



# AFPA BULLETIN: Advocacy Pays Off at the Federal Level

14 May 2010

**PROFESSION**

EMPLOYMENT

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**In last night's budget reply speech, the Leader of the Opposition the Honourable Tony Abbott outlined a proposal to freeze recruitment in the Australian Public Service for two years in order to reduce public service numbers by 6000 per year. Significantly, Mr Abbott explicitly referred to the Federal Police as a front-line service that would not be affected by this efficiency.**

It is pleasing to see that the Leader of the Opposition appreciates the unique and vital role that the Federal Police performs within the Australian community. His announcement follows on from the Government's budget which included additional funding and resources for the AFP and demonstrates that our organisation is held in the highest regard by both sides of politics. The AFP's status as an institution of national importance is no accident. Rather, the strong reputation that we see today has been cultivated over a number of years.

The AFPA has been particularly active in advocating on behalf of AFP employees and highlighting the excellent work that the AFP does in protecting the Australian community from harm. This advocacy takes many forms and includes regular meetings with key stakeholders including members of both major political parties.

Earlier this year AFPA CEO Jim Torr met with the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Tony Abbott. They had a constructive conversation about the AFP and issues of interest to our members. Issues discussed included Police numbers and the need for continued increases consistent with the Government's undertaking, the need for a wages agreement that is at the top of the policing profession as well as the activities and political impartiality of the AFPA.

The importance of such meetings becomes apparent through announcements such as Tony Abbott's exclusion of the AFP from the proposed APS recruitment freeze. The AFPA is confident that there is a clear link between our advocacy and the positive outcomes that have been evident for the AFP in both the Government's budget and the Opposition Leader's response. The AFPA will continue to promote our members' interests and those of the AFP more broadly through regular meetings with the relevant decision-makers



If you have any comments on this bulletin or any other queries please contact your local representatives or the AFPA National Office on [afpa.office@afpa.org.au](mailto:afpa.office@afpa.org.au).

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