



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

COMMONWEALTH POLICE ACT 1957.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

on the

COMMONWEALTH POLICE FORCE

by the

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

21st APRIL, 1960 TO 30th JUNE, 1961.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE COMMONWEALTH POLICE
ACT 1957.

The Commonwealth Police Force was established under authority of the Commonwealth Police Act 1957 and commenced to operate on 21 April, 1960. Section 11 of the Act states that the Attorney-General shall once in each year cause a report to be laid before each House of the Parliament, containing a general review of the operation of the Commonwealth Police Force and a summary of its activities for the year. I have the honour to present to Parliament this first annual report for the year ended 30 June, 1961.

2. One of the primary reasons for establishment of the Commonwealth Police Force was to permit the integration into one service of the two Commonwealth law enforcement agencies, the Commonwealth Investigation Service and the Peace Officer Guard. The function of the Investigation Service was investigation of offences against the laws of the Commonwealth, while the Peace Officer Guard provided physical protection of Commonwealth premises and property.
3. Consequent on the establishment of the Commonwealth Police Force, the functions performed earlier by the two separate organizations became the functions of the Force, and their personnel were merged administratively. The new Force is the principal investigatory and law enforcement authority of the Commonwealth. In the performance of its functions it is required to foster the co-operation and co-ordination of action of other investigatory agencies, to develop more efficient and economical methods of investigation into offences against Commonwealth laws. As required, the Force acts as the channel for requests for the co-operation or assistance of State Police Departments in conducting investigations into offences against Commonwealth laws.
4. At 30 June, 1961 the establishment of the Force was 616, there being 563 members on strength at that date. During the year a total of 96 members was lost to the Force for various reasons, one being that some former members of the Peace Officer Guard did not wish to contribute for superannuation benefits, while others left because of better prospects elsewhere. A statement showing details of establishment and strength is attached as Appendix A to this report. The total number of days lost through sickness and injury was 4235, an average per member of 7.5 days.
5. A table of salaries and allowances payable to members of the Commonwealth Police Force at 30 June, 1961 is attached as Appendix B to this report. At 30 June, 1961 the Public Service Arbitrator was considering a memorial filed by the Commonwealth Police Officers Association, for increased salaries for all ranks in the Force.
6. Strenuous efforts were made during the year to recruit members to fill the vacancies within the Force. Many applications were received but most applicants did not reach the required standards. Two outstanding applicants from State Police Forces were appointed to senior positions in the Commonwealth Police Force during the year. Other senior positions were filled from within the Force.
7. The Government approved the establishment of a training centre at Manly, New South Wales for the training of

Commonwealth law enforcement officers at recruit, N.C.O. and investigator levels. During the year seven courses were conducted - three for investigators, one for N.C.O.'s and three for constables.

8. The College was authorised to provide higher level training for officers of the Commonwealth, State and New Zealand Police Forces and courses are being planned at this level. The initial officer training course will run from October, 1961 until February, 1962.

9. Training in the handling of police dogs is also provided to members of the Commonwealth and State Police Forces. Police dogs are used for guarding and tracking and have assisted in searches for lost and escaped persons. At the request of the Tongan authorities special training in this field was provided for several Tongan police officers.

10. Members of the Force have attended the following external training courses:

Civil Defence School, Mt. Macedon, Victoria.
Methods of instruction course, Healesville, Victoria.
Management courses, Commonwealth Public Service.
Administration course, Institute of Technology, South Australia.

11. The total cost of operating the Force during 1960-61 was £826,962, compared with £798,452 for 1959-60. Recoveries from Departments and Instrumentalities for services rendered by the Force totalled £558,726 and £506,820 respectively for the two years mentioned. Details are shown in Appendix C to this report.

12. In addition to providing protection of Commonwealth property, the Force carried out many investigations into offences against Commonwealth laws. A summary of such investigations is included in Appendix D, further details being provided in Appendix E. In addition, escort services were provided and these include assistance to banking authorities and escorts in remote areas of the Commonwealth. The Force also provides bailiffs for the service and issue of process in the Court of Petty Sessions of the Australian Capital Territory, and documents served or executed totalled 4742 for 1960-61.

13. Other activities of the Force during the year under review included:

Investigations into mutilated currency.
Enquiry into the taking of a whale in extraterritorial waters.
Alleged dumping of refuse in harbour.
Taking silver currency out of Australia.

14. The Force publishes fortnightly a Commonwealth Police Gazette on internal administrative matters. A supplement to the Gazette is published and forwarded to all Police Stations in Australia. The supplement contains information on persons wanted for offences against the Commonwealth, including bankruptcy and immigration matters, and desertions from the armed services.

15. Motor vehicles of all classes on hire or loan from the Departments of Supply and Interior are used by the Force in all States and include a number fitted with two way radio communication.

16. Accommodation has been one of the problems of the Force and in some States it is still unsatisfactory. However, there has been a steady improvement in both office accommodation and guardhouses.

17. During the year there has been an improvement in the morale of the Force, and discipline has been well maintained. This has resulted from improved conditions, a greater degree of training, streamlining of procedures, co-operation from other Branches of the Attorney-General's Department and the loyalty and devotion to duty by all ranks of the Force.

G. E. BARWICK.
Attorney-General.

APPENDIX A.

Establishment and strength of the Force at
30 June, 1961.

	Plainclothes		Uniform		Total	Total
	Estab- lishment	Strength	Estab- lishment	Strength	Estab- lishment	Strength
Superintendent 1st Class	2	2			2	2
Superintendent 2nd Class	1	1			1	1
Superintendent 3rd Class	2	2			2	2
Inspector 1st Class	5	3			5	3
Inspector 2nd Class			3	3	3	3
Inspector 3rd Class	1	-	4	4	5	4
Sergeant 1st Class	8	7	1	1	9	8
Sergeant 2nd Class	21	20	25	25	46	45
Senior Constable	24	22	30	24	54	46
Constable 1st Class	7	6	90	80	97	86
Constable	6	4	383	357	389	361
Constable Female	-	-	3	2	3	2
TOTALS:	77	67	539	496	616	563

APPENDIX B.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES - MEMBERS OF THE COMMON-WEALTH POLICE FORCE (MALES) AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1961.

Rank	Basic or Standard Salary	Allowances			Actual Salary
		Cost of Living	Shift	Skill	
Constable (Uniformed)	£718-747-773- £798	£102	£170	-	£990-1019-1045- £1070
Constable (Plainclothes)	£718-747-773- £798	£102	-	£179	£999-1028-1054- £1079
Constable 1st Class (Uniformed)	£824-849	£102	£170	-	£1096-1121
Constable 1st Class (Plainclothes)	£824-849	£102	-	£179	£1105-1130
Sen. Constable (Uniformed)	£875-913-951- £989	£102	£170	-	£1147-1185-1223 £1261
Sen. Constable (Plainclothes)	£875-913-951- £989	£102	-	£179	£1156-1194-1232- £1270
Sgt. 2nd Class (Uniformed)	£1028-1066	£102	£170	-	£1300-1338
Sgt. 2nd Class (Plainclothes)	£1028-1066	£102	-	£205	£1335-1373
Sgt. 1st Class (Uniformed)	£1104-1142	£102	£170	-	£1376-1414
Sgt. 1st Class (Plainclothes)	£1104-1142	£102	-	£205	£1411-1449
Inspector 3rd Class	£1385-1436	£102	-	-	£1487-1538
Inspector 2nd Class	£1487-1538- £1589	£102	-	-	£1589-1640-1691
Inspector 1st Class	£1628-1683- £1738-1793 £1848	£102	-	-	£1730-1785-1840 £1895-1950
Superintendent 3rd Class	£1903-1968- £2033-2098	£102	-	-	£2005-2070-2135- 2200
Superintendent 2nd Class	£2163-2228- £2293-2358	£102	-	-	£2265-2330-2395 2460
Superintendent 1st Class	£2293-2358- £2423-2488	£102	-	-	£2395-2460-2525- 2570

In addition members are reimbursed expenditure up to £64 for the cost of uniform clothing in their first year of appointment; and are paid an annual allowance of £40 per annum to officers and £35 per annum to other ranks in each subsequent year.

Certain plainclothes members also receive out of pocket expenses ranging from 2/- to 5/6 per shift for money expended in the normal course of duty.

APPENDIX C.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows comparable expenditure during the years 1959/60 and 1960/61. The amounts for 1959/60 are a combination of Commonwealth Investigation Service, Peace Officer Guard and Commonwealth Police Force expenditure.

ITEM	EXPENDITURE	
	1959/60	1960/61
<u>Salaries etc.</u>		
Salaries and Allowances (including Public Service Personnel)	£636,775	£671,078
Extra Duty Payments	98,067	89,061
	734,842	760,139
<u>Administration Expenses.</u>		
Travelling and Subsistence	17,800	20,081
Office Requisites	2,460	4,268
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone Services	5,667	7,151
Motor Vehicles - Hire, Maintenance etc.	7,979	12,324
Clothing and Equipment	12,903	6,124
Central Fingerprinting Bureau - contribution	8,671	9,600
International Police Commission - membership and representation	2,058	1,285
Incidental and other expenditure	6,072	5,990
	63,610	66,823
Total Expenditure - Commonwealth Police Force :	£798,452	£826,962

In addition an amount of £19,781 was spent on the Australian Police College during the year, comprising £13,662 for salaries etc. and £6,119 for administrative expenses.

APPENDIX D.

SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED BY PLAINCLOTHES MEMBERS.

Offences against Commonwealth Legislation	Minor Investigations	Whereabouts of persons sought.		Debtors to the Commonwealth Government.				Summonses, Writs, Warrants, etc.	
		Located	Not Located	No. Located	Value of Debts	Not Located	Value of debts outstanding	Served Executed	Not located
Q'LD 446	326	715	670	193	£8,351	315	£15,258	333	73
NSW 865	367	614	391	926	£19,247	486	6,830	426	69
VIC 991	162	404	266	205	£11,241	449	£13,909	1165	360
SA 683	326	439	172	242	8,826	454	£13,720	188	59
WA 546	153	173	219	87	3,544	285	11,113	240	69
ACT 637	18	30	29	233	6,905	153	23,761	4742	-
TAS 419	187	35	31	1	-	343	-	24	24
TOTAL 4587	1539	2410	1778	1887	£58,114	2485	£84,591	7118	654

(a) These figures represent the number of enquiries undertaken in each District, and as often more than one District is concerned in an investigation, the overall totals therefore, do not represent proper record for all Australia.

APPENDIX E.

Details of the more important investigations:-

Class of offence	No. of Cases	Value Property	Value Re-covered	Persons Arrested	Persons reported for prosecution
Larceny - Take property out of possession of Commonwealth	359	£27,900	£10,316	15	38
Forgery - False pretences Imposition False Claims	229	2,939	690	7	95
Supply & Develop- ment Act & Reg- ulations.	31	-	-	-	31
Air Navigat- ion Regulations	2	-	-	-	2
Commonwealth Electoral Act	2	-	-	-	2
Wheat Industry legislation	4	-	-	-	2
Banking Act	377	-	-	-	21
Impersonate Police or Commonwealth Officers.	5	-	-	-	4
Wilful damage to property	11	-	-	-	9
	1,020	£30,839	£11,006	22	204