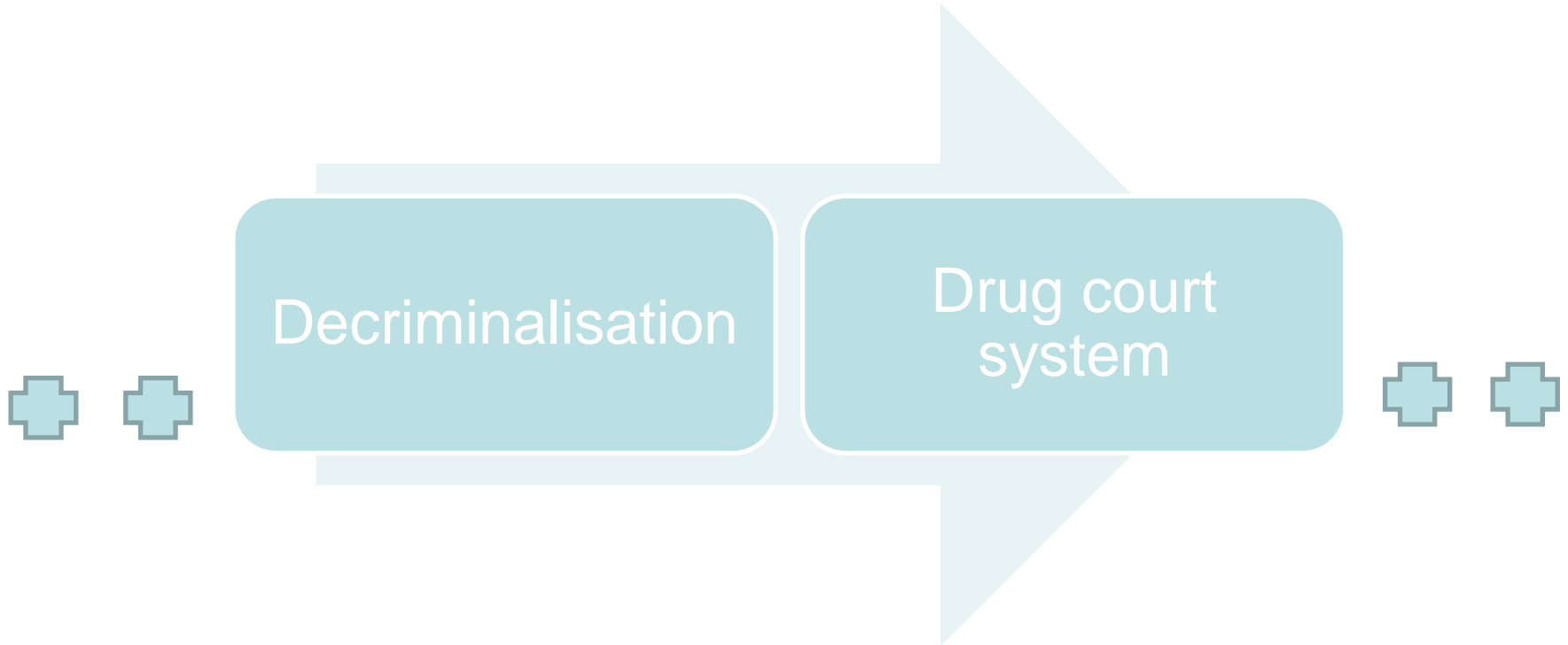


# Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court (QDAC) Always a work in progress...

WOWS Presentation  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

# A continuum of services....



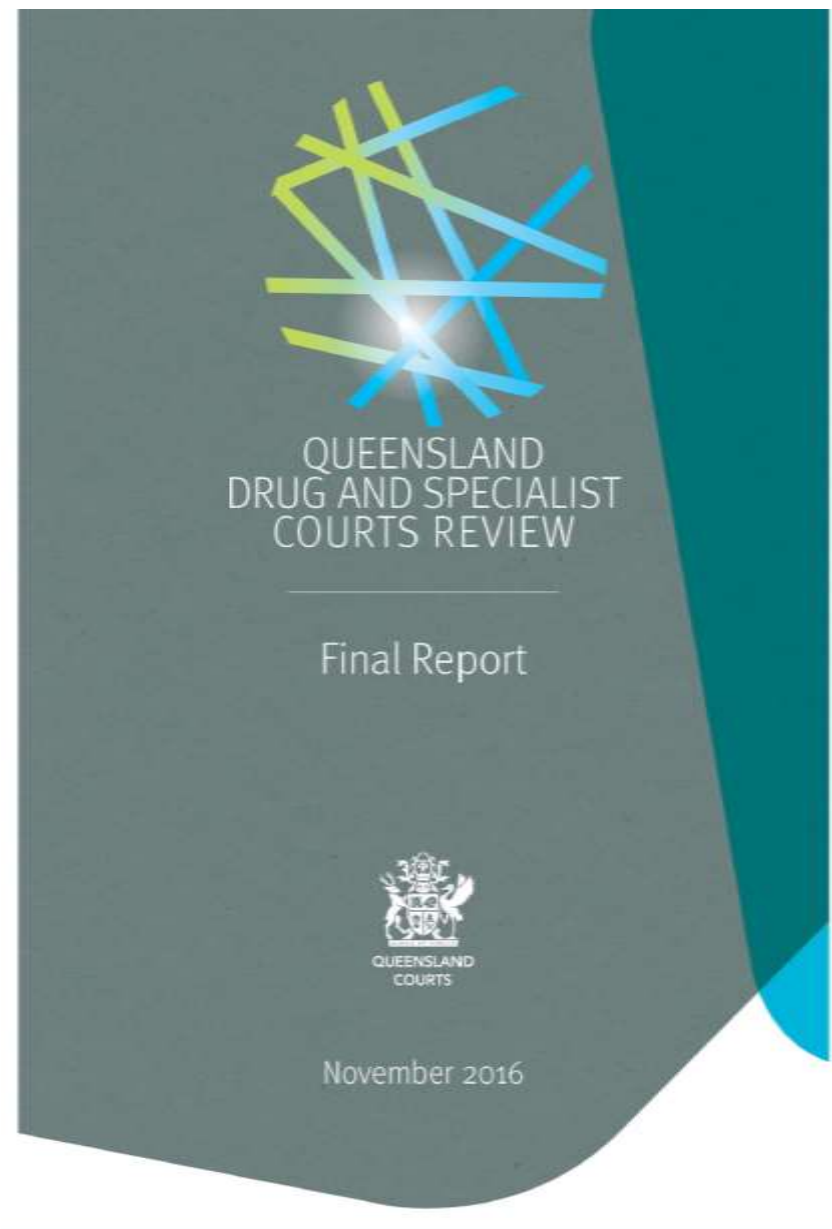
## Some underpinning concepts...

- Problem-oriented/solution-focussed courts.
- Therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ).
- Not adopt just an AOD 'direct cause' approach.
- Minimise risk of 'net-widening' and 'sentence escalation.'
- Privacy/Consent – genuine and proper.
- Co-ordinated response of consequences to support behaviour change.
- Treatment not used as punishment.

# Why Drug courts?

- Reduce the need to re-offend.
- Reduce substance use.
- Accessibility to interventions.

- 2015 election commitment.
- Review undertaken by experts in the field – both national and international best practice.
- Review handed to Government in February 2016.
- Review made 39 recommendations (29 related to Drug Court).
- Announcement of a commitment to reinstate a Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court – June 2017.





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**Five locations**

**Illicit substances only**

**Evaluations conducted**

**No specific minimum  
(9 months)**

**1 (pilot) location –  
Brisbane (4 yrs)**

**Inclusion of alcohol**

**Embedded evaluation  
framework**

**Minimum 2 year order  
(Drug & Alcohol  
Treatment Order)**

## Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court – Brisbane Magistrates Court boundary



Magistrates Courts districts are set by the Justices Regulation 2014. Boundary details are available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2014-0191#sch.1>





**DJAG**

Magistrate  
Court case  
coordination  
& processing  
Cultural  
Liaison  
Officer

**DH&PW**

Sustainable  
tenancies  
Lifeskills

**QCS**

Suitability  
assessment  
Case  
management  
(e.g.  
employment,  
finances,  
accommodat  
ion, pro-  
social  
activities)  
Compliance  
& monitoring  
Urine testing  
Criminal  
thinking  
interventions

**QPS**

Prosecution  
services

**LAQ**

Defence &  
advocacy

**Qld Health**

Eligibility &  
suitability  
assessment  
AOD &  
health-  
related  
assessment,  
treatment  
planning &  
care co-  
ordination  
Direct  
delivery of  
AOD high-  
intensity day  
program &  
counselling  
services  
Technical  
advisory to  
court  
Residential  
providers

# Program structure

- Referral
- Eligibility assessment
- Suitability assessment
- Sentencing (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order)
  - Custodial part
  - Rehabilitation part

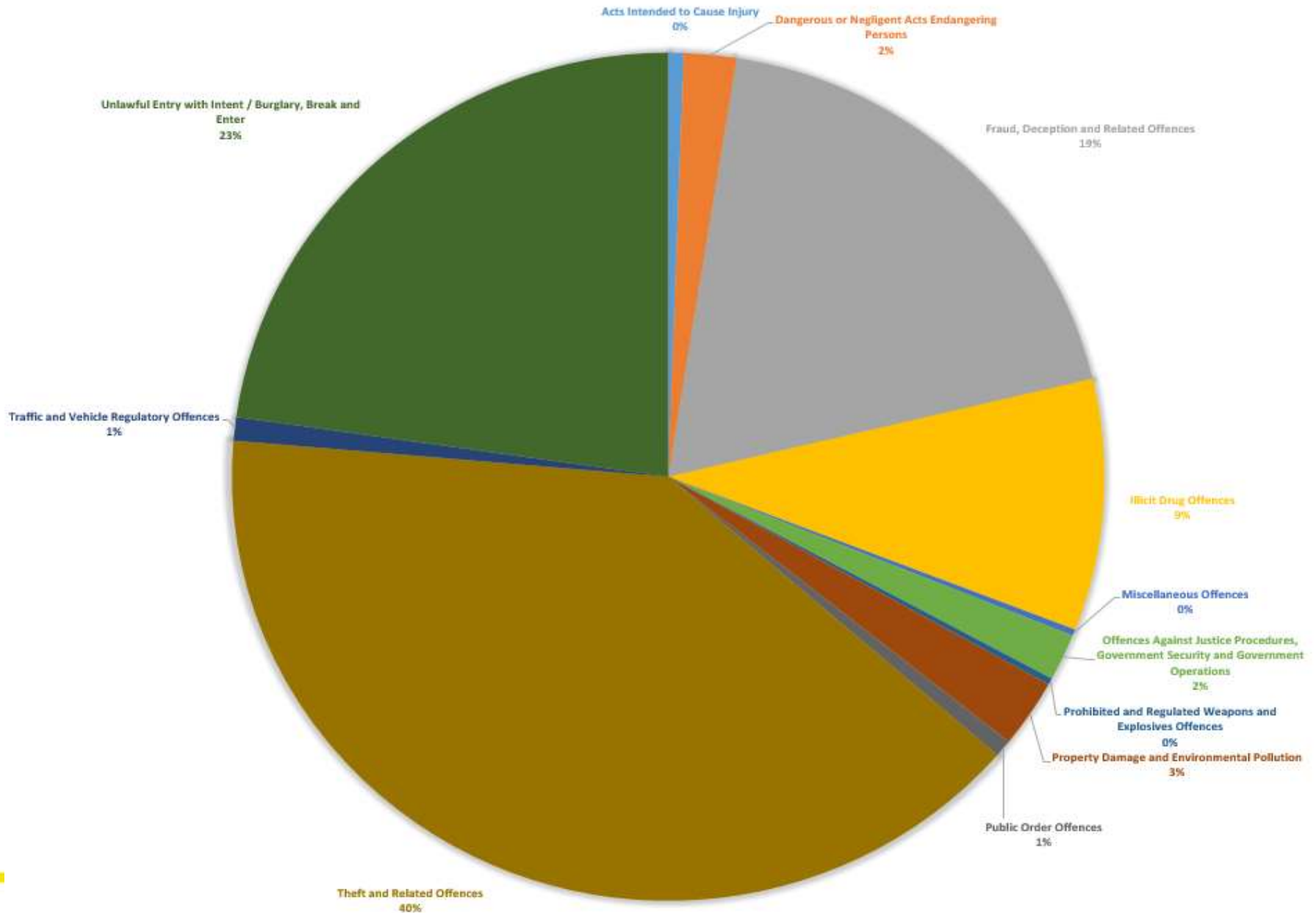
# QDAC: Overview

- Eligibility:
  - Adult
  - Severe substance use disorder (SUD - inc. alcohol);
  - Offences associated with SUD;
  - Reside within Brisbane LGA;
  - Plead guilty or intend to plead guilty;
  - Custodial term of four years or less;
  - Consent to order being made

## QDAC: Overview

- Eligibility (offenses):
  - Summary offences or indictable offences which can be dealt with summarily (can include some charges related to *supplying a dangerous drug* and *producing a dangerous drug*);
  - Excluded – sexual based offenses; quantities of narcotic (e.g. <2gms/ 50 onces etc)
  - Violence and mental illness are not exclusions;

CHARGES SUBJECT TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT ORDERS IN QUEENSLAND MAGISTRATES COURT BETWEEN 29 JANUARY 2018 AND 31 MARCH 2019.

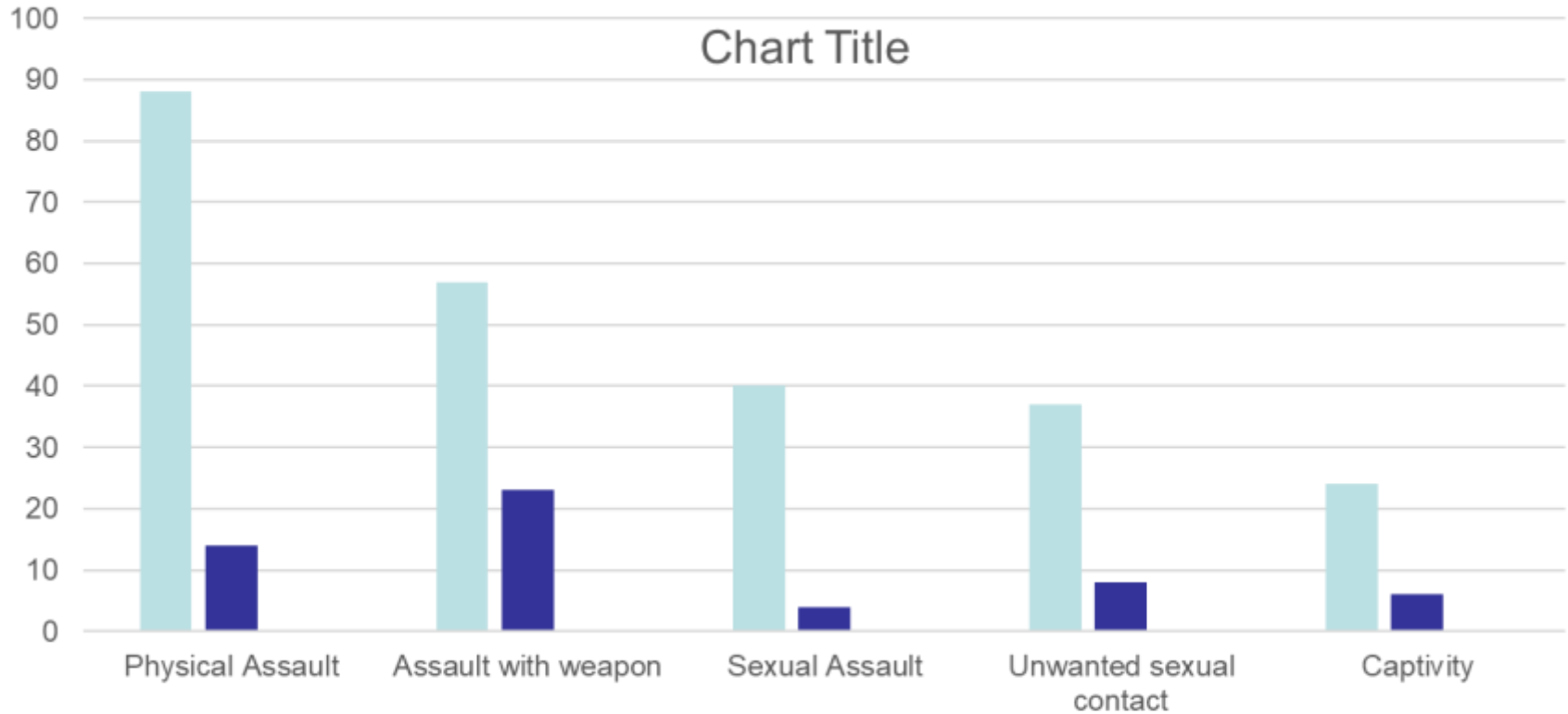


## Substances used....

Many participants described themselves as poly drug users, with some substances lining more to their offending history over others -

- Primary drug of choice is Methamphetamine,
- Some participants are referred to ORT, to assist in stabilising from opiate based substances,
- Some participants are wearing SCRAM anklets to manage their alcohol use as their primary drug of concern,
- Other substances used include cannabis, Fantasy, MDMA – for some these are a primary concern for others they are used recreationally.

# Adverse Life events



N= 112

M = 96/ F = 16

Aboriginal = 35/ Torres

Strait Islander = 1

■ Happened to me ■ Witnessed it

# Cultural response...





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Brisbane Magistrates Court

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