



AFPA Bulletin: UPDATE ON AFPA PSO SURVEY OF MEMBERS – 23 September 2008

As members are aware, the AFPA National President Jon Hunt-Sharman recently briefed the AFP Commissioner on the results of the AFPA survey of AFP Protective Service Officers (PSOs). At the request of the AFP Commissioner, further briefings have now been given to AFP National Manager Protection, Assistant Commissioner Mark Ney and the acting AFP National Manager Aviation, Commander Leanne Close.

As a follow up, late last week the AFPA met with the Acting National Coordinator Project Navigator, Federal Agent Juani O'Reilly, and others, to examine the issues identified by the AFPA. The meeting was very positive and the AFP outlined a number of processes that are in place to provide better communication in PSO workplaces across Australia.

Both the AFP and the AFPA recognize that as a result of a number of Government reviews it is a time of uncertainty for PSOs. However, the AFP and the AFPA both agree that any structural changes, if indeed recommended by COAG, will not be immediate, but will be progressively implemented over time. (Remember how long it took for AFP/APS integration and how long it took to create the AUP!)

From our own independent inquiries, the AFPA is absolutely confident that the AFP Uniform Protection and AFP Aviation Counter Terrorism First Response functions will both remain with the AFP and will continue to be performed by AFP PSOs.

A number of issues raised by the AFPA, including strengthening of PSOs powers; broadening of career path; clarification of PSO role and function; and PSO presentation; are being considered by AFP management in light of material presented by the AFPA and also from their own AFP managers within Protection & Aviation. Deputy Commissioner Lawler, National Manager Protection and Aviation Management have been visiting various PSO stations speaking directly to PSOs about these issues and this should be commended. In addition, National Manager Aviation has addressed staff concerns in a recent newsletter and via the Aviation Navigator initiative. It is important to realise that the AFP and AFPA have a mutual understanding of the PSO issues and are seeking to redress them both through policy and legislation.

The AFPA will keep members informed of developments.

STOP PRESS:

The AFPA National President met yesterday with the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Bob Debus, where PSO issues and the survey were discussed. The Minister has requested that he be briefed on any outcomes of further dialogue between the AFP and AFPA.

If you have any concerns about the issues raised in this bulletin or other CA 2007 – 2011 queries please contact your local representatives or visit your AFPA Zone Discussion Forum at <https://secure.afpa.org.au/members/> . If you have forgotten your password, contact the AFPA National Office on Ph 02 62851677 or 162484 for a new password.