

COPY

RMS 8170455 E ITB file 1417 *Hatecrim.dat*

ISSUE:

Collection of Hate-Crime Data.

BACKGROUND:

When COPS went operational on 4 April, 1994 the system catered for recording information on Hate-Crime by collecting it as an Associate Factor. This is largely being collected by narrative descriptions in the event record. The system at present captures the recording officer's assessment of whether the event is motivated by prejudice.

Since April 1994 various enhancement pertaining to collecting Hate-Crime information and information on victims has been lodged with ITB. These enhancements have been analysed and fall into 2 categories, simple screen changes to improve the existing system and more comprehensive suggestions such as expanding data fields etc.

CURRENT POSITION:

ITB prepared a discussion paper outlining 3 alternative ways of improving the collection of Hate-Crime information.

1. Maintain the current system but put in place improvement such as making the Associate factors a mandatory option, modify table definitions, predicate Associate/Factors with qualifiers. This is more of the same and relies on the Officer's subjective assessment.
2. Implement a solution similar to the FBI and British models where the victims perceptions are collected in addition to the Officer. The table definitions and data qualifiers would form part of the business rules governing the collection. A series of well constructed questions would guide the Officer through the screen. Data would be structured and would lend itself to better reporting and statistical analysis.
3. Implement an Objective Assessment module which will rely on parsing the incidents to determine if the event is motivated by prejudice.

ITB presented the Hate-Crime discussion paper to the Hate-Crime Working Party responsible for this initiative. The Working Party included Assistance Commissioner Peate, Privacy Committee representatives, Ethnic Affairs representatives and Professional Responsibility. The Working Party tended to favour option 2 and provided excellent input and other suggestions on collecting information on Hate-Crime.

COMMENTS:

The Privacy Committee has since confirmed their support for capturing the victims perception - Option 2.

ITB's discussion paper has been revised in view of these developments. The draft revised paper will be discussed on Tuesday 16 January, 1996 with the Service's new Gay/Liaison Officer. The report will then be reviewed internally by Assistant Commissioner Peate's Committee on Victim Support on Thursday 8 February, 1996. After then the report will be circulated and discussed with the Hate-Crime Working Party on Thursday 22 February, 1996 for endorsement and ratification of the preferred option.

This will then be programmed as part of the COPS Enhancements with an anticipation completion date before June, 1996.

Summary of what is to happen next.

- ☛ Revised Draft Discussion Paper to be reviewed by Service's Gay/Liaison Officer - 16 January, 1996.
- ☛ NSWPS Victim Support Committee to review - 8 February, 1996.
- ☛ Present and discuss with Hate-Crime Committee - 22 February, 1996.
- ☛ Conduct Systems Analysis as part of COPS Enhancements.
- ☛ Implement with other COPS Enhancements.

The Deputy and State Commander to note current position.



Pedro Harris
Director
Information Technology Branch
☛ 55829
15 January, 1996

1. Executive Director, Corporate Services
 2. State Commander
 3. Deputy Commissioner
- cc. Assistant Commissioner - Alf Peate - sponsor - Victims Supprt KRA
Chief Superintendent - Barry Leaney - Systems Owner - COPS Events