

SPER Debt by SA4 Regions and Top 10 Offence Groups in Queensland Explanatory Notes

Debts can start with unpaid fines and penalties, and can be referred to SPER by various agencies: courts, state government and other local government authorities. This report shows a breakdown of all types of debt registered with SPER under Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) in Queensland.

1. Figures are reported using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Postcodes to Statistical Area Level 4 correspondences tables (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 1270.0.55.006)
2. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that while there are issues with using postcode to code data to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), it is possible to reasonably accurately code data to Statistical Area Level 4, as the quality of the coding indices at this level are deemed to be acceptable. Where no Statistical Area Level 4 is available for a postcode, it has been listed as "Other QLD".
3. This report includes all types of debt currently outstanding with SPER. It should be noted that this data is only available at a current point in time; it is not possible to report historically on this data.
4. This report is a breakdown of the outstanding debt based on current debtor addresses. As debtors may have multiple addresses registered with SPER, the allocation of debt to an SA4 region is based on their most current address available. It is possible that some debt may be reported under different SA4 regions over time, due to debtor relocation or identification of new address information by SPER.
5. Populations vary significantly between SA4 regions. This report does not account for differences in population and caution should be taken in drawing direct comparisons between region based on outstanding debt levels.
6. Offence groups explanation:
 - Driving - includes driving related offences. Examples include: 'Dangerous driving' or 'Driving without a seatbelt'.
 - Other - includes fine types with lower volumes grouped together such as 'failure to wear a bike helmet', 'smoking on public transport'.
 - Vehicle - includes vehicle related offences. Examples include: 'Unregistered vehicle' or 'Unroadworthy vehicle'.
 - Offender Debt Recovery – In certain circumstances, Government provides financial assistance to help a victim recover from a violent crime. If a person is then convicted of the relevant crime, Government issues a liability notice to reclaim the money paid to the victim from the convicted person. If this notice is not paid, the amount is referred to SPER for collection.
 - Tolling – Unpaid tolls are referred to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) or Brisbane City Council (BCC) by the toll road operator, depending on the toll road involved. TMR or BCC will issue an infringement notice, which is for failure to pay a toll. If the infringement notice is unpaid, it is referred to SPER.
 - Domestic Violence – includes court ordered domestic and family violence offences. Examples include: 'Contravention of domestic violence order', 'Contravention of police protection notice', 'Wilful damage – domestic violence offence', 'Breach of domestic violence order where respondent spouse was served with the order' or 'Common assault – domestic violence offence'.
7. For instances where the Offence Group category is reporting less than 10 debts in a SA4 area, these debts and outstanding balances will be aggregated into the Offence Group category 'Other'. This methodology will prevent the release of possibly disclosive information.