

D//2015/182062

ISSUE

Operational Programs response to correspondence received from Mr. Alex Greenwich MP re 'Police Investigation of Gay Hate Crime'.

BACKGROUND

Mr Alex Greenwich MP has written to the Premier regarding 'Police Investigation of Gay Hate Crimes' and refers in his correspondence, among other things, to the Operational Programs review of historical cases to determine if sexual orientation bias was a motivating factor in crimes reported during the 1980s and 1990s.

Operational Programs has been requested to provide 'the actual statistical information regarding Bias Crimes' with reference to the 'Gay Hate Crime' issues raised in Mr. Alex Greenwich MP correspondence. (See attached file

COMMENT

In October 2014, Mr. Alex Greenwich MP asked a Question on Notice in Parliament about a full review of gay hate crimes. Operational Programs responded at that time with advice that Operation Parrabell (established to review suicides and suspicious deaths in the Northern Beaches and Central Metropolitan Region between 1976 -2000), was ongoing and would take in excess of three years to complete, due to limited staffing resources available to Bias Crimes, Operational Programs.

Operation Parrabell which was initiated to address suspected "gay hate" crimes is only one of many different Bias related incident categories that the Bias Crimes unit focuses on. Given the current global environment, involving racial and religious tensions and an increasing number of anti Islamic protests / rallies occurring as a result of the Reclaim Australia Rally movement nationwide (April 2015), the operational focus of Bias Crimes has primarily been on the current threats posed by organised hate groups and their activities.

It is estimated that given the magnitude of investigation and research into historic cases through Operation Parrabell it would take a substantial amount of time and resources to complete the assessments thoroughly, given the amount of information required to determine whether each incident provided evidence to indicate it was bias motivated crime. Complete focus on this issue would considerably impact of the Bias Crimes unit ability to address other bias categories of crime and severely hamper the effectiveness of the unit to assist the field with holistically addressing current crime trends.

Information that would be assessed to determine whether the offences captured under Operation Parrabell includes:

- Briefs of Evidence (one brief has over 20 archived boxes to review)
- Case Files
- Court Transcripts
- Forensics/Crime Scene
- Field visits
- Offender interviews

Taking these factors into account to provide complete assessment of cases, some raw data statistics can however, be provided. It is important to note that these raw data statistics only relate to:

- Homicides and suicides of gay or perceived to be gay males
- Does not include assaults
- Data range is between 1976 – 2000
- Bias Motivation has not been confirmed in a lot of investigations

Statistical Data (raw):

- 1976 – 2000: 91 suspicious deaths of gay or perceived to be gay males identified
- 62% of these deaths have been solved
- 56 offenders have been identified resulting in criminal charges
- Research to date has indicated only 11 homicides have a possible bias or 'gay hate' motive, this equates to 12% of the total.
- 12% of suspicious deaths occurred in areas outside of Operation Parrabell research scope area (being in the Northern Beaches area and NSWPF Central Metropolitan Region) but were recorded in the data analysis.

RECOMMENDATION

Submitted for information.

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Operational Programs
13th April, 2015

1. Manager, Program Development Team

2. Commander, Operational Programs

3. Commander, Major Events & Incident GroupM
4. Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations
5. Director, EAU Portfolio Two, Commissioners Office
6. Minister, Police & Emergency Services