**AUSTRALIA BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN POLICE AND COMMUNITIES**

Difficult interactions between the Victoria Police and members of migrant and Indigenous communities, the LGBTI community and with young people (particularly those with drug and alcohol problems and those with prior convictions), resulted in tensions, distrust and formal complaints against the Victoria Police.

In 2006, the Victoria Police, with support from the government and in collaboration with human rights experts and the university sector, established the **Human Rights Project**. This focused on training police awareness and knowledge of human rights, and on practical application of human rights principles in their everyday policing practices.

The Human Rights Project also focused on increasing awareness of international human rights standards in the context of community interactions, including police interaction with young people, sexual and gender minorities, as well as multicultural and Indigenous communities.

As of 2012, complaints relating to police behavior had declined by 30%.

**POLICING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

Police are now more conscious of the special needs and sensitivities of diverse people in their communities. Many special programs, for example, help train young Aboriginal people, as well as women and girls, to become law enforcement officers.

A disproportionate number of Indigenous young people in detention was another area of concern given the lack of trust between police and the Indigenous communities.

In 2006, the Victoria Charter on Human Rights and Responsibilities was adopted. Under the Charter, public authorities, including the Victoria Police,就必须 act in a manner consistent with human rights.

A disproportionate number of Indigenous young people in detention was another area of concern given the lack of trust between police and the Indigenous communities.

Section 32 (2) International law and the judgments of domestic, foreign and international courts and tribunals relevant to a human right may be considered in interpreting a statutory provision.

A disproportionate number of Indigenous young people in detention was another area of concern given the lack of trust between police and the Indigenous communities.

Section 38 (1) Conduct of public authorities: …It is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way that is incompatible with a human right or, in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a relevant human right.

**A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING**

In 2006, the Victoria Police, with support from the government and in collaboration with human rights experts and the university sector, established the Human Rights Project. This focused on training police awareness and knowledge of human rights, and on practical application of human rights principles in their everyday policing practices.

Under the Project, all 14,000 employees of the Victoria Police—from administrative workers to the chief commissioner, from forensic scientists to investigators and lawyers—received education and training to enable them to practically apply human rights principles into their everyday policing practices.

The Human Rights Project also focused on increasing awareness of international human rights standards in the context of community interactions, including police interaction with young people, sexual and gender minorities, as well as multicultural and Indigenous communities.

As of 2012, complaints relating to police behavior had declined by 30%.

**VICTORIA CHARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Human rights education that directly related to everyday police experience led to better understanding and a change in behaviors, ultimately resulting in less angst when dealing with the community.**

Luke Cornelius APM, Assistant Commissioner, Victoria Police

**It was obvious from the start that this legislation was going to support the regeneration of policing to focus on the community rather than an ‘us and them’ mentality.**

Mmaskepe Motalalepula Sejoe, Former Human Rights Unit Manager of the Victoria Police

**The Human Rights Project emphasizes that human rights are about respecting dignity, and that the only difference between cultures is how dignity and respect are articulated.**

Mmaskepe Motalalepula Sejoe