

Media Release from the Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria

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11th March 2011 is historically a significant day for the Sikh community in Victoria Australia. Sikhs are known to be in Australia for almost 150 years but it was only on this day that Amitoj Singh, a turban wearing Sikh, was commissioned as a Police Officer at the Glen Waverley Police Academy . There already are a number of Sikhs in the Police and others in training. Among those in training there are several donning the turban including an Amritdhari individual.

We are delighted that Victoria Police have embraced multiculturalism and permitted Sikhs to remain true to their faith and serve the community wearing their articles of faith. We are grateful to Victoria Police in the design of the Police uniform for a practising Sikh. The Police undertook a wide consultative process within the force and the experience of other jurisdictions.

The Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria through its membership of the Victoria Police Multi-faith Council played an important role in mooted the idea of Sikhs in the Police force in their Sikh identity and as a consultant in the design of the uniform. The Police formed a Working Committee with representatives from Occupational Safety and Tactical Training, Occupational Health and Safety, Procurement, Logistics, Corporate Policy, Multicultural Advisory Unit, Workforce Diversity and People's Department and the Director of the Uniform Appearance and Advisory Committee. The Sikh recruits were also consulted.

Victoria Police is commended in working towards developing a workforce that is reflective of the communities it serves.

For a Sikh it is an honour to serve the community wearing his/her articles of faith. It is a matter of great pride for the community that we are able to contribute to the safety and security of the State of Victoria .

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