



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes in Victoria

Hearing date: 25 June 2026

Question taken on notice

Directed to: Victoria Police

Received date: 7 August 2026

1. **The CHAIR, page 25**

Question Asked:

... you mentioned a fact sheet before that you provide about supporting app-based violence that you give out to your officers. Are you happy to provide that to us so we can see?

Brett CURRAN: I believe so. I will just check that we are able to, but I cannot see why we could not.

The CHAIR: If you can, are you able to?

Brett CURRAN: Yes, we will.

Response: See Attached below.

2. **Michael GALEA, pages 25-26**

Question Asked:

And can I ask about the geographic breakdown of where this offending is happening as well? We had some –

Brett CURRAN: Mainly peri-urban areas is where they are occurring.

Michael GALEA: We heard outer north and outer south-east yesterday. Does that align with your understanding?

Jeremy OLIVER: Yes.

Michael GALEA: Is there data that you could provide for these offences broken down by LGA, PSA or even postcode?

Brett CURRAN: I would have to take that on notice, but I will take that on notice.

Response: See Attached below.

3. **Aiv PUGLIELLI, page 27**

Question Asked:

Is there anything else that you would be aware of on the back end that the apps are in a position to share or are currently sharing with Victoria Police?

Brett CURRAN: We have an e-crime squad that assists with those sorts of things. So if they obtain the back-end information, they can use that to identify people that have been using that as well.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Yes. As they are not in person with us today, is that something you would be able to take away and come back to the committee on?

Brett CURRAN: Yes.

Response: See Attached below.

4. **Ann-Marie HERMANS, pages 29-30**

Question Asked:

Are you finding that there are family violence arrests that are also happening within the context of the LGBTIQ community that are struggles within – I suppose it is not a hate crime. But is that getting counted into the statistics, or is that completely separate?

Brett CURRAN: Are you saying: are family violence offences between intimate partners that are of the same sex included in this issue? I very much doubt it, but I would have to take that on notice. But certainly there are instances of same-sex partner family violence investigations that we have undertaken, and intervention orders have been taken out. Yes, that is certainly the case.

Response: See Attached below.

5. **Sheena WATT, page 30**

Question Asked:

What I have heard you speak about a little bit – and it has come up with previous witnesses – are reports of extortion, particularly with video content and threats of retaliation. I am really concerned about the extortion that is happening towards with victims. Could you tell me a little bit about what we are seeing? Do we have any evidence or data around what elements of these attacks include extortion – wanting cash, releasing evidence, releasing video? Can you talk a little bit more about that, because I am particularly interested in that.

Brett CURRAN: As to the data, we would have to take that on notice as to what data we could release on those.

Response: See Attached below.

6. **Michael GALEA, page 32**

Question Asked:

You talked about the protocols you have with apps like Bumble. Would you be able to provide us with some information about what that looks like, to inform any recommendations that we may wish to make for other apps?

Jeremy OLIVER: We will take that on notice and work with our cybercrime team, who can support us with that.

Response: See Attached below.



VICTORIA POLICE

Victoria Police Response to questions taken on notice on 25 June 2026

Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes in Victoria

Attendance by: Assistant Commissioner Brett CURRAN APM, Partnerships and Safe Communities
Jeremy OLIVER, LGBTIQA+ Portfolio Manager, Priority and Safer Communities Division,
Family Violence and Safer Communities

Questions on Notice

- Question:** The CHAIR, page 25: ...you mentioned a fact sheet before that you provide about supporting app-based violence that you give out to your officers. Are you happy to provide that to us so we can see?
Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: I believe so. I will just check that we are able to, but I cannot see why we could not.
The CHAIR: If you can, are you able to?
Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: Yes, we will.
Response: The factsheet is provided at Annexure 1.

- Question:** Michael GALEA, pages 25-26: And can I ask about the geographic breakdown of where this offending is happening as well? We had some –
Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: Mainly peri-urban areas is where they are occurring.
Michael GALEA: We heard outer north and outer south-east yesterday. Does that align with your understanding?
Jeremy OLIVER: Yes.
Michael GALEA: Is there data that you could provide for these offences broken down by LGA, PSA or even postcode?
Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: I would have to take that on notice, but I will take that on notice.

Response:

App-facilitated offences targeting gay and bisexual men by location	
January 2024 – October 2025	
Division	Offences Total
ED1 (Boroondara City, Manningham City, Monash City, Whitehorse City)	9
ED2 (Knox City, Maroondah City, Yarra Ranges Shire)	11
ED4 (Indigo Shire, Moira Shire, Towong Shire, Wangaratta Rural City, Wodonga City)	<4
ND1 (Melbourne City, Yarra City)	8

ND2 (Hobsons Bay City, Maribyrnong City, Wyndham City)	<4
ND3 (Brimbank City, Melton City)	4
ND4 (Hume City, Merri-bek City, Moonee Valley City)	10
ND5 (Banyule City, Darebin City, Nillumbik Shire, Whittlesea City)	8
SD1 (Port Phillip City, Stonnington City)	8
SD2 (Bayside City, Glen Eira City, Kingston City)	5
SD3 (Cardinia Shire, Casey City, Greater Dandenong City)	16
SD4 (Frankston City, Mornington Peninsula Shire)	<4
WD1 (Colac Otway Shire, Greater Geelong City, Queenscliffe Borough, Surf Coast Shire)	<4
WD3 (Ballarat City, Golden Plains Shire, Hepburn Shire, Moorabool Shire, Pyrenees Shire)	5
WD4 (Ararat Rural City, Hindmarsh Shire, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Yarriambiack Shire)	4
<i>*NB: Divisions with one-three incidents have been indicated by '<4' to avoid any specific victims or investigations being identified. Divisions that are not depicted within this document did not have any relevant recorded incidents within the nominated date range.</i>	

3. **Question:** Aiv PUGLIELLI, page 27: Is there anything else that you would be aware of on the back end that the apps are in a position to share or are currently sharing with Victoria Police?

Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: We have an e-crime squad that assists with those sorts of things. So if they obtain the back-end information, they can use that to identify people that have been issuing that as well.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Yes. As they are not in person with us today, is that something you would be able to take away and come back to the committee on?

Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: Yes.

Response: The type of back-end information held by online applications that could be shared with Victoria Police to assist with criminal investigations varies depending on the specific application and the information they hold on their users. This can include but is not limited to the following information:

- Registration information
- Linked social media information
- Profile verification and ID verification information (including biometric information)
- Purchase information
- Geolocation information
- Photo information
- Link information
- Messages
- Customer support contact information
- Cookies and similar technology information
- IP logs including time/date accessed.

4. **Question:** Ann-Marie HERMANS, pages 29-30: Are you finding that there are family violence arrests that are also happening within the context of the LGBTIQ community that are struggles within – I suppose it is not a hate crime. But is that getting counted into the statistics, or is that completely separate?

Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: Are you saying are family violence offences between intimate partners that are of the same sex included in this issue? I very much doubt it, but I would have to take that on notice. But certainly there are instances of same-sex partner violence investigations that we have undertaken, and intervention orders have been taken out. Yes, that is certainly the case.

Response: As previously stated by Assistant Commissioner CURRAN, there are instances of family violence between same sex partners. Those instances are not captured in the recorded statistics of 95 offences recorded by Victoria Police between January 2024 and October 2025.

5. **Question:** Sheena WATT, page 30: What I have heard you speak about a little bit – and it has come up with previous witnesses – are reports of extortion, particularly with video content and threats of retaliation. I am really concerned about the extortion that is happening towards with victims. Could you tell me a little bit about that we are seeing? Do we have any evidence or data around what elements of these attacks include extortion – wanting cash, releasing evidence, releasing video? Can you talk a little bit more about that, because I am particularly interested in that.

Assistant Commissioner CURRAN: As to the data, we would have to take that on notice as to what data we could release on those.

Response: Of the 95 offences recorded by Victoria Police between January 2024 and October 2025, 40 involved an extortion element. These included:

- Demand for phone/PIN number
- Demand for money/bank transfer
- Demand for car/car keys
- Demand for drugs
- Demand for jewellery
- Threat to post video/photographed victim and identification
- Threat to 'ruin your life'
- Threat of retaliation
- Threat to go to police.

6. **Question:** Michael GALEA, page 32: You talked about the protocols you have with apps like Bumble. Would you be able to provide us with some information about what that looks like, to inform any recommendations that we may wish to make for other apps?

Jeremy OLIVER: We will take that on notice and work with our cybercrime team, who can support us with that.

Response: Victoria Police does not have any formal Memorandums of Understanding or protocols with any online dating apps. Rather, the dating apps all have their own processes for responding to requests from law enforcement.

Between January 2024 and October 2025, Victoria Police engaged with Grindr to publish a safety notification when app users log onto the app, a copy of which is at Annexure 2.

Major platforms such as Bumble, Tinder and Grindr require formal legal processes, including search warrants and/or Mutual Assistance Requests (MAR), before user information can be disclosed to law enforcement. While procedures vary between providers, Victoria Police maintains internal guidance to support members seeking information from social media and technology companies. The eSafety Commissioner also provides mechanisms to assist with the removal of illegal or harmful online content.