

## Submission

My submission is in relation to;

1.

### **Early Intervention.**

1.1

SAPOL as an organisation is generally the first Agency that is involved with 'early intervention'

1.2

**The Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 provides for what are known as 'Intervention Programs". The Act allows for a person to be referred for 'assessment' for an 'Intervention Program'.**

1.3

The assessment can involve such items as referring a person for 'treatment' or 'courses' in relation to domestic violence, behavioural therapy, gambling, alcohol problems, drug problems. Persons can be referred to a wide range of 'EARLY INTERVENTION' programs

1.4

**A SAPOL Officer is able to refer a person for assessment, as are the Courts.**

1.5.

The Police Commissioner in SAPOL Commissioners Briefing Papers reference; PCO 2007/3987 in November 2011, issued a SAPOL Directive that NO persons were to be referred for assessment for 'early intervention programs'.

1.6

**This meant that at the first opportunity for 'early intervention', the most Senior SAPOL Officer had issued a Police Directive that SAPOL was to take no action. This is all set out in the referred to Commissioners Briefing Papers.**

1.7

The SAPOL Legal Team advised against such action and as did other persons on the SAPOL Task Committee that was addressing the implementation of the Intervention Orders Act 2009.

1.8

**SAPOL also produce what are known as General Orders, these are the procedures, SAPOL Policy and practices of addressing matters in relation to Intervention Orders.**

1.9

It is a 42 page document and is called simply 'General Orders-Intervention Orders'.

1.10

**I have a copy of said document and a copy of the Commissioners Briefing Papers.**

1.11

I submit that within the 42 page document that sets out procedures for SAPOL Officers in respect to 'Early Intervention', the Commissioner of Police has not included a single reference to what is known as 'Early Intervention'.

1.12

**SAPOL Policy is to take NO action.**

1.13

I submit that this creates a problem on it's own.

1.14

**The Courts are not known to refer person for 'Early Intervention Programs'. These are simply almost always ignored.**

1.15

There are sometimes up to 200 Court Cases a day in relation to 'Intervention Orders and Breach of Intervention Orders. This is all recorded online in the Magistrates Court Case List's.

1.16

**A study of them over one week, showed literally hundreds of breaches (contravening) charges.**

1.17

This is all on the public records.

1.18

**In one week there were also hundreds of Intervention Orders issued or Court Hearings in relation to them being issued.**

1.19

During this one week of almost 800 Court Hearings in relation to Intervention Orders, there was only one single court hearing in relation to a person not complying with a 'intervention program'.

1.20

**This either means that they are extremely successful in their outcome or the truth in relation to the subject, "SAPOL and the Courts do NOT refer persons for 'intervention programs". The latter is the truth, sadly, it is the truth.**

1.21

So it is my submission, that I ask of the Royal Commission that they undertake a survey/audit to assess what the current practice is in relation to the ordering of offenders for 'early intervention' intervention program assessment.

1.22

**As referred to above, the Commissioner of Police issued a SAPOL Directive that NO SAPOL Officer was to refer any person for assessment for an 'early intervention assessment'.**

1.23

So, at the first opportunity to address early intervention, the Courts and SAPOL are both silent on the subject.

1.24

**An audit/survey of the number of persons sent for referral for 'assessment' for 'early intervention' I submit is required. It is going to be the first indicator of what the approach is by the Courts and the Commissioner of Police.**

2.

## **Response**

2.1

The above that is outlined in '**Early Intervention**' also includes matters relevant to '**RESPONSE**', so I will not repeat them.

2.2

3.

## **Prevention**

3.1

The above in '**Early Intervention**' and '**Response**' also addresses this subject.

4.

## **Summary/Closing**

4.1

I would like it on the record that SAPOL set up a Software Program that allows for a SAPOL Officer to;

- prepare,
- make,
- authorise,
- issue,
- vett,

and serve a Police Issued Interim Intervention Order in as few as '12' minutes.

4.2

I make NO assumptions, I have all evidence of the above.

4.3

I have sent all details related to the above, to the Royal Commission in detailed bound reports.

4.4

The above is just a summary.

4.5

The biggest problem with Police Issued Interim Intervention Orders, is that SAPOL are the first point of contact, and SAPOL Officers with the 'delegated authority' of the Police Commissioner have showed nothing but total contempt for SAPOL's own General Orders on the subject of Intervention Orders, and also total contempt for the Statute, 'Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009.

4.6

I ask for the opportunity to present all evidence in relation to the above.

4.7

The Commissioner of Police has totally for the past 13 years, the opportunity to address Early Intervention, Response and Prevention.

4.8

I know this a big statement to make, but I have the evidence of such in SAPOL Records and Court Records and make NO assumptions or perceptions.

4.9

Domestic Violence is a problem, but when those at the first point of contact ignore the opportunities to intervene in a positive way, and look to a positive outcome, then we can address the subject appropriately.

4.10

It is time that SAPOL Officers did not approach the opportunity of being a 'first responder' to the subject of Domestic and Family Violence, with an approach that is opportunistic for them and one of expediency.

4.11

People are dying, families are ruined, children impacted for life.

4.12

It is time that SAPOL's involvement is given scrutiny as they are the 'first responder' almost all of the time.

4.13

I ask for the opportunity to speak to the documents that I have sent in, in the bound plastic folders that you now have.

4.14

It is no time to ignore a party such as SAPOL due to some wrongly perceived idea that they are approaching the subject as they should and as per the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009.

4.15

The Act is an excellent one, it should be used to its fullest, we have the Legislation, we just need not to have persons or agencies treat the Act with contempt.

Thank you