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FURTHER OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG VIOLENCE IN THE ACT AND STILL NO ANTI-CONSORTING LEGISLATION

Today's article in *The Canberra Times* regarding the establishment of the Satudarah Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMCG) in the ACT should be a concern for the ACT Government and clearly demonstrates that the ACT has become an OMCG haven due to a lack of anti-consorting legislation.

The Australian Federal Police Association President, Angela Smith said today's article clearly shows that anti-consorting legislation is well overdue in the ACT and would give police the authority to put measures in place to significantly reduce OMCG members, nominees and associates from associating with each other and carrying out violent criminal activity.

"The ACT community has been put in harm's way by OMCG members who have planned and performed drive-by shootings, violent home invasions, assaults and arsons. I have previously stated that it's only a matter of time before an innocent member of the community is seriously injured or killed by OMCG criminal activity.

"OMCG's use violence as an element of their business model. All the recent OMCG shootings, home invasions and other violent acts have been committed by groups made up of OMCG members, nominees and associates," Ms Smith said.

The ACT Government remains opposed to anti-consorting laws citing human rights concerns and arguing that the introduction of additional crime scene powers, further funding of ACT Policing's Taskforce Nemesis and anti-fortification laws is enough to combat and target OMCG criminal activity.

"Anti-fortification legislation would be useful if the OMCG's had club houses in the ACT, the issue is, they don't. Anti-fortification legislation and additional crime scene powers don't come into the equation when an OMCG considers establishing a chapter in the ACT. They aren't the deterrents that the ACT Government would have you believe.

"Anti-consorting legislation is a preventative measure used by police to disrupt and dismantle OMCG's and would be a big step forward in preventing further OMCG criminal activity and violent behaviour," Ms Smith said.

For comments:

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