D/2019/ 108 3926

ISSUE:

Request for WebCOPs enhancement by the Bias Crime Unit to replace the 'Bias Motivation (Suspected)' **Associated Factor** with a mandatory checkbox for *'Hate Crime Involvement'* for all events and information reports. The sub-categories within the *'Hate Crime Involvement'* **Associated Factor** to be amended with the inclusion of *'Political Motivation'*, the removal of the **Qualifying Factors** of 'Age' and 'Homelessness Status' and to replace 'Sexual Orientation' and 'Gender Identity' with *'LGBTIQ'*.

BACKGROUND:

Since 8th November 2018 the Bias Crimes Unit has been relocated into the Engagement and Intervention Unit, Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command. The Bias Crimes portfolio aims to lead, provide support and advise the NSW Police Force response to hate crime through a focus on community engagement, improving data capture, proactive targeting of individuals and groups of concern and the implementation of education sessions. Following the NSW Parliament approval of the Crimes Amendment (Publicly Threatening and Inciting Violence) bill the Bias Crime Unit has proceeded to assess the suitability of incidents which may be considered as meeting the criteria for the new offence.

COMMENT:

It has been identified that amending the creation of events and information reports in WebCOPs to replace the option of flagging 'Bias Motivated (Suspected)' Associated Factor to a mandatory checkbox for *'Hate Crime Involvement'* would enhance the Bias Crime Unit's ability to capture incidents effectively and provide clear messaging to officer's creating reports. This enhancement would further promote the elimination of confusion regarding the definition of bias motivations with operational police and the broader community, which is likely impeding the recording of hate crime incidents and the community's perception of police in responding to and investigating hate crimes.

To further enhance the ability to effectively monitor hate crime reporting and maintain data integrity, the following amendments are requested:

1. The sub-categories within the *'Hate Crime Involvement'* **Associated Factor** be amended with the inclusion of the **Qualifying Factor** of *'Political Motivation'* which would enable data analysis of incidents which are politically motivated in nature likely indicating that the involved individual or party are either targeting victims due to their political ideology or are engaged in a certain political movement.

2. The removal of the **Qualifying Factor** of 'Age' and 'Homelessness Status' – for the past 18 months no incidents have been recorded for 'Homelessness Status' which is likely due to the **Associated Factor** of 'Homelessness (Sect 120)' currently being utilised to capture reports. Also, the inclusion of categories involving 'Elder Abuse Related', 'Child Abuse Related', 'Child Approach Related' and 'Paedophiles' capturing incidents recorded which related to victims being targeted due to their age.

3. The replacement of the **Qualifying Factor** of both 'Sexual Orientation' and 'Gender Identity' to *'LGBTIQ'* to effectively capture incidents within a single category allowing for improved identification of incidents reported targeting victims who identify with or are perceived to be part of the 'LGBTIQ' community.

4. The addition of *'Threaten or Incite Violence'* as a **Further Classification** category within the **Incident Type** of 'Offence Against The Other Person' to capture incidents which may be suitable to be considered under Section 93Z of the NSW Crimes Act.

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The inability to capture incidents that relate to Hate Crimes is likely to impact the ability of the NSW Police Force to identify and respond to victim reports and or the affected community. There is also a high likelihood that if offenders are not apprehended this will attract negative media representation of the NSW Police Force's ability to investigate and charge offenders under 93Z of NSW Crimes Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that WebCOPs enhancements are approved to ensure the effectively monitoring and analysing hate crime incidents reported to the NSW Police Force.

Jade ISTANBOULI ███████
Acting Bias Crime Coordinator
Engagement and Intervention Unit
Anti-Terrorism and Intelligence Group
Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics
Command
18 November 2019

1. Commander, Engagement and Intervention Unit

Strongly supported. Recent incidents within the media, community and government relating to the identification and investigation of hate crimes is a contemporary issue that NSPWF needs to be on the front foot. These recommended changes to WebCOPS will only improve our ability to correctly capture data and address the emerging issues of Hate Crime.

Tony Long
Chief Inspector
26/11/19.

2. Commander, Anti-Terrorism and Intelligence Group

Changes are supported & represent contemporary practice requirements for collection + analysis.

3. COPS Senior User Group, Digital Technology and Innovation

Information sought from Statistical Services and Performance & Program Support. Review of responses and COPS undertaken. CT&ST liaised with and the following enhancements confirmed to progress :

Michael McLean
Detective Superintendent
Commander 29/11/2019

- CT&ST acknowledge the impost of the requested checklist on the field, therefore this request declined
- Associated Factor 'Bias Motivation (Suspected)' to be replaced with 'Hate Crime Involvement'
- The following sub-categories be created / removed / replaced for the new Hate Crime Involvement category
    o Create 'Political Motivation'
    o Removal of sub-categories 'Age' and Homeless Status'
    o Replace sub-categories 'Sexual Orientation' and 'Gender Identity' with 'LGBTIQ'

Request included in RASP Ticket T838459 for action.

Insp Sharon Blacklock
Coordinator
DPOS - DTI
16/01/2020