



VICTORIA POLICE

Office of the Chief Commissioner

Our ref: LEX 12877
Your ref: COR 2018 005654

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Coroner Jamieson
c/- Niels Gabriels
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
Southbank VIC
By email only: cpuresonses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Gabriels

Subject: Inquest into the death of WB – Response to Recommendation
Court reference: COR 2018 005654
Date of finding: 24 February 2025

I refer to the above matter and to Coroner Jamieson's findings dated 24 February 2025 (Findings).

Recommendation

At page 23 of the Findings, Coroner Jamieson made the following recommendation:

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that Victoria Police implement an audit or checking system to ensure that (a) member's Schlage card access to police stations is revoked as soon as they no longer have a need to access that station; and (b) codes for digital locks at stations are changed on a regular basis including where staff changeover has occurred.

An alternative to the Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

Action taken by Victoria Police

Electronic Access control

Victoria Police is currently in the process of implementing a centralised electronic access control system (EACS), that will further strengthen the revocation process. The new EACS will send an automated report to Victoria Police facility Officers-in-Charge (OICs) detailing all employees with access to their facility, and allow for a simple, user-friendly ability to cancel access of employees no longer requiring it. This will be a significant improvement on Victoria Police's legacy stand-alone EACS and assist compliance with the existing Victoria Police Manual.

The implementation of this system is progressing, with over 60 facilities having recently had EACS upgraded. In the instance where the work locations have electronic access to their Equipment Issue/Firearms storage, the new EACS will take an automatic feed from Victoria Police's Human Resources system, and where an employee's Operational Safety & Tactics Training (OSTT) qualifications has lapsed or been suspended, their access credentials for this area will be automatically revoked.

Equipment Tracking Management System

In 2021/22, the Equipment Tracking Management System (ETMS) was introduced to track and manage Victoria Police Operational Safety Equipment (OSE), including the daily issue and return of firearms. ETMS enhances member safety by improving the management and control of OSE, including firearms through the automatic and real-time checking of member OSTT qualifications to ensure access to, and the issuing of firearms is authorised. To issue a firearm the member's ID needs to be scanned, the system checks the member has a current OSTT Qualification and is authorised to access a firearm. If the member's OSTT qualification has lapsed or is suspended a 'pop up' warning displays on the screen and no equipment is issued.

Conducted Energy Device Program

From July 2024, security upgrades for station Equipment Issue Offices (EIOs) at various sites were undertaken. Upgrades included the installation of Swipe Card Access Control to EIOs as a minimum, and where possible, installation and/or replacement of CCTV, and installation of intruder alarms. By June 2025, 99 highest priority sites (out of 395 verified Victoria Police sites) will have received upgraded security systems, specifically ensuring each EIO has functioning Swipe Card Access Control. In addition, 22 of the 99 sites have received upgraded CCTV equipment further strengthening the security overlay.

The targeted upgrades improve members safety and prevent unauthorised access to firearms, specifically as below.

- New and updated Swipe Card Access Control restrict entry to authorised personnel only, maintaining a comprehensive log of who enters and exits, preventing unauthorised firearm access. Only members who have access to individual EIOs will be able to access using their swipe access card.
- Extended CCTV coverage monitored by the Security Control Centre provides real-time observation, deterring unauthorised access attempts.
- Intruder alarms immediately detect unauthorised entry, alerting Security Control Room or Station Management before firearms can be accessed.

Of the total verified 395 sites, 296 still require a detailed assessment. This will be confirmed through Security Assessment Reports currently being prepared to determine the vulnerabilities of the remaining sites. Whilst this assessment is underway, it should be noted, there is no funding available to provide any further upgrades the remaining sites. A submission has been put forward as part of the 2026-27 Budget and Investment Priorities process for the next tranche of urgent sites.

Further matters

In conjunction with the existing controls at the time of WB's death in 2018, the new measures will further strengthen security controls around access to firearms and assist human compliance with written policy documents.

Victoria Police is committed to strengthening security controls around access to stations and firearms.

I trust that the contents of this letter assists Coroner Jamieson.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should further information be required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Hill', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Robert J. Hill APM
Acting Chief Commissioner

24 / 6 / 2025