VICTORIA POLICE RESEARCH PRIORITIES: 2025 - 2026

Victoria Police is committed to delivering, undertaking and supporting research which enhances policing services for the Victorian Community. As a partner and board member of the Australian and New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA), Victoria Police have collaborated to develop research priorities that align to our strategic plan and support cross-jurisdictional research.

ENHANCING RESEARCH CAPABILITY

These three areas identify ways in which research can enhance its value for policing. All three areas aim to reduce duplication of effort and ensure police and their partners are aware of the research efforts being conducted for policing.

COORDINATION

Support a targeted investment of research resources. Key aspects include:

- Ensuring that existing knowledge is made accessible to all involved in research.
- Leveraging from previous research to support continuous improvement.
- Targeting areas for future research.

COLLABORATION

Aims to support police and their partners to leverage from each other's strengths. Key aspects include:

- Developing partnerships to increase the available pool of skills and resources.
- Leveraging from research strengths of policing and academic partners to develop robust, high value research.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Aims to ensure research is available to those who need it while also reducing duplication of effort in undertaking research. Key aspects include:

- Developing feedback loops between researchers and police.
- Determining the applicability and usefulness of research.
- Communicating research results in a way that demonstrates value to police operations.

RESEARCH DOMAINS

Professional people

Trust and confidence

Building and maintaining trust and confidence of the community is critical for police legitimacy. Focus points include:

- investing in a customer service culture
- evaluating and monitoring integrity frameworks transparency and accountability.

Modernising and streamlining processes and systems

Technology, systems and processes are required to be agile and responsive to complex and rapidly changing environments. Focus points include:

- new technology that may support policing
- the automation of manual systems
- innovation for law enforcement.

Workforce capability and capacity

The attitudes and abilities, roles and responsibilities as well as expectations of policing workforces are changing. Focus points include:

- recruitment and retention
- skills and capabilities
- police officer safety
- diversity and inclusion.

Ethics and legitimacy

Police ethics guides the behaviour and attitudes of policing. Focus points include:

- the impact of leadership on workforce behaviour and attitudes
- collective organisational culture and behaviour
- unconscious bias
- procedural justice.

Exceptional policing services

Preventing and responding to crime

Traditional crime is transitioning in complexity challenging police response models. Focus points include:

- family violence and sexual offending
- firearm related crime
- child exploitation and protection
- cybercrime
- economic crime
- at-risk groups (e.g. those with mental health issues, homeless)
- serious and organised crime
- child and youth offending
- disruption and reducing illicit drugs.

Changing demands and complexity

Social, government and policing environments are changing and increasing in complexity. The future is uncertain and unpredictable. Focus points include:

- how increasing complexity drives resource demands in policing
- managing demand for policing services
- the impact of social, environmental and technological drivers.

Predictive policing

Using data to develop predictive models can inform police tactics and response models. Focus points:

- family violence
- youth justice
- road safety
- drug markets.

Strategic partnerships

Perceptions of Crime

Community perceptions of crime contribute to the manner in which policing is viewed. Focus points include:

- the use of co-design thinking and co-production (community- police partnerships)
- impacts of community perceptions on social cohesion.

Community engagement and communication

Engaging with the community in day-to-day policing provides opportunities to influence perceptions. Focus points include:

- communication during emergencies and incidents
- engagement with at-risk communities
- working with victims.

Fiscal partnerships

Current policing services are reliant on government funding. Alternate policing models may enhance service delivery. Focus points include:

- diversification of funding models
- investment by third-parties into policing such as research and development and IT
- alternative police service delivery models.

Improving our interaction and work with Aboriginal people

Learning from the lived experience of Aboriginal people can improve policing services for them. Focus points include:

- how to support Aboriginal self-determination
- reducing negative exposure to the criminal justice system.