



**REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY
ASSAULTS ON MEMBERS OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE**

At Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Sydney, on Monday 21 September 2020

The Committee met at 9:30.

Ms TAMARA SMITH: I have read your submissions. I particularly want to ask about the Suspect Target Management Plan [STMP] and those discriminating algorithms that are in the Youth Action submission, because it actually comes out in the Aboriginal Legal Service, the Redfern Legal Centre and the Community Legal Centres NSW submissions. Can you tell us a bit more about that? Have you got any data around the perverse outcomes of that kind of bias and that algorithm?

Ms MUNRO: We have not collected data for this particular submission. We were part of the Youth Justice Coalition submission in regard to the STMP and the report that they put forward around those findings. For us, it is very much that we did not ask the youth sector or young people about that in relation to this submission, but we are very happy to take that on notice to get more information about what people's experiences in the community are, particularly under-18-year-olds. We are very happy to take that on notice if you would like us to provide further feedback from the sector about that.

Ms TAMARA SMITH: That would be great.

Please find below the extracts from the Youth Justice Coalition Report from 2017 – official citation: Sentas, V and Pandolfini, C (2017) Policing Young People in NSW: A Study of the Suspect Targeting Management Plan. A Report of the Youth Justice Coalition NSW (Sydney: Youth Justice Coalition NSW)

Findings

Our research found that young people on the STMP experience inappropriate forms of over-policing disproportionate to the future risks they are alleged to pose to society.

In summary, the research found:

- Disproportionate use of the STMP against young people and Aboriginal peoples;
- Patterns of oppressive policing that may be damaging relationships between police and young people;
- The STMP increases young people's costly contact with the criminal justice system and has no observable impact on crime prevention;
- The STMP encourages poor police practice; and
- No transparency and an absence of oversight, scrutiny or evaluation.



Case Studies

You can read about some of the experiences of young people on the STMP here:

[Toby](#)
[David](#)
[John](#)

Select Data

The YJC obtained data on the use of the STMP from NSW Police through the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (**GIPA Act**).

Applications under the GIPA Act were made for statistics relevant to use of the STMP in the Local Area Commands (LACs) of Redfern, Parramatta, Orana, Canobolas, and Bankstown for the financial year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 (**2014FY**) and for the financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (**2015FY**). We made a further application for statistics relevant to the use of the STMP in the LACs of Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Mount Drutt, Barwon and St Marys for the 2015FY only.

Age and the use of the STMP

Across the ten LACs examined during the 2015 FY:

- 48.8% (104) of the STMP targets were young people under 25.
- 23.5% (50) of the STMP targets were children under 18.

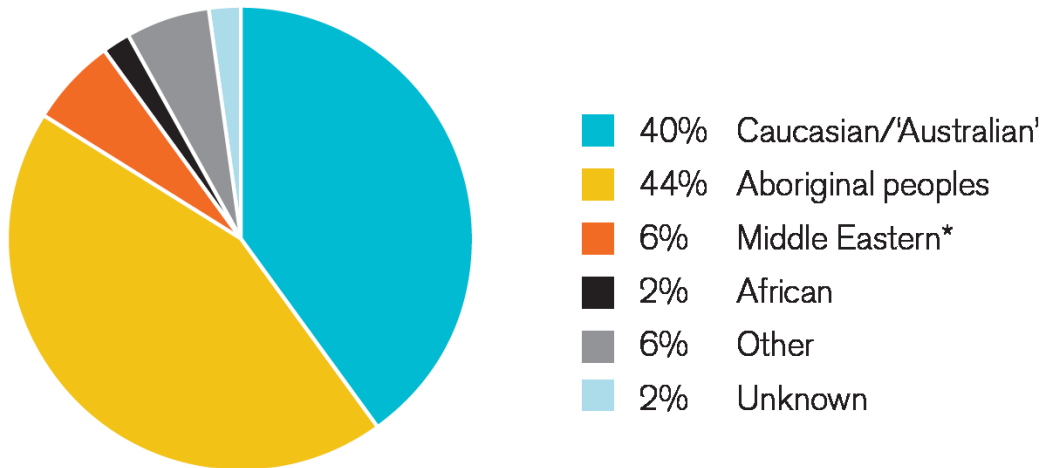
The youngest person placed on an STMP across the ten LACs examined in the 2015FY was aged 11 and located in Orana LAC.

In the 2014FY data, the youngest person placed on an STMP across the ten LACS examined was aged 10 and located in Orana LAC.

Radical Background and use of the STMP

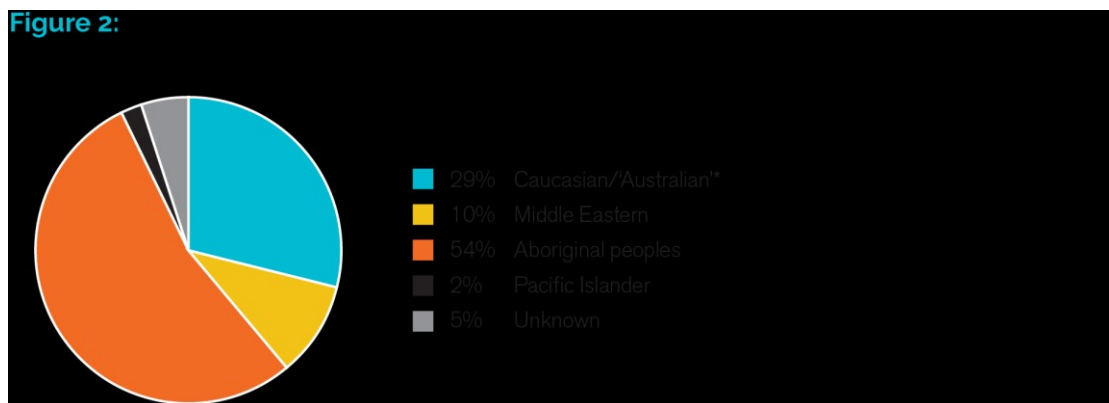
Figure 1 below illustrates that, of the 213 people on STMP during the 2015FY, 94 (44.1%) were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Aboriginal Australians are significantly over represented as STMP targets across five LACs.

Figure 1:
Racial Background of STMP Targets in 10 LACs, 2015FY



As Figure 2 below shows, of the 41 STMP targets current at 30 June 2014 across the five LACs for which data is available, 22 (54%) were identified as Aboriginal peoples, again suggesting Aboriginal peoples are over represented as targets of policing via the STMP. People of Middle Eastern background are also overrepresented in these statistics, comprising four or around 10 per cent of the 41 STMP targets. Three of the four STMP targets identified as Middle Eastern are located in Bankstown LAC.

Figure 2:



This report is the first public study about the STMP. Not only are the STMP policy, guidelines and risk assessments unavailable to the public, people targeted by police aren't able to access the reasons why they have been put on the STMP, or how to get off the STMP. The unjustified secrecy around the STMP has prevented appropriate, transparent, program evaluation and more thorough examination of the impact the STMP is having on young people, crime prevention and police practice. This report's conclusion that the operation of the STMP is likely to be having damaging effects on young people is compelling grounds for further investigation and external scrutiny.