

Inspector Kate Louise O'Neill

For distinguished service as a member of an Australian police force.

Inspector Kate O'Neill has provided 25 years of diligent and distinguished service to Victoria Police across a wide range of areas. She has performed roles in investigations, intelligence, training, and emergency management, both as a frontline police member and as an organisational leader. A well-respected leader by her peers and those she leads, Inspector O'Neill has served at a range of specialist units, including the Phoenix Taskforce and the Clandestine Laboratory Squad. She was also an instructor at the Victoria Police Academy. More recently, she served as the officer in charge at both Brunswick Police Station and Brimbank Crime Investigation Unit before joining the Professional Standards Command as a detective inspector. In 2019-2020, she was deployed to the bushfires, a significant event that demanded extensive police resources. She led a deployment of 80 members from the North West Metro Region across the Wangaratta and Wodonga areas. Crucially, she supported the management of evacuations in several towns facing severe bushfire threats. As the current local area commander for the Whittlesea Police Service Area, a busy and dynamic work location, Inspector O'Neill remains committed to improving community safety. In this role, she continues to support and mentor junior members, aiding their personal and career development within Victoria Police.

Inspector O'Neill has made a significant contribution to the welfare of Victoria Police members and their families through her work with Victoria Police Legacy. Currently serving as board chair since 2021, Inspector O'Neill has led a significant and sustained period of growth. Crucially, she has championed a program that takes Victoria Police legatees to Cambodia to support their growth and professional development. Inspector O'Neill is considered an outstanding leader and great ambassador for Victoria Police. Her contribution to policing throughout her career has benefited the Victorian community.