

Question on Notice

What's the percentage of murder cases that end up with the offender being charged and convicted?

The Commission investigates homicide matters referred by its Management Committee which are sufficiently serious or prevalent to warrant its involvement and in which the use of the Commission's powers appears to be necessary to fully investigate the matter (*Crime Commission Act, s51*). In other words, the Commission only involves itself in homicide investigations that would otherwise be considered 'unsolvable'.

Since 2015, the Commission has been involved in 69 homicide investigations jointly with NSW Police Force and other agencies. These investigations have been conducted pursuant to 60 Crime Commission references. They include investigations into specific murders, as well as broader investigations into criminal groups, prohibited drug offending or terrorism in which homicide has been a feature of the investigation.

Commission records indicate that 1,238 charges have been laid against 186 offenders across 53 of these investigations. Convictions were secured for offenders in 35 of the investigations, with charges pending finalisation in a further 16 investigations. 29 people have been convicted of murder across 19 investigations, with others convicted for offences including but not limited to manslaughter, accessory before the fact to murder, terrorism, firearms offences, other violent offences and Crime Commission Act offences.

Many homicide investigations, particularly complex organised crime matters, take years to fully investigate, and more to prosecute. Some of the matters remain under active investigation and / or are progressing through the judicial process.