

Specialist team

Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan is to be commended for considering creating a specialist team to attend incidents involving people with mental health problems (Mental health squad, 1/7), with his preference being for police to be trained.

In NSW, where more than 25 per cent of police call-outs are mental health related, at least one officer in every police station has received intensive instruction in dealing with mentally affected people and most others have some mental health training. This is a model worth considering for WA.

Additionally, for incidents involving people with mental health problems we urge police to engage with their families. They are often the best people to diffuse hostile situations.

In the past, mental health carers have provided WA police with training in how to handle agitated people. We are ready to assist.

**Mike Seward, executive director,
Arafmi Mental Health Carers and
Friends Association.**

Today's text

Honour God by accepting each other, as Christ has accepted you.

— ROMANS 15:7.

The Bible for Today (Contemporary English version). From the Bible Society.