

Public Hearing – Management of Registered Sex Offender Information

Hearing date – 22 April 2021

Question on Notice	Victoria Police response																
<p>Why do deceased offenders remain on the register?</p>	<p>In accordance with section 70P of the <i>Sex Offender Registration Act (2004)</i> (the SORA) the Chief Commissioner of Police reports on the total number of individuals on the register (including deceased individuals) in the Victoria Police Annual Report each year.</p> <p>Section 70P does not explicitly say deceased have to be included in the count. It states that the CCP must report the total number of 'registrable offenders' and then 'registrable offenders' is defined in section 6 as a person whom at any time (whether before, on or after 1 oct 2004) has been sentenced for a registrable offence. The register is kept in perpetuity for practical reasons. Names and details of RSOs are kept on the relevant databases, this may assist investigators to solve historical matters, and provides richer data with which to undertake research or intelligence products.</p>																
<p>Figures on reporting obligation breaches for last financial year.</p>	<p>There were 1,754 (charge/intent to summons) breaches of reporting obligations in the 2019/20 financial year.</p>																
<p>Where offender information has been publicly released as a result of their failure to meet reporting obligations, have there been any instances of assaults or other vigilante/adverse action taken against that offender following the release of that information?</p>	<p>Of the RSOs whose personal information has been published (23), four RSOs were subsequently recorded as victims of offences that made specific reference to the RSOs sexual offending and/or RSO status, these included offences of unlawful assault, intentionally causing injury and criminal damage.</p>																
<p>What is Victoria Police's position on unofficial public registers?</p>	<p>Victoria Police has the legislated responsibility to maintain the Sex Offender Registry under the auspices of the <i>Sex Offender Registration Act (2004)</i>. There is no requirement or community safety priority for any unofficial registry without a lawful framework.</p>																
<p>Provide the Committee with updated SOR figures.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> <th>2020/21 As at 30-Apr-2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Active (In community)</td> <td>3751</td> <td>4047</td> <td>4257</td> <td>4397</td> <td>4454</td> <td>4473</td> <td>4467</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 As at 30-Apr-2021	Total Active (In community)	3751	4047	4257	4397	4454	4473	4467
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Data on recidivism rates, including details on dates and methodology of how recidivism rates of Registered Offenders are determined.	<p>Calculated from the commencement of the SORA on 1 October 2001, the Victorian registered sex offender recidivism rate is 10.1% as at 03-Jun-2020. This figure was noted by Assistant Commissioner Chris Gilbert at the public hearing. This figure was calculated by identifying the date when all 8,787 RSOs would have been considered to be able to have 'reoffended' following registration. 425 RSOs were excluded because the requisite period for these RSOs was not able to be identified (generally because their reporting period commenced before the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004 was introduced, in most cases because they originated in a foreign jurisdiction). The remaining 8,362 RSOs were analysed to determine whether they had committed any subsequent sexual offences in Victoria and 844 RSOs were identified.</p> <p>Deceased RSOs and RSOs with expired reporting obligations were included in the sample because the recidivism rate was calculated from the commencement of each RSO's reporting obligations who were, at the time, capable of committing further sexual offences. The methodology described does not include RSOs who reoffended in another jurisdiction, RSOs whose reporting period expired and then subsequently re-offended, or RSOs who re-offended with a non-sexual offence.</p>																																																								
Is there any data on incidences on online offender contact with children leading to in-person offending?	<p>In 2018-2019, the Sex Offenders Registry (SOR) undertook internal analysis to identify the classification of new offenders added to the register. This found that offenders convicted of online style offending constitute approximately 20 percent of persons added to the SOR in a given year.</p>																																																								

	<p>Specifically, 17 percent (2018) and 21 percent (2019) of new RSOs were classified as being registered solely due to online offending, comprising a total of 190 offenders. Among this sample group, 5% of RSOs had reoffended with a total of 23 further sexual offences as at 11-May-2021. All 23 offences were online in nature. No offenders were charged with contact offending. These findings suggest that online offenders do not necessarily transition to contact offending, however this was a point in time analysis and does not include any offences not reported.</p>															
<p>How many extra police have been allocated to SOCIT units?</p>	<p>The number of SOCIT investigators has increased in recent years. In 2016, Victoria Police had 389 SOCIT investigators, by May 2021 this had increased to 534, this is inclusive of the over 3000 extra police which are being deployed across Victoria to frontline and specialist roles to support community safety.</p>															
<p>Data on what percentage of offending occurs in a familial situation as opposed to what occurs in an acquaintance or friend situation</p>	<p>It is not possible to respond to this question using Victoria Police Sex Offender Registry data due to the way offence information is captured.</p>															
<p>What sort of information can be provided in relation to housing and other demographic data relating to active RSOs?</p>	<p>As at 05-May-2021, 30 (0.7%) RSOs managed in the community were listed as having no fixed place of abode (NFPA). Another 103 RSOs (2.3%) managed in the community have reported five or more addresses in the last 12 months.</p> <p>As at 05-May-2021, 2,321 (52%) of RSOs managed in the community have reported current employment. Of these RSOs, many have reported multiple forms of employment, averaging 1.3 jobs per RSO. 2146 (48%) of RSOs had no current reported employment.</p> <p>A breakdown of employment status and category can be found in the tables below</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Employment Status</th> <th>Count</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full Time</td> <td>1229</td> <td>39.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Time</td> <td>671</td> <td>21.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>1200</td> <td>38.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total jobs recorded</td> <td>3100</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Employment Status	Count	%	Full Time	1229	39.6%	Part Time	671	21.6%	Unknown	1200	38.7%	Total jobs recorded	3100	
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Employment Category	Count	%
Self Employed	596	19.2%
Casual	713	23.0%
Unknown	961	31.0%
Permanent	559	18.0%
Volunteer	139	4.5%
Contract	123	4.0%
Training	9	0.3%
Total jobs reported*	3100	

*Note: The table above categorises employment status for RSOs who have reported employment, this may include more than one job recorded per RSO.