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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) supports the Federal Government's announcement to establish a Productivity Commission Inquiry into the role of mental health in the workplace and the broader economy.

The AFPA sees the inquiry as an opportunity to identify the ways workplaces, like the Australian Federal Police can better identify, treat and support people living with mental health conditions.

AFPA President, Angela Smith, said sadly the levels of anxiety, depression and suicide among people in police roles in general is too high and seem to be growing.

“There is a clear need for first responders to have direct and timely access to mental health support.

“We need our members to be physically and mentally healthy and alert when they are called upon to help and protect the community.

“The AFP like every workplace has a responsibility to ensure that the mental health of their workers is promoted and supported. Arguably, this responsibility is heightened for the AFP, given the unique nature of their work.

“This inquiry has the potential to drive real change in the way the AFP promotes, monitors and manages mental health.”

The AFPA will be actively involved in the inquiry and will provide a submission.

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