Occupational Violence
- Engaging with Police

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Occupational Violence & Victoria Police

• Violence or the threat of violence within a public service scenario is completely unacceptable.
• Police are committed to preventing all violence and prosecuting the perpetrators of violence.
• Police officers are empowered, equipped and trained to deal with all levels of violence.
• Police also have a strong victim focus and are often involved in coordinating support for victims of violence in partnership with other agencies.
Offending

- Occupational violence offences are generally *intended* crimes against the person that involve threats and/or actual physical assault.
- This type of offending can injure a victim mentally and/or physically.
- We must all be reasonable in our response to violence or the threat of violence.
- Rudeness and incivility are not criminal offences.
Preventing Occupational Violence

*Prevention is always better than detection.*

- We can all help to prevent occupational violence within planned activities through thorough risk management.
- We can all help to prevent occupational violence within unplanned activities by following established procedures and by maintaining situational awareness and presence of mind.
- The police can be used as a deterrent if necessary.
What if you become a victim and the police become involved?

- Police investigate alleged offences and prosecute offenders on behalf of the Crown (not victims) in the criminal jurisdiction when it is believed that guilt can be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

- Defendants do not have to prove anything until the prosecution has established a *prima facia* case.

- Police must remain objective throughout the entire process.
Investigations and Evidence

• In proving a matter beyond reasonable doubt police may only introduce admissible evidence.

• Evidence must be preserved until it is collected. The scene of a crime may need to be processed by police.

• The account of events by a victim or a witness can be crucial to proving an offence. It is important that such testimony is not influenced by others.

• The best way to preserve testimony for later use is through the making of a contemporaneous record of what was observed.
Intervention Orders and Bail Conditions

• Personal Safety Intervention Orders can be used by a person who genuinely fears harm from another person.

• The orders are granted in the civil jurisdiction and can be used whether or not there is a related criminal process.

• Breaching an order is a criminal offence.

• The orders can extend well beyond the completion of criminal process.

• Bail conditions can be used for a similar but shorter term effect.
QUESTIONS ?