

**Public Accounts Committee – Hearing 23 June 2014**  
**Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audits**  
**September 2012 – March 2013**

**New South Wales Police Force – Response to Questions on Notice**

Measurement of exposure related incidents or near miss events were quantified using the NSW Police Force P902 safety incident reporting system for two-year sample periods between 2010/12 and 2012/14.

**Number and percentage of exposure incidents or near miss events for the sample period: 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012**

Nine exposure incidents were recorded between the 1 July 2010 and the 30 June 2012 across the NSW Police Force. Those nine incidents were a subset of 20,127 total reported safety incidents or near miss events or 0.045%. This figure differs from the 0.25% recorded on page 4 of Superintendent Crandell's transcript of evidence before the Public Accounts Committee on 23 June 2014 and will require amendment.

**Number and percentage of exposure incidents or near miss events for the sample period: 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014**

Ten exposure incidents were recorded between the 1 July 2012 and the 30 June 2014 across the NSW Police Force. Those ten incidents were a subset of 18,112 total reported safety incidents or near miss events or 0.055%.

**Comparison of changes over time**

One additional exposure incident was experienced in the 2012/14 sample period as opposed to the 2010/12 sample period, which equates to a 0.010% increase, also affected by a lower number of total reported safety incidents.

**Areas being measured over time**

The raw number of exposure incidents and a percentage comparison with total reported safety incidents and near miss events within 24 month sample periods across the NSW Police Force.

## **The trend evidenced over time**

The trend over time reflects minimal change however the introduction of improved safety products and standards implemented through the Strategic Drug Exhibit Project is expected to impact upon the number of exposure incidents into the future. However, there are two qualifications to this expectation of decrease.

The first is a statistical increase in the number of drug exhibits seized by the NSW Police Force with the progression of time. In June 2012, the NSW Police Force held 21,943 drug exhibits. By June 2014 the NSW Police Force held 40,720 drug exhibits. Notwithstanding factors related to disposal/retention rates, these figures represent an increase of 18,777 drug exhibits or 85.6%.

The second consideration is a proactive approach by the NSW Police Force to encourage safety incident reporting, which is promoted by greater corporate emphasis upon minimising risks of exposure to drug exhibits. The introduction of overt treatment strategies such as the predominant display of safety posters/procedures and air cleaner installations in all drug exhibit safes increases personal awareness which leads to higher levels of reporting.

Progress will be reflected by a reduction in the raw number of incidents reported. The number of illicit drug exhibit seizures by the NSW Police Force has doubled over the past two-years with a corresponding increase of a single safety incident within the same period of measurement. This result reflects a per-capita reduction and is attributable to the improved safety culture.

**A.P. Crandell**  
**Superintendent**  
**17 July 2014**