

POSTER

The Other Side of Compliance: Innovation in Police Management of Registered Sex Offender Risk

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Victoria Police is responsible for the administration of the Sex Offender Registration Act 2004 which aims to prevent further sexual violence by known sex offenders. Key purposes of the Act include to:

(A) Compel registered sex offenders to keep police informed of their whereabouts and other personal details in order to-

- Reduce the likelihood of reoffending
- Facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences

The Sex Offender Registry unit maintains the register of sex offenders, coordinating the registration and reporting process, collecting information and maintaining the database system.

The offender management framework is a Victoria Police innovation designed to:

- Complement the registration (data-collection) process through gathering risk related intelligence
- Optimise use of police resources to monitor registered sex offenders in the community
- Provide a flexible long-term strategy for the prioritisation of high-risk registered sex offenders

The process of sex offender risk assessment is increasingly relied upon by such preventative schemes to identify offenders who pose the highest risk of further offending to coordinate resources accordingly.

In accordance with the sex offender literature the new Offender Management Framework introduces a comprehensive 3 step process to guide the supervision and surveillance of registered sex offenders:

1. Static risk assessment using specialised, validated tool
2. Dynamic risk assessment using a newly designed tool especially for police
3. Offender management plans for priority cases

The key features of the framework will be outlined as well as their benefits and limitations. The innovative components of this approach, especially within a policing agency will be highlighted as will the crucial strategies being employed by Victoria Police to support a successful implementation. There is scope for some preliminary data to be presented regarding the number of offenders targeted, number who have been found to be in breach of obligations and reduction in reoffending. This will be presented alongside anecdotal accounts from field detectives about the impact of the improved intelligence capability on their direct work with registered sex offenders.