

CCTV in Homicide investigations

- **CCTV available in 96% of Homicide investigations**
- **When CCTV is available the SIO believed added investigative value 8 times out of 10**
- **In a third of cases where CCTV assisted the investigation, stills were used to assist in the identification of suspects**

This report looked at the use of CCTV in Homicide Investigations between April 07 – March 08, and consisted of 90 cases being reviewed.

From the 90 Cases; CCTV was available and viewed in 86 investigations 96%. The four that did not have CCTV: 2 were offences committed inside domestic residences and all parties were know to each other; 1 was a very decomposed body recovered from a river which left only one case looked at that did not have CCTV identified.

From the 86 cases where CCTV was available the SIO believed it added investigative value in 65 of these. This meant that where CCTV is available it assisted the investigation 76% of the time.

The breakdown for why the CCTV provided investigative value it was used to show the suspects movements in all cases and the victims movements in 45 cases (69%).

In 28 cases stills were used internally within the police to identify suspects.

For 51 of the cases CCTV evidence was provided to the CPS and used in court for 48 of these to assist with the prosecution.

Examples of the use of CCTV

- 1) An investigation into the murder , 20 suspects travelled to the venue on a bus preparing weapons / masks etc. – evidence of conspiracy recorded on CCTV. Recorded leaving estate after attack and getting on buses cleaning weapons etc...one suspect recorded at hospital receiving treatment for injuries sustained during the attack – using false name. CCTV absolutely crucial in identifying all 20 suspects.
- 2) The victim was found bludgeoned to death in his flat approximately one month after his death. Extensive CCTV viewed around the victim's address to establish the date of his death and identify associates.
- 3) The audio track from the neighbours private CCTV system captured the attack and this was used by the CPS during the trail and assisted with the conviction of the defendant.
- 4) 3 suspects had initially been arrested and charged with sec 18 GBH. When the victim subsequently died 5 days later with extensive viewing of CCTV the team were able to establish the innocence of 2 of these suspects to ensure a safe murder conviction.
- 5) CCTV showed the disposal of the murder weapon which assisted in it's retrieval.