



## Media Release

### International Scholarship and Recognition Award, 2019 Senior Sergeant Megan Dobbs, Victoria Police, Australia

The objectives of the Recognition & Scholarship Award are:

- **To increase understanding of the roles of women officers in various countries.**
- **To encourage participation in the International Association of Women Police by all countries of the world.**
- **To promote membership in the International Association of Women Police through the recipient of this award within her region.**
- **To increase international understanding and awareness of women in law enforcement and the International Association of Women Police.**
- **To recognize the accomplishments of a woman officer from outside North America.**

Sr. Sgt. Dobbs joined the Victoria Police in 1992, after completing a Diploma of Teaching. She performed a number of operational duties across metropolitan Melbourne until 2001, when she transferred to the Melbourne Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit. Between 1996-2002, while working full time, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs completed a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration and in 2002, she became a mother for the first time.

Attaining the rank of Sergeant in 2007, Sgt. Dobbs began to develop specialist knowledge and skills for the investigation of family violence. This experience led to a transfer to a Detective Sergeant role within the state's Crime Command, where she continued her work to support the frontline response to family violence and sexual assault. During this time, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs undertook many systemic reviews of family violence-related deaths, developed policy and practice guides, and supported family violence practitioners across the state of Victoria. Promoted to Senior Sergeant in 2015, within the Capability Department, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs increased her corporate experience and understanding of strategic priorities relating to community and stakeholder engagement. She developed relationships with diverse communities through various social cohesion and community safety programs designed to build trust in police and forge stronger relationships necessary to meet police and community challenges. A key highlight of this time was supporting the LGBTI community through coordinating a contingent of police employees for the annual Pride March.

In 2016, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs co-managed the Malvern Police Station, and the following year, she transferred to the Eastern Region Headquarters as the Family Violence Coordinator to support the implementation phase of the Victorian Royal Commission into family violence recommendations. She is recognized for her commitment and specialist knowledge in this field. She holds an Advanced Diploma of Police Investigations and has completed the Victoria Police & Rotary Mentors' Program and the Women Leaders in Public Safety Program (AIPM).

Sr. Sgt. Dobbs "I feel extremely honoured and grateful for the offer and acknowledge the competitive nature of the award process. The conference will be a great opportunity on so many levels, and I look forward to participating as the scholarship recipient" in Anchorage. "Thank you so much again for this wonderful opportunity. I am over the moon indeed!"

Senior Sergeant Dobbs will be honoured during the IAWP's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference due to take place between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September in Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "For the past 104 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

For further information on the 2019 recognition programme, permissions or award sponsorship opportunities please contact Jane Townsley, [executivedirector@iawp.org](mailto:executivedirector@iawp.org)