



VICTORIA POLICE

Deputy Commissioner's Office

Victoria Police Centre
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Mr John Olle
Coroner's Court Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Subject: BOOTH, Sarah
Case Number: COR 2006 4974
Date of Recommendations: 14 July 2014



Mr Olle,

I write in response to recommendation 1 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Sarah Booth.

Recommendation: Police should never pursue a vehicle simply because it is fleeing. A pursuit should only be undertaken where police hold a pre-existing belief on reasonable grounds that intercepting the vehicle is necessary:

- to prevent a serious risk to public health and safety; or
- in response to a serious criminal offence that has been committed, or is about to be committed, which involves serious harm to a person or persons.

Response: it is anticipated that the recommendation will be implemented.

A working group has been formed to discuss recommendation 1, 2 and 4 arising from this inquest. The working group were informed of the Draft Restrictive Pursuit Policy developed by the Corporate Policy Unit at the direction of the Victoria Police Executive. This draft pursuit policy is more restrictive than that proposed by the Coroner in that it restricts pursuits to:

- An urgent need to apprehend vehicle occupants because of the seriousness of the offence that they are known to have committed or are committing; and
- Alternative means of apprehending the offenders are not feasible; and
- The harm they are seeking to prevent is greater than the risks involved in conducting the pursuit.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Cartwright APM
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

13/ 10 / 2014



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Mr Olle,

I write in response to recommendation 2 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Sarah Booth.

Recommendation: The current Victoria Police risk assessment model for pursuits should be redeveloped and an alternative more appropriate model be adopted, such as the 'traffic light model', so as to guide police members as to what weight should be given to one particular risk factor over another. Any risk assessment model should be commensurate with appropriate industry practice in other safety critical environments.

Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

A working group has been formed to discuss recommendation 1, 2 and 4 arising from this inquest. Discussions held by the working group identified that there are numerous risk factors that may be involved in a vehicle pursuit and that the weight of each can change during a pursuit. A 'traffic light model' has since been developed.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Cartwright APM
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

10, 10, 14



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Subject: BOOTH, Sarah
Case Number: COR 2006 4974
Date of Recommendations: 14 July 2014

Mr Olle,

I write in response to recommendation 3 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Sarah Booth.

Recommendation: All police vehicles should be fitted with In Car Video.

Response: The recommendation is under consideration.

The current In Car Video (ICV) units in Victoria Police vehicles are nearing their end of life and are becoming increasingly difficult to service and maintain. The Infrastructure and IT Department is supporting the Road Policing Command in the procurement of replacement ICV units for highway patrol vehicles. The Road Policing Command is currently evaluating suitable options.

The current ICV units used in Victoria Police vehicles cost in excess of \$12,000 per unit. To install these units into the current highway patrol fleet of approximately 200 vehicles would cost \$2,400,000. The Road Policing Command is investigating more affordable solutions, which may result in changed business practices to ensure Victoria Police can maximise the number of ICV units that can be installed into Victoria Police vehicles.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Cartwright APM
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

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Subject: BOOTH, Sarah
Case Number: COR 2006 4974
Date of Recommendations: 14 July 2014

Mr Olle,

I write in response to recommendation 4 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Sarah Booth.

Recommendation: That Victoria Police introduce processes to ensure all police members record and report all incidents of vehicles fleeing police, to improve the evidence base for development, evaluation and review of Victoria police pursuit policies that strike the optimum balance between law enforcement and public safety imperatives.

Response: The recommendation is under consideration.

A working group has been formed to discuss recommendation 1, 2 and 4 arising from this inquest. Discussions held by the working group identified that a vehicle may flee from police without police initiating a pursuit. That is, police direct a driver to stop who instead flees. If police do not follow, there is no pursuit. Victoria Police has a number of systems for the recording of pursuits, largely dependent on outcome. Further work is required to determine where fleeing drivers should be recorded to allow for future risk(s) to be mitigated, investigations commenced, trends identified and policy makers informed.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Cartwright APM
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

10 / 10 / 14