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## ANTI-CONSORTING STANCE SEES THE ACT BECOME A NATIONAL LAUGHING STOCK.... AGAIN

### MEDIA STATEMENT

Today's article in the *Daily Telegraph* (attached) has again highlighted that the ACT Government's stance on outlaw motorcycle gang laws is making the nation's capital a laughing stock for bikies across the country, according to the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA).

The AFPA President, Angela Smith said today's story is a reminder that the ACT Government is making the ACT an easy place for bikies to do business and action needs to be taken to stop this activity immediately.

"The ACT stance on anti-consorting is a green light for motorcycle gangs to roam and operate freely in Canberra.

"We know that there has been an influx of bikies into the ACT since the tough anti-consorting laws have come into place in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. And it has been confirmed by ACT Policing that the ACT has four outlaw motorcycle gangs operating in Canberra: the Finks, Rebels, Comancheros and Nomads.

"ACT police are well-equipped to take on Canberra's outlaw motorcycle gangs, but the government must get serious and give police the laws they need to tackle this bikie menace.

"Clearly the existing legislation isn't working.

"We know that as criminal activity increases in the ACT, our citizens will be more likely to become victims of crime or caught in the cross fire of the ongoing bikie activity," Ms Smith said.

The ACT Government remains opposed to anti-consorting laws amid human rights concerns, instead arguing that the introduction of additional crime scene powers for police was enough to combat bikie activity.



“The human rights of our citizens are a paramount concern to our members in the AFP and in ACT Policing and we believe every individual and family in the ACT has the right to feel safe in their homes and their communities,” Ms Smith said.

“The time is now for the ACT Government to implement legislation consistent with other jurisdictions and put an end to bikies moving to Canberra.

“Outlaw motorcycle gangs know how soft this government is when it comes to hampering their operations by refusing to introduce anti-consorting laws like we see in NSW that have proven to prevent, deter and punish criminal behaviour” Ms Smith said.

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The AFPA represents the professional, legal, industrial and social interests of over 4000 Australian Federal Police (AFP) and law enforcement employees. Membership is drawn from both sworn and non-sworn employees from Federal Policing and National Security, International Police Assistance and ACT Community Policing.  
[www.afpa.org.au](http://www.afpa.org.au)