



AFPA BULLETIN:

Praise for the AFP in Federal Parliament

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On Wednesday 16 June, the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) was invited to attend the House of Representatives to hear the Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor, and the Shadow Minister for Justice and Customs Michael Keenan, give statements pertaining to the AFP and its activities.

Both speeches were supportive of the role that the AFP is playing in protecting Australians from criminal attack and referred to the high regard with which the AFP is held in federal parliament and in the wider community.

The AFPA is pleased that our members are receiving bi-partisan praise and recognition at the highest levels of governance, particular as we head toward a general election in the coming months.

Indeed, the AFPA is turning its attention toward the upcoming federal election and will, over the next few weeks, be meeting with all sides of politics in order to discuss their commitments in terms of policing and commonwealth law enforcement moving forward.

There is little doubt that the Rudd Government has continued the work begun by the Howard Government in 2001 to ensure that the AFP is equipped with both the legislation and the funding to perform its vital function of safeguarding Australia. As the Minister for Home Affairs outlined in his statement, the current government has taken important steps in areas such as aviation security, recruitment and retention and national security legislation that have positively impacted upon the AFP. Moreover, the government-initiated Beale Review that was tabled in December 2009 has identified a number of crucial reforms that need to be addressed in the coming years, including additional funding requirements.

Despite the major advances in resourcing and responsibilities that have accrued to the AFP in the last decade, this work is never complete. The AFPA has identified a suite of changes that are necessary to better enable the AFP to carry out its core functions. In light of this, we are finalising a policy document that outlines the key commitments that we wish to see enacted during the term of the next government. This document will be presented to major stakeholders including all political parties represented in the federal parliament.

The AFPA is seeking written commitments from all the parties to the measures outlined in our policy document. Once we have received these commitments, we will be informing members of where each party stands in relation to the AFP and our membership should they win government.

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.

Authorised by

Jon Hunt-Sharman, President, Australian Federal Police Association