

5. Community Safety

A safe community is one in which all sectors of the community work together in a coordinated and collaborative way, forming partnerships to promote safety, manage risk, increase the overall safety of all its members and reduce the fear of harm.¹

Perceptions of Safety

More recent data detailed in VicHealth's Health Indicators Survey 2015 confirms that most (93.3%) Monash residents agreed that they felt safe walking alone during the day, which is higher than the Victorian estimate (92.5%), indicating that Monash residents feel slightly safer.² Just under six out of 10 (58.2%) Monash residents agreed that they felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark, which is higher than the Victorian estimate (55.1%), also indicating that Monash residents feel slightly safer.³ There has been no significant change in perceptions of safety for Monash between the 2007, 2011 and 2015 surveys.⁴

Police and Crime in Monash

Crime rates in Monash are below average.⁵

Monash local government area is a safer community with lower crime incidents compared to many other LGA areas:

- Monash ranked 68th out of the 79 LGA for reported violent offences (per 100,000 population).⁶ Refer to Attachment A.
- Monash ranked 67th out of the 79 LGA for reported drug offences (per 100,000 population).⁷ Refer to Attachment C.
- Monash ranked 25th out of the 79 LGA for reported property offences (per 100,000 population).⁸ Refer to Attachment E.

Monash is generally a safe place to live and recent crime data ranks the City of Monash 54th out of a total of 79 Local Government Areas (LGA) in Victoria for total offences rate (per 100,000 population) for this reporting period (Attachment G).⁹ Note: the higher the ranking the better.

The total number of crime offences at year ending June 2016 including drug offences, property and deception offences and crimes against the person for the City of Monash was 10,748, comparable to 49,550 for the Inner Eastern Metropolitan Region and 426,526 for total Victoria.¹⁰

Table 1: Monash Crime Statistics Snapshot compared with Eastern Region LGA's¹¹

	Crimes Against the Person	Property and Deception Offences	Drug Offences	Public Order and Security Offences	Justice Procedures Offences and Other	Total Offences	Population	Total per capita rate
Monash	1399	9170	493	986	19	12067	187286	6443
Knox	1635	6928	821	1083	33	10500	155681	6745
Whitehorse	1118	5161	262	143	16	6700	165557	4047
Boroondara	810	6451	349	134	11	7755	174787	4437
Manningham	746	3346	195	335	8	4630	119442	3876
Yarra Ranges	1482	4725	686	1259	26	8178	150661	5428
Maroondah	1172	4548	625	1595	29	7969	112310	7096

In 2011/12 there were 924 'Family Incidents' reported by police region and LGA in Monash, this number has increased in the 2014/15 period to 1,250 reports.¹² There were a total of 7,634 family incidences in the Inner Easter Metropolitan region in 2014/15. This number has increased substantially over the years from 5,751 incidences in 2011/12.¹³ Monash Council has identified Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) as a key strategic health and wellbeing priority. Refer to Fact Sheet 6 – Prevention Violence Against Women for more information.

A recent Monash Community Satisfaction Survey Report (2016) identified that safety, policing and crime were noted as top issues for Monash Council to address in the coming twelve months within the Ashwood, Chadstone, Clayton and Notting Hill areas.¹⁴

State Government

On 7 December 2016, The State Government launched Victoria's first ever *Community Safety Statement*– a plan to keep Victorians safe, prevent harm in our communities and hold criminals to account. The *Community Safety Statement* recognises that all Victorians have the right to feel safe and be safe – in their homes, workplaces and businesses, on transport, in public and in their neighbourhoods.¹⁵

The measures outlined in the plan are being backed by an additional \$2 billion in investment, and increased Police powers to fight crime.¹⁶

Council and Community Safety

Monash Council is committed to working with our community, Victoria Police and agency partners to continue to create safe neighbourhoods and places and spaces where people feel happy and empowered to lead fulfilling lives. Safety is a fundamental human right and is essential to health and wellbeing and enjoyment of community life.¹⁷

Monash residents have identified that **feeling safe** is a top priority for the community.¹⁸

In a municipal-wide planning survey *Monash in Four* (2013), the Monash community ranked community safety as the third most important health and wellbeing priority for the community out of seven priority areas. These health and wellbeing priorities are listed below according to community ranking:

1. Parks, Open Spaces & Tracks (53%)
2. Medical, Hospital & Dental Services (37%)
3. **Feeling Safe (35%)**
4. Transport (29%)
5. Having support of family and friends (27%)
6. Community Services & Facilities (23%)
7. Leisure & Recreation (23%).¹⁹

Community safety is given high priority by the community as it is considered to be fundamental to health and wellbeing and the enjoyment of community life in Monash.²⁰ The Monash community identified the top three most important aspects of community safety below:

- Feeling safe is critical for enjoying the community;
- Wanting to feel safe while out walking in one's own neighbourhood; and
- Preventing violence against women and children.²¹

Through community consultation, research and partnership collaboration, Monash Council has developed a community safety framework with three single strategic community safety priorities to guide the implementation of community safety activity in Monash over the next five years. These priorities are:

- Community Strength and Resilience;
- Leadership; and
- Prevention and Positive Solutions.²²

It is the intent of this Framework that Council will strive towards an integrated, whole-of-Council approach to community safety. Through the application of this Framework it is the expectation that community safety is prioritised in all current and future planning, strategies and activity.²³

Monash Council has committed to leading the way in creating safe physical, urban and natural environments through adherence to Safer Design principles including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), where residents feel inspired to actively participate in community life and to go about their daily activities.²⁴

Council has been successful in securing over \$1,000,000 in grants from the Department of Justice for community safety projects since 2010. *Table 2: Department of Justice Funding for Community Safety Projects* provides a summary of the community safety projects funded since 2010.

Table 2: Department of Justice (DOJ) Funding for Community Safety Projects (post 2010)

Project	DOJ Grant Amount
Graffiti Prevention Projects \$25K per annum since 2009/10	\$175,000
Feeling Safe & Connected to your Community (Milkbar Project)	\$8,000
Thomas St Laneway Activation Project	\$132,000
Mary Street Laneways Activation Project	\$250,000
Holmesglen Activation Project	\$250,000
Prevention of Theft from and of Motor Vehicle – Car park signage Project	\$3,000
Oakleigh Western Gateway Project	\$200,000
National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council Foundation (NMVTRC) Operation Bounce Back - Car Safe Education	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$1,033,000

Council is committed to applying for funding opportunities through the State and Federal governments to implement community safety, public safety infrastructure and crime prevention programs in partnership with Victoria Police and other leading partner agencies.²⁵

5. Community Safety – Reference List

- ¹ Australian Safe Communities Foundation, retrieved 6 October 2016, <http://www.safecommunities.net.au/index.php/becoming-a-safe-community>
- ² Vic Health, Indicators Survey 2015 Results, retrieved 15 November 2016, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/vichealth-indicators-lga-profiles-2015>
- ³ Vic Health, Indicators Survey 2015 Results, retrieved 15 November 2016, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/vichealth-indicators-lga-profiles-2015>
- ⁴ Vic Health, Indicators Survey 2015 Results, retrieved 15 November 2016, <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/vichealth-indicators-lga-profiles-2015>
- ⁵ Department of Health, Modelling, GIS and Planning Products Unit, LGA data for Monash (C), Department of Health 2013, retrieved 14 November 2016, p.1 [https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/getfile/?sc_itemid=%7bCC317C15-E941-457B-81BD-E7E207103800%7d&title=Monash%20\(C\)](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/getfile/?sc_itemid=%7bCC317C15-E941-457B-81BD-E7E207103800%7d&title=Monash%20(C))
- ⁶ City of Dandenong, Statistical Data for Victorian Communities (from current and previous records of offences by category from Victoria Police, Australian Bureau of Statistics: 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia 2013-14, and Victoria in Future Population Forecasts, 2016) retrieved 1 December 2016 <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>
- ⁷ City of Dandenong, Statistical Data for Victorian Communities, from current and previous records of offences by category from Victoria Police, Australian Bureau of Statistics: 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia 2013-14, and Victoria in Future Population Forecasts, 2016 retrieved 1 December 2016 <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>
- ⁸ City of Dandenong, Statistical Data for Victorian Communities, from current and previous records of offences by category from Victoria Police, Australian Bureau of Statistics: 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia 2013-14, and Victoria in Future Population Forecasts, 2016 retrieved 1 December 2016 <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>
- ⁹ Crime Statistics Agency, retrieved 06 October 2016, <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/explore-crime-by-location>
- ¹⁰ Crime Statistics Agency, retrieved 06 October 2016, <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/explore-crime-by-location>
- ¹¹ Crime Statistics Agency, retrieved 06 October 2016, <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/explore-crime-by-location>
- ¹² Crime Statistics Agency, retrieved 6 October 2016, <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/historical-crime-data/year-ending-30-june-2015/download-data>
- ¹³ Crime Statistics Agency, retrieved 6 October 2016, <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/historical-crime-data/year-ending-30-june-2015/download-data>
- ¹⁴ Monash City Council, 2016 Community Satisfaction Survey Report, June 2016, retrieved 25 October 2016 <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Council/Our-Performance/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys>
- ¹⁵ Victorian Government, 2016, A Landmark, Victorian-First Plan to Keep People Safe, 7 December 2016, retrieved 9 December 2016 <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/a-landmark-victorian-first-plan-to-keep-people-safe/>
- ¹⁶ Victorian Government, 2016, A Landmark, Victorian-First Plan to Keep People Safe, 7 December 2016, retrieved 9 December 2016 <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/a-landmark-victorian-first-plan-to-keep-people-safe/>

¹⁷ City of Monash, Public Health & Safety, retrieved 4 October 2016, <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Services/Health-Safety/Public-Health-Safety/Community-Safety-Month>

¹⁸ Monash Council 2013, 'Monash in Four - Community Survey 2012', *Monash Council*.

¹⁹ Monash Council 2013, 'Monash in Four - Community Survey 2012', *Monash Council*.

²⁰ Monash Council 2013, 'Monash in Four - Community Survey 2012', *Monash Council*.

²¹ Monash Council 2013, 'Monash in Four - Community Survey 2012', *Monash Council*.

²² City of Monash, Community Safety Framework, 2015-20, retrieved 31 October 2016, <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/council/publications/community-safety-framework-2015-2020.pdf>

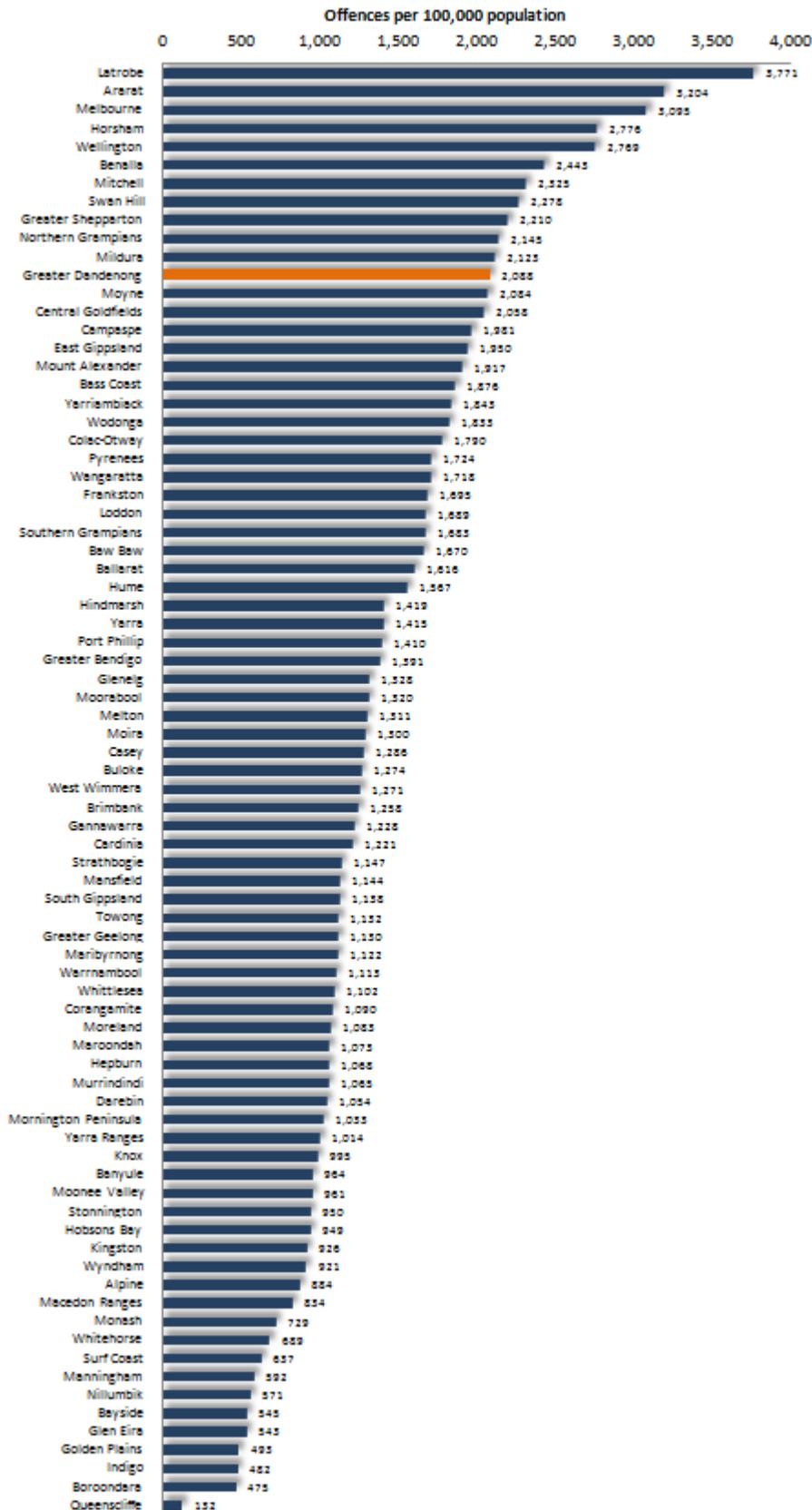
²³ City of Monash, Community Safety Framework, 2015-20, retrieved 31 October 2016, <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/council/publications/community-safety-framework-2015-2020.pdf>

²⁴ City of Monash, Community Safety Framework, 2015-20, retrieved 31 October 2016, <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/council/publications/community-safety-framework-2015-2020.pdf>

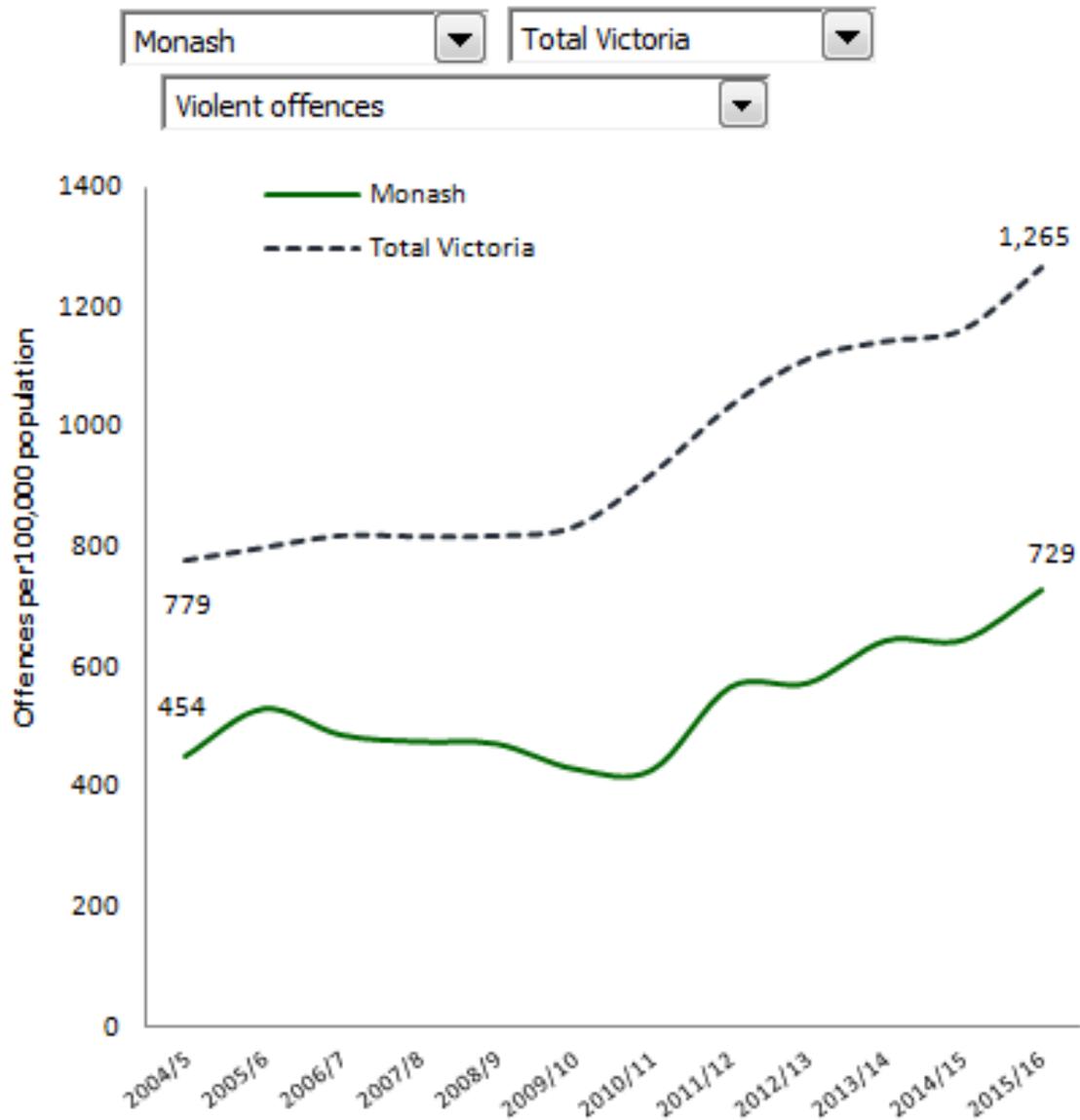
²⁵ City of Monash, Community Safety Framework, 2015-20, retrieved 31 October 2016, <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/council/publications/community-safety-framework-2015-2020.pdf>

5. Community Safety – Attachments

Attachment A: Ranked Violent Offences Rates by LGA 2015/16

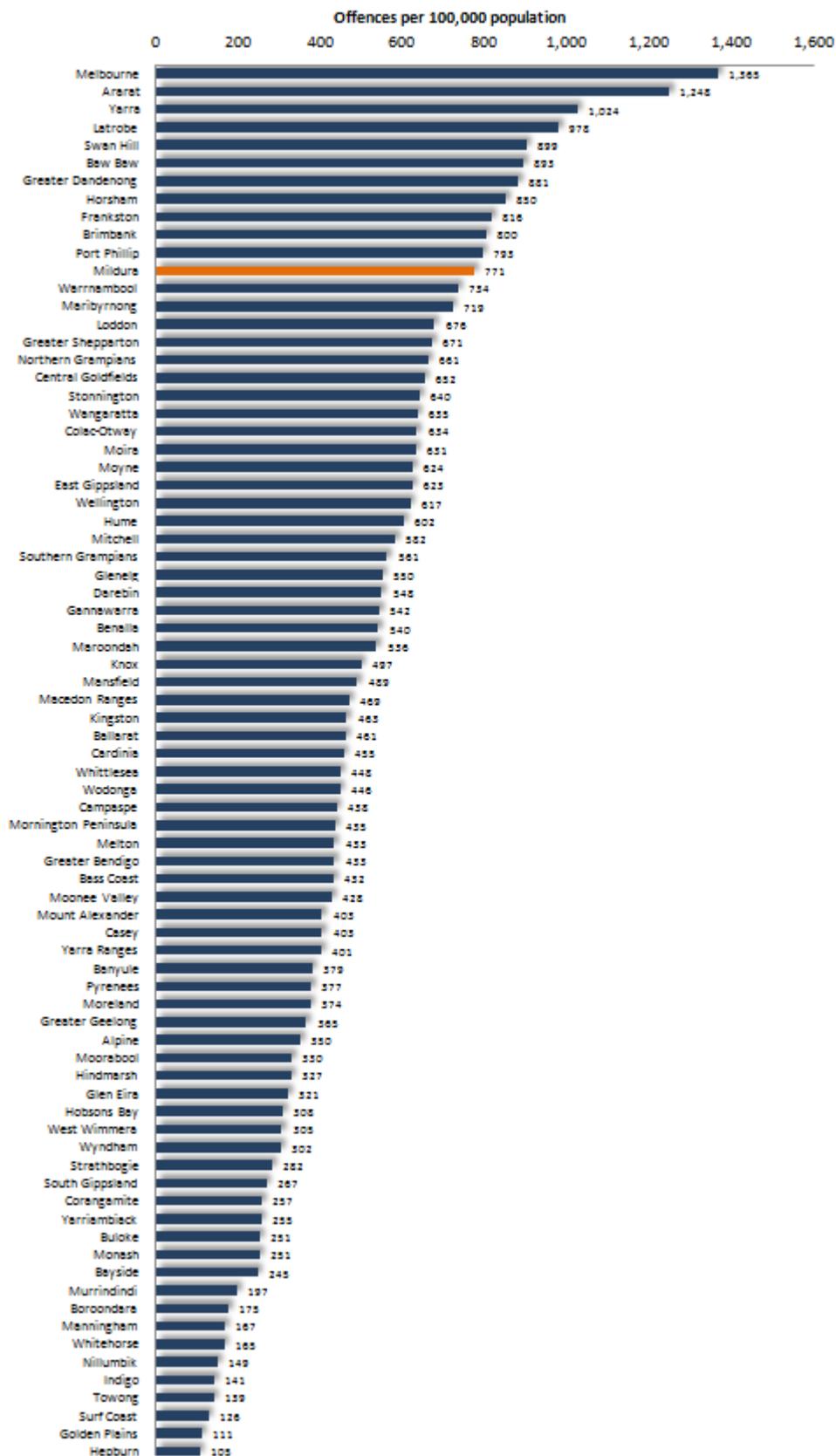


Attachment B: Rate of Recorded Violent Offences for Monash and Total Victoria by 2010/11 to 2015/16 – and 2004/5 and 2015/16 for time trends

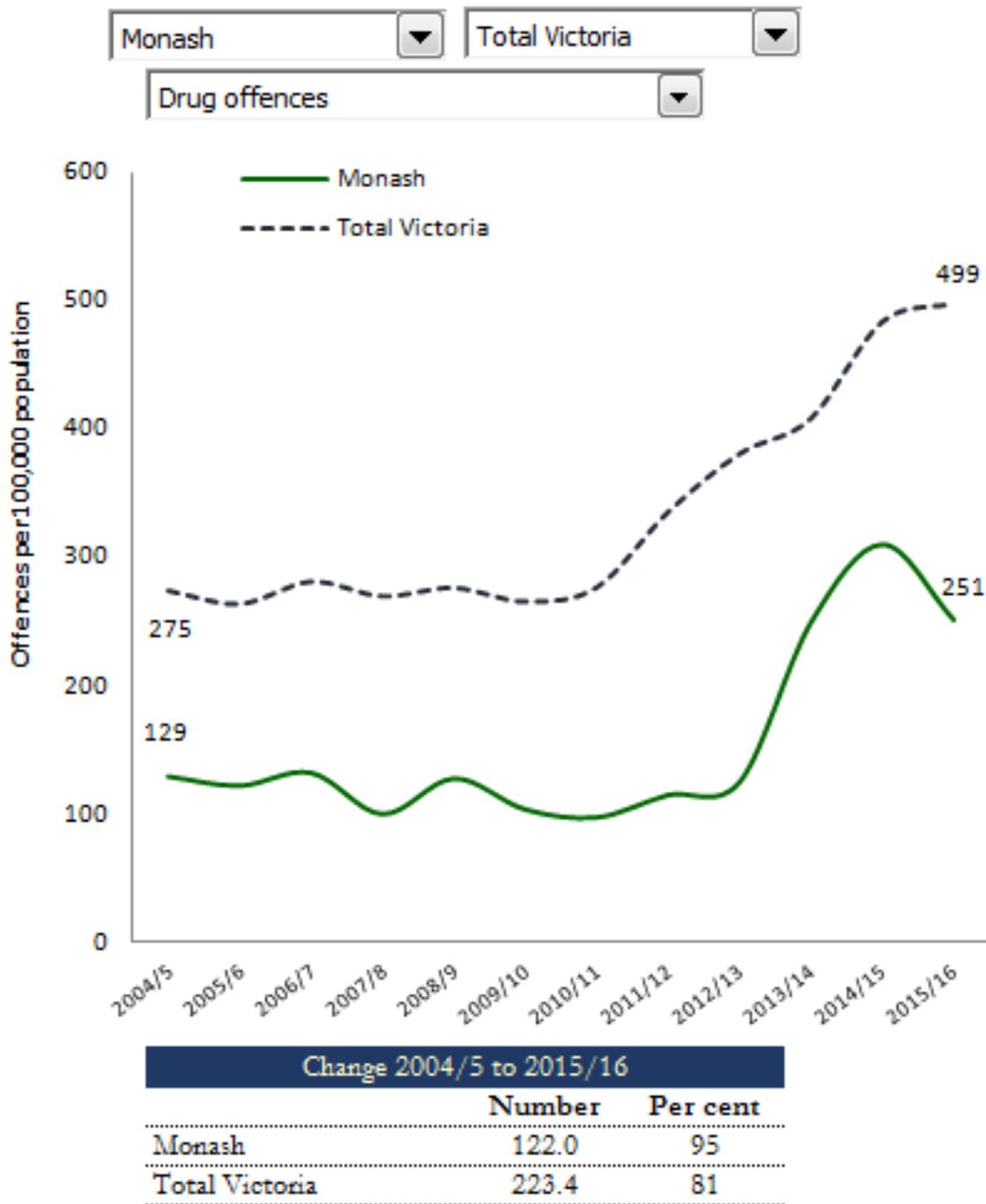


Change 2004/5 to 2015/16		
	Number	Per cent
Monash	275.2	61
Total Victoria	486.6	62

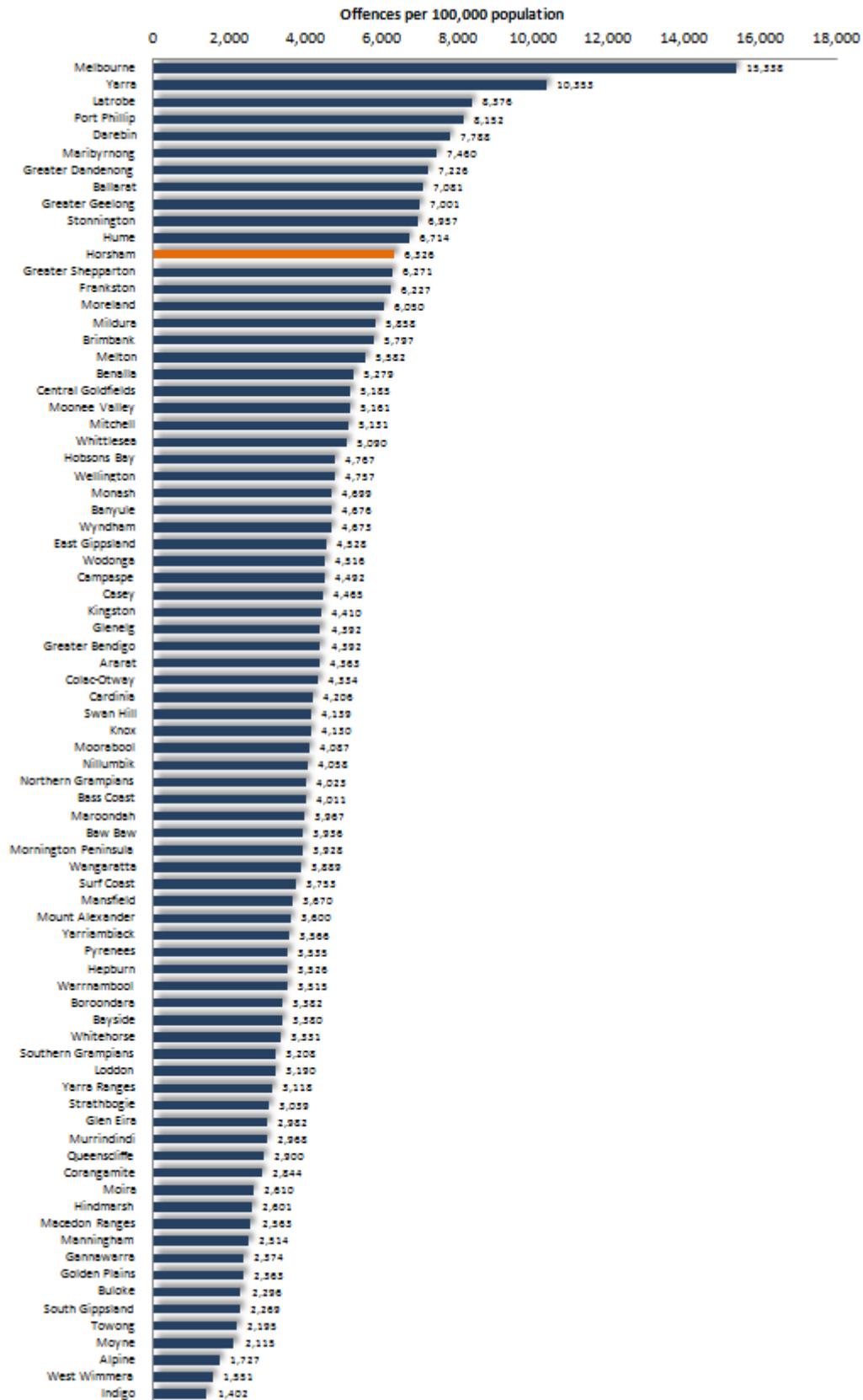
Attachment C: Ranked Drug Offences Rates by LGA 2015/16



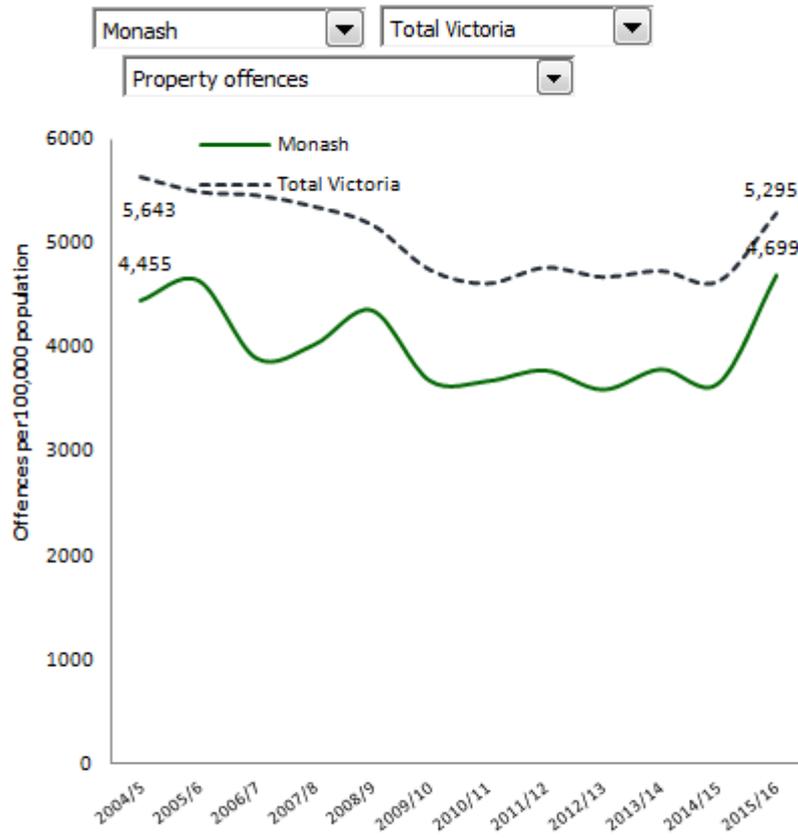
Attachment D: Rate of Recorded Drug Offences for Monash and Total Victoria by 2010/11 to 2015/16 – and 2004/5 and 2015/16 for time trends



Attachment E: Ranked Property Offences Rates by LGA 2015/16

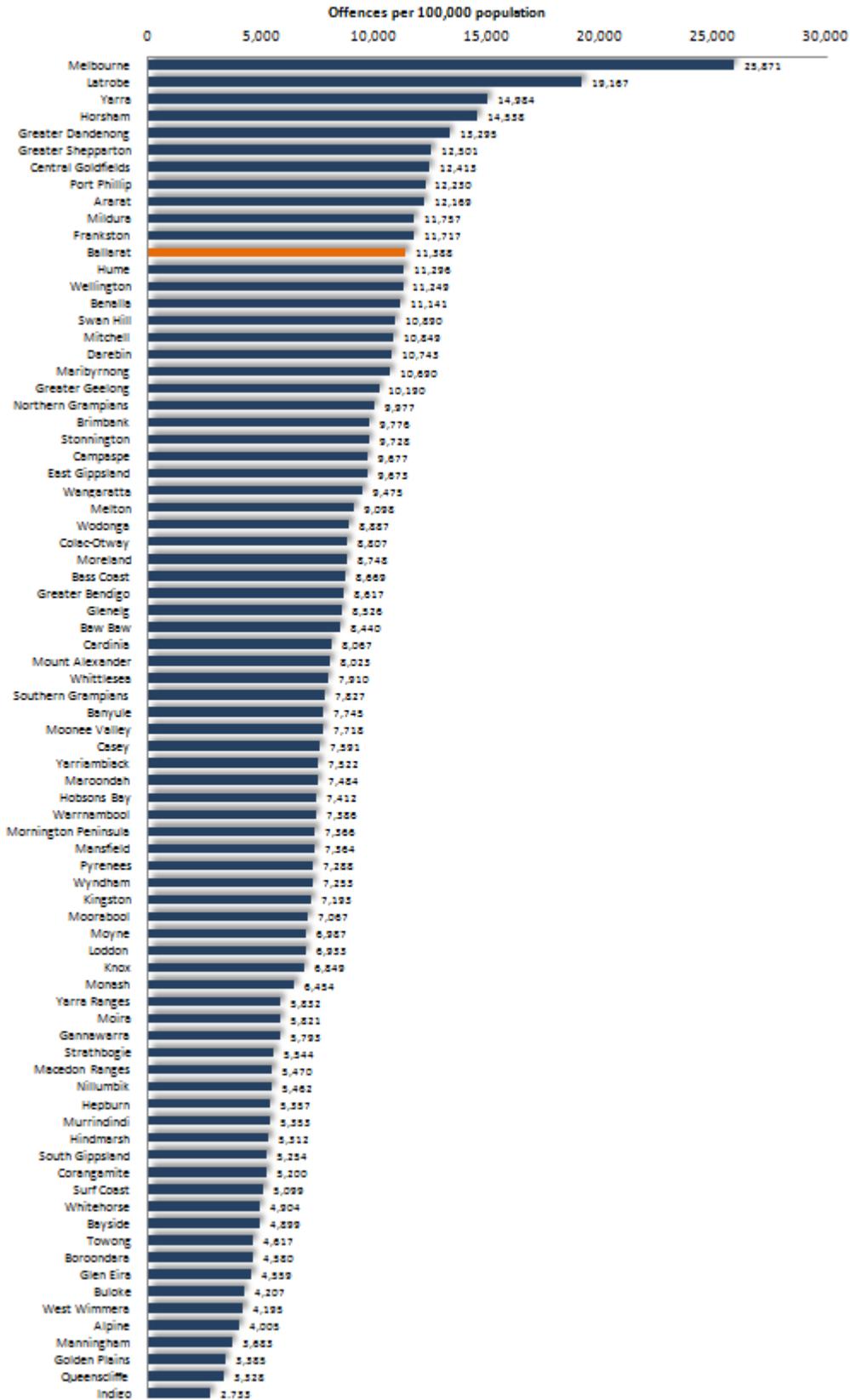


Attachment F: Rate of Recorded Property Offences for Monash and Total Victoria by 2010/11 to 2015/16 – and 2004/5 and 2015/16 for time trends

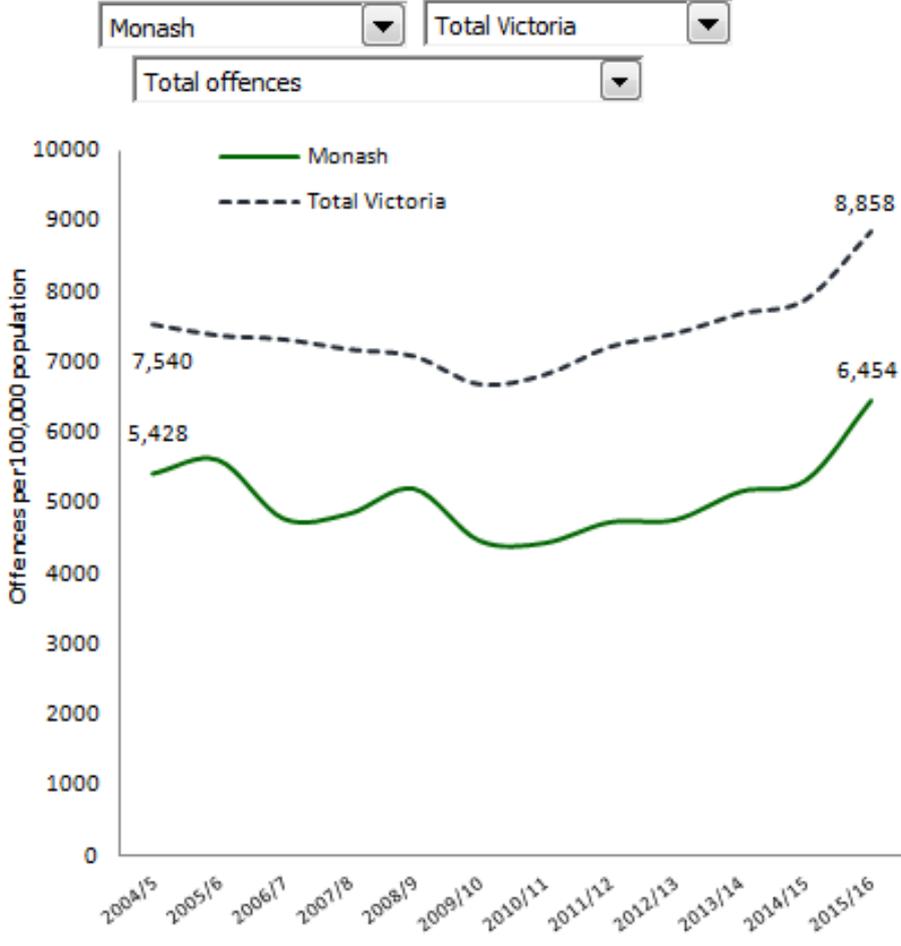


Change 2004/5 to 2015/16		
	Number	Per cent
Monash	244.8	5
Total Victoria	-348.4	-6

Attachment G: Ranked Total Offences Rates by LGA 2015/16



Attachment H: Rate of Recorded Total Offences for Monash and Total Victoria by 2010/11 to 2015/16 – and 2004/5 and 2015/16 for time trends



Change 2004/5 to 2015/16		
	Number	Per cent
Monash	1026.6	19
Total Victoria	1318.7	17