



Hobsons Bay CITY COUNCIL

14 July 2014

Mr Ken D. Lay
Chief Commissioner of Police
Victorian Policy Centre
637 Flinders Street
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

Ask for: Natalie Walker
Phone: 9932 1096
Our Ref: A1961373

Dear Mr Lay,

VICTORIA POLICE BLUE PAPER: A VISION FOR VICTORIA POLICE IN 2025

Thank you for your letter regarding the launch of the Victoria Police Blue Paper: A Vision for Victoria Police in 2025. I congratulate you on the launch of this plan and your commitment to realigning your services and operating model to meet the changing needs of the community.

The Victoria Police is a key partner for Hobsons Bay City Council and together we have been able to achieve some great outcomes for our community. Victoria Police is currently a valued member of the Hobsons Bay Community Wellbeing Leadership Coalition, and I look forward to seeing this partnership continue to strengthen.

It is pleasing to see that you have included a focus on prevention within the paper. As mentioned people are presenting with more complex social issues and a holistic approach is needed. This is where partnerships are critical, preventing people from offending and or reoffending by supporting and linking them with local affordable housing, employment, education and training, mental health services, behaviour change programs including respectful relationships programs, and social inclusion opportunities.

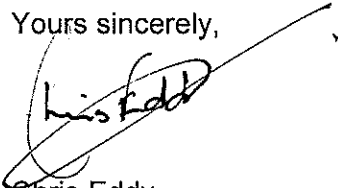
In order to deliver this effectively, it will be important that staff within Victorian Police are aware of the local services which are available. In addition, staff will need to have the appropriate training in order to understand the underlying issues that could be impacting on criminal behaviour. As indicated in the plan, training, capacity building, and ensuring diversity amongst the staff will support this. In addition staff will need to have a good understanding of the community demographics, needs and gaps in services and resources.

As technology and the community changes and resources are further stretched, reviewing the way we deliver services is essential. The notion of a central hub and mobile services with the allocation of officers where they are needed is encouraging, however without continuity of personnel it will again be critical to ensure that staff who are moving around to new locations are aware of differing community needs and nuances.

The Council looks forward to working with the Victorian Police to further strengthen the delivery of holistic and preventative approaches. Should you wish to discuss this letter further please contact Natalie Walker, Director Strategic Development on 9932 1096 or email nwalker@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to receiving more information about the strategic plan as it is developed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Eddy", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Eddy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER