

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS



WA Police Force

Additional Question No. 1 - Hon Nick Goiran MLC asked:

1. Did Western Australia Police commission a family violence specialist case team in March 2017:
 - (a) If yes, on what date did the team become active in March 2017; and
 - (b) How many full time equivalents are on the team?

Answer:

The Western Australia Police Force advises:

(a – b) The State Family Violence Unit Special Case Team became active in March 2017, with positions within the team progressively filled between April and September 2017, with ten FTE currently on the team. Further work is being progressed to meet the Government's election commitments in this area.

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2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

WA Police Force

Additional Question No. 2 - Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

1. I refer to page 18 of the WAPOL Annual Report 2017, and the force's attempt to counter the supply and distribution of illicit drugs. Can you tell me:
 - a) how many Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) notices were issued over the reporting period;
 - b) how many of Cannabis Intervention Sessions (CIS) were completed as a result of these CIRs;
 - c) how many of those to whom CIRs were issued went on to commit a second minor cannabis-related offence, and
 - d) how does WA Police assesses the success of the CIR / CIS programme?

Answer:

The Western Australia Police Force advise the following;

- (a) For the financial year 2016/17, 2447 CIR were issued throughout Western Australia.
- (b) For the financial year 2016/17, 1877 CIS were completed.
- (c) 281 individuals issued with a CIR in the financial year 2016/17 went on to commit a second cannabis-related offence, as of 28 February 2018. It is not possible to reliably and completely determine whether an offence was minor based on the data available.
- (d) The WA Police Force captures data relating to the recidivism of the first 1000 individuals who completed a CIR, compared to the first 550 individuals issued but did not complete. Current figures indicate those who completed have a recidivism rate of 23% compared to 43% for those who did not complete.

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WA Police Force

Additional Question No. 3 - Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

I refer to page 74 of the WAPOL Annual report 2017, and the funding received by the Drug and Alcohol Office. Can you tell me:

- a) How much time was spent by WA Police preparing submissions to the Liquor Commission?
- b) How many submissions were prepared in the course of 2017?
- c) How many of these submissions were positive in nature, and how many negative?

Answer:

- a) The Western Australian Police Force advises that while it does not prepare submissions to the Liquor Commission, the Agency does submit interventions and objections under the *Liquor Control Act 1988* to the Director, Liquor Control and Arbitration on assessment of a liquor licensing application.

Police officers tasked to assess liquor licence applications have additional responsibilities under the *Liquor Control Act 1988* and it is estimated about 50% of police effort, of the team responsible, is involved in the assessment of liquor licence applications. This equates to 100 work hours per week.

- b) In 2017, the WA Police Force received 1445 liquor licence applications for review and submitted 84 interventions and 4 objections.
- c) See (b)

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

WA Police Force

Additional Question No. 4 - Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

1. I refer to page 128 of the WAPOL Annual Report 2017, and I ask:
 - a) How much time was spent by WA Police on the average firearms license application?
 - b) How many firearm license applications were received over the reporting period?
 - c) How many of these applications were approved, and how many denied?
 - d) Are there any KPIs around the speed with which these applications are handled?
 - e) What ongoing IT costs, if any, does WA Police incur processing these applications? and,
 - f) How many hours were spent over the course of the reporting period on firearms storage compliance?

Answer:

The Western Australia Police advise the following;

- (a) This information is not recorded by the WA Police Force.
- (b) Between July 2016 and June 2017, there were 10 973 applications received.
- (c) The number of applications approved was 10 787, while 68 were refused, 64 lapsed and 54 were withdrawn.
- (d) No. Firearm licensing processing times are affected by a number of factors that make it difficult to quantify processing times. These factors include:
 - Number of personnel processing applications
 - Delays caused by dealers (submission of monthly returns, serviceability certificates)
 - Delays caused by applicants (property letters, security or storage, return of emails/phone calls)

- Category of firearms applied for (Category C or Category H applications usually take longer to process than Category A)
 - Number of applications received and processed per month vary between the number of additions or originals received (originals usually taking longer than additions – originals also have a mandated 28 day waiting period).
- (e) The recurrent operating costs for the Licensing and Registry System for the 2016/17 financial year was \$393 610.00
- (f) A total of 3396.75 hours was spent on firearms storage compliance.

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WA Police Force

Additional Question No. 5 - Hon Aaron Stonehouse MLC asked:

1. I refer to page 152 of the WAPOL Annual Report 2017, and specifically to the figures relating to social media costs. Are you able to tell me the total cost, both in dollar terms and staff hours committed, to social media engagement by the force over the reporting period?

Answer:

The Western Australia Police Force advises that social media plays an increasing role in modern community policing. All officers from Police districts across WA are encouraged to use social media to for community alerts, appeals for information and general promotion of policing activities. Staff members attached to the Corporate Communications Branch share responsibility for administering and moderating corporate social media accounts.

The Corporate Communications Branch of the Western Australia Police Force employs two full-time FTE (a Senior Constable and Level 5) as the Social Media team to administer, create content for, populate and moderate the corporate social media accounts, being Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. They also advise, train and support officers to manage the Police District level Facebook accounts and Sub-district level Twitter accounts.

The salaries for these two FTE represents the only defined cost for social media engagement. This represents a combined 77.5 hours per week (40 hours for a Senior Constable, 37.5 hours for police staff), for a salary cost of \$190,000 per annum (approximately \$95,000 each).

