

POLICY FUTURES

A Reform Agenda



By David Cowan

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To investigate the development of evidence-based policing across police agencies worldwide – Ireland, NZ, US, USA.

Shifting the focus to evidence of what works in community safety

Institutional support for what works in delivering community safety outcomes and effective policing services

Evidence-Based Policing (EBP) is based on the straightforward but powerful idea that policing responses should be based on what works best in community safety as determined by the best available evidence.

Australian law enforcement is at risk of falling behind international counterparts in generating the evidence needed to keep the community safe. To keep pace, we need a National Plan for Evidence-Based Policing along with the creation of a National Policing Institute for Evidence and Innovation.

This Plan will drive greater use of evidence of what works in community safety and will support the generation of new evidence through national funding grants. The Plan will provide greater institutional support for police across emerging crime themes that are relevant to state, territory and Commonwealth law enforcement agencies. It will also provide training programs to equip police to evaluate and lead new approaches in community safety.

Key Policy Recommendations

- 1 The creation of a National Plan for Evidence-Based Policing (EBP).
- 2 The establishment of a National Policing Institute for Evidence and Innovation, established under an existing institution.

Key Deliverables

- 1 Establishing a What Works Centre for Crime Prevention (modelled on the College of Policing).
- 2 Supporting internationally significant policing research in order to respond to external drivers.
- 3 Supporting what works policing impact evaluations through national funding grants.
- 4 Develop training programs to equip police with the skills to lead operationally-relevant what works trials.
- 5 Improved knowledge sharing of evidence and innovation across all levels of law enforcement.

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Policy Snapshot



National approaches to policing research



United Kingdom

UK College of Policing, What Works Centre for Crime Reduction has **10,000** hits per month



New Zealand

World first New Zealand Police establishes national Evidence Based Policing Centre



Scotland

Scottish Institute of Policing Research partners with **15 Universities** and Police Scotland



Leading Nations

Police led Societies in EBP established in Australia, New Zealand, US, UK, Canada and Netherlands



Generating new evidence for community safety

UK Home Office, GRIP funding **£55 million** to **20** police agencies for violence reduction

US National Institute of Justice, funding **\$USD10 million** in policing research grants

Scottish Institute of Policing Research funds Effective Policing Systems Grants over **£265,000**



Development programs to enhance police capability

College of Policing delivers **799** courses to over **7,000** police staff.

US National Institute of Justice, Law Enforcement Advancing Data Science (LEADS) Program for senior police.

University of Cambridge, EBP Masters Program delivered to over **500** senior police internationally.



Opportunities nationally

Australia and New Zealand Society for Evidence Based Policing has over **4000 members** with the **2022** conference having over **6000 police and academics** online from across the globe.

University of Queensland Global Policing Databased has been developed from a global harvest of **300,000 documents** to find **7000 high quality impact evaluations** in policing in a single repository for policing