

15 MAY 2019

Australian Federal Police Association

AFPA ELECTION SCORECARD – LESS THAN ONE WEEK BEFORE ELECTION 2019

With less than one week of the election campaign to go, the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) has today released its election scorecard of how the major parties' policies are tracking in terms of their law and order policies.

The AFPA represents more than 4000 AFP members who each day protect Australians from the effects of terrorist attacks, child exploitation, drug imports and organised crime.

To make sure the AFP can continue to effectively protect Australia, the AFPA has been strongly advocating for:

- Restoring \$500m in funding to the AFP
- Improving access to mental health services
- Reforming firearms legislation
- Enterprise Agreement reforms
- AFP officers to be returned to Hobart Airport

AFPA President Angela Smith originally called on both major political parties to invest in the men and women of the AFP and provide commitments relating to the AFPA's 'Restore-Revitalise-Reform' campaign.

"We have been lobbying long and hard for the 'Restore-Revitalise-Reform' initiatives and I'm pleased to say that most of our requests have been met with a positive response. Some of our initiatives are a long game and we'll continue to work towards delivering them. Once the election results are known, I'm looking forward to working with the Government and relevant Minister on initiatives, legislation and outcomes that assist the AFP.

"Both parties have now committed \$512 million to the AFP to fund activities such as enhancing its counter terrorism and policing services. We absolutely welcome this type of commitment and it demonstrates that both parties are prepared to invest in the AFP and keep Australia and its community safe.

"I urge that whoever wins Government on May 18 to continue to invest in the men and women of the AFP. They work tirelessly and often without recognition and to receive an ongoing commitment and support from the government of the day is important," AFPA President Angela Smith said.

The Australian Labor Party has committed \$5 million over four years to ramp up mental health services for AFP and AFPA members if it wins Government. This commitment comes as 66% of AFP staff experience potentially traumatic events at some stage in their career.

"A matching commitment from the Coalition would help ensure that AFP and AFPA members get the help they need at the time they really need it. The members need independent, early intervention programs and assistance, and a bipartisan commitment delivers this.

"The Aware and Alive program will involve the delivery of an early intervention program to improve the mental health and resilience of AFP and AFPA members and reduce the risk of mental illness and suicide," AFPA President Angela Smith said.

The Australian Labor Party has committed \$15 million over four years to reintroduce AFP officers to Hobart Airport and has also committed to a review of the industrial relations bargaining framework and the reversal of efficiency cuts on federal government departments.

AFPA President Angela Smith said that both commitments are beneficial to the AFP and has been a focus of the AFPA for some time.

“Hobart Airport has been left vulnerable after AFP officers were removed in October 2014. The people of Tasmania deserve the same protection as people from other states and territories, and I welcome this commitment from the Australian Labor Party.

“I’m asking the Liberal Party to step up on this national security issue and match the funding commitment to restore AFP officers to Hobart Airport.

“In relation to the bargaining framework commitment this has been an issue for the AFPA for a long time and I’ve spoken to many Members of Parliament about this, so to have this commitment is fantastic,” AFPA President Angela Smith said.

The third element of the AFPA’s campaign is calling for a real-time national firearms database that is accessible to law enforcement agencies across Australia.

“With 27,000 firearms stolen between 2007 and 2010, Australia’s inconsistent approach to firearms regulation must be addressed.

“It’s difficult for law enforcement agencies to get real-time information about a firearms licence holder if that holder resides in another state or territory. Systems are slow and clunky when, during a firearms incident every second counts when police are responding and the community is in danger,” AFPA President Angela Smith said.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION COMMITMENTS



Commitment	Australian Labor Party	Liberal Party of Australia
\$512 million to the AFP to fund counter-terrorism and intelligence capabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
\$5 million over four years to fund a mental health initiative supporting AFP and AFPA members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$15 million over four years to reintroduce AFP officers to Hobart Airport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commitment to review the bargaining framework for better outcomes for employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For comments:

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