

1 April 2019



# Australian Federal Police Association

## AFPA WELCOMES LIBERAL FUNDING BOOST

This morning (Monday, 1 April 2019) the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton MP provided almost \$6 million in confiscated proceeds of crime funding to support mental health initiatives for law enforcement and first responders.

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) President Angela Smith welcomes the funding.

“Any additional funding that can be used to support frontline police and national security officers is a valuable investment.

“It was only a few weeks ago when the Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten MP and the Shadow Minister for Justice Clare O’Neil MP committed \$5 million to provide mental health support services for frontline AFP officers. This is the type of investment that is required to provide support to the police officers that risk their lives protecting the community.

“Our members are responsible for protecting the Australian community from the most serious and heinous crimes imaginable, such as child exploitation, human trafficking and people smuggling and they need welfare assistance,” AFPA President Angela Smith said.

The announcement this morning by Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton provides an outline for the following initiatives:

- \$648,996 over two years to the Australian Federal Police for the development of new mental health frameworks, policies and health standards.
- \$750,000 over 12 months to the National Police Memorial Co (through the Police Federation of Australia) to educate and build resilience in federal, state and territory police officers in the areas of social, emotional and psychological health.
- \$1,884,094 over two years to Fortem Australia to improve the health and wellbeing of national security officers, first responders and their families.



“While I welcome this funding, we all know that someone’s mental health recovery can take a significant amount of time. First responders have been seeing campaigns and self-awareness material for several years now, what they need to see is dedicated, long term programs that people can get involved with and build towards their recovery.

This funding comes on top of the \$512 million committed by the Minister for Home Affairs to assist AFP tackle counter-terrorism.

**For comments:**

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