



VICTORIA POLICE

## BRIEFING NOTE

**To:** Assistant Commissioner, People Development Command

**From:** Senior Sergeant Stephen Pope, 26568

**Subject:** Preliminary Response to Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse specific to training delivered by Detective Training School between 1945 to present.

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

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### Background:

1. In 1938 Victoria Police opened the inaugural course at Australia's first Detective Training School (DTS). The course provided instruction to detective's in subjects relevant to the "scientific detection of crime".
2. In the Victoria Police Gazette (11/3/1937) the following vacancy appeared:

*"In Charge of Detective Training Course – Applicants must possess a knowledge of chemistry, photography, physics and allied subjects and be able to explain and instruct candidates regarding the scope in the application of science to the investigation of crime, to stress the individuate of the article found and its preservation; to give a general explanation of the laboratory side of the work to demonstrate exactitude and accuracy of the scientific method, to compare degrees of similarity with identity, and to discuss the difference between scientific and other evidence, to show the difference between matters which can be demonstrated , eg by photographs and expert opinion, to show the distinction between work for experts at the laboratory, to have knowledge of ballistics."*

3. DTS was originally situated at the Police Depot at St.Kilda Road, Melbourne in 1938. It later relocated to the Russell Street Police complex before moving to the Victoria Police Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne. DTS finally moved to the Victoria Police Academy, Glen Waverley where it remains today. There was no systematic storage of the syllabus, timetables, assessments or other learning materials from DTS courses.
4. DTS is currently known as the Centre for Investigator Training (CIT) and holds a limited amount of historical documents. These hard bound books capture every DTS Course from the inaugural one in 1938. The books recorded class attendance, student's names and the subjects delivered on the course. For example, in 1945 the DTS program consisted of:
  - Rape
  - Carnal Knowledge
  - Indecent Assault
5. I have located an incomplete set of typed notes from DTS Course No. 67 from 1966. From the contents the only topics delivered that may be relevant to child abuse were:
  - Incest
  - Carnal Knowledge
  - The sex offender
  - General sex offences
6. The topics discussed in the 1966 DTS notes include definitions, offence options, consent issues and prosecutorial requirements. There was no specific reference to child abuse investigation.
7. Nicole LLEWELLIN, Unit Manager, Victoria Police Archive Storage Centre has conducted a search of records using the key words of *Sexual Offence Course* and *Detective Training School(DTS)* via their card system. There are approximately 50 references to files. Some of these files that may be relevant included the following:

- (i) Seminar on Sexual Offences Against Females – 17/6/1969
  - (ii) Sexual Offences Investigation Course (DTS) 3-7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983
  - (iii) Sexual Offenders Investigation Course – Policewoman to attend 22/8/1977
  - (iv) Sexual Offenders Investigation Course No 7 – 10/8/1979
  - (v) Sexual Offences Investigation School – 5/11/1986
  - (vi) Sexual Offences – Taking of Statements – Proposed course for policewoman – 14/4/1980
  - (vii) Sexual Offences Seminar No 8 October 1989
  - (viii) Detective Training School Course 131 – 1985
  - (ix) Crimes (Sexual Offences) Act 1980 – Police not aware of provisions
  - (x) Sexual Offences – Training Films – 26/10/1977
  - (xi) Sexual Offences & Drug Dependency Seminars – 8/7/1982
  - (xii) Seminar on Sexual Offences Against Females – 17/6/1969
8. On the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, Detective Senior Sergeant John Dimos attended Victoria Police Archive Storage Centre and reviewed a number of the above documents. Dimos stated that many of the documents did not contain content but simply a list of participants on the various courses.
9. Detective Senior Sergeant Wally Laver has served 50 years with Victoria Police. Laver completed DTS as a student in 1975, and later in 1995 obtained a position on the instructing staff at Detective Training School where he remains today.
10. Laver is considered a subject matter expert on the purpose and intent of DTS over those years. Laver stated that the course had a heavy focus on rote learning. He further states that DTS was designed to provide learners with a broad and generalist investigative skill set. The course was 12 weeks in duration and learners had to absorb a large amount of material.

11. Laver has previously delivered the Sex Offences topic on DTS. Laver stated that there was a strong focus on knowing what legislation was applicable depending upon the time of the offending. The then-Rape Squad published a guide which articulated the range of offences and the operation period of those offences between 1958 and 2010. This guide was last updated in 2010 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) and the Sexual Offences Squad has the responsibility for maintaining it. This guide is the bible for anyone investigating and/or charging someone with historical sex offences as to the correct charge and points of proof required.
12. In 1977, a refresher course for sub-officers (sergeants) of long standing in the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) was introduced. The purpose of the training was to equip members with knowledge of changes in matters of law, vocational practice and departmental requirements during their absence from the CIB. This course became known as Advanced Training Course and later Advanced Detective Training School. This course was delivered by DTS instructing staff.
13. There is a hard copy book that records the students and the topics covered over each of the 4 week courses. There are no specific topics that addressed child abuse investigations. In 1989, students had lectures on sex offenders and rape investigation.
14. Currently, the sub-officers course is known as Investigator's Management Course (IMC) and runs for two weeks. The current curriculum targets information sessions from internal and external presenters. IMC is a non-accredited course and as such the topics or focus can change depending on organisational priorities or external factors. The only topic on IMC that relates to child abuse investigations is half a day on Managing Registered Sex Offenders.
15. Over the years DTS developed and delivered a number of stand-alone specialist training courses. One such course was the Sexual Offender's Investigation Course which I believe DTS delivered.

16. The Sexual Offender's Investigation Course commence in the late 1970's. Originally this course was targeted at police women but was later a requirement of detectives attached to the Rape/Sexual Offences Squad. The course was delivered into the early 2000's. At this stage I have been unable to locate any content; however, I'm confident there will be current serving members that have a copy of the notes at their work or home.
17. I have made enquires with ex-police member, Detective Senior Sergeant Chris O'Connor. At different times O'Connor was the Officer in Charge of the Child Exploitation Squad (under the Community Policing Squad) and later the Officer in Charge of the Rape Squad. O'Connor stated that he would seek already qualified detectives (as opposed to those on promotion) then train them 'on the job' in the particular crime theme. This training would include 'in-house' training and attendance at conferences. For example, the Rape Squad would operate Operation Pegasus (and other similar operations) that allowed the public to dob (phone) in a paedophile. Another example was the pro-active team that the Child Exploitation Squad operated. The team would cultivate homeless children in the CBD that were prostituting themselves to gain information and intelligence on adult offenders. This information was then used to run targeted investigations.
18. In 1996, Victoria Police became the first police force in Australia to make an investigative course available to all members. Up until that point DTS was the only such course available to Victoria Police members, however restricted to those seeking careers in the Criminal Investigation Branch or State Crime Squads. This new course was known as The Field Investigators Course (FIC) and was open to all operational members. FIC was designed to upskill uniform member's investigative skills.
19. A review of notes from FIC Course No 56 (1995) confirms that there is no specific reference to Sexual Child Abuse investigation. Topics such as confessional evidence, evidence, principles of investigation, interviewing witnesses and statutory interpretation were delivered at FIC and whilst

not crime specific would be applicable to many investigations, including sexual child abuse matters.

20. In 1999, commencing with Course No. 177, DTS underwent the transition to meet the accreditation guidelines as set out in the Australian Qualification Training Framework (AQTF). The DTS course at this time became an Advanced Diploma of Investigation.
21. In 2003, commencing with Course 190, further amendments were made and the course became an Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation).
22. In 2009, FIC moved away from a stand-alone course for uniform members and was integrated into the DTS program. FIC was still available to uniform members and as such served a dual purpose. It meant that there was a cohort of members completing FIC for professional development and another cohort who were completing FIC to allow them to pursue a career as a detective. This meant all participants at FIC would complete two Unit of Competency of the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation).
23. In 2014, the dual purpose of FIC was reviewed and a decision to change that would only see prospective detectives availed of the opportunity to undertake FIC. To communicate this change the program title of FIC was removed and replaced with *DTS Phase 1*.
24. In mid-2015 DTS Phase 1 will be fully implemented. There is a Frontline Development Course (FDC) which has been developed to fill the gap of FIC. FDC allows frontline police to nominate the training gaps from the DTS timetables and instructing staff from CIT will deliver the training, whether that is one day or five days.
25. In more recent times the syllabus and training aids are now contained on the Police Academy 'G drive' and adheres to the Curriculum Maintenance Management (CMM) processes and requirements as

overseen by our Quality & Standards Unit (QSU). QSU will provide a separate document that outlines the CMM methodology and work practices.

### Current

26. In 2014, the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigations) was reviewed and curriculum extended by a week. A number of changes have been incorporate into the current program. The topics that are covered on the current syllabus (Advanced Diploma) that may relate to Child Abuse investigations in broad terms are:
- (i) 1 session - VARE workshop
  - (ii) 1 session - Pretext workshop
  - (iii) 1 session - Classifications of witnesses
  - (iv) 1 session - Persuasion Process
  - (v) 1 session - Rapport Building
  - (vi) 12 sessions – Management of Registered Sex Offenders
  - (vii) 5 sessions – E-Crime/Information Technology
  - (viii) 16 sessions – Investigative Interviewing (suspects & witnesses)
27. A key change was to move the predominantly offender-focused program to one that has detectives adopt a victim-centric approach and considers criminal proceeds opportunities in any investigation.
28. The victim-centric content explores Victim Impact Statements, Victims Charter, Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT), Victim’s Register, services available via Victims Support Agency. It also requires detectives to evaluate how they measure the success of an investigation. Traditionally, success has predominantly been measured via arrest and conviction rates. Interestingly, sexually assault victims do not always consider arrest and conviction rates as a priority.
29. The criminal proceeds content explores the confiscation of assets to:
- (i) Disrupt criminals by seizing assets; and

- (ii) Assist with restraint of property for victim compensation or restitution (VOCAT has a \$10,000 limit for compensation applications).
30. The Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation) has 10 core topics:
- (i) Manage involvement in the judicial process
  - (ii) Liaise with other organisations
  - (iii) Develop productive working relationships
  - (iv) Employ media strategies
  - (v) Manage police investigation
  - (vi) Conduct police investigations
  - (vii) Manage incident scenes
  - (viii) Conduct investigative interviews
  - (ix) Manage physical evidence
  - (x) Manage information within specialised policing functions
31. The cohorts of detectives that undertake the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation) included:
- (i) Sexual Offence & Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) detectives
  - (ii) Divisional (locally based) detectives (eg Geelong CIU)
  - (iii) Crime Command detectives (specific crime themes such as Homicide, Drug Taskforce, Armed Crime etc)
  - (iv) Specialist Crime Command detectives (eg Criminal Proceeds, e-Crime etc)
  - (v) Crime Tactical Intelligence Operatives (Intelligence rather than investigative role).
32. With DTS being aligned to an accredited course together with the variety of roles a detective can hold dictates that the curriculum is broad in nature.

33. Detectives attached to the Sexual Offence & Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) received additional training specific to their role. Ideally, detectives would first complete the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation) before undertaking the 4 week SOCIT course.
34. In the mid 1980's Victoria Police published the first Study Guide for Promotional Examinations. The Study Guide was the principal reference material relied upon by operational members; however its primary purpose was to assist members studying for promotional exams.
35. A review of the 1988 Study Guide reveals no specific modules that addressed sexual child abuse investigations. Module 7 (*Procedures [Miscellaneous] & Police Instructions*), Topic 1 (*Children - Legislation & Police Instructions*) of the Study Guide discussed the circumstances in which a child or young person may be admitted to the care of the Department or be deemed in need of care and protection. It also spoke of Care Applications, Protection Applications, child neglect and maltreatment.
36. The Study Guide was updated annually and remained in circulation til the late 2000's. The 2007 Study & Promotion Guide was nearly 700 pages.

#### Hard Copies

37. I located a range of documents and trainings notes/guides that were either primary or secondary sources that were used during Detective Training School deliviers between 1945 and present day.
38. Those documents that may be of relevance to the Royal Commission have been saved onto IRONKEY memory stick (attached) which has the password: Roy@ICommission1
39. No material contained on the memory stick is of a sensitive or protected nature.

## Appendix – Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

<b>No:</b>	<b>Document Descriptor:</b>	<b>Relevance:</b>	
00	<b>Briefing Note</b>	Historical summary of Detective Training School from 1938 to current date	
1	<b>DTS Course 238 Timetable</b>	Copy of 5 week timetable of DTS Phase 2 showing topics & time allocation	
2	<b>Guide to Sex Offences</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Edition, 2007 General guide to sex offences legislation in Victoria between 1958 -2007	
3	<b>Sexual Crimes Version 1</b>	Sex Offences Squad Crime Investigative Guidelines. 171 page document that covers a range of specific information/responses relevant to sexual offence investigations.	
4	<b>Sexual Offences Course DTF</b>	Search results from Victoria Police Archive Storage Centre reference cards using key words 'DTS' and 'Sex Offence'.	
5	<b>1988 Study Guide – Sex Offences</b>	1988 Study & Promotion Guide – details the topic of Sex Offences (Legislation & Police Instruction)	
6	<b>1988 Study Guide – Children</b>	1988 Study & Promotion Guide – details the topic of Protecting Children (Legislation & Police Instruction)	
7	<b>VPMG – Interviews &amp; Statements</b>	Victoria Police Manuel Procedures & Guidelines on Interviews & statements	
8	<b>VPMG – Interview Vulnerable</b>	Victoria Police Manuel Procedures & Guidelines on Interviewing Vulnerable persons	
9	<b>VPMG – Victims</b>	Victoria Police Manuel Procedures & Guidelines on Interviews & statements	
10	<b>VPMP – Victim Supports</b>	Victoria Police Manuel Policy and Rules on Victim Supports	
11	<b>2007 Study Guide – Children</b>	2007 Study & Promotion Guide – details the topic of Protecting Children (Legislation & Police Instruction)	
12	<b>2007 Study Guide – Sex Offences</b>	2007 Study & Promotion Guide – details the topic of Sex Offences (Legislation & Police Instruction)	
13	<b>Pre-text conversation</b>	An investigative technique which was particular helpful with historical sex offences. It provides the victim with the opportunity to gather evidence (un-coached) or supply corroboration to assist investigators. are made of the offending.	
14	<b>VARE Procedural Guidelines</b>	Video & Audio Recorded Evidence	

		Procedural Guidelines. 34 page document.	
15	<b>VPMG VARE handbook</b>	Victoria Police Manuel – Procedures & guidelines for vulnerable witnesses.	
16	<b>VARE Pre-texts</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) Session Plan – Topic: Intro to VARE & Pretext Conversations.	
17	<b>Categories of witness</b>	Crime Courses Unit Notes. 30 pages on Interviewing Witnesses.	
18	<b>Categorisation of witness and rapport</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) Powerpoint – Categorisation of witnesses & rapport building.	
19	<b>Classification of witnesses</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – definitions document for categories of witnesses.	
20	<b>Cognitive interviewing</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Powerpoint – practical application of interviewing witnesses.	
21	<b>Confiscation Act Part 1</b>	Crime Courses Unit. 1998 -2005. Notes on Confiscation <u>Processes</u> . Authored by the Asset Recovery Squad.	
22	<b>Confiscation Act Part 2</b>	Crime Courses Unit. 1998 -2005. Notes on Confiscation <u>Investigation</u> Processes. Authored by the Asset Recovery Squad.	
23	<b>Confiscation Act</b>	Crime Courses Notes on topic – Confiscation Act 74 pages.	
24	<b>Coronial Day</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Coronial Day Timetable conducted by Police Coronial Support Unit.	
25	<b>Instructor Prompt</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) - Prompt sheet for instructing staff re: classification of witnesses.	
26	<b>Investigative Interviewing Manuel</b>	2009 Investigative Interviewing Manuel that explains the theory and practice around interviewing suspects and witnesses. 128 pages.	
27	<b>Sex Session Plan</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Session Plan for sex legislation topic.	
28	<b>Sexual Assault COP</b>	Code of Practice for the Investigation of Sexual Assault. 19 pages.	
29	<b>Sexual Offences Notes</b>	DTS Notes from 2010 on the topic of Sex Offences. 111 pages.	
30	<b>Significant witness</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Short Powerpoint on significant witnesses. Explores the UK definition and the use of video recording where VARE does not apply.	
31	<b>Street Offences</b>	DTS Notes from 2009 on the topic of Crime related Street Offences. Relevant	

		points may be obscene exposure and common law exposure.	
32	<b>Syndicate Exercise Assessor</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Assessor document for practical exercise. Explore biased witness & unfriendly witness.	
33	<b>Syndicate Exercise Handout</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Student document for practical exercise. Explore biased witness & unfriendly witness.	
34	<b>Vulnerable Persons</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – handout which discusses Crimes Act Sect 37B guiding principles and Criminal procedures Act Sect 338.	
35	<b>Guide to Sex Offences 2010</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Edition of the Investigator's guide to Sexual Offences Legislation in Victoria between 1958-2010. Explains the relevant legislation, points of proof etc.	
36	<b>Frontline Development Course</b>	Excel spread sheet that nominates the topics that stations can nominate for training days. Stations can nominate as little or as many as they want. The training is delivered by DTS instructing staff at the station's work location.	
37	<b>SOP - Frontline Development Course</b>	Standard Operation Procedures for the Frontline Development Course. 9 pages.	
38	<b>DTS Phase 1 Timetable</b>	Previous known as FIC – this is the current timetable for DTS Phase- 1. The timetable covers 3 week and details topics and duration.	
39	<b>1977 - IMC Course</b>	Scanned copy of Advanced DTS/now known as Investigator Management Course (IMC). Depicts topics delivered.	
40	<b>1977 - IMC Course</b>	Scanned copy of Advanced DTS/now known as Investigator Management Course (IMC). Depicts topics delivered.	
41	<b>1988 - IMC Course</b>	Scanned copy of Advanced DTS/now known as Investigator Management Course (IMC). Depicts topics delivered.	
42	<b>1994 - DTS Notes Interviewing Witnesses</b>	DTS Notes covering the topic 'Interviewing Witnesses'	
43	<b>1996 – DTS Notes Table of Contents</b>	DTS Notes from 1996. Depicts every topic delivered on the 12-week course.	
44	<b>1994 – DTS Notes – The Investigator</b>	DTS Notes covering the topic 'The investigator'.	
45	<b>D9B Confiscate Assets</b>	DTS Phase 2 (current) – Session Plan for serious crime rolling scenario and incorporates confiscation into exercise.	
46	<b>1988 – IMC Course</b>	Scanned copy of Advanced DTS/now	

		known as Investigator Management Course (IMC). Depicts topics delivered.	
47	<b>DTS 1945 Part A</b>	Scan copy of who attended DTS and topics covered.	
48	<b>DTS 1945 Part B</b>	Scan copy of who attended DTS and topics covered.	