

2 June 2017



## Australian Federal Police Association

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### AFP SYDNEY OFFICERS ABANDONED WHEN IT COMES TO COST OF LIVING

The Australian Federal Police Association Acting President Graeme Cooper says the Australian Federal Police's (AFP) announcement today to strip Sydney based officers of the Deployment Assistance Allowance (DAA) could not have come at a more inopportune time.

"I'm not sure what part of today's announcement has upset and frustrated my members the most. Was it the fact those affected by this callous decision received the information this morning by email? Was it that they were informed the \$5,000 annual allowance will be revoked effective 30 June 2017? Or was it that the AFP based such a weighty decision to revoke this longstanding allowance, on a review they undertook in 2013?"

"It is a fact that cost of living pressures being felt by Sydney residents are the subject of regular analysis and comment in the media and my members have to cope with stratospheric housing and living costs" said Mr Cooper.

A recent survey of Sydney based members conducted by the AFPA confirms this reality, including:

- 12% of officers already having secondary employment to meet their cost of living;
- 38% having less than \$400 per month disposable income; and
- 49% indicating they would consider leaving the AP if the DAA was removed.

"We have also heard reports of three junior officers being forced to reside together in a one bedroom apartment, just to afford the rent".

"Disturbingly, the AFP has made a decision in 2017 based on data collected in 2013. Surely this decision must be reviewed in the context of the prevailing economic and cost of living conditions as they exist today, not four years ago?"

The AFPA believes the DAA remains relevant and should continue to be paid to members based in Sydney. The Association is appalled by the way in which the AFP has failed to support these employees it relies on to protect Australia's interests.

"The decision to discontinue this allowance, with less than a months' notice is unreasonable and the AFPA has today called on the AFP to at the very least consider a drawdown of the allowance over the course of the next financial-year, which would afford members a more realistic opportunity to make significant financial adjustments" said Mr Cooper.

"This announcement today by the AFP is an example of the cuts to terms and conditions being made to fund a pay rise under the Enterprise Bargaining process. Many of these affected employees will still be worse off, even if they get a pay rise under a new agreement" said Mr Cooper.

For comment:

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