

SUMMARY OF PROFESSOR GORDON'S AND DR HENSTRIDGE'S  
FIRST REPORTS

Following an order for discovery in March 2012, the Eighth Respondent prepared a number of files that contained statistics from Victoria Police's LEAP database concerning all males living in Flemington or North Melbourne in 2005-2008, born between 1 January 1987 and 1 January 1993, who in that period had an interaction with an officer of Victoria Police. Professor Gordon analysed this data and found as follows:

- (a) The percentage of the specified males of African ethnicity who were recorded as being subject to a "field contact" in the LEAP data (ie, 43%) was 2.4 times greater than the percentage of corresponding males in Flemington and North Melbourne of African ancestry according to 2006 Census data (ie, 18%).

In other words, specified males of African ethnicity were approximately two and half times more likely to have their interaction with the police recorded by the police than their population suggests should be the case.

This finding is statistically significant and not consistent with random variation according to Professor Gordon. Dr John Henstridge, a statistician retained by the Eighth and Ninth Respondents, agrees with these findings.

- (b) The average number of offences for the specified males of African ethnicity (being, 7.8 offences) was significantly lower than for the specified males of any other ethnicity (being, 12.3 offences). Professor Gordon found that this finding was also strongly statistically significant.

In other words, according to Victoria Police's LEAP records, specified African male from the area were alleged to have committed significantly less crimes, on average, than males from other ethnic backgrounds.

Dr Henstridge agrees with Professor Gordon's finding (though he questions the size of the statistical significance of the disparity).

- (c) The specified males who are alleged offenders of non-African ethnicity were 8.5 times more likely not to be the subject of a "field contact" than alleged offenders of African ethnicity, which ratio is strongly statistically significant according to Professor Gordon. Dr Henstridge again agrees with Professor Gordon's finding. Professor Andrew Goldsmith, a criminologist retained by the Eighth and Ninth Respondents, describes this statistic as *prima facie* "confronting".

- (d) When specified males were subject to "field contacts" Professor Gordon found there was a highly statistically significant disparity between the number of occasions specific phrases (being, "gang", "no reason", "nil reason", "move on", and "negative attitude") were used by police in relation to those with African ethnicity, as compared with the number of occasions those phrases are used in relation to those of any other ethnicity. The percentage of field contact remarks

containing these phrases for field contacts associated with the specified males of African ethnicity was 16%, compared to 10% for field contacts associated with specified males of other ethnicities.

In other words, police were statistically more likely to use these phrases in records of interaction with specified males of African ethnicity compared to all other males of other ethnicities.

While Dr Henstridge questions the size of the statistical significance of the disparity, he agrees that the disparity exists.