

CCC reports on actions taken by WA Police in relation to use of police dogs

The Corruption and Crime Commission today tabled a report in State Parliament outlining its review of actions taken by WA Police to address serious misconduct risks associated with the use of general-police dogs.

This follows the Commission's May 2022 report *A report on the deployment of Police Dogs* in which it made two recommendations to WA Police, with a commitment to review their response in a year's time.

The first recommendation was to develop and implement WA Police Canine Unit policy, procedure and/or guidelines; and the second was to undertake further analysis of police dog use to explore and address reasons for the higher representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in police dog deployments.

In February 2023, the Commission requested an update, and WA Police advised they were conducting a holistic review and assessment of all facets of the Canine Unit, including but going beyond the recommendations made by the Commission. In May, a Project Manager and working group was established.

In the past 12 months, WA Police has also engaged ECU's Sellenger Centre to assist with research into police dog operations, with a new reporting tool developed to aid data collection on police dog use.

Despite the progress made, most initiatives and actions responding to the Commission's recommendations are yet to be completed and it is too early for information from the data collection tool to be available.

Commissioner John McKechnie KC said he was encouraged to by the steps being taken to implement change to the policies, practices, and culture of the Canine Unit.

"Time will tell whether the actions and initiatives will address our recommendations, but I believe the decision by WA Police to conduct a wider review demonstrates its commitment to addressing the inherent risks associated with the use of police dogs."

The Commission will conduct a further review of action taken by WA Police in 12-months' time.

[Read the report](#)

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