

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Witness Protection Unit is an Agency exempt under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Schedule 2). This document has been created by the Witness Protection Unit and is also exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act [Clause 5(2)(a) of Schedule 1]. This information or any part thereof, is not to be disseminated to a third party other than as authorised by the Commissioner of Police.

STATISTICAL DATA 2010-2011

Total number of formal referrals (defined by a formal interview and offer of witness protection) including children.	35
Total number of formal operation referrals that progressed to the State Witness Protection Program Committee (SWPP).	3
Number waiting to be progressed to the SWPP.	0
Total number of formal referrals relating to crimes of Domestic Violence.	9
Total number of formal referrals that are Domestic violence with an organised or gang crime association.	13
Total number of formal referrals relating to Organised Crime and other matters.	13
Total number of active operations in the SWPP.	10
Number of operations terminated from SWPP.	2

GENDER DATA

Number of males protected (including children).	10
Number of females protected (including children).	17
Total number of participants (including children).	27

RESOURCING

Staff gender ratio Case Officers (% of female sworn officers)	33%
Budget Expenditure (not required to be reported on)	\$317,629

2010-2011 Trends, Issues and Major events

Witness Safety

The safety of all Witnesses was maintained, no compromise encountered.

Witness compliance

Whilst there were several minor breaches, no witnesses on the SWPP breached their Memorandum of Understanding by being arrested or incarcerated whilst in the SWPP.

Legislation

Development of changes to the Witness Protection Act (WPA), Cabinet Submission has been drafted - awaiting final approval.

Biometrics

WPU have identified that Biometrics will have a significant impact on Witness Protection operations, especially if introduced in the commercial and financial environment. Changes to the WPA are seeking some legal support.

Domestic Violence

Family violence referrals are still high. Improved detection and intervention strategies are resulting in earlier intervention by Police and WPU.

WPU and Family Violence State Coordination Unit are exploring ways to identify improved methods of identifying the incidents that have the potential for escalated violence.

Legal Proceedings

Two cases were finalised in District & Petty Sessions Courts by successful prosecution and a plea of guilty by the accused.

One significant case to be heard in the Perth District Court later in 2011

Two outstanding Family Law Court matters.

National Witness Protection Course

WAPol WPU hosted the National Witness Protection Course in Perth during October/November 2010, the course contributes to the Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (Witness Protection). Course objectives were achieved and participants attained relevant competencies.

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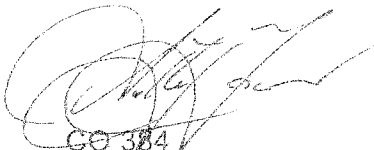
Operations

WPU saw a significant increase in high level operations this year, requiring the activation of the WPU reserve group on several occasions. These types of operations require significantly more resources, both human and financial.

Terminated Cases

WPU maintains a working regime over old operations. This commitment includes ensuring that legal proceedings do not compromise the Witness's new identity, ensures that existing identity documentation can be verified and that legal entitlements are provided to the witnesses.

Forwarded for your information.



CO 384
Officer in Charge
Witness Protection Unit

4 July 2011