



FROM COMMISSIONER ATKINSON

Supporting first-response policing

Among other items, this edition of the *Police Bulletin* highlights some of the important areas of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) whose role it is to provide support to first-response policing.

While the public face of the QPS is often the uniformed and plain clothes members responding to calls for service, there are many others working in support.

These include those providing immediate assistance such as the Dog Squad and specialist crime scene investigators, along with the many staff members who work tirelessly in stations and sections to ensure the QPS continues to function effectively and efficiently.

Increasingly technology and specialist investigative support

is being taken direct to the scene of major incidents, for example through the launch of the most recent version of the Scientific Major Incident Response Vehicles (SMIRV).

The SMIRV has been developed to allow state-of-the-art forensic investigation at major incident scenes, and contains the latest in electronic evidence gathering and presentation systems.

This is an example of how modern policing is adapting to technology and the benefits it offers in our responsibilities to the community.

The changing role of police

For some time the QPS has been working in cooperation with the community through a problem-oriented and partnership policing model.

By working in cooperation with the community, the QPS through School Based Police Officers, Community Beat Officers and Police Beat Shopfronts is committed to ensuring that we listen and respond to the issues of concern in local areas.

In recent years modern policing has also been faced with a number of emerging challenges, with the threat of terrorism leading to a national agreement on improved terrorism prevention and response.

The Airport Policing Model outlined in this *Police Bulletin*, jointly staffed in Queensland by the Australian Federal Police and the QPS, is one example of the variety of tasks our members are currently undertaking in that regard.

Major incident coordination

There will always be an important role for police in assisting with the investigation and recovery after major incidents, be they natural disasters such as Cyclone Larry or serious criminal incidents.

This *Police Bulletin* also highlights the progress of the Recovery Task Force based in Innisfail and demonstrates how working in collaboration with the responsible government and relief agencies provides a successful model for dealing with major incidents. ■