

Evidence based policing on campus



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IDP Education Buyer Behaviour study 2016

- “Liveability and safety are the top reasons that international students come to Australia, new research from IDP Education has found, though priorities vary from state to state.”
(Campus Review, Wed 19 Oct 2016)

The study

- An Australian case-study
- VicPol/Monash pilot program
- In-depth interviews with police and campus staff

Background

- A contemporary era of risk
- Who do students turn to when feeling at risk?
- Who is responsible?
- What needs to be done?
- Evidence-based policing

A contemporary era of risk: Terrorism

- Terrorism in relation to international students openly discussed by UK participants
- Discussed less by US participants
- Not raised by Australian interviewees
- Australia not free of terrorism but UK and US informants appeared more concerned
- (Forbes-Mewett, 150 interviews 2010-2014)

Responsibility for safety & security

- US - students, parents, universities and police should be responsible. Clery Act was frequently raised in lieu of Govt.
- UK - students, universities, police and particularly government.
- Australia – students, governments and universities, **not police**.
- (Forbes-Mewett 150 interviews 2015)



Who do they turn to?

- They turn to the person they trust the most:
 - Friends
 - Family
 - University lecturer
 - Rarely the police



What needs to be done?

- A need for police to form closer links with Australian universities
- Potential to connect with youth and diverse communities
- Community policing - police and communities working together (Flemming & O'Reilly 2007)
- Countering social alienation
- Creating 'belonging' and advancing social cohesion
- Contemporary risk associated with radicalisation and terrorism
- Acts of terrorism and the potential for cultural division have increased the urgency to develop collaborative relations between police, youth and diverse communities

Evidence based policing on campus

- Current project - gathering evidence to determine what works



Key messages



- New risks and complexities
- Police and university cooperation
- Breaking down barriers & building confidence
- Safer communities



VicPol/Monash initiative



- Pilot program of on-campus policing
 - Developing a model that can be replicated
 - Breaking down barriers with youth and diverse communities
 - Hub and Spoke model of policing (Blue Paper, Ken Lay, VicPol 2014)
 - A time for change
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- “It’s sort of small scale . . . just a tester for Victoria Police. I’ve been asking for years for them to do something like this.” (Monash)

New risks and complexities

- I think it's crucial because we need them [students] to be able to come to us on a number of different levels. If they're a victim of crime, they've got to feel comfortable coming and reporting that to us. But also if they hear of a crime or they have information that might be able to assist and investigation, it's important that they feel comfortable coming and providing that to us. And that's through personal connections that might just be on a very simple basis when they come and interact with us at the booth (VicPol)

Uni best case scenario

- ...looking at where we might get our best test case, best scenario for how we could reach a broad demographic, the Uni sort of suits it, because you've got people from youth through to older people using the facilities here and it's also a fairly high demand for service. So the idea was, to look at putting a policing service in the Uni where we knew that we could get a demographic mix both culturally and age-wise as well and plonk in some services in here so that we could just see what sort of uptake we got on the service. (VicPol)

Police and university cooperation

- They were fantastic. They were all over it like a rash – they thought it was a magnificent idea – and they were really helpful, they helped us push the project through the University administration, up through the Chancellors and all that sort of stuff. So they were really, really helpful. Organised a site for us, down in the student services area and all those sorts of things. (VicPol)
- Everyday during O-Week
- Each following Wednesday

Cooperation

- We provide the space, we provided everything they needed. (Monash)
- Often [the police] don't understand the uni. I always try and meet up with whoever the inspector is ... when they take over an area just so they get to know us and they feel comfortable with us. And generally if they know that you've got a policing background you've got a bit of a foot in the door because they know that you understand [the pressure] they're under, how they have to operate within that framework....then they tend to be a bit more honest with you and a bit more open, that kind of thing. (Monash)



Cooperation

- Now when the police want some information from a university, if they have somebody here on campus, they could be the source of that, the link in and out. So it's not just a one-way benefit, it's two-way (Monash)

Selecting appropriate police

- You pick your mark. If you get someone who's mute, grumbly and groany, and you can get them anywhere, well they mightn't get a run. But when they hear later on that, "Hey, it's not too bad. I can do a little bit of my paperwork and there's coffee and food and it's not too bad a day". (VicPol)
- It was probably more effective with the younger guys and girls that have been to uni... If it was some grumpy old senior constable you'd think, "Oh geese, hang on a minute". (VicPol)

Breaking down barriers & building confidence

- I'm talking broader community here, we know that there is significant levels of underreporting of crime in certain community groups. Our international people tend to be overly represented in that particular group and we thought it was an ideal spot here in the neutral environment of the University to put police so that we could perhaps connect a little bit more strongly with some of our international students. And, of course, the flow on of that is out into their families, out into our broader community So that is where the thinking was there, to put [police] in this environment, where people feel safe; and we know historically there are a lot of people from overseas who are really reluctant to come and engage with the Police because of the experiences they've had in their home countries. So we thought ... put [them] there in uniform so that people understood who they were and hopefully once the dialogue started, we could start to break down that thought that if you go and see the Police you are never going to be seen again. (VicPol)

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- So with Chinese students or Asian students, Indian students all coming into Monash probably for their first time in the country that's probably a way of breaking down some barriers, and just showing we're not like where you live now, we're approachable, we can help you if you need it, that sort of thing. (VicPol)

- But the same thing, if you walk into a police station there's a one-way glass barrier there and you wait and someone will come out and go, "What do you want?" or "How can I help you?" you get your business over and you'll be out. There's still a lot of mystery about what goes on but it's also there's that intimidation thing. So when we actually went into Monash in like a police booth in the information centre it was probably more uncomfortable for us than it was for the students because we'd gone into their domain and set up and said, "Okay, here we are". (VicPol)

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Breaking down barriers....

- There was a lot of stuff that went on around signing of documents and those sorts of things, which is a great way to break down barriers. Because international students need to get documents certified, and they've either got to go to a chemist or a JP or someone who generally charged them per document and they charge them \$5-6 a page. We do it for free. (VicPol)

Student response

- We had a whole lot of commentary in social media, the Facebook page, the Uni Facebook page. Originally, there were thousands of comments put on the Facebook page in the very early stages of the initiative and I think the vast majority of it was really positive. (VicPol)
- We had the Victoria Police Facebook page when we opened it up for the O-Week I had a lot of support from police media and the corporate side of the organisation... there was a couple of bad comments, but mainly we had 1,000 likes and we had some really positive comments there so it was really good. (VicPol)

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- Part of the structure was having a form that the guys and girls filled out and the reason for people coming up and talking to us. And we were, really, it was to show that we were building on what we were doing there because for a couple of days there they saying, yeah, one or two people came up. Towards the end of it when people got used to the idea and they knew that there was police there, because we dropped back from running a full week on O-Week to one day a week as a, basically, shopfront, if you like. And people were getting used to it. We were having between 17 and 20 contacts a day. (VicPol)

Operation "O" Week



VICTORIA POLICE

Operation "O" Week

Student Assistance Record

Date	Member	Rank/No.
/ /		

Person number	Careers enquiry	Questions about safety	Reporting offences	Identity Documents	The law in Victoria	Family Violence	General Enquiries	Other
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
Column Total							Daily Total	

Instructions :
 Enter details by person number.. I.E person #1 – Careers enquiry, Pers #2 – General enquiry
 Enter number of minutes spent on each enquiry
 At the end of the day total the minutes
 Email this sheet to <mailto:CLAYTON.UNI@police.vic.gov.au>

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- Some people were very reluctant, but many did. There is still that stigma attached to the police, but I think you do interact with a lot of people ...who obviously then feel more comfortable coming to the police. (VicPol)
 - It was more a public relations effort and offering advice to people (VicPol)
 - You see people walk passed, and they do the double take. They see us sitting there and they initially go, “Why are the police there?” When they do need advice [though] they feel comfortable coming up and speaking to us. And it’s important that that is the case (VicPol)

- Once the concept was up and running it was interesting to walk into the uni...Generally people will acknowledge you in some way but the students are a bit funny about it, it was a bit like, “What are they doing here?” And there was the student groups that protested against us and things like that and we expected that, that’s part of the makeup of the uni.... (VicPol)
- one group ...an anarchist sort of group, they are anti everything, anti-everything government wise (Monash)
- The local students probably weren’t as ready to accept us as the overseas students (VicPol)

Lack of resources

- Program needs to be regular and ongoing
- Advertising
 - ~ You can't just put it out on Facebook once at the beginning and then everybody has seen that and remembers it. You have to keep at it. (Monash)
 - Competing demands
 - ~ We ended up with the heightened terror alert and not being able to staff it for as long ... and at the level that we wanted (VicPol)

Summary

- Need for police visibility on campus
- Students generally welcomed police on campus
- Frequently accessed by international students
- Successful in breaking down barriers
- Reducing fear of police
- Creating a safer environment
- “The model could work anywhere”





Thank you

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