

**Police Lawyers Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007, 3 pm**  
**1/456 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne**

**Present**

Louisa Dipietrantonio (OPP), Sgt Wes Lawson (Prosecutor NJC), Inspector Tony Ryan (Legal Risk Unit) Danielle Lamovie (Legal Aid), Michael McNamara (LIV), Sgt Steve Neville (Frankston Prosecutions Unit), Megan Tittensor (Vic Bar).

**Apologies**

Laura Helm (LIV)

**Previous Minutes and Action Items**

**Police Life Article**

Members reminded to do Biographies and forward to me.

**ACTION ITEM.** Sgt NEVILLE to contact police life and attempt to have a photographer available for the next meeting.

**Provision of Priors on schedule 2 applications.**

From Inspector RYAN- an email has been sent to all members reminding them of the requirements of schedule 2 of the Magistrates Court Act.

**Provision of Police Briefs.**

Sgt Neville followed up on original report to amend the Victoria Police Manual to allow a more flexible approach to the provision of Police Briefs. The matter is with Corporate Strategy Unit and he will report any progress.

**Procedure in Crt 7 at Melbourne Magistrates Court.**

Danielle Lamovie indicated that she had passed on the current court process to her solicitors. They are still reporting a

considerable delay getting summaries in some instances, up to 2 hours on occasions. She understands that this is a staffing issue at the busiest time of the day but would like it passed on to try and speed the process.

**ACTION ITEM** Sgt Neville to pass this onto O/C Melbourne Prosecutions.

Problems with prosecutors being available for part heard matters was also mentioned. Inspector Ryan indicated that there were discussions with Mick Bolte occurring at present and listing practices were changing. Discussions about staggered listings and legislative change ensued.

### **New Business**

#### **Should Police Prosecutors have the legislative power to withdraw charges. – Inspector RYAN**

There was general discussion about this issue. Louisa mentioned that she was in favour as long as it did not infringe on the areas the director had control over. Megan could see no problems with it but thought the legislative change could be difficult and we should look for an internal procedural change. Danielle said that we would need to look out for repeat prosecutions where the informant was aggrieved by the withdrawal and reinitiated the process. Wes mentioned that it could be tackled by referring briefs where there was conflict to the director. Insp RYAN thanked the committee for their input and would take the comments to the members developing the proposal at Legal Risk Unit.

#### **Security Issues at Court for VLA solicitors.**

The issue was introduced by Danielle Lamovie who indicated a number of potentially violent incidents had occurred at Melbourne. Some procedures were being put into place but it was still a serious OH&S issue. She asked for the thoughts of

the other members of the committee. Members detailed problems with security at both Melbourne and regional courts and indicated a lack of PSO staff was one of the problems. The main issue was the lack of funding whenever the problem is broached with the individual courts and the justice department. A joint OH&S submission was discussed.

**ACTION ITEM.** Insp RYAN and Danielle Lamovie to approach the Officer in Charge of the PSO's and discuss the security issues.

**ACTION ITEM.** Sgt LAWSON to get intouch with Peter Clark, our OH&S representative, and facilitate communications between the various OH&S representatives to address the security issues.

4.00 pm Meeting closed Next meeting to be scheduled for 3 months time, date to be confirmed.