



***2019 IAWP International Scholarship Recipient
Senior Sergeant Megan Dobbs
Victoria Police, Victoria, Australia***

Co-Chairs Cindy Shain and Dorothy McPhail, along with members of the IAWP International Scholarship Committee, are very proud to announce the recipient of the 2019 IAWP International Scholarship, ***Senior Sergeant Megan Dobbs***, from the ***Victoria Police in Victoria, Australia***. She will attend the 57th Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, on September 23-27, 2019. This year's conference will be focusing the mentoring the next generation. The process continues to be difficult for selection committee members due to such high-quality applicants, representing police women from around the globe from such geographically diverse countries as Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ukraine, and Zambia.

Sr. Sgt. Dobbs joined the Victoria Police in 1992, after completing a Diploma of Teaching. During her first years of operational police duties, she performed a number of 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. In 2002, she became a mother for the first time and transferred the following year to a Criminal Investigation Unit in inner Melbourne, where she became a qualified detective.

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, modeling leadership qualities and values to ensure ethical and response service to the local community. The next 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.

In 2018, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs passed the pre-promotional examination for Inspector. Since this time, she has been performing different roles, including road policing; health, safety and wellbeing; community engagement; and local area command duties. She is currently seeking promotion to Inspector rank. She also 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).

As a mother of two teenage sons and partner to a fire fighter, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs enjoys spending family time at the beach shack, visiting wineries, reading, watching her sons play rugby and football, and exercising with her running buddies.

When first notified of her selection by the IAWP International Scholarship Committee, Sr. Sgt. Dobbs responded "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!"