

OFFICER A

Officer A was a Senior Constable who worked in general duties. He separated from his wife (with whom he had children) in October 2019.

Months later, in February 2020, Officer A's former wife attended a police station to make a complaint about non-physical DFV perpetrated against her by Officer A over several years. Records show that:

- the Vulnerable Persons Unit investigator 'noted a lack of corroborating evidence and either conflicting versions or firm denials by the SM' (Officer A), and concluded that 'the investigation failed to meet the evidentiary threshold on the balance of probabilities to establish that DV had occurred';
- the Professional Practice Manager and Chief Superintendent District Officer supported the investigator's findings that:
 - o based on Officer A's admission to having called his former wife a 'fucking cunt', Officer A had engaged in 'some verbal abuse' of his former wife, but it had been used 'situationally in heated arguments predominantly pertaining to family law issues' and 'in any case not being of the worst characterization such as threats to kill, harm, sexually assault, intimidate or damage property';
 - o Officer A had perpetrated DFV (based only on his admission to having made a profane comment), and that there was a relevant relationship, but that an order was not necessary and desirable for several reasons, including that 'the ongoing conflict between the two parties is predominantly based around custody and settlement issues pertaining to the breakdown of their relationship with the available evidence being based in this context and not any particularized need for ongoing protection', and Officer A 'indicated a strong desire to have no further contact' with his former wife;
 - o there was insufficient evidence to support an application for a protection order against Officer A;
 - o there was insufficient evidence to establish a case for misconduct.

The investigator recommended Local Management Resolution and an offer of counselling to Officer A. The Professional Practice Manager, whose recommendations were supported by the Chief Superintendent District Officer, recommended the matter be finalised as No Further Action and that a DV counselling referral be made to Officer A.

In April 2020, Officer A's former wife complained to the CCC that Officer A had accessed confidential information. A QPRIME audit did not reveal any unauthorised access.

In August 2020, Officer A's former wife privately applied for a protection order. A temporary protection order was granted. The next day, Officer A was issued with a Professional Development Strategy Document that prevented him from performing any duties in relation to DFV, and to relinquish any weapons. Several days later, he privately applied for a protection order, and a temporary protection order (naming his former wife as the respondent) was granted.

About a week later, both Officer A and his former wife withdrew their applications.

Two days after the withdrawal, Officer A's former wife privately applied for a protection order. The application alleged further harassment by Officer A. A temporary protection order was made.

Officer A's former wife reported to police that Officer A had breached conditions of the temporary protection order. Ethical Standards Command began an investigation, concluded there was sufficient evidence and charged Officer A with a criminal offence (contravening a protection order, by approaching the complainant's house). He was stood down. He pleaded guilty in November 2020 and was sentenced to a 6month Good Behaviour Bond with a \$500 recognisance. No conviction was recorded.

In December 2020, Officer A was charged with contravening the domestic violence protection order, using a carriage service to menace or harass and computer hacking/misuse.

In March 2021, Officer A was charged with a further offence of contravening the domestic violence protection order. His bail was refused. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a wholly suspended term of imprisonment; the criminal acts included unauthorised QPRIME searches that related to his former wife, her associates and family, and harassing and threatening her by email (including using ghost email accounts). Before sentence, he was suspended with pay and given the opportunity to show cause as to why he should not be suspended without pay.

In April 2021, Officer A was charged with further offences which remain on foot. On the same day, he was suspended without pay to take effect about a week later.

In October 2021, QPS advised Officer A he was 'not suitable to continue to be engaged' by QPS. His dismissal was deferred pending a misconduct investigation.

In April 2022, Officer A resigned from the QPS. Shortly after it was determined that Officer A's misconduct would be referred to a prescribed officer.