



VICTORIA POLICE
BRIEFING NOTE

Office of the Assistant Commissioner
Intelligence & Covert Support Department
18/412 St Kilda Road Melbourne 3004
DX No: 210094
Telephone: [REDACTED]

To: Acting Deputy Commissioner Pope
From: Acting Assistant Commissioner Fryer
Subject: Closure of the Source Development Unit (SDU) - Timings
Date: 12 September 2012

SITUATION

1. Executive Command have previously reviewed the "Comrie Enquiry" and have endorsed the recommendations of ICSD that the SDU cease practice.
2. Superintendent Paul Sheridan and I have met with Liz Cheligoy & Alex Tasominos who confirm that due process has been followed. They have drafted two letters (as attached) for the affected members and the Secretary of the TPA.
3. It is intended that Superintendent Paul Sheridan and I advise the SDU staff on 18-SEP-2012 at 1400 of the Chief Commissioners decision for the SDU to cease practice. ICSD Superintendent's Biggin and Paterson will be advised on 17-SEP-2012
4. Between 18-SEP-2012 and 28-SEP-2012 the SDU will perform all administrative tasks and human source handovers to appropriate areas to ensure all of the SDU functions are correctly finalised.
5. Between these dates all members will meet with Superintendent Sheridan and Inspector John O'Connor regarding temporary placements within the organisation. The members will be entitled to perform supernumery duties for a period of 3 months. During this time they will be placed on the force redeployment group for permanent placement.
6. All SDU staff will be entitled to 12 months of existing allowances.
7. This closure applies to all [REDACTED] within the SDU; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It should be noted that whilst small in number the SDU have considerable influence throughout the broader membership, particularly within the Crime Department. It is our view that Victoria Police may attract negative publicity from the closure. It is not proposed we conduct proactive media, but if required and endorsed by Executive Command Acting Assistant Commissioner Fryer will be the spokesperson.
8. The media director has not yet been engaged, but as previously advised our public position is narrow: "The Chief Commissioner has closed the Source Development Unit. This is a unit within the Intelligence and Covert Support Department and dealt with informers. Informers are an invaluable tool in investigations and will continue to be used but we're now looking at how to use all of our skilled staff across the state, rather than in one specialised workgroup. This is a sensitive area of covert policing and it isn't appropriate to expand on the future of the work any further. The community can be assured that the Force will maintain support to all investigations by way of various covert techniques." If there is a need to conduct further media, a media strategy will be developed in conjunction with the media director
9. It is proposed that on 18-SEP-2012 all Assistant Commissioners will be emailed advising of the closure and the temporary super nummary placement of the SDU staff [REDACTED]. It is anticipated that the OIC, Inspector O'Connor will remain within ICSD.

Doug Fryer
Acting Assistant Commissioner