

IBAC is Victoria's independent body responsible for preventing and exposing police misconduct. Our role is an important part of Victoria's police oversight system and helps the community have confidence that police act fairly, impartially and in accordance with the law.

IBAC has **three** strategic areas of focus which guide our work to prevent and expose police misconduct in 2022/23. They are:



High-risk police units, divisions and regions



Use of force on people at risk



Police responses to family violence incidents and predatory behaviour

Complaints and notifications

1904

complaints received about Victoria Police
(↑ 14% increase from 2021)

1514*

mandatory notifications received from Victoria Police (required by s169 of the *Victoria Police Act 2013*)

234*

public interest disclosure notifications received from Victoria Police (required by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*)

266*

serious incident notifications received from Victoria Police (including any police contact that results in death or serious injury)

68%

of all complaints received by IBAC in 2022 related to Victoria Police

*Some notification numbers may overlap. A single complaint or notification may contain several separate allegations that are individually assessed to determine an appropriate outcome.

Possible outcomes of IBAC's assessment of each allegation are:



investigate



refer



refer and review



dismiss



defer



return



take no further action

IBAC monitors notifications from Victoria Police on a daily basis and can take immediate action. For example, IBAC can:

- request more information
- undertake ongoing monitoring during a Victoria Police investigation
- review a Victoria Police investigation.

IBAC prioritises allegations of serious or systemic corruption and misconduct for investigation.

Investigations

11 preliminary inquiries and investigations commenced

4 preliminary inquiries and investigations commenced were 'own motion'

8 preliminary inquiries and investigations in progress

18 preliminary inquiries and investigations finalised

The investigations finalised in 2022 included

Operation:

Aurora a preliminary inquiry into the handling of a complaint by Victoria Police alleging excessive and unlawful use of force by a Victoria Police officer.

IBAC found that the Victoria Police internal investigation was inadequate. IBAC also identified covering up and false reporting behaviours by a police officer. IBAC referred the matter back to Victoria Police for further action.

Bacchus

a preliminary inquiry into Victoria Police's handling of an incident involving allegations of use of force by a Victoria Police officer against a bystander.

IBAC identified covering up behaviours by some Victoria Police officers. IBAC referred the matter back to Victoria Police for further action.

Karuah

an investigation into Victoria Police's handling of allegations of misconduct by Victoria Police officers responding to a mental health incident.

IBAC identified deficiencies in the Victoria Police internal investigation. IBAC made a number of recommendations to Victoria Police to improve systems, policies and procedures.

Orara

an investigation into allegations that a Victoria Police officer fabricated evidence in relation to the drug and alcohol testing of three drivers.

IBAC found that the Victoria Police officer did fabricate evidence. IBAC also identified deficiencies in the Victoria Police internal investigation. IBAC made a number of recommendations to Victoria Police to improve systems, policies and procedures.

Ovens

an investigation into three separate allegations of excessive use of force by Victoria Police officers in the same local area.

IBAC substantiated one of the allegations of excessive use of force. IBAC also found that a Victoria Police internal investigation was inadequate. IBAC made a number of recommendations to Victoria Police to improve systems, policies and procedures.

Investigation types



Preliminary inquiries: conducted to determine whether IBAC refers, investigates or does not proceed with a complaint or notification.



Full investigations: occur where IBAC assesses that serious or systemic corruption may have occurred or is occurring. For example, investigations have concerned allegations of:

- unlawful disclosures of sensitive or protected information
- perjury or attempts to pervert the course of justice in internal investigations conducted by Victoria Police
- excessive use of force.



'Own-motion' investigations: occur where IBAC investigates without receiving a complaint or notification based on information provided anonymously or by intelligence sources. IBAC also has a 'standing own motion' in relation to deaths or serious injuries after police contact.

Recommendations

As a result of investigations, reviews, audits and research reports, IBAC makes recommendations for Victoria Police to strengthen its policies and procedures to address systemic police misconduct and improve its conduct of internal investigations. IBAC also actively monitors and reports on their implementation.

28

recommendations made arising from investigations, audits and research reports

62

recommendations made following reviews

36

recommendations made in 2022 or in previous years were implemented by Victoria Police

78

recommendations are yet to be fully implemented by Victoria Police as of 31 December 2022

In 2022, IBAC commenced a report to review implementation of all of the recommendations, it has made to Victoria Police in its investigations, special reports, and research and audit reports between January 2016 and March 2022.

Findings from this report will be available in 2023.

Public hearings



As part of an investigation, IBAC may hold private or public examinations (hearings) to gather information. This includes summoning witnesses to answer questions.

In May, IBAC conducted public hearings into allegations of serious misconduct by a long-standing Victoria Police officer under Operation Bredbo. This included:

6 days of public hearings

2 witnesses examined

77 exhibits tendered

6894 unique views of the online stream.

Operation Bredbo remains ongoing. Public hearings are a critical tool for informing and educating the community and public sector about the impact of corruption and police misconduct and how it can be prevented. Public hearings enhance transparency and accountability and contribute to building trust that the public sector must make decisions in the public interest or risk exposure.

Reviews

275 reviews of Victoria Police internal investigations commenced

241 reviews of Victoria Police internal investigations finalised (↑ 68% increase from 2021)

IBAC also finalised **three** thematic reviews about:

- use of police dogs
- excessive behaviour
- predatory force against persons at risk

Summaries of these thematic reviews will be published on IBAC's website in 2023.

IBAC reviews Victoria Police internal investigations to check that they have been investigated thoroughly, fairly and that the findings are evidence-based.

Reviews are an important part of IBAC's work because Victoria Police manages the majority of police complaints internally.

Reviews allow IBAC to monitor how Victoria Police responds to complaints, manages matters referred to them for investigation, identifies corruption risks and handles misconduct.

Reviews may result in recommendations for Victoria Police to strengthen its policies and procedures and improve its conduct of internal investigations.

Useful resources

IBAC's independent oversight of Victoria Police – 2021 (infographic) go.vic.gov.au/3ZzqWca

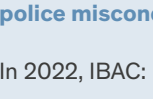
IBAC's police oversight role go.vic.gov.au/3Jg5Eul

Prevention

IBAC's functions include informing the community about the harmful effects of police misconduct, and how to prevent and report it.

IBAC also undertakes strategic research and audits, and works with Victoria Police to educate officers and improve systems and practices to prevent police misconduct.

In 2022, IBAC:



ran a regional-based campaign to increase awareness about IBAC's police oversight role titled, 'You have the right to not remain silent', which was viewed more than **2,000,000** times



surveyed over **12,000** Victorians to understand perceptions about public sector corruption and police misconduct



ran **45** education and training sessions for Victoria Police officers and police, engaging with various levels of employees including recruits, detectives and senior leadership on the importance of integrity and preventing misconduct and corruption



hosted **2** community webinars on IBAC's police oversight role



released **2** Victoria Police and providing strategies to prevent them. These were:

- a research report on Victoria Police's handling of complaints made by Aboriginal people
- a special report on misconduct risks associated with Victoria Police's Critical Incident Response Team

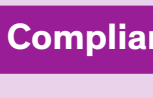


commenced **2** reports aimed at identifying misconduct risks within Victoria Police and providing strategies to prevent them.

These were:

- a special report on excessive use of force by general duties Victoria Police officers. This report will be published in 2023
- an internal strategic assessment of Victoria Police to identify environmental trends and issues impacting the organisation

Compliance



In 2022, IBAC completed a number of activities to oversee Victoria Police compliance with five Acts.

Witness Protection Act 1997

- Completed one annual inspection.
- Completed one report on Victoria Police compliance with its requirements under this Act.

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

- Completed one annual inspection.
- Completed one report on Victoria Police compliance with destruction requirements under this Act.

Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004

- Consulted with Victoria Police on IBAC's 2021 inspection.
- Continued a report on Victoria Police compliance with its requirements under this Act.

Firearms Act 1997

- Completed two quarterly reviews of Firearm Prohibition Orders issued by Victoria Police, resulting in one recommendation.
- Completed one inspection.
- Commenced a report on Victoria Police compliance under this Act.

Crimes Act 1958

- Continued a report on Victoria Police compliance with DNA profile sample legislation.
- Planned an inspection in early 2023.

Due to legislative restrictions, not all of IBAC's findings in relation to Victoria Police compliance are made public. IBAC will also assume a compliance and reporting function in relation to Victoria Police's registration and management of human sources (informants) in 2023.

Report police misconduct

Safely report police misconduct to IBAC or provide information anonymously. Call 1300 735 135 or visit ibac.vic.gov.au.

If you need help with translation, call Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 or visit [IBAC's languages webpage](https://ibac.vic.gov.au).