Western Australia Police Service

2004 Annual Report

Mission

In partnership with the community, create a safer and more secure Western Australia by providing quality police services.

Vision

To be a policing service of excellence, protecting and serving the people of Western Australia.

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Hon Michelle Roberts MLA
Minister for Police and
Emergency Services

In accordance with section 62 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*, I hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Western Australia Police Service for the year ending 30 June 2004.

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*.

KARL J O'CALLAGHAN
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

31 August 2004

Commissioner's Foreword

For the coming year, my immediate priority is to implement strategies to stress the importance of Frontline First Community First in providing improved core policing services to the community of Western Australia.

As the new Commissioner of Police, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the previous Commissioner, Mr Barry Matthews and his contribution to policing in Western Australia over the past five years. Mr Matthews was appointed Commissioner in August 1999 and continued to progress the reform of the Western Australia Police Service (Police Service) commenced under the Delta Program. He will particularly be remembered for driving a more strategic view in policing and introducing the Strategic Plan in 2001.

Mr Matthews is also acknowledged for his outstanding contribution to police-Indigenous relations in this State, a relationship that continues to be nurtured through the implementation of the Gordon Inquiry reforms. He was a Commissioner committed to fairness and equality for all, championing diversity, openness and fairer human resource practices.

As a member of the Executive Team for much of his tenure, I found him to be thoughtful, insightful and considerate, with great empathy and compassion for police officers and their families. The Royal Commission into Whether There Has Been Any Corrupt Or Criminal Conduct By Western Australian Police Officers (Royal Commission) presented Mr Matthews with a number of very difficult challenges to which he responded with his considered and measured approach. In doing so he steered the Police Service through the most extensive inquiry the agency has had in its 150-year history.

The past year has seen the Police Service implement a number of new and successful initiatives, build on past successes, and finalise a number of projects that were commenced in previous years:

- The Royal Commission examined the operation of the Police Service and the actions of some police officers. The Police Service has always viewed the Royal Commission as an opportunity for further improvement. The findings will build on the significant progress made in recent years and we will continue towards building a corruption-resistant organisation.
- Our commitment to addressing family and domestic violence was enhanced during the year, in line with a whole-of-government approach prompted by the Gordon Inquiry, which identified a lack of adequate services to members of remote Aboriginal communities. Child abuse and family violence were two areas highlighted in the final report as needing a stronger focus.

  In December, our first group of Child Protection and Family Violence specialists completed training. Sixteen of these specialists will be placed in the country (eight in remote locations). In conjunction with this, we are progressing the establishment of nine police facilities in remote areas. The first, at Kintore on the Northern Territory and Western Australian border, is already operational and providing an excellent model of inter-jurisdictional co-operation.

  We have also enhanced our monitoring of perpetrators of family and domestic violence with the implementation of the Victim and Offender Management System. This system will ensure that we have critical up-to-date intelligence to act upon.
- The new Regional Operations Group (ROG) began operation in January. The group was created to provide frontline operational support to all metropolitan districts. Primarily, their role is to undertake tasking, but also to support traffic operations and respond to outbreaks of public disorder.
- The DNA Backcapture taskforce completed its work well inside the expected timeframe. In the past year 18,052 DNA samples were collected, bringing the total number collected to 39,137 since the introduction of the DNA legislation. There were 1,009 DNA database matches during the year, an increase of 94 per cent over the previous year. DNA database matches

for burglary offences have increased by around 180 per cent. DNA sampling is seen as a vital tool in solving crime and as a powerful deterrent against criminal activity.

- The number of recorded offences decreased in several categories compared with the previous year. These included: sexual assault, threatening behaviour, non-aggravated robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft, arson, property damage and possession of drugs. Intelligence-led policing, the targeting of recidivist offenders and the use of improved investigative technology, such as DNA sampling, have contributed to these reductions.
- Our burglary reduction strategy has achieved good results. Burglary offences decreased by around 15 per cent from 60,777 in 2002-03 to 51,724 in 2003-04. The clearance rate has also improved to the highest rate in five years at 16 per cent. Both these good results can be attributed to an increase in the arrests of repeat offenders in a number of districts throughout the State.
- The Outlaw Motor Cycle Gang Response Group and the Street Gang Taskforce (Operation Atone) were merged to form the Gang Response Unit, to consolidate resources and intelligence relating to these groups. The previous groups were both very effective in gathering intelligence and solving violent incidents, however, the formation of the Gang Response Unit better prepares the Police Service to combat any increase in criminal activity.
- The endeavour to increase female numbers throughout the Police Service and to achieve greater gender equality in higher ranks was apparent through the success of the Mentoring Program pilot phase. This builds on initiatives previously implemented. The program was not only implemented to encourage greater participation by women, it was also designed to assist other under-represented groups. These include Indigenous members, members who have culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those with disabilities. The program will continue to develop service-wide, for the benefit of not only those taking part in the scheme, but also the Police Service as a whole.

For the coming year, my immediate priority is to implement strategies to stress the importance of *Frontline First Community First* in providing improved core policing services to the community of Western Australia. It is my intention to ensure that there is adequate resourcing in the frontline to be able to cope with the demand for policing services.

Furthermore, the Police Service has commenced a significant reform program as a result of the Royal Commission recommendations. Police Service management is committed to the implementation of those reforms, and their successful implementation will make the Police Service a far better place to work, and will ultimately enable us to provide better and more professional services to the community.

The following are examples of initiatives commenced most recently to progress *Frontline First Community First* and the reform program.

- The Incident Recording Facility (IRF) has been established to take on the responsibility of relieving our frontline officers from data entry duties.
- A project team has been established to investigate ways to rapidly increase frontline police numbers.
- A "Red Tape" Committee has been established to reduce the impact of bureaucratic requirements on frontline officers.
- The Reform Coordination Team has been formed to implement Royal Commission recommendations and other initiatives.

In the immediate future a number of important projects and initiatives will be commenced. The initial focus will be on the development of a new Strategic Plan which will lead to a corruption-resistant culture, identification of the appropriate number and mix of police and public service officers to meet frontline requirements, and enhancement of our supervisory, management and leadership capabilities. All reform initiatives will be integrated within *Frontline First Community First*.

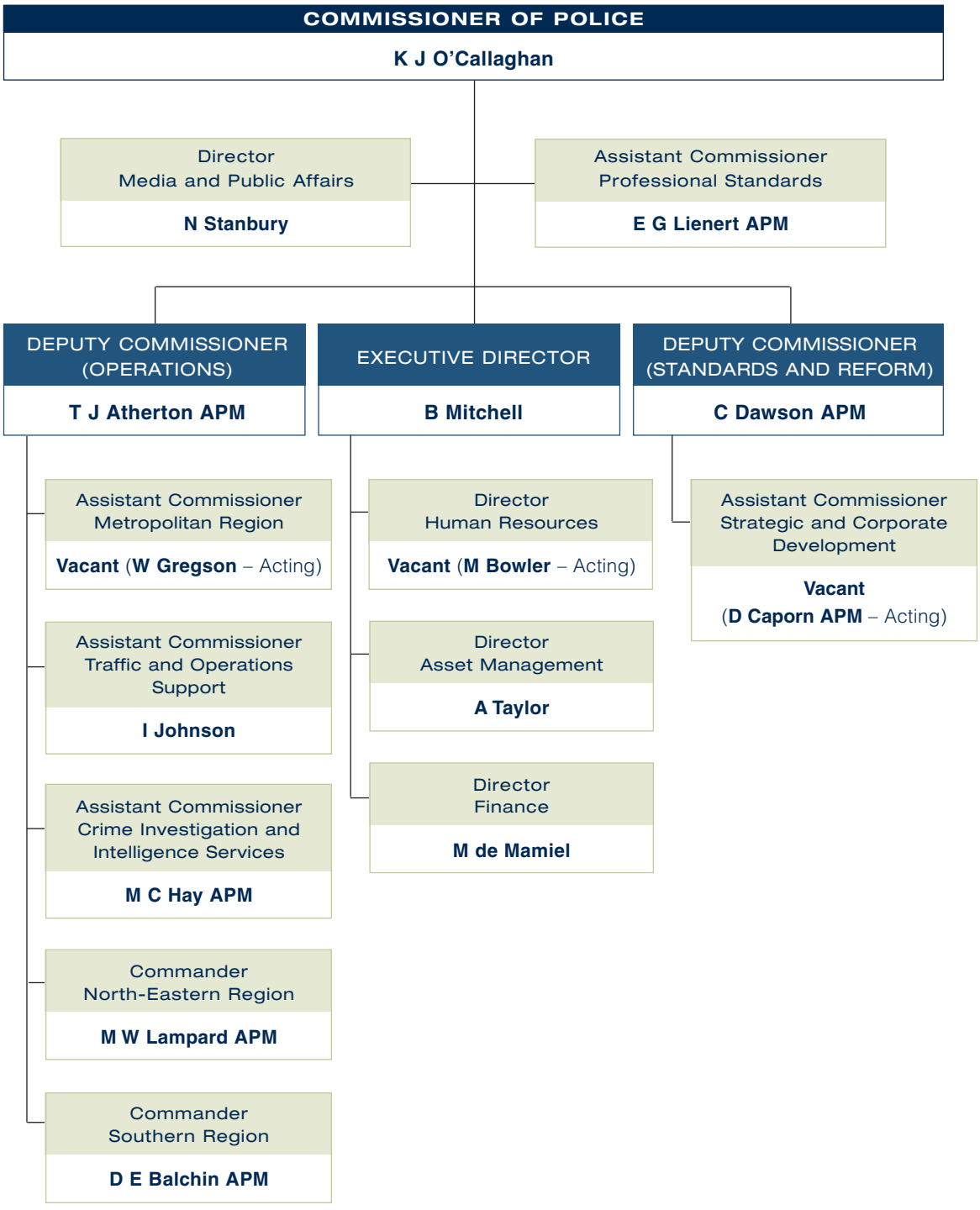
I feel it is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead the Police Service through another exciting transitional period. I am confident that all personnel within the Police Service will support me in embracing the reform program and we will continue to improve our performance to deliver an effective frontline service to the community.

KARL J O'CALLAGHAN
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

31 August 2004

Senior Management Structure

(as at 30 June 2004) (a) (b)



Notes:

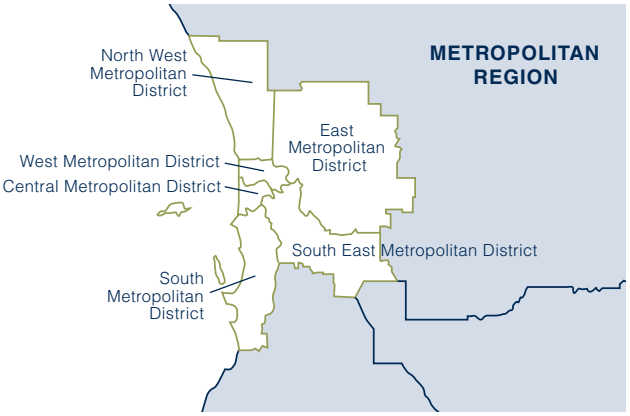
(a) Mr Karl O'Callaghan replaced Mr Barry Matthews as Commissioner of Police.

(b) The appointments of Mr Tim Atherton to Deputy Commissioner (Operations) and Mr Chris Dawson to Deputy Commissioner (Standards and Reform) were announced on 28 June 2004, and ratified by His Excellency, The Governor on 7 July 2004.

Region/Portfolio Structure

(as at 30 June 2004)

The Police Service provides policing services to the community through a regional structure comprising three regions, 14 districts and 156 police stations. This regional structure is complemented by two specialist operational support portfolios - Crime Investigation and Intelligence Services, and Traffic and Operations Support.



Note:

The number of police stations excludes the Kintore multi-jurisdictional police facility in the Northern Territory that commenced operation in April 2004. The construction of the Warburton multi-function police facility is expected to be completed in October 2004.

Source:

Area and preliminary Estimated Resident Population as at 30 June 2003, obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Regional Population Growth 2002-03 (ABS Cat. No. 3218.0).

North-Eastern Region

Commander Murray Lampard APM

Districts:	Goldfields-Esperance	Kimberley
	Mid West-Gascoyne	Pilbara
Area in square kilometres:		2,334,775
Population:		190,930
Number of sworn officers:		698
Number of unsworn personnel:		61
Ratio of police to population:		1:274
Number of Police Stations:		51

Southern Region

Commander Daryl Balchin APM

Districts:	Great Southern	Peel
	South West	Wheatbelt
Area in square kilometres:		193,227
Population:		340,325
Number of sworn officers:		647
Number of unsworn personnel:		85
Ratio of police to population:		1:526
Number of Police Stations:		65

Metropolitan Region

Acting Assistant Commissioner Wayne Gregson

Districts:	Central	East
	North West	South
	South East	West
Area in square kilometres:		4,481
Population:		1,421,025
Number of sworn officers:		2,207
Number of unsworn personnel:		181
Ratio of police to population:		1:644
Number of Police Stations:		40

Traffic and Operations Support

Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnson

Number of sworn officers:	540
Number of unsworn personnel:	244

Crime Investigation and Intelligence Services

Assistant Commissioner Mel Hay APM

Number of sworn officers:	530
Number of unsworn personnel:	134

Enabling Legislation

The Police Service administers the following legislation:

- *Criminal Investigation (Identifying People) Act 2002*
- *Firearms Act 1973*
- *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981*
- *National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act 1985*
- *Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act 1994*
- *Police Act 1892*
- *Police Assistance Compensation Act 1964*
- *Prostitution Act 2000*
- *Protective Custody Act 2000*
- *Public Meetings and Processions Act 1984*
- *Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996*
- *Spear Guns Control Act 1955*
- *Surveillance Devices Act 1998*
- *Telecommunications (Interception) Western Australia Act 1996*
- *Weapons Act 1999*
- *Witness Protection (Western Australia) Act 1996*

Throughout 2003-04, the Police Service facilitated the progression of the following legislation:

- *Child Protection (Sex) Offenders Register Bill 2004* - persons found guilty of certain offences against children will be subject to registration and will be required to provide their address and movement details that will be placed on the local register with core data being shared nationally.
- *Australian Crime Commission (Western Australia) Bill 2003* - to allow for the full operation of the Australian Crime Commission in Western Australia.
- Amendments to *Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act 1994* - to address anomalies identified in the Act and improve its administration. These have been included as part of the Burglary Reduction Strategy.
- *Acts Amendment and Repeal (Criminal Law) Bill 2004* - to repeal, modernise and replace the offence provisions of the *Police Act 1892* into the Criminal Code.
- *Police Administration Bill 2001* - to modernise administrative arrangements for the Police Service.
- Amendments to the *Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996* - to provide for increased probity of applicants, improved administrative arrangements and a Code of Conduct.
- *Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2003* - to allow for the prohibition of precursor chemicals likely to be used in the manufacture of prohibited drugs.
- *Criminal Investigation Bill 2004* - includes powers to create and control crime scenes, forensic procedures, entry to property, search, seizure and arrest (including arrest on suspicion).
- *Firearms Act 1973 Amendment Bill 2003* - to provide for the Council of Australian Government handgun resolutions to be enacted.

Publications

Requirement under *Treasurer's Instruction 903*

Various publications are produced to support the work of the Police Service.

Road Safety

- Cops for Kids
- Assorted brochures dealing with road safety issues

Domestic Violence

- Domestic Violence – What You Can Do

Crime Prevention

- Safety for Seniors
- Safety Advice for Seniors
- Home Security
- Car Security
- Holiday Security
- Safer Living
- Security Lighting
- Intruder Alarms
- Armed Hold-Up Prevention Training Kits
- Armed Hold-Up Prevention
- Welcome to Neighbourhood Watch (Metro, Rural, Marine and School Watch Programs)
- Neighbourhood Watch Manual 2003
- PartySafe

Ethnic Affairs

- A Practical Reference to Religious Diversity
- Multicultural Guide – A Guide to the Role of Police in Australia

Strategic Services

- Western Australia Police Service Annual Business Plan
- Western Australia Police Service Annual Report
- Western Australia Police Service Strategic Plan

Professional Standards

- Making a Complaint Against Police
- The Supported Internal Witness Program
- Ethical Guidelines
- Code of Conduct
- The Dividing Line
- The Blueline

Alcohol and Drug Co-ordination Unit

- All Drug Diversion Guidelines Training Booklet
- Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme Guidelines
- WAPOL Agency Drug and Alcohol Action Plan
- ADCU Information Desk Top Blotter
- Drug Awareness Package
- Drug Identification Slider
- Alcohol and Drug Poster Series
- Common Drug ID and Effects Posters
- Drug Guide
- GURD - Education Package
- GURD - Activity Resource Package
- GURD - ADCU CD-ROM resource
- Alcohol Awareness Package
- Drink Spiking Resource Kit
- Night Safe Information Card
- Precursor Chemical Code of Conduct Resource Kit
- Harm Reduction and Policing

Recruiting

- Make a Difference

Disability Services

- WA Police Service SMS Assist Registration Form
- WA Police Service SMS Assist User Guide

Seniors Interests

- Safety Advice for Seniors

Community Safety

- Streetsmart Handbook
- Child Safety Handbook

For a complete list of all publications and documents available to the public, refer to the Western Australia Police Service Information Statement.

Overview of Planning and Reporting

In keeping with Government's Annual Reporting Framework requirements, the Police Service has structured this Annual Report around achievements for the year, that address specific Strategic Outcomes under the Government's Goals of:

Goal 1: People and Communities

Goal 2: The Economy

Goal 3: The Environment

Goal 4: The Regions

Goal 5: Governance

Core reporting on the Police Service's primary outcomes of:

- The Community has confidence in the level of public order, safety and security
- Road-users behave safely
- A response to crime that brings offenders before the justice system

are detailed under Goal 1 - People and Communities, while other achievements, initiatives and projects are aligned to relevant Government Strategic Outcomes across the five goals.

The corporate priorities and focus outlined in the Police Service's 2003-04 Annual Business Plan provided a means of ensuring that effort is directed towards achieving our primary outcomes. Additionally, the Annual Business Plan provided a framework for progressing the intentions of the agency's Strategic Plan 2001-2006 and alignment to broader Government objectives. The key achievements showcased in this Annual Report, reflect initiatives implemented in line with priorities in the 2003-04 Annual Business Plan.

Key Achievements Against Government Goals

GOAL 1
People and Communities

To enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia

POLICE SERVICE OUTCOMES

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- The number of recorded offences decreased in several categories compared with the previous year. These included: sexual assault, threatening behaviour, non-aggravated robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft, arson, property damage and possession of drugs
- Commenced implementation of the Concept of Operations for responding to family and domestic violence and developed early intervention programs
- Developed and implemented intervention programs targeting Aboriginal family violence and juvenile offending
- Undertook projects with ethnic communities to address issues such as gang violence, family and domestic violence and community safety
- Provided up-to-date intelligence to support district operations on the activities of Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs (OMCG)
- Formed the Critical Infrastructure Protection Team with Fire and Emergency Services and Department of the Premier and Cabinet to identify, prioritise and evaluate critical infrastructure
- Conducted counter-terrorism exercises and established investigative and coordination protocols for terrorist attacks
- Coordinated the maintenance of the Crime and Major Incident Plan
- Established an intelligence network between critical infrastructure owners, operators and ASIO.

ROAD SAFETY

- Road safety operations enhanced through the use of Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program funding
- Utilised booze buses to enforce the drink-driving law in country areas and raise awareness of the problems
- Supported districts in the management of OMCG runs, such as the national run between Broome and Darwin
- Carried out a range of long-term targeted traffic operations and maintained quality vehicle stops during these operations
- Progressed the Coordination Action Plan (CAP) Speed Project
- Introduced legislation to enable the confiscation of motor vehicles in a bid to better deal with anti-social road behaviours (such as racing and burn-outs).

CRIME AND JUSTICE

- The clearance rate improved for the following offence categories compared with the previous year: homicide, threatening behaviour, deprivation of liberty, non-aggravated robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, receiving/illegal use and property damage
- Applied forensic evidence from major crime scenes (including fingerprints and DNA samples) to assist intelligence-led policing initiatives
- Coordinated and managed intelligence to target offenders through the establishment of Linked Crime Unit, to develop intelligence packages and identify key persons of interest who have been involved in multiple offences
- Applied intelligence to target higher echelon drug offenders to provide an effective and quality response to offending
- Implemented the Burglary Reduction Strategy resulting in a decrease in the number of reported offences compared to the previous year
- Established Regional Operations Group to provide a rapid and timely police response to reported incidents in volume crime
- Conducted forensic reviews of cold-case homicides through utilising latest technological methods and an interagency approach
- Maintained the intelligence interchange program with South Australia Police to enable the exchange of officers involved in responding to OMCG activities between states.

GOAL 2
The Economy

To develop a strong economy that delivers more jobs, more opportunities and greater wealth to Western Australians by creating the conditions required for investment and growth

- Reviewed entry standards to ensure a cultural and gender-fair assessment and relevant changes made to entry assessment criteria
- Recruitment of additional Police Officers and Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers
- Multicultural Careers Advisory Program held to promote policing
- A mainstream Mentoring Program was implemented
- An Equity Implementation Group was established to ensure equity and diversity outcomes
- Recognition of prior policing service within the Constable rank structure, in order to attract and retain quality people with diverse backgrounds.

GOAL 3
The Environment

To ensure that Western Australia has an environment in which resources are managed, developed and used sustainably, biological diversity is preserved and habitats protected

- Implemented a number of energy-saving initiatives, including energy-management action plans for managers, energy audits for facilities and energy-efficient criteria for procurement policies.

GOAL 4
The Regions

To ensure that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant

- Progressed a number of Gordon Inquiry recommendations, including the provision of permanent policing facilities with multi-agency use in selected areas
- South West Community Services Planning Committee established to address regional issues
- Commenced planning and construction of a number of new policing facilities in regional areas.

GOAL 5
Governance

To govern for all Western Australians in an open, effective and efficient manner that also ensures a sustainable future

- Commenced the reform program to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission
- The Risk-based Corruption Prevention Planning Framework was developed
- Created the Police Complaint Administration Centre to enhance the quality, timeliness and professionalism of internal investigations
- Improved communications and technology to assist frontline police in providing a better service to the community
- Delivered performance management training to managers and supervisors to provide the mechanisms for improving frontline service delivery.

"The Police Service's role in community support, crime prevention and public order involves providing a service that is responsive to the needs of the community."