

BACKPOCKET BRIEF – OPERATION BOURGLINSTER

- *The AFP is aware of the publishing of a Children’s Court transcript and subsequent media reporting on 3 February 2024 relating to a youth in Victoria who was charged with terrorism-related offences.*
- *The AFP acknowledges the decision of the Court in October 2023.*
- *The youth was investigated by the Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Teams (JCTTs) and charged with terrorism-related offences; his prosecution permanently stayed.*
- *The AFP is in the process of determining what we are able to say publicly about this investigation, taking into consideration the constraints of publicly discussing matters which have been subject to the Children’s Court.*
 - *We are committed to balancing transparency with the privacy of the young person.*
- *The AFP is conducting a review of the investigation, which will include consultation with partner agencies, community groups and relevant peak bodies to inform findings.*
- *The AFP, via the JCTT, continue to work closely with domestic and international partners to ensure the safety of the Australian community.*
- *The AFP, with its JCTT partners, continue to respond to an increasing prevalence of youth being targeted online, with individuals as young as 12 years of age adopting violent extremist ideologies.*
 - *Despite their young age, some of these youths are presenting legitimate risk to the Australian community, which is resulting in law enforcement intervention.*
- *Of particular concern is the activity identified online, as well as in the real-world environment, including violence in schools – planning for possible attacks on other students and teachers, and the production of explosives or possession or use of weapons.*
- *There are a number of treatment options available to the AFP which may be relied upon as appropriate, and depending on whether criminal offences have been committed and/or the risk an individual may present to the Australian community*
 - *The AFP seeks to use preventative treatment options, however, where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, law enforcement may apply a stronger measure through investigation, arrest or charge as the appropriate disruption mechanism to minimise the threat to the community.*
- *Ultimately the safety of the community remains the highest priority.*

Background – Operation Bourglinster – chronology of events

21 July 2021:

Victorian Operations Coordination Group (OCG) recommended the commencement of a criminal investigation into a 13-year old male (TC), for the alleged offence of Acts in Prep. It was noted that TC was 13 years of age and had been diagnosed with mild Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and was a client of Victoria Police Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) unit.

22 July 2021:

Victorian Joint Management Committee (JMC) endorsed the commencement of the investigation into TC

JMC endorsed the investigative strategy to include covert online engagement, pending the lawfulness of a controlled operation on the individual.

29 July 2021:

s 42(1)

Online Covert Operative (OCO) engagement commenced with TC

s47E(d)

3 August 2021:

s 42(1)

11 August 2021:

MCO issued in the matter, listing TC as the target. Authority subject to: *given the age of TC, an AFP Operational Psych will provide advice to the OCO in engaging TC online.*

13 September 2021:

OCG was advised of the change in TC's online demeanour and increased conversations on extremist topics.

OCG endorsed for investigation to continue as-is, with the criminal investigation to run parallel to CVE (which still has primacy).

s 47F(1)

TC turned 14 years of age

19 – 22 September 2021:

s 42(1)

27 September 2021:

OCG was advised an escalation in TC's online demeanour and increase in comments reflective of an extremist ideology, and was now adopting a more dominant role over the OCO. Youth was increasingly sharing IS propaganda and abhorrent material, and being specific with how to kill people and police. ***This online behaviour was in contrast to his in-person behaviour with CVE, indicating that the therapeutic engagements which TC was participating in, were not having a diversionary impact.***

A JMC on this date endorsed the change in strategy, and the criminal investigation into TC would now take primacy over the combined therapeutic/intervention strategy undertaken by CVE.

s42(1)

30 September 2021:

s42(1)

OCG was advised that TC's behaviour was continuing to escalate and the risk presented by him was too great to continue to mitigate.

JMC was informed that the OCO no longer had an ability moderate him and a recommendation was submitted for the JMC to endorse commencement of overt resolution phase, or to provide alternative direction as deemed appropriate.

MCO variation was sought and approved to include an additional OCO.

6 October 2021:

TC was arrested and charged with two offences:

- Membership of a terrorist organisation, contrary to s102.3(1) of the Criminal Code (maximum penalty: 10 years imprisonment); and
- Advocating terrorism, contrary to s80.2A of the Criminal Code (maximum penalty: 5 years imprisonment).

Following the young person's arrest on 6 October 2021, he was released on bail two days later.

20 July 2022:

- Bail revoked after TC breached his bail conditions by searching the internet for topics such as *'10 ways to cover up a murder'*, *'how to murder'*, and *'16 steps to kill someone and not get caught'*.
- He was held on remand for three months and released again on bail on 26 October 2022.

Youth extremism

- Since July 2021, the AFP has commenced investigations and conducted operational activity against more than 10 individuals that were 16 years old or younger, with the youngest being 12 years old.
 - Of these, approximately 50% of the individuals have been charged with either Commonwealth or state based offences.
- Some commonalities identified between these investigations include diagnosis of a neuro-diverse or mental health condition, being raised in a disruptive, unstable or harmful environment, and experiencing social problems throughout their school life.
- Extremist groups are deliberately targeting young and vulnerable individuals for radicalisation.
- The process used by extremists to radicalise youth often differs from adults. This is due to the unique risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with childhood and adolescence.

Law enforcement discretion

- Where possible, the AFP prioritises therapeutic pathways to prevent and disrupt young people at an early stage, noting that entering them into the criminal justice system is often not in their best interest.
 - However, where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, a law enforcement response through investigation, arrest or charge will be applied as the appropriate disruption mechanism.
- The decision to apply a law enforcement response to a young person is not a decision we take lightly. We need to remain vigilant and balance the needs of an individual against the threat to the community.
- The AFP and the CDPD have discretion about whether to progress a matter for investigation or prosecution.

Prevention Efforts

- Radicalisation of youth remains a threat and has required the AFP, with its JCTT partners, to strengthen its engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Four key areas have been identified as important themes in addressing the prevalence of youth in CT. These are:
 - education and awareness
 - early engagement and unified response
 - legislative amendments, and
 - prevention via information sharing.
- The AFP is working with government and industry partners in Australia and internationally to expand available prevention tools, early intervention mechanisms, and diversion processes.
- The AFP facilitates in-person engagements with communities and social groups through the strong and long-established relationships, built over twenty-plus years of

engagement primarily through the AFP's Community Liaison Teams located in each state and territory.

International Experience

- The threat of youth in CT is not unique to Australia, and the AFP is leveraging relationships with international law enforcement partners to share lessons learnt and best practice initiatives to work together to combat this dynamic threat.
- Extremist groups are deliberately targeting young and vulnerable individuals for radicalisation.
 - The AFP has witnessed young persons being influenced and radicalised by individuals outside Australia.
 - Young people can be more susceptible and vulnerable to radicalisation by extremists.
- In the UK since 2016, 43 youths have been convicted of terrorism offences, with one third of these convicted of preparing for an act of terrorism and seven attempting to travel independently overseas for the purpose of engaging in terrorism.
- Law enforcement are required to carefully balance the interests of the child in question versus the safety of the community. Where an imminent threat is identified, police will act to mitigate the risk.

If asked around safeguards and governance processes for investigations involving youth:

s47E(d)

- *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth) which refers to interviewing children.

s 47E(d)

In addition to the above, the following governance documents cover general investigative processes.

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

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s47E(c)

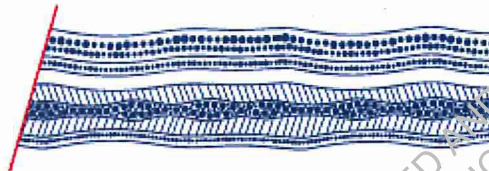
From: Viellaris, Renee
Sent: Sunday, 11 February 2024 6:10 PM
To: McCartney, Ian; s 47E(c) Barrett, Krissy
Subject: RE: Updated TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Overview TPs Op Bouglinster rv.docx

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

My edits ☺

RENEE VIELLARIS
MANAGER MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CHIEF OF STAFF
Tel: s 47E(d)
s 47E(d)



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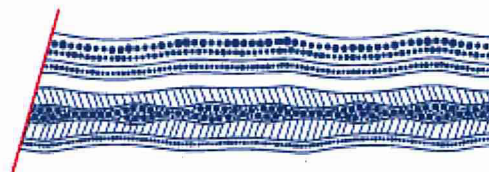
From: McCartney, Ian s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 11 February 2024 11:07 AM
To: Viellaris, Renee s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; s 47E(c) s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; Barrett, Krissy s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Updated TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Renee, this is in draft, keen for your input on key messaging.

Regards

IAN MCCARTNEY
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NATIONAL SECURITY
OFFICE OF DC NATIONAL SECURITY
Tel: s 47E(d)



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From: [redacted] s 47E(d) <[redacted]@afp.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 10:01 AM
To: McCartney, Ian s 47E(d) <[redacted]@afp.gov.au>
Cc: Barrett, Krissy s 47E(d) <[redacted]@afp.gov.au>
Subject: Updated TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning Sir,

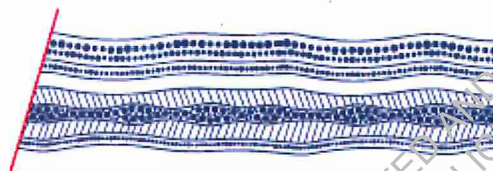
Please find attached updated TPs with input and comments for your consideration.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
s 47E(c)

[redacted]
s 47E(c)

Writing to you from Ngunnawal Country
STAFF OFFICER TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCCARTNEY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NATIONAL SECURITY
Tel: [redacted] s 47E(d)



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s47E(c)

From: s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 3:38 PM
To: Black, Chris
Cc: s 47E(c) s 47E(d)
Subject: RE: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

I checked with CT and no, as it is a Home Affairs lead.

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT s 47E(c)
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
CHIEF OF STAFF
Tel: s 47E(d)



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From: Black, Chris s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 3:28 PM
To: s 47E(c) < s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Cc: s 47E(c) < s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; Media <Media@afp.gov.au> s 47E(d)
s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Subject: RE: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

Fine by me, Although weren't we going to refer to the ANZCTC review underway also?

DR CHRIS BLACK
CHIEF OF STAFF
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Tel: s 47E(d)



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From: s 47E(c) s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 2:53 PM
To: Black, Chris s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Cc: s 47E(c) < s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; Media <Media@afp.gov.au>; s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Subject: RE: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

CoS, s 47E(c)

Proposed new lines:

- The AFP acknowledges the decision of the Court in October 2023.
- The AFP undertakes regular reviews of such outcomes to ensure our internal processes and operational practices remain contemporary and appropriate. In late 2023 following the court judgement a review under the auspices of the Victoria JCTT was commenced into a number of aspects of this investigation. This includes reviewing the ongoing balance between affording young people the opportunity to de-radicalise and rehabilitate through therapeutic pathways such as Countering Violent Extremism programs, and the responsibility the JCTT's have to ensure the safety and security of the community. This review remains ongoing.
- Counter Terrorism investigations involving young people are complex, and the radicalisation of minors can occur quickly and without the knowledge of family or friends. JCTT's across the country continue to respond to an increasing prevalence of youth being identified as adopting violent extremist ideologies, with individuals as young as 12 years of age being subject to law enforcement attention.
- There are a number of treatment options available to law enforcement in relation to youth who come to attention of the JCTTs. Depending on whether criminal offences have been committed and/or the risk an individual may present to the Australian community.
- The JCTT's seek to use preventative treatment options as the primary option, however, where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, law enforcement may apply a stronger measure through investigation, arrest or charge as the appropriate disruption mechanism to minimise the threat to the community.
- Ultimately the safety of the community remains the highest priority for JCTT agencies.

Kind regards

s 47E(c)

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT

AFP NATIONAL MEDIA

CHIEF OF STAFF

Tel: s 47E(c)



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From: McCartney, Ian s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 1:41 PM

To: s 47E(c) s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; Black, Chris s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>

Cc: Barrett, Krissy s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>; s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d) Media <Media@afp.gov.au>

Subject: RE: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

s 47E(c)after our discussions with RV can you review/amend.

Regards

IAN MCCARTNEY
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NATIONAL SECURITY
OFFICE OF DC NATIONAL SECURITY

Tel: s 47E(d)



AFP



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From: s 47E(c) <s 47E(d)@afp.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 1:26 PM

To: McCartney, Ian <s 47E(d)@afp.gov.au>

Cc: Barrett, Krissy <s 47E(d)@afp.gov.au>; s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d) <s 47E(d)@afp.gov.au>; Media <Media@afp.gov.au>

Subject: FW: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

DCNS

Good afternoon Sir,

Please be advised that the Guardian have sent through additional questions on the matter of TC.

Questions

- What is the nature of the reviews currently being undertaken?
- Is the conduct of any members of the AFP or JCTT being investigated as part of these reviews?
- Have any members of the AFP or JCTT been stood down pending the outcome of these reviews, or moved to other duties?
- When did these reviews commence and when are they expected to be completed?
- Does the AFP have any comment about the findings made by the magistrate who granted TC's lawyers a permanent stay in the case?

We have the previously cleared holding lines of:

- *The AFP acknowledges the decision of the Court in October 2023.*
- *The AFP undertakes regular reviews of such outcomes to ensure our internal processes and operational practices remain contemporary and appropriate.*
- *The AFP, via the Joint Counter Terrorism Teams, continues to work closely with domestic and international partners to ensure the safety of the Australian community.*

Please note that the requesting journalist – Nino Bucci is the author of Saturdays article on this matter.

If you could please advise on whether you would like to expand this response noting the questions received.

Kind regards

s 47E(c)

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT

s 47E(c)

AFP NATIONAL MEDIA

CHIEF OF STAFF

Tel:

s 47E(d)



AFP



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From: Nino Bucci <nino.bucci@theguardian.com>

Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 12:21 PM

To: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>

Subject: TC case - Guardian inquiry

Good afternoon,

I am following up on our [story published on Saturday](#) about the case of a boy known as Thomas Carrick.

DC Ian McCartney told a Senate committee this morning that there were a "range of reviews" being undertaken into the case.

He also said that the AFP accepted the findings of the magistrate, but that it wasn't the intention of the AFP to radicalise TC during Operation Bourginster.

Questions

- What is the nature of the reviews currently being undertaken?
- Is the conduct of any members of the AFP or JCTT being investigated as part of these reviews?
- Have any members of the AFP or JCTT been stood down pending the outcome of these reviews, or moved to other duties?
- When did these reviews commence and when are they expected to be completed?

- Does the AFP have any comment about the findings made by the magistrate who granted TC's lawyers a permanent stay in the case?

The decision in the case is attached.

Regards

--

Nino Bucci

(he/him)

Justice and courts reporter

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s 47E(c)

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 6:08 PM
To: Nino Bucci; Media
Subject: RE: TC case - Guardian inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Nino,

We're looking into this for you,

Thanks

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)

TEAM LEADER
AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
CHIEF OF STAFF

Tel: s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)



AFP



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From: Nino Bucci <nino.bucci@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:21 AM
To: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>
Subject: TC case - Guardian inquiry

Good afternoon,

I am following up on our [story published on Saturday](#) about the case of a boy known as Thomas Carrick.

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- Is the conduct of any members of the AFP or JCTT being investigated as part of these reviews?
- Have any members of the AFP or JCTT been stood down pending the outcome of these reviews, or moved to other duties?
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The decision in the case is attached.

Regards

--

Nino Bucci

(he/him)

Justice and courts reporter
The Guardian | Australia

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Barrett, Krissy [REDACTED] s 47E(d)
Date: 16 February 2024 at 10:38:51 am AEDT
To: Viellaris, Renee [REDACTED] s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: AFP response to Children's Court of Victoria judgement - Op Bourglinster
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

FYI only – have got the muster this afternoon.

KRISSY BARRETT APM
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
COUNTER TERRORISM & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: [REDACTED] s 47E(d)



AFP



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From: Barrett, Krissy
Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2024 9:50 PM
To: [REDACTED] s 47E(d)
Cc: Parsons, Donna [REDACTED] s 47E(d); Sirec, Hilda [REDACTED] s 47E(d); Stewart, Raegan [REDACTED] s 47E(d)
Subject: AFP response to Children's Court of Victoria judgement - Op Bourglinster [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL
OFFICIAL



AFP

COUNTER TERROR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

CTSI colleagues,

I would like to acknowledge and address the Children's Court of Victoria judgement in relation to Op Bourglinster – a JCTT-VIC investigation involving a 13 year old youth. I'm sure many of you would be aware of the recent publication of the court judgement and the subsequent media reporting and Senate Estimates commentary over the last couple of weeks.

Firstly, it is really important to note that this was a very difficult and complex investigation for everyone involved, and one which threw up many challenges. I recognise and thank everyone involved for their tenacity, professionalism and commitment to duty. I also use this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work that our covert online operatives do, under very difficult circumstances, to keep the community safe.

The AFP, alongside our JCTT partners, continues to respond to an increasing prevalence of youth being targeted online, with individuals as young as 13 years of age adopting violent extremist ideologies. Recent experience has shown that young people can be more susceptible and vulnerable to radicalisation by extremists and despite their young age, some of these youths are presenting a legitimate risk to the Australian community, which is resulting in law enforcement intervention. The prevalence of these activities being conducted online has necessitated the use of covert online strategies to progress investigations and minimise threat to the community. Wherever possible, the AFP and JCTT partners seek to use preventative treatment options as a first priority, however where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, a stronger measure through investigation, arrest or charge may be utilised as the most appropriate disruption mechanism

If you have not had the chance to view Deputy Commissioner McCartney's Senate Estimates statement on Op Bourglinster, I would strongly encourage you to do so [here](#) (commencing at 22:54). In it, DC McCartney states that at the time he authorised the Major Controlled Operation (MCO), attempts to de-radicalise the young person through the Countering Violence Extremism (CVE) program had failed and the youth's radicalisation and extremist ideology was escalating, resulting in him becoming a greater threat to community safety. DC McCartney told the Senate Estimates hearing that if the same circumstances presented, he would sign the MCO again. These comments were reiterated in an article published in the Guardian, available [here](#).

I can advise that in response to the Children's Court judgement, a review was immediately commenced by CTSI and Intelligence & Covert Services Commands. This review has recently been formalised to be led by Deputy Commissioner Gale, who is independent to the investigation. The review will consider: the appropriateness of the investigative strategy; how this informed operational decision-making; and the intersection with the concurrent CVE strategy. Review processes are an important mechanism for fostering a continuous learning environment and I expect the findings will be vital for informing future investigations.

For those of you tuning in for the monthly CTSI virtual muster tomorrow, I will be talking to this matter further in the muster.

Regards,

Krissy

KRISSY BARRETT APM
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
COUNTER TERRORISM AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Tel [REDACTED] s 47E(d)

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s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d)
Sent: Thursday, 4 November 2021 1:18 PM
To: Media
Cc: s 47E(d); s 47E(c); McIntyre, Mark; s 47E(c); s 47E(d)
Subject: Operation Bourglinster - media coverage 4 Nov [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi s 47E(c)

Please see CCTIS cleared media holding lines:

The AFP is aware of media reporting regarding a Victorian juvenile who has been charged with terrorism offences.

In October 2021, the Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Team undertook operational activity in Melbourne in relation to this investigation.

As this matter is before the court, it is not appropriate to comment further at this stage.

Also note, that D/Supt. s 47E(c) from Vic JCTT will call you to discuss any potential enquiries coming into the AFP.

ACCTSI Office – for awareness.

Thanks

s 47E(c)

DOMESTIC CT STRATEGY & COORDINATION
CT & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: s 47E(d)
www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[cid:image002.gif@01D7D17E.57DC7270]

From: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 4 November 2021 11:00 AM
To: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Cc: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>; s 47E(c) <s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Protected Background - Operation Bourglinster - overt activity [SEC=PROTECTED]

PROTECTED

Hi s 47E(c)

What do we think of these? Can we check that we are even allowed to mention the search warrant? (I don't want to breach a suppression order)

The Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Team executed a search warrant in the south-east of Melbourne on Wednesday, 6 October 2021, in relation to an ongoing investigation.

As this matter is before the courts, it is not appropriate to comment further at this stage.

FYI, we've had no queries about this.

Cheers,

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)

TEAM LEADER - AFP NATIONAL MEDIA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Tel: s 47E(d)
www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[cid:image002.gif@01D7D17E.57DC7870]

From s 47E(d)
s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Sent: Thursday, 4 November 2021 10:12 AM
To: s 47E(c) s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Cc: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>;
Media <Media@afp.gov.au<mailto:Media@afp.gov.au>>
Subject: RE: Protected Background - Operation Bourglinster - overt activity [SEC=PROTECTED]
Importance: High

PROTECTED

Good morning s 47E(c)

I am advised that Op Bourglinster has hit the media – see link. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-04/victorian-schoolboy-terrorism-charges-islamic-state/100592478>

The POIs name has been suppressed but all other details, sourced from court documents, are included.

In anticipation of media enquiries could you please provide some standard media TPs for CCTIN to consider, noting that we would not be making any comment.

Thanks

s 47E(c)

DOMESTIC CT STRATEGY & COORDINATION
CT & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND

Tel: s 47E(d)
www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[cid:image002.gif@01D7D17E.57DC7870]

s 47E(c)

From: Media
Sent: Wednesday, 6 October 2021 7:50 PM
To: s 47E(c)
Cc: Media
Subject: Op Bourglinster holding lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey s 47E(c) please see below. If you get a query, I'd touch base with Raegan Stewart (the SC Cmdr) before responding but these lines are cleared.

If it's late this evening (too late to touch base with the Cmdr) s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

- There is no current or impending threat to the community.
- As this relates to an ongoing investigation, police will not be providing further comment at this stage.

Ta

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)

Acting Team Leader AFP National Media
Office of the Commissioner

Tel s 47E(d) www.afp.gov.au<<http://www.afp.gov.au>>

[Australian Federal Police]<<http://www.afp.gov.au>>

From: s 47E(c) s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 October 2021 1:18 PM
To: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>
Cc: Media <Media@afp.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PLS - Op Bourglinster holding lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47E(c)

Thanks for the update, the Victoria team asked us to prepare holding lines. We didn't mention s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

Thanks

s 47E(c)

Acting Team Leader AFP National Media
Office of the Commissioner

Tel s 47E(d) www.afp.gov.au<<http://www.afp.gov.au>>

[Australian Federal Police]<<http://www.afp.gov.au>>

From: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<[mailto:s 47E\(d\)@afp.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d)@afp.gov.au)>>

s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>

Sent: Tuesday, 5 October 2021 1:10 PM

To: [redacted] s 47E(c) [redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted] @afp.gov.au>>
Cc: [redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted] @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted] @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; Media <Media@afp.gov.au<mailto:Media@afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; Stewart, Raegan < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PLS - Op Bourglinster holding lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon [redacted] s 47E(c)

Please note that CCTIS has cleared the below similar lines as part of the Protected Background brief that has been prepared ahead of tomorrow's activity:

[redacted] s 47E(d)

There is no current or impending threat to the community.

* As this relates to an ongoing investigation, subject to a court suppression order, police will not be providing further comment at this stage.

Thanks

[redacted] s 47E(c)

DOMESTIC CT STRATEGY & COORDINATION
CT & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: [redacted] s 47E(d)
www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[cid:image002.gif@01D7B9EB.7522D870]

From: Stewart, Raegan < [redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted] @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) [redacted] @afp.gov.au>>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 October 2021 3:39 PM
To: [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Cc: Media <Media@afp.gov.au<mailto:Media@afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PLS - Op Bourglinster holding lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi [redacted] s 47E(c)

Also no issues from my perspective.

Kind regards

[redacted] s 47E(c)

From: [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Date: 5 October 2021 at 3:37:37 pm AEDT
To: [redacted] s 47E(c) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>, Stewart, Raegan < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Cc: Media <Media@afp.gov.au<mailto:Media@afp.gov.au>>, [redacted] s 47E(d) < [redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto:[redacted] s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>, [redacted] s 47E(d)

s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>> s 47E(c)
< s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PLS - Op Bourglinster holding lines [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47E(c)

I have no issues with these holding lines.

s 47E(c)

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT s 47E(c)
JOINT COUNTER TERRORISM TEAM - VICTORIA
COUNTER TERRORISM AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND
Tel: s 47E(d) 2 www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[cid:image002.gif@01D7B9EB.7522D870]

From: s 47E(c) < s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 October 2021 2:53 PM
To: s 47E(c) < s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>; Stewart, Raegan
< s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au<mailto: s 47E(d) @afp.gov.au>>
Cc: Media <Media@afp.gov.au<mailto:Media@afp.gov.au>>
Subject: FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PLS - Op Bourglinster holding lines

Good afternoon Ma'am and Sir

Please see below holding lines prepared in case media find out about the JCTT search warrant for Op Bourglinster tomorrow.

I have also added an extra holding line in case media finds out about the matter once it's at court.

When you've both cleared these lines, s 47E(d)

START

s 47E(d)

- There is no current or impending threat to the community.
- As this relates to an ongoing investigation, police will not be providing further comment at this stage.

Any queries after the accused is charged/in court:

- As this matter is before the courts, it is not appropriate to comment.

ENDS

Regards

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c)

Acting Team Leader AFP National Media
Office of the Commissioner
Tel: s 47E(d) www.afp.gov.au<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

[Australian Federal Police]<http://www.afp.gov.au/>

From: s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 8:53 AM
To: Media: s 47E(c)
Cc: s 47E(d) s 47E(c) s 47E(d)
Subject: Media TPs for C on Hadley - Op Bourglinster [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47E(c) n

As promised, please see below TPs which have been pulled from the BPB for the Deputy re Op Bourglinster. Please feel free to use these as required for the C's appearance on Hadley.

Response to court judgement

- *The AFP is aware of the publishing of a Victoria Children's Court judgement and subsequent media reporting relating to a youth in Victoria who was charged with terrorism-related offences.*
- *This was an investigation conducted by the Victoria Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCCT), which is comprised of the AFP, Victoria Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.*
- *The AFP undertakes regular reviews of such outcomes to ensure our internal processes and operational practices remain contemporary and appropriate.*
- *In response to the Operation Bourglinster judgement, a range of reviews are underway under the auspices of the Victoria JCTT.*
- *This includes reviewing the ongoing balance between affording young people the opportunity to de-radicalise and rehabilitate through therapeutic pathways such as Countering Violent Extremism programs, and the responsibility the JCTT's have to ensure the safety and security of the community.*

Youth radicalisation

- *JCTT's across the country continue to respond to an increasing prevalence of youth being identified as adopting violent extremist ideologies, with individuals as young as 12 years of age being subject to law enforcement attention. This is consistent with trends challenging all Five Eyes partners.*
 - *Despite their young age, some of these youths present significant risks to the Australian community, which is resulting in law enforcement intervention.*
 - *Since July 2021, the AFP has commenced investigations and conducted operational activity against a number of individuals 16 years old or younger, with the youngest being 12 years old.*
 - *Following charge, many of these matters are finalised via diversionary pathways.*
- *Counter Terrorism investigations involving young people are complex investigations.*
- *The radicalisation of minors can occur quickly and without the knowledge of family or friends.*
- *Minors who adhere to a violent extremist ideology can present a threat similar to that posed by adults. Globally, minors have planned and conducted terrorist attacks, occupied leadership positions in violent extremist groups, and radicalised other youths.*
- *There are a number of treatment options available to law enforcement in relation to youth who come to attention of the JCTTs. Depending on whether criminal offences have been committed and/or the risk an individual may present to the Australian community.*
 - *The JCTT's seek to use preventative treatment options as the primary option, however, where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, law enforcement may apply a stronger measure through investigation, arrest or charge as the appropriate disruption mechanism to minimise the threat to the community.*
- *Ultimately the safety of the community remains the highest priority for JCTT agencies.*

Advice to parents

- *I want to reassure parents that coming forward to inform law enforcement if they are worried about their child becoming radicalised is absolutely the right thing to do and they should have confidence that it will trigger the right interventions being implemented.*
- *Wherever we can, the AFP and JCTT partners will prioritise therapeutic pathways as a means to divert young people from the criminal justice system.*
- *However, authorities are responding to an increasing trend in youth who are becoming radicalised in Australia, specifically online.*
- *The AFP is also working in partnership with the private sector to identify opportunities to divert vulnerable youth away from radicalisation as early as possible. This includes how private sector experts can better support the AFP in their management of neurodivergent youth who are at risk of, or engaging in, terrorism-related violence or threats of violence.*
- *I reiterate that the priority of the JCTT's across Australia is to protect the Australian community, and unfortunately this includes threats from young people.*

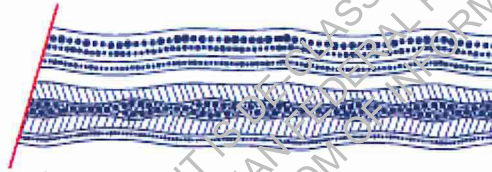
Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks

s 47E(c)

TEAM LEADER DOMESTIC CT STRATEGY & COORDINATION
COUNTER TERRORISM & SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMAND

Tel: s 47E(d)



The Australian Federal Police acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, culture and Elders past, present and emerging.



Media Holding Lines

Subject: Op Bourglinster
Media Officer: s 47E(c)
Date: 4 November 2021

RESPONSE **OFFICIAL**

- The AFP is aware of media reporting regarding a Victorian juvenile who has been charged with terrorism offences.
- In October 2021, the Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Team undertook operational activity in Melbourne in relation to this investigation.
- As this matter is before the court, it is not appropriate to comment further at this stage.

CLEARANCE

Cleared by	Title	Date cleared
Commander Mark McIntyre	Commander Counter Terrorism Investigations South	4 November 2021



Media Holding Lines

Subject: Op Bourglinster JCTT arrest
Media Officer: s 47E(c)
Date: 4 October 2021

RESPONSE **OFFICIAL**

s 47E(d)

- There is no current or impending threat to the community.
- As this relates to an ongoing investigation, police will not be providing further comment at this stage.

CLEARANCE

Cleared by	Title	Date cleared
	Clearance being sought.	

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Speaking points

Operational caseload

- Similar to ASIO, the AFP alongside its Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCTT) partners, continues to respond to an increasing prevalence of vulnerable youth being targeted online, **with individuals as young as 12** years of age adopting violent extremist ideologies.
- Counter terrorism investigations involving young people are incredibly complex, as the radicalisation of minors can occur quickly and without the knowledge of family or friends.
- Since July 2021, the AFP has commenced investigations and conducted operational activity against more than **10 individuals that were 16 years old or younger, with the youngest being 12 years old at the time of the offence.**
 - Of these, approximately 50% have been charged with either Commonwealth or state-based offences.
- Our operational caseload reflects a worrying number of youths demonstrating concerning behaviours or on a path to radicalisation.
- Of particular concern is the activity identified online, as well as in the real-world environment, **including violence in schools - planning for possible attacks on other students and teachers, and the production of explosives or possession or use of weapons.**
- While I can't comment on specific operations as a number are still before the courts or under investigation, I can provide some examples of the types of behaviours we are witnessing.
- One investigation relates to a **16-year-old youth who was posting concerning content on social media platforms.** This included posting about live-streaming a shooting, advocating for the killing of non-whites, and requesting assistance in bomb-making.

- Operations like these are challenging for law enforcement as they require extensive resources and are not confined to domestic borders.
- The individual in question was part of a loosely connected global online network and the response required over 12,000 investigative hours and the application of various specialist capability services including the AFP's operational psychologists.
- Another investigation relates to a **16-year-old who was allegedly seeking assistance from a known ISIS operative** to acquire instructions to manufacture an improvised explosive device (IED) in preparation to conduct an attack on behalf of ISIS. During a search warrant at the young person's residence, investigators located evidence demonstrating methodology consistent with the construction of an IED.
- Another investigation involves a **child of only 12-years-old already on a path of radicalisation**. The child posted imagery consistent with an ideologically motivated extremist ideology. This included sharing a picture of a listed terrorist organisation and a personal biography detailing themselves as racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic, and more. The youth had granular level knowledge and indicated interest in known national and racist violent extremist entities.
- The trends witnessed in the Australian operating environment are mirrored across our international partners. For example, in the **UK since 2016, 43 youths have been convicted of terrorism offences, with one third of these convicted of preparing for an act of terrorism and seven attempting to travel independently overseas for the purpose of engaging in terrorism.**

Operation BOURGLINSTER

- I'm sure many of you are aware of media reporting this week, on the publication of a Children's Court of Victoria judgement relating to a youth in Victoria.
- The youth was investigated by the Victorian JCTT and charged with terrorism-related offences; his prosecution permanently stayed.
- The AFP is in the process of determining what we are able to say publicly about this investigation, taking into consideration the constraints of publicly discussing matters which have been subject to the Children's Court. **We are committed to balancing transparency with the privacy of the young person.**

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s 47E(d)

- This strategy continued, in conjunction with an online engagement strategy led by an online covert operative (OCO) and with support from an AFP Operational Psychologist.

s 47E(d)

- On two occasions he had also shared images with the OCO of him holding a weapon. The first was a silver knife with Islamic State written on it. The second, two months later, was a large sword.
- This behaviour was in contrast to his behaviour on the CVE program, indicating that the therapeutic engagements were not having a diversionary impact.
- Following the young person's arrest on 6 October 2021, he was released on bail two days later. However, his bail was revoked on 20 July 2022, after he breached his bail conditions by searching the internet for topics such as *'10 ways to cover up a murder'*, *'how to murder'*, and *'16 steps to kill someone and not get caught'*. He was held on remand for three months and released again on bail on 26 October 2022.
- The AFP is conducting a review of the investigation, which will include consultation with partner agencies, community groups and relevant peak bodies to inform findings.

Youth radicalisation

- Where possible, **the AFP prioritises therapeutic pathways** to prevent and disrupt young people at an early stage, noting that entering them into the criminal justice system is often not in their best interest. However, where these approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, a law enforcement response through investigation, arrest or charge will be applied as the appropriate disruption mechanism.
- The decision to apply a law enforcement response to a young person is not a decision we take lightly. We need to remain vigilant and balance the needs of an individual against the threat to the community.
- The safety of the community remains the highest priority for the AFP and our partners. Where we identify a threat, or where a threshold is met for a criminal offence, the AFP will take action.
- The AFP works closely with state, territory, commonwealth, government, industry, private sector and international partners to expand available prevention tools, early intervention mechanisms, diversion processes and law enforcement response.
- The AFP facilitates in-person engagements with communities and social groups through the strong and long-established relationships, built over twenty-plus years of engagement primarily through the AFP's Community Liaison Teams located in each state and territory.
- The AFP is also working with a respected industry partner* to identify opportunities to divert vulnerable youth, many of whom have an autism diagnosis, away from radicalisation as early as possible. This includes increasing awareness amongst community members, particularly parents and educators, and also how to better support the AFP in our management of neurodivergent youth who are at risk of, or are engaging in, terrorism-related violence or threats of violence.
- Extremist groups are deliberately targeting young, vulnerable individuals for radicalisation. Social media platforms enable extremist groups to expand the distribution and reach of propaganda material, with considerable resources being spent on high quality media content to specifically target youth.
- The process used by extremists to radicalise youth often differs from adults. Research indicates Australian youth can be more susceptible and vulnerable to radicalisation by extremists, and are influenced by a number of factors.

- These include social dislocation, peer influence, mental health challenges, neurodiversity factors, active online engagement with extremists, and triggering or traumatic events.
- The pervasiveness of the internet has enabled a borderless environment for extremists. Technological advances are contributing to an online environment whereby extremists can connect via new and innovative platforms on a global scale that feed digital algorithms. These algorithms are contributing to the creation of 'echo chambers' that shift technology users' patterns of exposure.
- The imagery and propaganda of violent extremists in Europe or the Middle East is accessed as easily in Australia as anywhere else. Young people with extremist views are able to connect and engage with others without leaving the safety of their house. Despite the efforts of government and industry to implement mechanisms that prevent extremist material being easily accessible online, violent extremists are adept at subverting these efforts.
- The dynamics and accessibility of online violent extremist groups situates young people at a critical time where they are developing their identity and learning different forms of socialisation.
 - This is often seen in the form of violent extremist material in a range of different formats, for example, photographs, videos, or memes.
- As witnessed in our operational caseload, extremist groups and their associates are targeting young Australians for radicalisation and recruitment on gaming platforms and gaming adjacent chat platforms by encouraging extremist ideologies and exposing them to dangerous content. This includes violent recreations of actual terrorist events and abhorrent violence against others.
 - Together with the 'gamification' of mass casualty incidents and the language surrounding them, young people are introduced to extremist concepts in a more relatable way.
- The threat of youth radicalisation is not unique to Australia, we all play an important role in combatting the risk, and it is only through continued collaboration with our partners, that we can protect our most vulnerable from being targeted by extremists seeking to harm Australians and Australia's way of life.

Background

s 47B

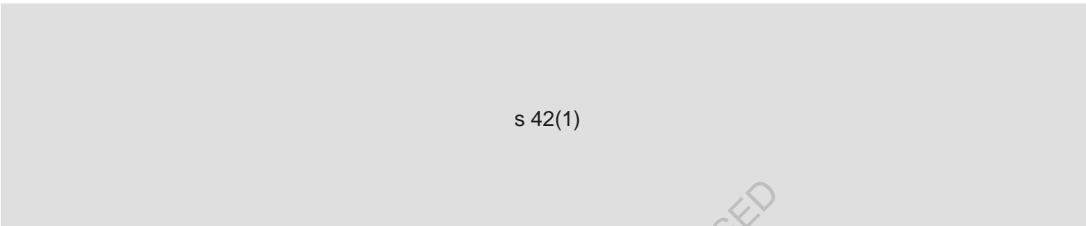
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s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

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SUBJECT Operation Bourlingster

- **UPDATE: On Saturday 10 February, I was made aware of media reporting accusing the AFP and CDDP of breaching the UN Convention on the rights of a child.**
 -  s 42(1)
 - **Any questions relating to CDDP are a matter for them.**
- On Saturday 3 February, I was made aware of the publication of a Victoria Children's Court judgement and subsequent media reporting relating to a youth in Victoria who was charged with terrorism-related offences.
- The AFP has assured me they will answer questions to the best of their ability, noting however the matter relates to a young person and there are sensitivities and limitations as a result.
- The AFP has advised me that it undertakes regular reviews of such outcomes to ensure their internal processes and operational practices remain contemporary and appropriate.
- I understand a range of reviews are underway in response to this particular judgement.

- This includes reviewing the ongoing balance between affording young people the opportunity to de-radicalise and rehabilitate through therapeutic pathways such as Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs, and the responsibility the Joint Counter Terrorism Teams (JCTT) have to ensure the safety and security of the community.

If asked why the AFP did not focus on CVE

- The youth was an existing client of the CVE program when the matter was considered by the Victoria JCTT Operational Joint Management Committee. The JMC recommended and endorsed that a criminal investigation commence in July 2021 due to the behaviour of the young person and concerns for community safety. The JMC determined that the therapeutic pathway through CVE would take primacy over the criminal investigation.
- In September 2021, there was an escalation in the youth's online demeanour and increase in comments reflective of an extremist ideology.
- As a result, it was determined that the criminal investigation would take primacy over the therapeutic strategy undertaken by CVE due to the risk to community safety.

If asked did the AFP escalate his behaviour?

- The AFP seeks to prioritise therapeutic pathways as a means to divert young people from the criminal justice system, however, where these

approaches may not suffice, or an immediate threat is identified, law enforcement may be required to apply a stronger measure through investigation, arrest or charge as the appropriate disruption mechanism.

- Law enforcement is responding to an increasing trend in youth who are becoming radicalised in Australia, specifically online.
- I will not comment on the specifics of police methodologies. I am assured by the AFP that they follow stringent processes within their operating model, including undertaking regular reviews of their practices to ensure they remain contemporary and appropriate.
- The AFP has advised me that all online engagement conducted by the AFP online covert operative during this investigation was done under the authority of a Major Controlled Operation, and with close support and advice from an operational psychologist. The investigation was oversighted by the Victoria JCTT Joint Management Committee (Band 2 level)
- I want to reassure parents that coming forward to inform law enforcement if they are worried about their child becoming radicalised is absolutely the right thing to do and they should have confidence that it will trigger the right interventions being implemented.
- The priority of the JCTT's across Australia is to protect the Australian community, and unfortunately this includes threats from young people.

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