



Deputy Premier of Western Australia  
Minister for Police; Road Safety;  
Training and Workforce Development; Women's Interests  
Our Ref: 45-44372

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien



Thank you for your letter of 13 October regarding Petition No. 133 in relation to the culture and operations of Port Hedland and South Hedland Police Stations.

Western Australia Police advise a recent review of policing in the community has been conducted by an independent commissioned officer which proposed short and long term solutions to improve the policing services at South Hedland Police Station.

This review was multi-faceted, examining all contributing factors that may contribute to behaviour and performance issues. The review process was exhaustive and involved analysis and feedback from both internal and external stakeholders to identify key contributors and solutions.

I am advised the review found that the behavioural issues at Port and South Hedland were not representative of the entire workforce and were isolated to a small group of officers who were not performing at the level required and were poorly supervised.

Since the review a number of programs have been implemented including improved cultural awareness training for all officers; intrusive supervision of daily duties and individual performance; greater community engagement; and an improved selection process to ensure suitability of officers transferred to the area.

I understand that three Aboriginal Community Relations Officers have recently been selected and will be based at South Hedland Police Station. These officers will to assist in cultural community issues and overall management, and liaison with the Aboriginal community.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**LIZA HARVEY MLA  
DEPUTY PREMIER; MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY;  
TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; WOMEN'S INTERESTS**

8 NOV 2015