



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

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Ms Margaret Quirk MLA
Chair
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Quirk

Questions on Notice from hearing on 9 September 2015

I write regarding your correspondence of 15 September 2015 in which you requested further information on family and domestic violence, following WA Police appearing before the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee on 9 September 2015 to give evidence on how WA Police evaluates whether it is providing adequate protection to the victims of family and domestic violence.

In respect to the list of questions taken on notice, responses are provided hereunder:

1. How many hours of family and domestic violence incident training do cadets receive in their initial training, and throughout the probationary period? (p11 of transcript);

Recruits receive 31 hours of Family and Domestic Violence training, not including scenario training and related IT Applications. Probationary Constables undertake tasking duties with a supervising officer (on the job vocational training) and a Blackboard refresher course.

Probationary Constables are required to address in their Probationary Portfolio, three examples of where they have dealt with conflict. These often include domestic violence situations, but this depends on what type of incidents the officers attend.

2. What is covered in the one-off Blackboard computer-based training? (p11-12 of transcript)

Recruits are required to complete the following two Blackboard Courses regarding Family and Domestic Violence during the 28 week Recruit Training program.

1. Frontline IMS Family and Domestic Violence Incident Report 1-9 Enhancement, Course ID LMS-4XB-50T-V2H

This is an audio visual course that instructs on how to submit a Domestic Violence Report including the nine (1-9's) points required under policy for all domestic violence incident reports. Please refer to attached document "Blackboard E Learning DVIR1-9 Course.docx" which the script for the audio visual course.

2. *Restraining Orders Act Amendment, Course ID LMS-6HX-CH9-3V3*
This covers amendments to the *Restraining Orders Act 1997*. Police Officers (including Probationary Constables) are required to complete the following two Blackboard Courses regarding Family and Domestic Violence.
3. *Frontline IMS Family and Domestic Violence Incident Report 1-9 Enhancement, Course ID LMS-4XB-50T-V2H*
This is the same course as that completed by recruits and if completed at the academy, it is not required to be completed again.
4. *Reporting Family and Domestic Violence, Course ID LMS-RYE-SF3 –L1W*
This is a two part power point presentation covering Reporting Family and Domestic Violence and is designed to:
 - o Inform all sworn and un-sworn staff on policy changes related to reporting of Family and Domestic Violence
 - o Enable sworn and un-sworn staff to identify when a DVIR 1-9 should and should not be submitted
 - o Reduce the risk to WA Police, both as an agency and to individuals by supporting compliance with FDV policy

Refer to attached two PowerPoint presentations “Part 1 Reporting Family and Domestic Violence V3.ppt” and “Part 2 Reporting Family and Domestic Violence V3.ppt”.

3. **A copy of the training and practice guidelines developed in conjunction with the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) (mentioned on p12 of transcript).**

As requested, please find attached a copy of the *ANZPAA Education and Training Guidelines for Family and Domestic Violence (Guidelines)*.

ANZPAA supports the provision of the Guidelines to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee hearing by WA Police. However, ANZPAA have asked that the following is considered by the Committee in their determinations for the publication of this document:

- wherever possible ANZPAA seeks to preserve the ‘*controlled release process*’ to Guidelines, that regulates the release of education and training material to agencies or organisations external to policing. This process was established and is governed by the Australia New Zealand Council of Police Professionalisation (ANZCoPP);
 - the security classification as outlined in the Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework and the unclassified marking of ‘*For Official Use Only*’ applies to this set of Guidelines;
 - it is respectfully requested that the processes outlined above are taken into account; hence the preference that the Guidelines are not made publicly available; and
 - should the Committee decide to make the Guidelines publicly available, it is requested that the Guidelines be marked with the Copyright, Disclaimer, Acknowledgements and Contact Information (as per page 2 of the Guidelines) should any party wish to seek access.
4. **Does any of the family and domestic violence training provided include how officers should deal with Aboriginal and ethnic communities?**

The Family and Domestic Violence training does not directly provide training on how officers should deal with Aboriginal and ethnic communities, however these are discussion points that are raised throughout the course and with guest presenters, such as:

- o Women’s Refuge – speaks on migrant and indigenous women issues
- o A Muslim woman who experienced extreme domestic violence and issues with Police

- The Family Violence Service – assisting migrant and indigenous women with Domestic Violence and Violence Restraining Order issues
- An Indigenous woman and a woman of Asian heritage – deliver an in-depth look at Domestic Violence homicide case studies

5. During our visit to Geraldton, the FDVRT Sergeant referred to a policy which guides the practice of officers dealing with family and domestic violence. Are you able to supply a copy of the policy?

Refer attachment “Response Q5 (Family Domestic Violence Coordination Operating Guidelines 2015)”

6. The number of officers dealing with domestic violence in the following capacity, currently and prior to the Frontline 2020 reform implementation:

• Frontline officers

Once a domestic violence incident is reported, it is compulsory for police to attend. As a consequence all Frontline Officers (including Investigators) are required to deal with domestic violence in the course of their duties.

• Investigators

See above.

• Prosecutors

In the Metropolitan area, a Police Prosecutor at each of the Prosecuting Offices (Perth, Fremantle, Rockingham, Midland, Armadale, Mandurah, and Joondalup) is delegated the prosecuting duties for Domestic Violence criminal charges in Magistrate Courts. Notwithstanding that all Police Prosecutors are able to undertake those prosecuting duties and do undertake the prosecuting duties for Domestic Violence matters in the absence (leave etc.) of the delegated Police Prosecutor.

In Regional WA, all Police Prosecutors undertake the prosecuting duties for Domestic Violence criminal charges in Magistrate Courts.

The aforementioned has always been the case prior to and after the implementation of Frontline 2020.

• Members of the Family Protection Unit/Victim Support Unit

June 2014 (prior reform date)

Regional WA Family Protection – 10 FTE

Metro District Family Protection – 27.3 FTE

September 2015

Regional WA Family Protection – 10 FTE

Metro District Victim Support – 13 FTE

• Members of the Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT)

Family and Domestic Violence Response Team exist as a team but is not a business unit with an approved strength.

• Members of the State Family Violence Coordination Unit (FVSCU)

The FVSCU is currently resourced with:

- 1 x Detective Inspector
- 2 x Detective Sergeant
- 1 x Senior Constable

The FTE allocation has been consistent from June 2014 to September 2015.

7. A copy of the DVIR 1-9 questions.

Refer attachment "Response Q7 (DVIR 1-9 Aide Memoir 2013 final)."

8. If GPS tracking for domestic violence offenders with restraining orders is introduced, how would WA Police evaluate its success?

WA Police would have to commission the services of a local academic organisation, to effectively evaluate such a program. Given the type of program - GPS - a program based on technology, which has only been assessed once before in the world by the University of Illinois, Chicago in June 2012.

The evaluation would require a large volume of statistics as well as a large qualitative component which all these aspects heavily influence the type of assessment required. It would need to be an in-depth evaluation requiring multiple staff over a longer period of time and therefore the following centre from Edith Cowan University has been recommended, <<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/law-and-justice/research-activity/sellenger-centre-for-research-in-law-justice-and-social-change>>

WA Police could deploy the same criteria adopted by the University of Illinois, Chicago in the evaluation study on GPS Monitoring Technologies and Domestic Violence, submitted to the US Department of Justice in June 2012.

WA Police could evaluate the program based on the following criteria;

- Conducting a review of Department of Corrective Services, cases involving pre-trial supervision reported on patterns of GPS usage, as well as the advantages, drawbacks, and costs associated with using GPS for Domestic Violence cases.
Results should indicate whether enhanced victim safety and offender supervision has been achieved.
- Examining the impact of GPS technology on Domestic Violence defendants' program breaches and re-arrests during the evaluation period.
Results should indicate whether GPS has an impact on the behaviour of program participants
- Conducting a qualitative review detailing in-depth individual and group interviews with stakeholders in domestic violence cases –victims, defendants and criminal justice personnel.
Results should identify a range of approaches to organise the GPS program, with associated benefits and liabilities and indicate if:-
 - (a) *Victim's felt having the Offenders on GPS provided relief from the type of abuse prior to GPS;*
 - (b) *Defendants/offenders considered the benefits of GPS enrolment, protected them from false accusations thereby providing added structure to their lives, and enabling them to envision futures for themselves without the victim;*
 - (c) *The importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between victim safety and due process for the defendant.*

9. Throughout the hearing, you referred to FDVTs. Were you referring to the FDVRTs (Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams), or speaking generally about teams working on FDV?

On all occasion the Police in attendance were referring to Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams.

10. Is it correct to say that priority assigned to a family and domestic violence incident could range from 1 to 4, depending on the circumstances?

Depending on the circumstances and risk to the victim an incident could be allocated a response priority of 1 to 4.

11. Are all of the Family Protection Units now called Victim Support Units?

In Regional Western Australia a Family Protection Unit is located in each of the 7 Police Districts.

However in the 4 Metropolitan Police Districts, the Family Protection Units have been re-named Victim Support Units.

Yours sincerely



GARY DREIBERGS APM
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

25 September 2015