

Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Shane Patton
Committee member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli
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Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Commissioner, did Victoria Police commission an independent evaluation into the use of sniffer dogs as was recommended in the 2018 parliamentary inquiry?

Shane PATTON: I am not aware of any independent review of the sniffer dogs, no.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Will you commit to undertaking one?

Shane PATTON: No, I am not aware of any evidence or requirement for it.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. I am just referring to the 2018 parliamentary Inquiry into Drug Law Reform in the state of Victoria.

Shane PATTON: If there was a recommendation that came out of the drug law reform inquiry, we would have responded to that. That is now some six years ago, so I cannot tell you off the top of my head what our response was. I can undertake to look at what that response was and come back to you, which would inform whether we have accepted or rejected any recommendation.

Answer:

In response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Drug Law Reform, the Victorian Government did not endorse this recommendation and as a result, an evaluation was never commissioned.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Shane Patton
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Nick McGOWAN: Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Table 1.18 on page 66 of budget paper 3 details the 'Youth crime prevention and early intervention project' output initiative. Was the effectiveness of this project evaluated at any point before the extension of the funding?

Shane PATTON: That is the project that the minister spoke about at the outset, and we are advised that it has been a real success. I understand there was some evaluation that took place in regard to that. I am just referring to my notes as to whether they outline when that evaluation took place.

Anthony CARBINES: Perhaps I could also add that with the \$13 million in last year's budget for our youth crime prevention programs there is an additional \$6.6 million in this year's budget, which is in part added to build on that program work, and there is constant evaluation where we try to drive those programs.

Shane PATTON: Just for your information, it was evaluated by Swinburne University, and it was demonstrated a proven model to reduce offending, with a 9 per cent decrease in the offence rate.

Nick McGOWAN: Are we able to have a copy of that?

Shane PATTON: I cannot see why not.

Answer:

The Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project (YCPEIP) seeks to reduce crime by introducing a caution-first approach to divert eligible young offenders from the criminal justice system, minimising their contact with police and the courts. The program has been operating in Brimbank and Wyndham since 2021.

Victoria Police received an interim evaluation report for the YCPEIP in March 2023. The interim report is an internal progress report and highlighted YCPEIP's positive impact since it commenced in Brimbank and Wyndham, noting the number of cautioning/warning rates have increased when compared to other Police Service Areas.

Allen & Clarke Consulting is completing the final evaluation report and is due to be finalised after the end of the financial year.

The evaluation report for another Victoria Police early intervention program, the Embedded Youth Outreach Program, was completed by Swinburne University in September 2020 and is publicly available via the Victoria Police website: www.police.vic.gov.au.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Shane Patton & Deputy Secretary, Susan Middleditch
Committee member:	Mr Nick McGowan
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Relevant text:

Susan MIDDLEDITCH: I can add that the, if you say, savings that we get from under-attrition in police officer salaries, a lot of that actually goes to offsetting additional costs in terms of ensuring that the capacity that remains within Victoria Police is as full as we can. We do see an increase in overtime and recall rates during the year where we have large amounts of under-attrition, so a lot of that salary savings is offset by additional costs.

Nick McGOWAN: Just so I am clear, what are we talking? How many millions?

Susan MIDDLEDITCH: I have not got that figure with me. We can certainly get that for you.

Nick McGOWAN: Yes, please. Are you able to provide a breakdown of what that pays for, like overtime I am guessing?

Answer:

As of 30 April 2024, Victoria Police had accrued \$117.5m of under-attrition vacancies. This funding accrual has been internally allocated as follows:

FY2024 budget reallocation of under-attrition vacancy funding	
WorkCover premium increase above government indexation funding	(\$84.6m)
Unfunded EBA Entitlements (personal leave in advance, accident makeup pay, and unfunded additional superannuation contributions for defined benefit members with maximum benefit multiples)	(\$27.4m)
Overtime and recall	(\$7.2m)
(Deficit)/Surplus	(\$1.7m)

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Shane Patton
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister and team. Chief Commissioner, can I begin, you sent an email to your members that if the 9-hour shifts were rolled out to all members across the organisation the number of extra police required and associated costs would blow out to \$3.189 billion. Can you release the data that led you to that figure?

Shane PATTON: For clarity, that email was sent in December, I think –

Danny O'BRIEN: November.

Shane PATTON: November last year. I can see whether I have got the numbers for that, yes.

Danny O'BRIEN: You can what, sorry?

Shane PATTON: I can check whether we have got that material. It is simply a costing number as to those shifts – I think it was 1885 shifts that I spoke of the time – and that would have just simply been costed against those numbers, the raw numbers.

Answer:

The \$3.189 billion total estimate over the four years of the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) period was based on nine-hour shift modelling undertaken in November 2023, using a point-in-time set of parameters. These included assumptions aligned with the priorities set out in The Police Association of Victoria's EBA log of claims, which have since changed and are still the subject of ongoing arbitration and negotiation.

During January and March 2024, more in depth work was undertaken by the dedicated project team and the nine-hour shift model was significantly updated in line with current rostering principles.