

PCOs and the New Ballistic Vest - Message (HTML) (Read-Only)

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You replied to this message on 6/09/2017 10:04 AM. Sent: Wed 6/09/2017 9:08 AM

From: Cox, Tony <Tony.Cox@police.vic.gov.au>  
To: Nick Church  
Cc: Williams, Roger (LOGISTICS); Rodriguez, Sarah; Skennar, Rebecca; Cox, Tony  
Subject: PCOs and the New Ballistic Vest

Hi Nick,  
It was a pleasure to meet you and Mick and discuss the New Ballistic Vest (NBV) project and how it intends to meet the needs of Police Custody Officers.

As the NBV is worn daily by many thousands of Victoria Police employees, it was vital that they had the opportunity to contribute to the creation of its replacement.

Below is a summary of the project approach and work undertaken to ensure that the NBV meets the needs of all uniformed Victoria Police employees.

**PCOs and the NBV**  
Victoria Police is undertaking a project to replace the current Integrated Operational Equipment Vest (IOEV) worn across the organisation.

In order to best understand how the replacement vest will meet the current and future needs, the Project Team has engaged in an exhaustive consultation process across the State. In a recent meeting with the Community and Public Sector Union, the Project Team discussed the key role that Police Custody Officers have played in informing the project on what is working well with the IOEV and the opportunities for improvement. This has been achieved by station visits and an online survey that included responses from 97 Police Custody Officers. Outcomes from this consultation identified that the key priorities are: weight, heat and thermal discomfort, bulkiness and ease of movement. The NBV vest functional specification is considered the most comprehensive developed by Victoria Police.

A key step in procuring the NBV for Victoria Police is the completion of a rigorous user trial evaluation process. This will start with a Controlled Trial that will shortlist the tendered vests in readiness for a User Field Trial. The Field Trial will be conducted over a four week period from December 2017 to January 2018. During this process, users across Victoria Police; including representatives from the Protective Services Unit, Road Policing and Police Custody, will be asked to perform their everyday duties whilst wearing one of the shortlisted sample vests and complete a feedback form at the start and end of the process. From this, the Project Team will understand how the sample vests performed when put under scrutiny by the diverse operational roles across Victoria Police.

The project has developed a user profile which distributes participation in the Field Trial equally across all of the regional divisions. Whilst Police Custody Officers have the newest of the IOEV fleet, this Field Trial is about understanding if a sample vest is suitable for all roles. In order to achieve this, the Project Team has committed to allocating a minimum of two vests per region to male and female Police Custody Officers. Over the past month, members of the Project Team have been visiting stations and collecting measurements. In order to have a robust pool of Police Custody Officers to select from, the Project Team has already measured over 20 Police Custody Officers throughout the Eastern and most of the Western Region with this number steadily growing.

The Project Team has shown a strong commitment to ensuring that Police Custody Officers are properly represented in this decision making process. Continued engagement with Police Custody Officers during consultation and station measurements will ensure that the selected vest will meet the current and future operational needs of Police Custody Officers.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Roger Williams, 9418 3268.

Best regards,  
**Tony Cox | Senior Project Manager | IOEV Replacement Project**  
Logistical Support Division | Victoria Police

email: [Tony.Cox@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tony.Cox@police.vic.gov.au) | phone: (03) 9418 3293 | fax: (03) 9418 9419  
address: 119 Wellington Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066 | DX: 211520  
website: [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au) | [www.vicpolice.com.au](http://www.vicpolice.com.au)

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Cox, Tony