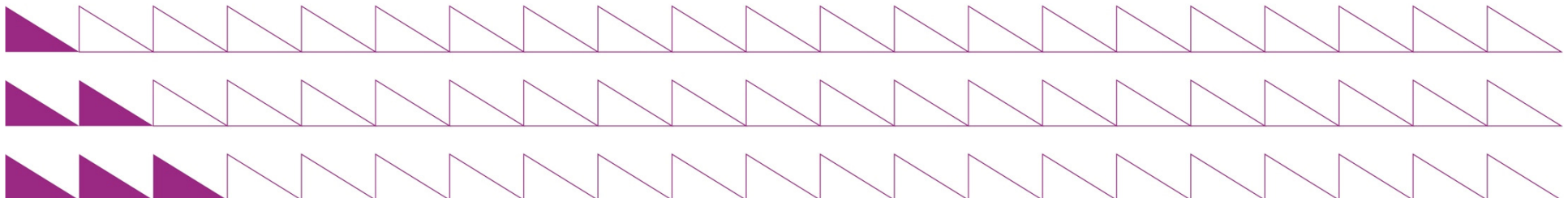


Illicit drug use by police officers

Operations Apsley, Hotham and Yarrowitch

David Sordello & Gavin Joseph | 16 November 2017



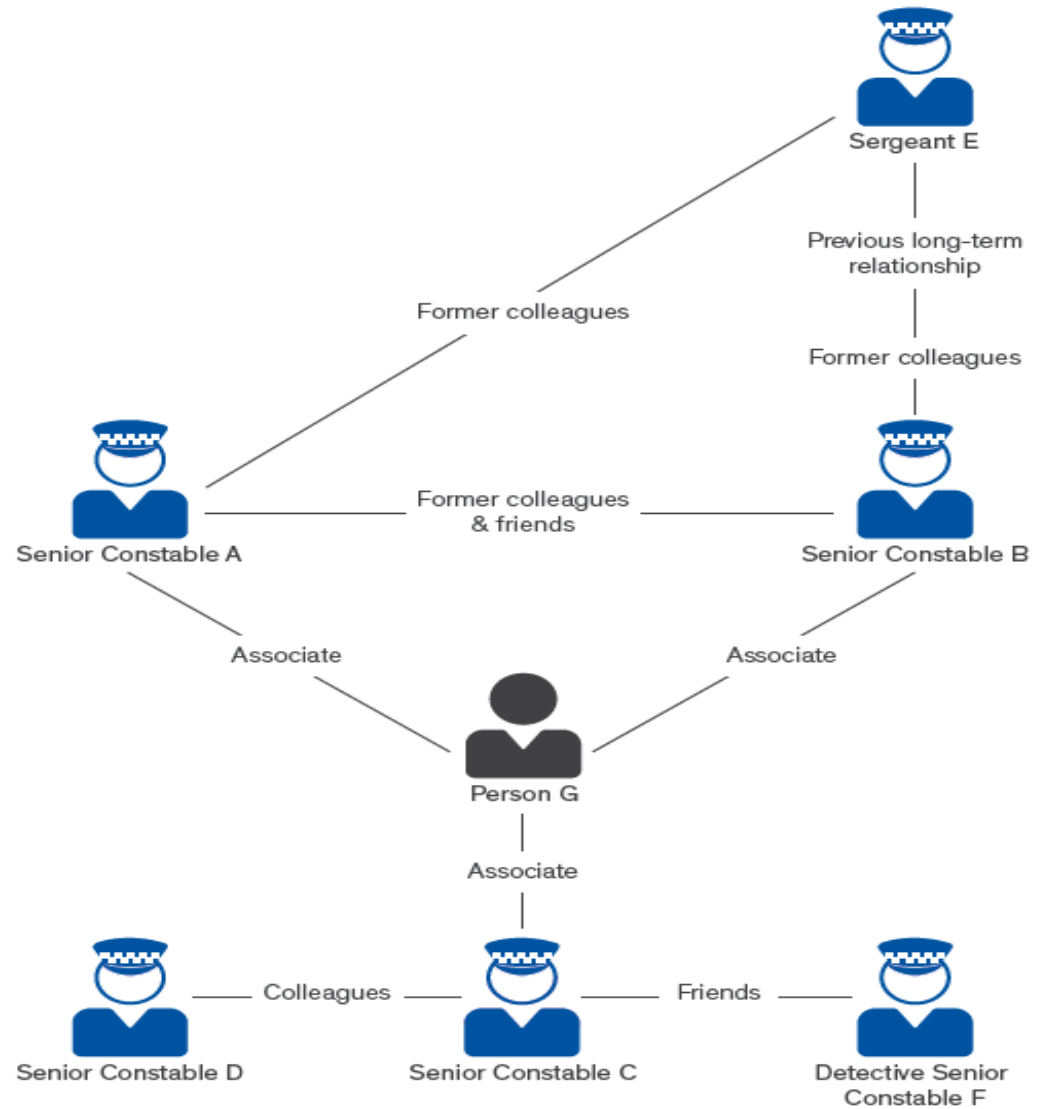
IBAC operations regarding illicit drug involvement by Victoria Police officers

Operation	Commenced	Key themes
Hotham	October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal associations• Recruitment
Apsley	June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug testing• Impairment• Criminal associations
Yarrowitch	January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug testing• Recruitment• Criminal associations

Operation Apsley

2	Search warrants and police premises searched
23	Private examinations
12	Targeted drug tests
2	Officers charged with criminal offences
	Physical and electronic surveillance
1	Officer dismissed
2	Officers currently suspended awaiting criminal/disciplinary proceedings
2	Officers resigned under investigation

Figure 1: Operation Apsley key persons involved



Systemic issues



1

Internal policy regarding the use of illicit drugs was ambiguous and not well understood

2

Internal messaging regarding illicit drugs did not address the inherent integrity risks

3

Officers rationalised their off-duty behaviour

“It was giving some drugs out to my friends to have a good time and me being in the position I’m in, I know... it’s not a job I should be in...”

“In my mind, it’s – I guess it was just having a good time with my friends”

“I probably look like an idiot sitting here saying I don’t condone it... I know I’m a grown woman, but when you’re in a group you just – I don’t know”

4

Recruitment and vetting practices could be improved to help prevent and detect higher risk applicants

5

Drug testing

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