

Liaison squad for gays

A police gay liaison squad will begin operating in Kings Cross next month as part of a State-wide push to reduce the incidence of street violence against homosexuals, the NSW Police Minister, Mr Pickering, announced yesterday.

The squad, including one detective, two senior constables and two junior officers, will be attached to 20 "beat" police who will begin working the area next month.

Speaking at the launch of Streetwatch Report by the Gay

and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Mr Pickering said that despite the disturbing finding that fewer than half gay violence victims reported assaults to police, the move demonstrated the more "enlightened attitude" of the force.

A hot-line for homosexuals, four inner-city gay violence co-ordination officers and a special Neighbourhood Watch program in the Darlinghurst area were encouraging people to report violent crime.