

DEPUTY Commissioner (Operations) Roy Farmer has decided to include discussions with wives and husbands as part of the interview process when interviewing AFP officers for overseas posts.

Mr Farmer made the decision after a trip to Hong Kong in November for the Third International Anti-Corruption Conference.

Australia has been invited to host the fourth international Anti-Corruption Conference which is expected to be held next year.

While overseas for the November conference, Mr Farmer visited liaison officers and their families in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and Manila as part of the trip.

'The role played by the spouses of L.O.'s is not as well recognised as it should be,' Mr Farmer said.

'There is a significant imposition on the family life of an L.O. When there are visiting dignitaries an L.O. can be tied up for 16 to 18 hours a day.'

He said that the availability of servants in South East Asian posts could pose a problem for some Australian families, as could the different cultures and food.

'Australians are not used to having servants. It takes some of them quite a while to realise they can't go to the kitchen to get a glass of water, for example, because there is a maid to do it.

'And they have to adjust to not having servants when they return to Australia.

'For a spouse, having to provide hospitality in a new country with different customs can be a strain.

'It has been decided that in future when we call for applicants for overseas posts that there must be a discussion with the applicant's wife or husband so that there is a full understanding and appreciation of the various cultural aspects to which that person may have to adapt,' Mr Farmer said.

'I also see such discussions as a way for the AFP to provide support for the families of its L.O.'s,' he added.

AFP and Philippine police are developing closer relations to stem the flow of narcotics from the Philippines to Australia and to make life more difficult for Australian criminals living in that country.

As part of his recent overseas trip, Deputy Commissioner (Operations) Roy Farmer visited the Philippines and AFP liaison posts in South East Asia.

He is the most senior Australian police officer to visit the Philippines.

Deputy Commissioner Farmer told 'Platypus' future co-operation would centre on increasing the exchange of

Family Liaison for L.O.'S



Mr Farmer (centre) with Philippines Police Chief Gen. De Villa, the Australian Ambassador, Mr John Holloway and AFP Embassy Attache Det. Insp. John Robinson (right).

information on suspected drug traffickers and Australian criminals based in the Philippines who were involved in illegal activity.

He described such exchanges as a vital part of co-operation between the two

countries, adding that they would help with the effective operation of the Australia-Philippine Extradition Treaty.

The Minister for Justice, Senator Michael Tate, signed the treaty in Manila on March 7.

Sad Loss

Colleagues and friends of Detective Sergeant Ronald Leslie Whittick were shocked to learn of his sudden death early on the morning of December 4, last year.

Ron died from a heart attack at his home in Perth.

He was only 47 and leaves his wife Pat and two sons, Christopher, 18 and Paul, 15.

Ron joined the former Commonwealth Police Force in February 1975 after emigrating from England where he had been a member of the Thames Valley Police for 10 years.

Since joining the AFP Ron had worked exclusively in Western Region and during his almost 12 years there, he developed strong friendships with his colleagues who miss him greatly.

When he first arrived in Perth, Ron served with the General Duties Section at Perth Airport and 12 months later transferred to C.I.B. duties which led him to undertaking the Investigators Course, of which he was Dux, plus the Detective and Commercial Crime Courses.

Ron was promoted to the Rank of Sergeant in 1981.

At the time of his death Ron headed a team of Fraud and General Crime detectives all of whom respected their 'boss' and enjoyed working with this man

whose wit and humour are sadly missed.

In accordance with the wishes of his wife, Detective Sergeant Ron Whittick was accorded a full police funeral at the Church of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Gosnells. Interment took place at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Fremantle.

Approximately 300 mourners attended the Requiem Mass, including almost every member of the A.F.P. in Western Region.

The AFP is grateful to the Western Australian Police Force which supplied a drill sergeant and a piper for the police funeral and the Army, which supplied two buglers.

