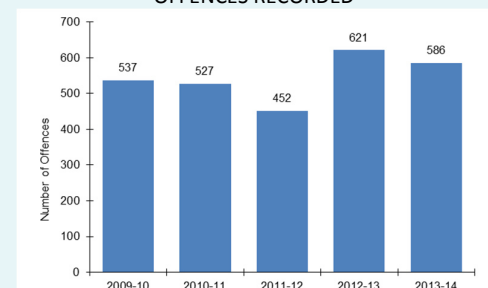
**STEALING-GENERAL: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED**



**STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES: TASMANIA  
(EXCLUDING ATTEMPTS) - OFFENCES RECORDED**



**ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES: TASMANIA  
OFFENCES RECORDED**



## Injure/Destroy Property

The number of Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded (3,428) increased by 14% (409 offences) in 2013-14, following a 9% decrease the previous year. The 2013-14 result was slightly higher than the previous three-year average (3,403).

Injure/Destroy Property offences recorded in 2013-14 occurred most frequently at a residential location (44%), followed by in the street/footpath (17%).

## C. Fraud and Similar Offences

There were 531 Fraud and Similar Offences recorded in 2013-14, a 9% (50 offences) decrease from 581 offences in 2012-13. The 2013-14 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (504). The counting rules for Fraud were amended in 2011-12 from transaction-based counting to victim-based counting.

The clearance rate for Fraud and Similar Offences reduced from 70% in 2012-13 to 63% in 2013-14. The distribution for Fraud and Similar Offences in 2013-14 is detailed in the pie chart provided.

## D. Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

A total of 275 Other (Miscellaneous) Offences was recorded in 2013-14 compared with 239 the previous year, an increase of 15% (36 offences). The 2013-14 figure was higher than the previous three-year average (248).

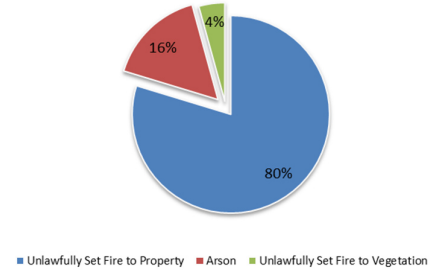
Contributing most to this change decrease was an increase of 35 offences in Firearms Offences. The 2013-14 distribution for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences is detailed in the pie chart provided.

There was an 80% clearance rate for Other (Miscellaneous) Offences in 2013-14, a slight increase from 79% in 2012-13.

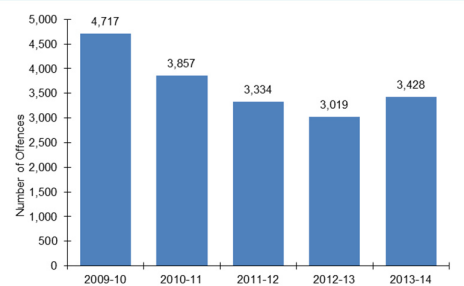
## Explanatory Notes

The statistics referred to in this supplement have been derived from offences reported to or becoming known to police during the financial year ending 30 June 2014. All 2012-13 statistics have been revised as at 7 August 2014.

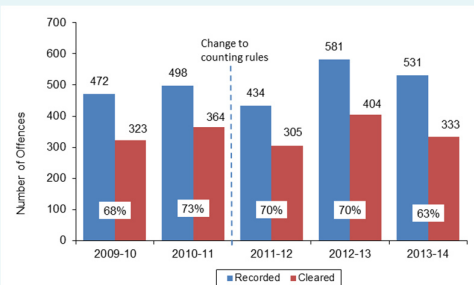
ARSON AND RELATED OFFENCES 2013-14



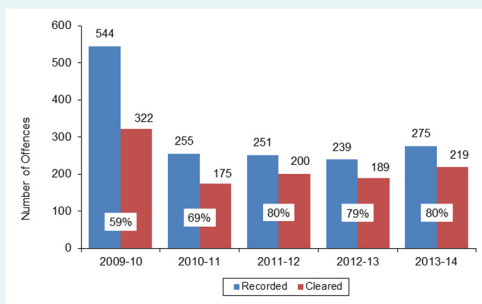
INJURE/DESTROY PROPERTY: TASMANIA OFFENCES RECORDED



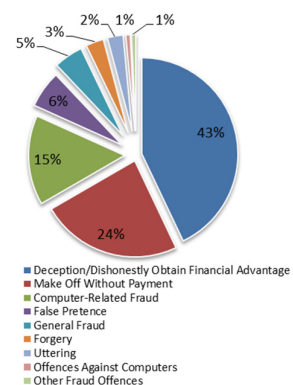
FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES: TASMANIA OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/ PERCENTAGE CLEARED



OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES: TASMANIA OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED/ PERCENTAGE CLEARED

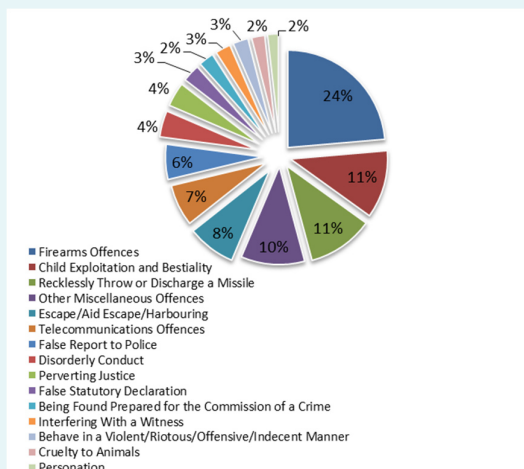


FRAUD AND SIMILAR OFFENCES 2013-14





## OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS) OFFENCES 2013-14



### Explanatory Notes (continued)

Offences are broadly classified into the following four major offence categories:

- Offences Against the Person
- Offences Against Property
- Fraud and Similar Offences
- Other (Miscellaneous) Offences

### Offences Recorded

Offences 'recorded' refers to both offences which have been reported by the public and offences which have been detected by police in the course of their duties and/or criminal investigations.

### Offences Cleared

The term 'cleared' used by police, refers to the solution of a crime, and not to the trial by court and final disposition.

Offences 'cleared' refers to all offences which have resulted in one of the following outcomes:

- Court proceedings: a police action against a person to facilitate a court appearance to answer charges.
- Community conference: a person is directed to attend a meeting with the victim and other persons affected, where their behaviour and its consequences are discussed. A conference may impose one or more undertakings.
- Formal caution: a person is formally warned that engaging in the specified conduct is against the law and that there are various sanctions that can be applied by the police to prevent and punish such conduct.
- Informal caution: an offender is informally warned that engaging in such conduct is against the law.
- Instruction of the prosecuting authority: the prosecuting authority deems that there is no likelihood of conviction, for example death or other absence of the victim.
- Lapsed: time limitations or a statute bar have meant that an identified offender could not be proceeded against.
- Unable to proceed: one or more offenders have been identified but no action is able to be taken due to: diplomatic immunity, incompetence of the alleged offender(s), death of the alleged offender, imprisonment or age of the offender.
- Unfounded: upon attendance or investigation, police are unable to establish whether or not the reported offence occurred.
- Withdrawn: the offence is withdrawn by the complainant/victim because he/she does not wish to proceed, even though an offence has occurred. The withdrawal is made before any proceedings against an identified offender commence.

Tasmania Police employs the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in the recording of offences. The NCRS was developed by police statisticians from each Australian jurisdiction in conjunction with the National Crime Statistics Unit of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and was implemented in 2008. Under the NCRS Tasmania Police utilises the following four offence statuses that identify recorded offences that will not be counted in police statistics.

- No crime: it is clear that an incident did not constitute an offence, either because the offence is found to have no foundation or the victim/complainant admits to, or is suspected of, having made a false report.
- Transferred to another State or Territory: an offence has occurred but is outside the responsibility of the police jurisdiction to which the report has been made.
- Additional offence: the offence unnecessarily duplicates a different offence recorded on the same report.
- Duplicate offence: the offence is found to be a duplicate of another offence.

### Data Sources

Statistics have been extracted from the Offence Reporting System 2 of the Department of Police and Emergency Management on 7 August 2014. 2012-13 data were revised.

### Reference Period

Statistics are compiled according to the date an offence becomes known to police, which is not necessarily the date an offence was committed, nor the date a crime report was processed.

The total number of offences cleared during a reference period is included, regardless of whether the offence was recorded in the current or a previous reference period. It is therefore possible that the number of offences cleared for a particular offence may be greater than the number recorded for that period.

The number of motor vehicles recovered during the reference period includes motor vehicles reported stolen within, and prior to, the reference period.

### Counting Methodology

The basic counting unit for police statistics is the victim. One unique offence is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report); the number of offenders is irrelevant. The victim-based rule is applied regardless of the number of criminal acts in cases where a series of related criminal acts are committed against the same victim. The counting rules for the category Fraud and Similar Offences were amended in 2011-12, from offence (transaction) based counting to victim-based counting. This coincided with the Department's creation of a Fraud and e-Crime Unit in 2011, and also brought the counting rules for this category into line with the other categories.

A victim is defined according to the type of offence and can be a person, organisation, premise or motor vehicle.

- Offences Against the Person: one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be an individual person or an organisation.
- Offences Against Property: one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person, organisation or place/premise, depending on the offence type. Premises victims can vary according to occupancy arrangements. For Stolen Motor Vehicles the victim is the motor vehicle.
- Fraud and Similar Offences: prior to 2011-12, one offence was counted for each offence (transaction) in an incident. From 1 July 2011 one offence of each unique statistical offence type is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person or an organisation.
- Other (Miscellaneous) Offences: one of each unique statistical offence is counted for each victim per incident (Offence Report) where a victim can be a person or an organisation.

Attempted murder is counted separately to murder; all other offence attempts are included in their respective offence types for counting purposes.

Counting rules for Tasmania Police statistics differ slightly from those used for the national Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS) publications. Tasmania Police counts one offence per offence type per victim per incident (Offence Report). In the RCVS, the most serious offence per national offence category per victim per incident (Offence Report) is counted. National offence categories are broader than Tasmania Police offence types. Tasmania Police counts cleared offences as offences cleared in the reporting period, regardless of when the offence was reported. In the RCVS, cleared offences are counted as offences reported in the reporting period that have been cleared at a set time after the recording of the offence.