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Australian Federal Police Association

AFPA WELCOMES ASSAULT POLICE LEGISLATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the ACT Government's announcement regarding assault police and emergency services legislation.

AFPA President Angela Smith said she is very happy that the members of ACT Policing, as well as, ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire and Rescue will now have legislated protection and judicial avenues that they rightly deserve if they are assaulted while on duty.

"Minister Gentleman has delivered on an important matter for the members of ACT Policing and I congratulate him on that achievement.

"One of our biggest concerns and lobbying points was the fact that common assault doesn't accurately reflect the seriousness of assaulting a police officer, paramedic or firefighter. People who are convicted of this offence won't be able to bluff or hide behind a common assault charge on their criminal record, it will clearly state assault police or emergency services worker," AFPA President Angela Smith said.

The AFPA recently conducted a survey involving ACT Policing-based AFPA members regarding assault police. Sixty-six percent of the 212 participants had been assaulted while on duty. Ninety-eight percent of participants supported the introduction of assault police legislation.

"With this announcement, Minister Gentleman and the ACT Government have delivered on a matter that was at the heart of ACT Policing members. This legislation really matters to the ACT Policing officers and their families.

"I also want to acknowledge the excellent work done by ACT Policing staff, particularly in the policy area who have worked tirelessly towards this excellent outcome. They should be proud of this announcement.

"The role of the AFPA is to represent the views of its members, and in this matter, while it has been a long time coming, we have achieved something quite remarkable by all working together," AFPA President Angela Smith said.

For comments:

AFPA Media and Government Relations Manager

Troy Roberts – (02) 6285 1677 – troy.roberts@afpa.org.au