



VICTORIA POLICE

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**The State Coroner
Judge Coate
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street,
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Dear Judge Coate

Re Coronial Recommendations Inquest – Tyler Cassidy

Please note the following response from Victoria Police with regards to the recommendations from the above Inquest for your information.

Youth Specific Component to Operational Safety and Tactics Training

1. To equip Victoria Police members to safely and effectively manage vulnerable youth that come to the attention of the police, I recommend that Victoria Police develop and incorporate a youth specific component to the Operational Safety and Tactics Training with particular focus on youth specific skills for risk assessment and tactical communications and conflict resolution.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented. In developing the 2010 Vulnerable Persons training, Victoria Police engaged a variety of mental health experts, some of whom specialise in the mental health wellbeing of young persons. To progress this recommendation, Victoria Police met with the CEO of Orygen Youth Health Research Centre and Professor McGorry to discuss a joint partnership in developing a youth specific training package that addresses this recommendation. It is anticipated this work will be completed and ready for delivery at the next Operational Tactics and Safety Training cycle which commences 1 July 2012.

Police Use of Force with Vulnerable People

2. To assist Victoria Police members to safely manage people who may be in crisis or possibly intent on bringing about their own death at the hands of police. I recommend that Victoria Police urgently provide a component in Operational Safety and Tactics Training to assist police to identify and respond to such people.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented. There is an absence of research into tactics suitable for resolving incidents of this nature. In January 2012, Victoria Police commenced a research project into "Provoked Shootings" (suicide by cop) with Monash University, Centre for Forensic Behavioral Science to gain a better understanding of identifying the behaviors of persons in these circumstances and suitable tactics for safely resolving the incident. The outcomes of this research will be available July 2012 and will be used to shape training suitable for resolving incidents of this nature.

Maintenance of the System of Operational Safety and Tactics Training

3. To assist Victoria Police members to safely manage people who may be in crisis or possibly intent on brining about their own death at the hands of police, I recommend that Victoria Police ensure that the data collected from the critical incident review sheets be analysed and incorporated into OSTT where appropriate.

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented. The Victoria Police Centre for Operational Safety analyses incidents on a daily basis and records all reports involving use of force against or by police. To ensure each 6 monthly Operational Tactics and Safety Training cycle is "evidenced based", an examination of all reported incidents, use of force reports, de briefing reports and coronial findings are considered when developing the next 6 months curriculum.

4. I recommend that Victoria Police develop a structure to ensure that adherence to the 10 operational safety principles is vigilantly maintained in order to prevent over reliance on operational equipment.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented. The existing Tactical Options Model was introduced in 1993 to provide police officers with clear guidance and direction in respect to managing incidents of any nature. Underpinning this Model, are the 10 Safety principles. Research has commenced into the appropriateness of the Tactical Options Model, particularly when it relates to vulnerable persons. An extensive Literature Review was completed in 2011 and the development of an Options Paper is due for completion on 30 April 2012. As part of this process, Victoria Police have conducted workshops with internal and external stakeholders to better informed Victoria Police on a model that supports the 10 Safety principles.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Operational Safety and Tactics Training for Individual Members

5. To ensure that Victoria Police members are equipped with skills required to safely manage vulnerable people, police members should demonstrate competency in operational safety and tactics. I recommend that Victoria Police reintroduce some form of assessment following the completion of Operational Safety and Tactics Training.

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented. Commencing January 2012, all police attending Operational Tactics and Safety Training must successfully complete an assessment to maintain their qualification to use and carry operational safety equipment will be required to demonstrate competency via an e learning platform.

Kind regards,



Kieran J Walshe APM

Deputy Commissioner

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