



VICTORIA POLICE

Challenging the culture of violence in the public and private domain.

Presented by Deputy Commissioner (Road Policing) Kieran Walshe
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Framing the topic

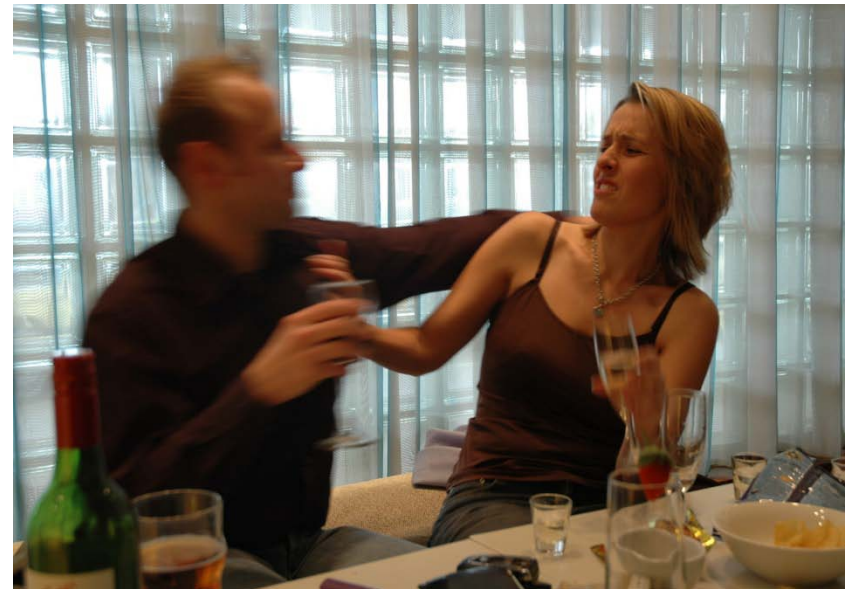
- Most recent official police statistics show that in the City of Melbourne, where most alcohol-related assaults occur they have risen by 3.7%.
- Police were called out to 35,720 family violence incidents in 2009, a 29% increase from 2003-04.
- 9229 Intervention Orders and Family Violence Safety Notices were issued in 2009, a 250% increase over the past six years.
- The number of charges laid relating to family violence in the past six years has increased by 200%.



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Alcohol and Australian society

- Alcohol-related crime is estimated to cost Australia \$1.7 billion a year, with \$750 million alone spent on policing.
- More than 3000 people die as a result of alcohol abuse and 65,000 are hospitalised.





Illicit drugs and Australian Society

- Illicit drugs can play a part in changing people's behaviour and making them more prone to risk-taking behaviour.
- Drugs present challenges for police when trying to tackle violence on the streets.





Young people and assaults

- In 2008-09, 10,191 people aged 10 to 24 were victims of assault. This increased to 10,434 the following year.
- 12,891 alleged offenders were processed for assaults in 2008-09, rising to 13,244 the following year.



Violence in the home

- Family violence incidents increased by 29%.
- Intervention Orders and Family Violence Safety Notices issued increased by 250%.
- The charges laid in the past six years have increased by 200%.



What are we doing about these problems?

- Victoria Police is committed to reducing instances of violence on the streets and in the home. We have a number of programs, policies and initiatives in place, to help engage young people.





Youth resource officers

Many Victorian police stations have a youth resource officer (YRO) who:

- Identifies youth issues in their area.
- Develops mentoring relationships between police and young people.
- Interacts with youths of all ages, races and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Establishes early intervention programs.



Being proactive

We have introduced a number of initiatives directly targeting these sorts of behaviours.

- Safe Streets Taskforce
- Operations Response Unit
- Operation Unite
- Operation Guardian
- Operation Omni





Social media

- Facebook- The Victoria Police page is called Forcebook.
- Twitter- There are more than 12,000 followers on [Twitter@VictoriaPolice](#).
- BlueTube- Victoria Police has its own YouTube channel, called BlueTube.





Family violence

- Victoria Police has implemented a Code of Practice for Investigation of Family Violence.
- More than 90 police are White Ribbon Ambassadors, who pledge to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.





The way forward - A whole of community approach

- We need to work together, the police, all levels of government and the community to create cultural change.
- What is clear is that achieving a genuine and sustainable change in cultural attitudes and behaviour will require patience.
- It is a huge challenge, but one we must rise to.



Young people and risk-related behaviour

- Youths aged 18 to 25 account for about a quarter of all road deaths.
- Last year, of the 287 people killed on our roads, 90 were aged under 25.
- We have various programs and initiatives to reach out to young people before they start driving.
- These include the Cool Heads young driver program and the Fit to Drive Program.



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Cultural change can happen.

Our members continually see the profound effects of family violence and street assaults.

We are dedicated to changing cultures and making a difference.