

# ANNEXURE B

## Issue

Six monthly report on the prejudice related crime data collection system on COPS

## Background

The Prejudice Related Crime Data Collection Project (PRCDCP) has had a long history, dating back almost ten years when it was first proposed as a way of collecting statistical information on crimes motivated by prejudice. After trials at several LACs, the most notable one being at Newtown LAC, a report was prepared on the efficacy of launching such a system for statewide use. This project, which is a key EAPS (Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement) initiative, has been closely monitored by the Police and Ethnic Communities Advisory Council (PECAC).

In October 1999, the Commissioner of Police, with Mr. Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair of the Ethnic Affairs Commission/Community Relations Commission, launched the PRCDCP as a statewide initiative. The COPS Associated Factor screens, which appear at Attachment A, were subsequently made active for use by all police in NSW.

The Commissioner had indicated at the media launch that reports would be issued at six monthly intervals. The first such report was due in July 2000. After a slight delay due to Olympic related commitments and the restructure of Operational Programs Branch, the Ethnic Affairs Unit prepared the attached report (see Attachment B).

## Comment

Commander Bruce Johnston, Corporate Spokesperson for Ethnic Affairs and Chair of the NPEAB (National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau) Advisory Panel, has presented updates on this project at several forums. These have been based on the report at Attachment B, which contains a relatively basic analysis of the data recorded on *racial* prejudice motivated crime from October 1999 to June 2000. Relevant section/s of the NSW Police Service will be tasked in future to prepare more sophisticated, regular and integrated reports on all the categories of prejudice listed in Attachment A.

The Commissioner is requested to endorse the report at Attachment B for distribution to internal and external stakeholders, such as, PECAC, NPEAB, other sections of the Service, community organisations and other government agencies.

Attachment C, which is *not* designed for external distribution, contains additional results from the data analysis undertaken by the Ethnic Affairs Unit. A number of the training implications will be addressed over the ensuing months in consultation with relevant sections of the Service. The Aboriginal Coordination Unit has been informed of the relatively large number of events, particularly from some regional LACs, where the offender was of Aboriginal background and the victim was either police and/or of white/Caucasian background.

Attachment D contains a draft letter from Mr Ivan Kolarik, Executive Director of the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau, requesting the Commissioner to launch the national training program on 'Dealing with racist violence' in New South Wales in April 2001. Mr Kolarik will finalise the letter after receiving advice from the Ethnic Affairs Unit regarding the status of the NSW training program on dealing with racist violence. This item could be included in the proposed launch of ethnic affairs initiatives (see Attachment E for a copy of the brief, dated 18 January 2001).

After successfully applying for a Commonwealth Government *Living in Harmony* grant, the NPEAB contracted the services of Ms Liz de Rome in 1999 to develop a training package for

police jurisdictions, other than NSW, on effectively dealing with prejudice motivated crime and appropriate victim support.

Ms de Rome was first contracted by the NSW Police Academy in 1995 to develop such a package, with funding support from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). However, the draft training package for NSW still has not been finalised and allocated funds have been spent, mainly on fees for Ms de Rome. Since 1995, there have been a number of corporate policy changes and different priorities for Education Services, making it necessary to update Liz de Rome's original training package. Dr Eric Heller-Wagner, School of Operational Policing, NSW Police Academy, has been tasked with revising the package in consultation with Chitrita Mukerjee of the Ethnic Affairs Unit and Ms Liz de Rome. Ms de Rome is keen to assist with finalising the NSW package, even though this would be an additional commitment to the terms that were negotiated with her in 1995. As NSW pioneered the concept of this training package, it would be strategically important for this jurisdiction to finalise and launch the document in the near future.

Additional funds, to the value of \$5,000, will be required to finalise and print the package for NSW. Approximately \$2000 of the proposed funds will constitute outstanding and additional fees for Ms de Rome. Funding support may be sought through external agencies, such as, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. If these avenues are not successful, then funds will be requested from internal sources. In light of Mr Kolarik's intention to request the Commissioner to launch this initiative, the Ethnic Affairs Unit will attempt to expedite a resolution of the matter in consultation with Education Services.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Commissioner endorse the report at Attachment B for presentation at PECAC, NPEAB and to other relevant stakeholders.

That the Commissioner advise the Ethnic Affairs Unit of his views regarding Mr Kolarik's invitation.

Chitrita Mukerjee  
Senior Programs Officer, Ethnic Affairs  
Policy and Program Unit

22 December 2000

1. A/Director, Policy and Program Unit
- cc Corporate Spokesperson for Ethnic Affairs
2. A/Executive Director, Organisational Policy & Development Directorate
3. Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations
4. Commissioner
5. Senior Programs Officer, Ethnic Affairs

## Attachment A

### COPS Screens:

Sel	Description	Associated Factor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence Related	<input type="checkbox"/> Organised Crime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol Related	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Crime Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug Related	<input type="checkbox"/> In Custody
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Abuse Related	<input type="checkbox"/> No Associated Factor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child Abuse Related	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elder Abuse Related	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Violence Related	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Possible Prejudice Related	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fraud Related	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gang Related	

Selections Complete? ( y ) Y/N

If 'Possible Prejudice Related' is selected then the following screen appears:

Do you consider the Offender's actions were prejudice related?	
Victim/s:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Officer/s:	<input type="checkbox"/>
What type of prejudice was involved?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Racial/Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Victim Comments:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	)
<input type="checkbox"/>	)
<input type="checkbox"/>	)
Officer Comments:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	)
<input type="checkbox"/>	)
<input type="checkbox"/>	)

## Attachment B

# NSW Police Service

## **Progress Report on Racially/Ethnicity based Prejudice Motivated Events recorded on COPS from 22 October 1999 to 04 June 2000**

*Produced by the Organisational Policy & Development Directorate  
10 November 2000*

### **Background**

In October 1995 the NSW Minister for Police announced the establishment of the Hate Crimes Data Collection Project. In the following years, the NSW Police Service researched ways of collecting data on prejudice related crimes or hate crimes, to determine the most appropriate model for the project. A committee, consisting of key stakeholders representing NSW Police Service, Ethnic Affairs Commission, Privacy Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board, was formed to consider strategies and to formulate an action plan.

In 1996 alterations were made to the COPS (Computerised Operational Policing System) system to enable the recording of prejudice related crimes. In 1998, these changes were modified and formalised with a pilot conducted at Newtown Local Area Command.

In July 1998, an evaluation report was prepared by Newtown LAC and submitted to the Commissioner of Police, Minister of Police and the Premier of NSW. The report recommended that following the successful trial of the data collection system in Newtown, that the changes to COPS be implemented statewide via a public launch of the project.

On 22 October 1999, Commissioner Ryan and Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair of the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, jointly launched the new computer screens to collect data on hate/prejudice motivated crimes in New South Wales. This data collection system has now become a precedent for other Australian police jurisdictions.

At the launch, Commissioner Ryan indicated that status reports on the data collection system would be issued at six-monthly intervals. Following a slight delay due to Olympic Games related commitments, the Ethnic Affairs Unit of the NSW Police Service has prepared the first status report for the period from 22 October 1999 to 04 June 2000. For further information and/or copies of the report, please contact the Ethnic Affairs Unit on [REDACTED].

*Table 1: Number of COPS entries under Racially motivated crime from 22 October 1999 until 04 June 2000. The data has been presented under different categories, which are defined below.*

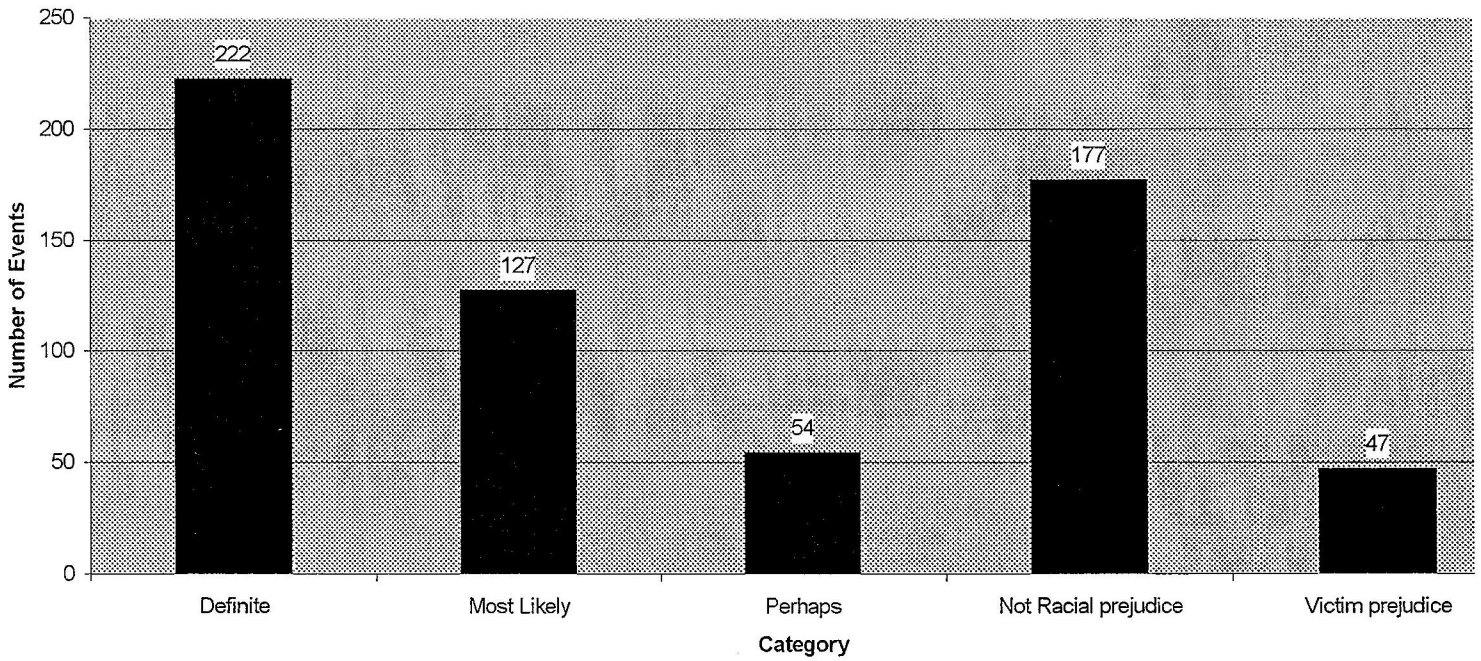
<b>Item</b>	<b>Number of COPS entries</b>	<b>Percentage if relevant</b>
1. Number of events/entries assessed	627	
2. Category One events from those assessed to date	222	35.4% (Item 2 as a percentage of Item 1)
3. Category Two	127	20.2%
4. Category Three	54	8.6%
5. Category Four	177	28.2%
6. Category Five	47	7.5%
7. Events relating to people (offenders and/or victims) of Aboriginal background (note: included only when narrative clearly provided this info).	157	25%
8. Events relating to victims of white/Caucasian background (note: as above)	122	19.5%
9. Events relating to police as 'victims' (note: these events have been included under Category 4)	68	10.8%
10. Events which clearly demonstrate prejudice motivation of police	12	1.9%
11. Metropolitan location of crime	278	44.3%
12. Regional location of crime	349	55.7

- *Category One refers to definite cases of racial prejudice motivation.*
- *Category Two refers to probable/most likely cases of racial prejudice motivation.*
- *Category Three refers to possible cases of racial prejudice motivation.*
- *Category Four refers to cases that were either not racially motivated (ie. not enough conclusive information in the narrative to indicate racial prejudice) or were wrong entries (e.g. the event should have been entered under sexual orientation prejudice, not racial).*
- *Category Five refers to crimes that were motivated by the victim's or a third party's racial/ethnicity based prejudice towards the offender.*

**More detailed explanations of the above categories appear on page 3 of the report.**

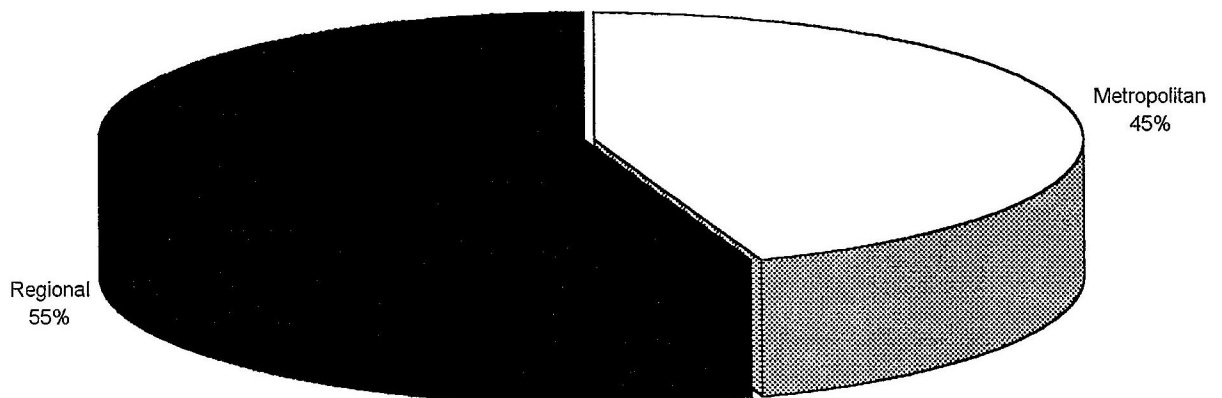
**Table 2**

**Racial/Ethnicity Based Prejudice Crimes  
COPS Data by Category**



**Table 3**

**Racial/Ethnicity Based Prejudice Crimes  
COPS Data by Location of Event**





### *Explanations*

- a) An event was classified as *Category One* (definite racial/ethnicity based prejudice motivated crime) if it met the following criteria:
- police and victim response 'yes'
  - police and victim comments which indicated racial prejudice motivation (includes events where a police officer was not on the scene)
  - there was an obvious victim/s (not police)
- b) An event was classified as *Category Two* (probably racial/ethnicity based prejudice motivated crime) if it met the following criteria:
- police and/or victim response 'yes'
  - police and/or victim comments which indicated racial prejudice motivation (includes events where a police officer was not on the scene)
  - there was an obvious victim/s (not police)
- c) An event was classified as *Category Three* (perhaps racial/ethnicity based prejudice motivated crime) if it met the following criteria:
- police and/or victim response 'yes'
  - police and/or victim comments which indicated racial prejudice motivation (includes events where a police officer was not on the scene)
  - there was an obvious victim/s (not police)
  - insufficient details to ascertain offence
  - expressions used in narrative indicate considerable doubt
- d) An event was classified as *Category Four* (not racial/ethnicity based prejudice motivated crime) if it met the following criteria:
- wrong entry – negative police and victim response
  - no victim or police as victim
  - not enough information
  - no prejudice motivation
  - entered simply because the victim was of non-English speaking background
  - other prejudice e.g. sexual, political, religious
- e) An event was classified as *Category Five* if the victim's or a third party's racial/ethnicity based prejudice provoked the offender/offence.

## Attachment C

Other trends noted in relation to events originating from certain areas/regions/  
LACs:

- high frequency of events relating to Aboriginal background offender and white/Caucasian background victim: Moree, Casino, Wilcannia, Deniliquin, Griffith, Tweed/Byron Bay, Armidale, Broken Hill, Kempsey, Taree, Coonabarabran, Walgett, Lake Illawarra, Coffs/Clarence
- many of the above also included police as the victims

Some training implications:

- human error e.g. officer and victim comments wrong way around
- police as victims
- entering 'no' as opposed to 'unknown' for officer opinion because officer not present at the scene
- officer's prejudice evident from way comments have been entered
- inadequate information; nothing to indicate that it was a prejudice motivated crime/offence
- victim has expressed racist opinions
- police have assumed prejudice motivation just because offender and/or victim of differing racial background – no other evidence
- value judgements by police in entering information
- police need to clearly state nature of prejudice in narrative and comments
- 'yes' by victim based only on instinct
- 'no' entered by officer when it should have been clearly 'yes'
- victimless offences included e.g. street offence/disobeying orders to move on simply because they involved people of Aboriginal or non-English speaking backgrounds
- officer's opinion of victim entered under 'victim comments' instead of victim's own impression
- Customer Service Representatives at the Police Assistance Line call centres need greater awareness of this database (Category Four entries evident)