

21 July 2017

Australian Federal Police Association
MEDIA RELEASE



Prime Minister quick to declare need for Super Agency – but stops investing in employment conditions for AFP

The Australian Federal Police Association President Angela Smith said her members expect and deserve to be treated respectfully by the Turnbull Government when it comes to their employment conditions.

Our Association has written to Prime Minister Turnbull recently on two occasions calling on him to intervene and meet with us immediately on key industrial matters affecting members of the AFP, and he hasn't bothered responding to our requests.

His apparent inaction and lack of political will and leadership is currently starving my members of fair and reasonable employment conditions.

Under Mr Turnbull's watch the AFP has revoked the Deployment Assistance Allowance for Sydney based members, despite the prevailing economic and cost of living pressures as they exist today, forcing many of our members to take up second jobs to make ends meet.

Furthermore, last week AFP employees overwhelmingly rejected a proposed enterprise agreement, created in line with the government's workplace bargaining policy, which attacked their terms and conditions. This is despite AFP employees not having had a pay rise since March 2015.

This Government takes every opportunity to publicly praise the efforts of the AFP and repeatedly pledges its unwavering support, by claiming how no government is more dedicated to ensuring the AFP has every resource and power necessary to protect Australians. In fact, the government has made about ten similar public statements about the first-class work of the AFP since we first wrote to him on 5 June 2017.

The government simply cannot claim to be investing in the AFP without investing in its employees. The AFP is being forced to cut terms and conditions of employment in return for a pay rise, all of which affects morale, mental health, wellbeing and safety. Surely, none of this is good for the delivery of policing services to keep Australia safe.

Our Association has acted in good faith, we have waited patiently for a response, however, with each day the government refuses to act my members are paying a penalty.

We are disappointed that the government has left us with no other choice than to reach out through the media for a response and immediate action from the Prime Minister.

This ongoing industrial uncertainty comes at a time when the government this week announced significant changes to national intelligence and domestic security arrangements, that will see the AFP report directly to the newly appointed Home Affairs Minister, the Hon Peter Dutton MP.

Our Association is currently considering the announcement and what it means for our members. We look forward to being briefed on the plan and working with the new Home Affairs Minister.

For comments:

AFPA Media & Communications - Melanie Atlee 0417 069 638