



AFPA Bulletin: NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE MEDAL A STEP CLOSER 25 September 2008

On Monday 22 September the PFA Federal President Vince Kelly, PFA Federal Vice President & AFPA National President Jon Hunt-Sharman and PFA CEO Mark Burgess met with the Minister for Home Affairs the Hon. Bob Debus, in relation to a number of ongoing matters including the status of a National Police Service Medal.

The Minister, who continues to be very supportive of the PFA representation for a National Police Service Medal, gave an undertaking to follow up the status of the proposed Medal with the relevant Ministerial Portfolio.

In Parliament yesterday, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus spoke on the issue.

"It is shocking to realise that, in the past 20 years, 111 police officers have been killed on duty. This means on average nearly six a year. Unfortunately, it is mostly young officers who have their lives cut short while they are serving their communities. Out of those 111, 88 were constables..."

The Police Federation of Australia, through its president Vince Kelly, has asked that the government give serious consideration to the creation of a national police service medal for serving police officers. The government has, of course, been very willing to examine that request in more detail. While I understand there is quite a lot of work to be done to advance that proposal, I am pleased to advise the House that the government is working closely with the relevant authorities to clarify the formal requirements and to consider the necessary protocols in detail. I believe we have to talk to the Palace [Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II] about these things.

At this time of remembrance it is also appropriate that we give consideration to how we do recognise serving officers. I hope to be in a position to provide the House with an update on the matter of a national police service medal in the not-too-distant future. We thank the thousands of men and women in state and territory police forces and the Australian Federal Police who serve our community so well and confront risky, difficult situations on a daily basis.

The AFPA will keep members informed on the progress of the National Police Service Medal.

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.