



COPS NEWSLETTER

Special Edition 19

October 1999

Intranet address: shortcuts/COPS information/
What is COPS doing?/Tips and tricks.
Please circulate in your LAC.
See the intranet or your EDO for back issues.

Prejudice Related Crime Data Collection

Background

The Prejudice Related Crime Data Collection Project is a response by the Police Service to community concerns about prejudice-related crime. As part of the project, COPS has been enhanced to collect new associated factors reflecting different types of prejudice and to collect comments about Police and victim perceptions of prejudice.

The introduction of prejudice related crime recording follows extensive consultation with key stakeholders representing the Police Service, Ethnic Affairs Commission, Privacy Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board. It has also involved research on American FBI and British procedures for collecting and analysing prejudice crime indicators.

The collection of prejudice crime indicators by NSW Police was initially trialed in 1992 as part of a study conducted in the Campbelltown, Cabramatta and Bankstown regions of Sydney. The study was a joint venture undertaken by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the NSW Police Service. More recently, in 1998, the collection of prejudice crime indicators in COPS was successfully trialed in the Newtown LAC.

The new prejudice recording facilities will become available in COPS on 22 October 1999, coinciding with a public launch by the Police Commissioner of the Prejudice Related Crime Data Collection Project.

The Operational Programs Branch is preparing Police education and training packages which will contain comprehensive information about the nature of prejudice crimes, the definitions of different types of prejudice, work practices for identifying prejudice, eliciting information from victims, victim support and privacy issues. The packages will be available later this year. In the meantime any questions on these issues should be directed to the Senior Programs Officer, Ethnic Affairs, Operational Programs Branch.

COPS Changes

Two existing associated factors have been removed from the COPS associated factor screen, they are:

- Possible Homosexual Hate Crime – this category was too narrow and did not cover prejudice directed at other sexual preference groups
- Racial Related - the meaning of this category was not clear to Police and it was used to cover matters other than prejudice.

These associated factors have been replaced by five new associated factors. They are

- Sexual Preference Prejudice

- Racial/Ethnicity Prejudice
- Religious Prejudice
- Political Prejudice
- Other Prejudice

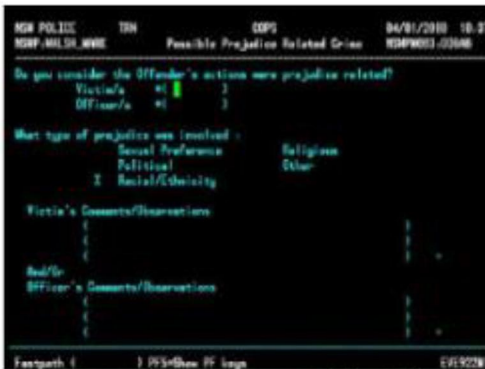
Create Victim Screen

When you record incidents involving offences against people, property or public order, you will see these items in the list of associated factors.



Prejudic Related Associated Factor

Selecting any prejudice related associated factor will lead you to the following screen where you can record the victim's perception and/or the investigating Police Officer's perception about the prejudice aspects of the incident.



The fields on this screen are recorded as follows:

Victim/s.

Enter the victim judgement about whether or not the incident was prejudice related. Possible values are yes, no, unknown or refused.

Officer/s.

Enter the Police judgement about whether or not the incident was prejudice related. Possible values are yes, no, unknown.

What type of prejudice was involved?

This is not an input field; it highlights the prejudice associated factor you selected on the previous screen.

Victim's Comments/Observations.

Free text comments about why the victim believes or does not believe the incident was motivated by prejudice.

Officer's Comments/Observations.

Free text comments about why Police believe or do not believe the incident was motivated by prejudice.