

Significant Achievements Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council 2005 – 2010

2005

Inaugural Victoria Police Multi-Faith Dinner	Launch of the Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council
Joint Jewish and Islamic community collaboration on Post Disaster Planning Strategy	Public information sessions following the introduction of counter terrorism legislation
Key involvement in securing the Melbourne bid for the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions	Development of the practical <i>Reference to Religious Diversity</i> operational police handbook
Launch of the Victoria Police Multi-Faith Action Plan	Places of worship "open days" actively promoted by Victoria Police
University study commissioned to research prejudice motivated crime in the community	Influenced relevant local councils to modify pedestrian lights on the Sabbath and Jewish holy days
Broadening of the Victoria Police Chaplaincy network to include 6 additional faiths	Controlled Weapons Legislation amended to include exemption for Sikhs carrying Kirpans (Review of Act instigated by Council)
Direct participation of Council members in interactive police recruit training	Victorian Human Rights Charter training provided by Victoria Police to Multi-Faith Council
Presentation at the Parliament of the World's Religions	

2010

Snapshot of Current Day Policing in Victoria

Victoria Police is staffed by 14,000 people, which includes police officers, public servants, protective security officers, forensic scientists and other specialists. It provides a service to the Victorian community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Police members work at over 500 locations across the state, including a total of 339 local police stations.

Victoria is Australia's most diverse state and one of the world's great multicultural societies. People from more than 200 nations, speaking more than 200 languages and dialects, and following more than 120 faiths call Victoria home. Of a total population of over 5.3 million people, 43.6% were either born overseas or had one parent born overseas.

A policing service should be representative of the community it serves and Victoria Police is currently implementing strategies to increase the level of diversity within its ranks.

Notwithstanding, Victoria Police is proud of its achievements in building strong linkages with its multicultural and multifaith communities, and of its role in contributing to the multicultural success story that is uniquely Victorian.



Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council



“Committed to Engaging Faith Communities”

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Multi-Faith Council

The Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council was developed with the assistance of the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Victorian Multicultural Commission in response to the ever increasing role of faith in the community.

The first known Multi-Faith Council dealing exclusively with policing issues, the Council's major function is to strengthen partnerships between police and faith communities.

Membership of the Council includes representatives of Victoria Police, faith based organisations and multicultural agencies, including:

- Australian Intercultural Society;
- Australian Multicultural Foundation;
- Buddhist Council of Victoria;
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria;
- Hindu Society of Victoria;
- Islamic Council of Victoria;
- Jewish Community Council of Victoria;
- Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria;
- Victorian Council of Churches;
- Victoria Police;
- Victorian Multicultural Commission; and
- World Conference for Religion and Peace.

The Multi-Faith Council is chaired by Commander Ashley Dickinson APM, Operations Coordination Department and administered by the Multicultural Advisory Unit.

Operations Coordination Department

The Operations Coordination Department seeks to build the capability of operational police, through providing strategic policy advice and facilitating gateways for community and police interaction.

The Department oversees a range of targeted programs that support responsive policing in a diverse community environment. These programs enhance the capacity of the Organisation to work effectively with various communities and community groups, including:

- the Indigenous community;
- multicultural and multifaith communities;
- people affected by mental health issues;
- victims of crime;
- young people; and
- gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

The Department additionally maintains responsibility for research; training; policy development; and the integration of human rights into policing practices.



Multicultural Advisory Unit

The major role of the Multicultural Advisory Unit is to provide advice on the development and implementation of multicultural policy.

Initiatives supported by the Multicultural Advisory Unit include:

- community engagement functions;
- the Multicultural Liaison Officer Program and the New & Emerging Community Liaison Officer Program; and
- the delivery of cultural competency training to police recruits and probationary constables.

The Multicultural Advisory Unit additionally provides secretariat support to the Police and Community Multicultural Advisory Committee (PACMAC); and the Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council.

The Multicultural Advisory Unit can be contacted at:

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